

AFOA
ATLANTIC

November 2024

LEADERSHIP
and **GOVERNANCE**
CONFERENCE

“Progress Through **Partnerships**
and **Collaboration**”



LEADERSHIP and GOVERNANCE CONFERENCE

“Progress Through Partnerships
and Collaboration”

NOV. 5 - 7, 2024 | DARTMOUTH, NOVA SCOTIA

Note from AFOA Atlantic Chair

Kwe’, Qey, Hello:

Good Day. I would like to welcome you to AFOA Atlantic’s 2nd Leadership and Governance Conference – Progress through Partnership and Collaboration. We are glad you were able to make time in your busy schedule to attend our event.



We have a wide selection of topics and presenters providing you with what we hope is relevant information for you and your community. Enjoy the conference, take part in the concurrent sessions, network with others in attendance, but also enjoy your time while here.

Debbie Christmas
Chair, AFOA Atlantic Chapter

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

TIME	NOVEMBER 5, 2024
	<p>HOW GOVERNANCE ADAPTS - BURNSIDE ROOM</p> <p>This session will be an interactive discussion that will focus on change management including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How Administration and Leadership think through changes • Developing the skills needed to be open to new ideas • Gaining an understanding to different styles of engagement when implementing change <p>Hosted by: Matt Tapper, Relationship Manager, First Nations Financial Management Board</p>
8:00 - 8:45 am	REGISTRATION AND HOT BREAKFAST BUFFET
9:00 - 9:15 am	OPENING PROTOCOL AND WELCOME REMARKS
9:15 - 10:30 am	GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP CONVERSATIONS YOU WILL ENCOUNTER
10:30 - 10:45 am	HEALTH BREAK (refreshments to be provided)
10:45 - 12:00 pm	DEVELOPING THE SKILLS NEEDED TO BE OPEN TO NEW IDEAS
12:00 - 1:00 pm	LUNCH
1:00 - 2:30 pm	THE POSSIBILITIES OF SHIFTING YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF GOVERNANCE
2:30 - 2:45 pm	HEALTH BREAK (refreshments to be provided)
2:45 - 4:00 pm	MANAGING CONFLICTS OF INTEREST
4:00 pm	CLOSING REMARKS AND ADJOURNMENT

CONFERENCE AGENDA - DAY 1	
TIME	NOVEMBER 6, 2024
7:30 - 8:30 am	REGISTRATION AND HOT BREAKFAST BUFFET
8:30 - 9:00 am	<p>OPENING PROTOCOL AND WELCOME REMARKS - PARK CENTRE BALLROOM</p> <p>Elder, Dr., Keptin Lawrence Joseph Michael (Joe Mike) Debbie Christmas, Chair, AFOA Atlantic; Director of Finance, Atlantic Policy Congress Geoff Cole, Regional Director General, Atlantic Region, Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) Harold Tarbell, Master of Ceremonies (MC), Tarbell Facilitation Network Annie Johnson, Conference Co-Chair, Vice Chair AFOA Atlantic</p>
9:00 - 10:30 am	<p>LEADING ECONOMIC & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT - PARK CENTRE BALLROOM</p> <p>Speaker: Chief Terry Paul, Chief and CEO, Membertou First Nation, Nova Scotia</p> <p>Talk Show Panel: New Brunswick AFN Regional Chief Joanna Bernard Chief Roderick (Junior) Gould, Chief and Band Administrator, Abegweit First Nation, Prince Edward Island President Todd Russell, NunatuKavut Community Council, Labrador</p>
10:30 - 10:45 am	HEALTH BREAK (refreshments to be provided)
10:45 - 12:00 pm	CONCURRENT SESSIONS
SESSION A COMMODORE ROOM	<p>GROWING COMMUNITIES THROUGH ACQUISITIONS & PARTNERSHIPS</p> <p>Before embarking on an acquisition or business partnership there are several important factors to think about. We'll share key insights to support your goals, a successful outcome, and a positive vision for your community.</p> <p>Presenters: Patrick Lahey, Partner – Taxation, Doane Grant Thornton Kevin Fraser, Partner – Transactions, Doane Grant Thornton Troy MacDonald, Partner – Transactions, Doane Grant Thornton</p> <p>Moderator: Debbie Christmas, Chair AFOA Atlantic, Director of Finance, Atlantic Policy Congress</p>
SESSION B BURNSIDE ROOM	<p>DEVELOPING OUR EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP SKILLS</p> <p>Learn how to distinguish between management and leadership skills at the executive level and how AFOA Canada supports capacity development in this area through its Certified Indigenous Leaders program and the Harvard Business School Executive Education Program partnership.</p> <p>Presenter: Terry Goodtrack, President and CEO, AFOA Canada Moderator: Jennifer Martin, AFOA Atlantic Secretary & Senior Program Officer, First Nations Market Housing Fund</p>

12:00 - 1:00 pm	PLATED LUNCH
1:00 - 2:30 pm	<p>KEYNOTE - LEVERAGING INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONSHIPS - PARK CENTRE BALLROOM</p> <p>Keynote Speaker: Gina Wilson, Deputy Minister, Indigenous Services Canada Followed by Q&A Session</p>
2:30 - 2:45 pm	HEALTH BREAK (refreshments to be provided)
2:45 - 4:00 pm	CONCURRENT SESSIONS
SESSION C COMMODORE ROOM	<p>CULTURALLY LEAD LEADERSHIP PLANNING</p> <p>Our unique pre-contact ways of life and Nation governing systems still resonate in the behavior and culture of the communities. When planning to lead First Nation communities, we must identify and plan to incorporate the community's core values and culture in its strategic direction. This will help to manage the change that comes with implementing policies, procedures, and strategic planning – in some cases for the first time.</p> <p>Presenter: Christianne Jerome Bernard, Manager Indigenous Niche Services, MNP Moderator: Jennifer Martin, AFOA Atlantic Secretary & Senior Program Officer, First Nations Market Housing Fund</p>
SESSION D BURNSIDE ROOM	<p>GOVERNING FOR SUCCESS</p> <p>The session aims to create dialogue on the idea of “governing for success” along with highlighting the critical role that leadership plays in creating sustainable futures. It will touch on the importance of strategic planning as a tool for leaders is to align community priorities and foster long-term growth and well-being. Attendees will explore how future-looking visions not only provide direction but also inspire collective action. The session will support discussions on governance, focusing on how strong, adaptive leadership can cultivate thriving and empowered communities.</p> <p>Presenter: Matt Tapper, Relationship Manager, FNFMB Moderator: Sarah Doyle, AFOA Atlantic Treasurer & Abegweit Senior Operating Officer</p>

CONFERENCE AGENDA - DAY 2	
TIME	NOVEMBER 7, 2024
7:30 - 8:30 am	HOT BREAKFAST BUFFET
8:30 - 9:00 am	OPENING – REVIEW OF DAY ONE AND PREPARE FOR DAY TWO - PARK CENTRE BALLROOM Harold Tarbell, Master of Ceremonies (MC), Tarbell Facilitation Network Annie Johnson, Conference Co-chair, Vice Chair AFOA Atlantic
9:00 - 10:30 am	EXERCISING JURISDICTION ON LANDS & CLIMATE - PARK CENTRE BALLROOM Speakers: Chief Robert Louie, Chair, First Nations Land Management Advisory Board Tyler Sack, Director of Aquatic Resources & Fisheries Management, Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq Q&A Session to Follow
10:30 - 10:45 am	HEALTH BREAK (refreshments to be provided)
10:45 - 12:00 pm	CONCURRENT SESSIONS
SESSION E COMMODORE ROOM	NATIONAL AND REGIONAL FIRST NATIONS CLIMATE STRATEGIES Addressing Climate Change requires an awareness of the inter-related concerns, capacity requirements, governance perspectives and collaboration opportunities from both a national and regional perspective. The National perspective will be presented by a member of the AFN Advisory Committee on Climate and Environment, and Joint Committee on Climate Action focusing on the "Climate Leadership Agenda". The Regional perspective will focus on the different experiences and challenges that Mi'kmaq Communities and organizations are currently navigating in the development of climate strategies and actions. The panelists will share their experiences and expertise on what contributes to meaningful collaboration, as well as the values and insights that are unique to Mi'kmaq ways of knowing with respect to climate. Presenters: Melissa Nevin, Director of Fisheries and Integrated Resources, Atlantic Policy Congress (National Perspective) Chief Tamara Young, Pictou Landing First Nation & Regional Climate Portfolio Holder (Regional Perspective) Tyler Sack, Director of Aquatic Resources & Fisheries Management, Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq Moderator: Debbie Christmas, AFOA Atlantic Chair & APC Director of Finance
SESSION F BURNSIDE ROOM	ATLANTIC REGION ABORIGINAL LANDS ASSOCIATION (ARALA) An exploration of the training & professional development supports available through ARALA designed to support First Nations Land Managers efforts to address their interests, excel in land management functions and to network between each other on land related issues. Presenters: Audrey Ward, Atlantic Region Aboriginal Land Association (ARALA) - President Norah Ward-Osmond, Atlantic Region Aboriginal Land Association (ARALA) Executive Director Moderator: Sarah Doyle, AFOA Atlantic Treasurer & Abegweit Senior Operating Officer

12:00 - 1:00 pm	PLATED LUNCH Closing Prayer by Elder, Dr., Keptin Lawrence Joseph Michael (Joe Mike)
1:00 - 2:00 pm	KEYNOTE - RECONNECTING TO NATION BUILDING - PARK CENTRE BALLROOM Keynote Speaker: Ovide Mercredi, President, Silent Drums Consulting, Assembly of First Nations National Chief (1991-1997), Chief of Misipawistik Cree Nation (2005-2011) Q&A Session to Follow
2:00 - 2:30 pm	TAKING ACTION ON LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE - PARK CENTRE BALLROOM Identifying follow up steps participants, First Nations and AFOA Atlantic can take to build on the lessons learned during this Leadership and Governance conference. Following a brief table-top discussion using a graphic facilitation tool known as the Five Bold Steps tables will be invited to volunteer to share insights from their conversations.
2:30 pm	CLOSING REMARKS, GIFT GIVING, AND CLOSING PROTOCOL

THANK YOU SPONSORS



CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS



HAROLD TARBELL

Harold Tarbell is a member of the Mohawk Nation at Akwesasne (the place where the partridge drums) located in Ontario, Quebec, and New York State. His Mohawk name means “he sits them in their place” which is a fitting name for a former Chief, a conference chair, and a facilitator.

The Tarbell Facilitation Network provides facilitation, strategic planning and conference moderation support to First Nations, American Indian and Indigenous organizations across Canada, the US and internationally with a focus on ensuring that Indigenous voices are heard and that their authority to lead is respected in all decisions that affect them.

Prior to forming the Tarbell Facilitation Network Harold worked as a: Multicultural Relations Coordinator; Land Rights Researcher; Director of the Federal National Aboriginal Management Board (currently ISETS); and Chief of Staff to National Chief Ovide Mercredi during the Charlottetown Canadian Constitutional negotiations. He recently served for 12 consecutive years as the Speaker/Co-Chair of the national AFN Chiefs’ Assemblies and continues to serve as the Co-MC of AFOA Canada’s national conferences.

As a committed lifelong learner he is currently pursuing The Directors College Executive Program certification from the DeGroot School of Business at McMaster University.



ANNIE JOHNSON

Annie E. Johnson is a leader who is committed to protecting the environment and natural resources in her home community of Eskasoni and all of Unama’ki (Cape Breton). In both her work and personal life, Annie integrates Netukulimk (Mi’kmaq traditional ways of using natural resources) with Etuaptmumk (Two-Eyed Seeing – viewing the world through the strengths of Indigenous knowledge together with conventional methods).

Passionate about culture, Mi’kmaq language and the natural world, Annie is the Director of Administration of the Unama’ki Institute of Natural Resources which leads in aquatic research and stewardship, Mi’kmaq knowledge and conservation. Dedicated to many initiatives in her community, she was a driving force behind locally held Collaborative Environmental Planning Initiative (CEPI) conferences, ensuring meaningful, cultural experiences for attendees from across Turtle Island.

Annie is dedicated to promoting lifelong learning and has served as the Vice Chair of AFOA Atlantic for the past 4 years.

KEYNOTE PRESENTATIONS

LEVERAGING INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONSHIPS



GINA WILSON

Gina Wilson is a grandmother, a proud Algonquin and the Deputy Minister of Indigenous Services, as well as the Champion for Indigenous public servants. Gina began her career in her First Nation community of Kitigan-Zibi as Director of Health and Social Services. She was also Child Welfare Advisor, Director of Health & Social Services and Chief Executive Officer when she was with the Assembly of First Nations.

She joined the federal government in 1996 and held several senior executive positions at various departments, including the Privy Council Office, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC), and Correctional Service of Canada.

One of her career highlights was as Assistant Deputy Minister of Indian Residential Schools Resolution Canada, where she oversaw the implementation of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement and the Prime Minister’s apology to Survivors of residential schools in 2010.

She then became Senior Assistant Deputy Minister of Regional Operations at the then Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) until moving to Public Safety Canada as ADM of Emergency Management.

Gina was Assistant Deputy Minister of Treaties and Aboriginal Government at INAC before joining the deputy ranks in 2014 as Associate DM at ESDC, Associate DM at Public Safety and Deputy Minister of Women and Gender Equality in 2017. She was appointed Deputy Minister of Public Safety Canada in 2019.

Gina held the role of Deputy Minister of Diversity and Inclusion and Youth at Canadian Heritage, then rejoined Women and Gender Equality Canada (WAGE) as Deputy Minister on September 1, 2021. She previously served at WAGE from 2017 to 2019, where she led the establishment of the new department.

Gina is the recipient of the 2020 Indspire Award for her leadership and lifelong work on Indigenous issues and support for Indigenous employees. She holds a Bachelor of Social Sciences from the University of Ottawa.



OVIDE MERCREDI

Ovide William Mercredi is a member of the Mispawistik Cree Nation (Grand Rapids) in northern Manitoba. He served his community as Chief from 2005 to 2011 and as a councillor for 2011-2014.

On June 12, 1991, Ovide was elected National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, a role which he held for two terms from 1991 to 1997, where he represented a diverse group of people who embraced differing traditions and at times, represented conflicting interests. During his first term, he led the negotiations for the First Nations in the Charlottetown Accord. In his efforts to find consensus for policies and to foster unity, he spent much of his time traveling across Canada to meet people and to learn firsthand of their difficulties.

A graduate of the University of Manitoba's Robson Hall Faculty of Law in 1977, he practiced criminal law and later specialized in constitutional law as an advisor to Manitoba Chiefs. Ovide Mercredi became a national and international leader in advocating for Indigenous peoples' rights.

In 1989, Ovide was elected Regional Chief of the Assembly of First Nations for Manitoba as well as appointed a member of the Manitoba Human Rights Commission. He became a key strategist for the Assembly during the time of the Meech Lake Accord constitutional reform discussions. Ovide has always advocated for non-violent methods to resolve conflict and he had an active role in negotiations in Oka, Gustafson Lake, Ipperwash and Burnt Church. For his work as an advocate of non-violent methods for change, he has been nominated by the Government of India for the Gandhi Peace Prize.

He became the first chancellor of Manitoba's University College of the North in 2007. He was selected in a traditional manner to be the National Spokesperson for Treaties 1 to 11 which he led from 2006 to 2014. He served on the board of the Winnipeg Art Gallery and the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada.

Among his many honours and awards are; Order of Canada, 2021, the Order of Manitoba in 2005 and honorary degrees from Bishop's University, St. Mary's University, Lethbridge University, Athabasca University, the Law Society of Ontario and the University of Manitoba.

Ovide is the author of My Silent Drum a book of poetry and enjoys golfing.

Currently, Ovide is working for Nishnawbe Aski in Northern Ontario on the application of the Declaration of Indigenous Rights as a tool for reform of Canadian laws.



CHIEF TERRANCE PAUL

Terry Paul is the Chief of Membertou First Nation, a position he has held for the past 39 years. During that time, Chief Paul has guided his community and administration into one of the most efficient and economically flourishing Indigenous communities in the country.

Chief Paul started his career with the Boston Indian Council where he received his background training in finance and management. Returning home to Membertou First Nation, Chief Paul joined the Membertou Band Council in the role of Economic Development Officer and progressed to the position of Band Manager before he was elected as Chief in 1984.

Chief Paul has achieved many notable accomplishments in his current role, as Chief and CEO of Membertou First Nation, including being named to one of Canada's highest honours. In 2017, Chief Paul was appointed to the Order of Canada. He is also an inductee of the Nova Scotia Business Hall of Fame, and recipient of the Frank McKenna Leadership Award. Chief Paul holds an honorary doctorate from Cape Breton University, Dalhousie University and Mount Allison University. In 2019, he led his organization to being named as a Canada's Best Managed Company. In January 2020, Chief Paul received the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business Lifetime Achievement Award.

Chief Paul is credited with tripling the land base for the Membertou Reserve and increasing the employment rate within Membertou First Nation to 80% in the community. In January 2021, Chief Paul led the single largest investment made by an Indigenous group in Canada, with the 50% acquisition of Clearwater Seafoods.

The Membertou First Nation motto of "Welcoming the World" is undoubtedly the most accurate representation of the open and progressive Indigenous community that Membertou First Nation has become under the leadership of Chief Terry Paul.



REGIONAL CHIEF JOANNA BERNARD

Assembly of First Nations New Brunswick Regional Chief Joanna Bernard, a member of Madawaska Maliseet First Nation in New Brunswick, is a prominent leader dedicated to advancing prosperity and economic development for First Nations in Canada.

Regional Chief Bernard is a proud mother of five sons, one stepdaughter, and grandmother to fifteen grandchildren. Born in Boston, Massachusetts, USA, and raised in Madawaska First Nation, New Brunswick, interim National Chief Bernard is of Italian and First Nations descent.

Regional Chief Bernard has more than two decades of experience in First Nations politics and leadership. She's been an integral part of Madawaska Maliseet First Nation and played a pivotal role in its growth and success. Throughout her journey, Regional Chief Bernard held various positions of leadership and made significant contributions for First Nations across New Brunswick.

Regional Chief Bernard's journey began within her own community, where she served as a Councillor and later as Chief from 2003 to 2013. Recognizing the importance of economic development, Regional Chief Bernard became the CEO of the Madawaska Maliseet Economic Development Corporation (MMEDC) in 2013. Her vision paved the way for notable achievements, including the establishment of the Grey Rock Power Centre.

Beyond her community, Regional Chief Bernard has been active in various organizations and committees at the provincial and national levels. Regional Chief Bernard served as a member of the First Nations and Business Liaison Group of New Brunswick, the Assembly of First Nations' Chiefs' Committee on Economic Development, and the Union of New Brunswick Indians' Aboriginal Natural Resources Committee. Additionally, she held the positions of President of the Maliseet Nation Conservation Council and Co-Chair of the Assembly of First Nations' Chiefs in New Brunswick. Through her involvement in these tables, Regional Chief Bernard advocates for First Nations inherent and Treaty rights, economic prosperity, and sustainable resource management.



CHIEF RODERICK (JUNIOR) GOULD

Chief Gould is a passionate Mi'kmaq leader who commenced his third term as Chief in 2023. In his dual role as Chief and Band Administrator, Chief Gould has led Abegweit First Nation through a robust period of growth, including the construction of new commercial, residential and community infrastructure. In addition to his role as Chief, Chief Gould co-chairs the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI and L'nuet. He was also successful in securing a regional chief's office for PEI. Chief Gould applies himself whole-heartedly to make improvements for his community, with focuses on economic development, job creation, housing, and partnership development.



PRESIDENT TODD RUSSELL

Todd Russell is from William's Harbour, a tiny island community on the southeast coast of Labrador. Todd attended Memorial University in Corner Brook and St. John's, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History and Classics. Todd was elected to what is now the NunatuKavut Community Council in 1992. Two years later he was elected President, a position he held for 11 years. He has also served on a number of national boards.

Todd entered federal politics in May of 2005 when he was elected as the Member of Parliament for Labrador during a by-election and he was re-elected in 2006 and 2008. Todd was re-elected President of NCC again in 2012 and again in 2016 and 2020.



CHIEF ROBERT LOUIE

Over the past few decades, newly re-elected Westbank First Nation Chief Robert Louie has built a reputation as a trusted leader, successful businessman and advocate for legislative change to further the economic and social well-being of Indigenous Peoples.

A longtime Westbank First Nation leader and former lawyer specializing in Indigenous law, Robert previously served as Chief for 24 years until 2016 – during which time he helped guide the Nation through independence, achieving self-governance in 2005. Robert has held many leadership and advisory roles with government and private industry over the years, including more than 30 years as Chairman of the First Nations Lands Advisory Board. Louie is a recipient of many esteemed designations and awards, including Officer of the Order of Canada, Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal and the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business’ 2022 Aboriginal Business Lifetime Achievement Award.

Robert is committed to supporting and ensuring WFN works on affordable housing, education, employment, and health care for Membership. He supports cultural, elders, and youth programs. He is a team builder and is prepared to mentor the Council, Administration, and key staff. Robert brings experience, strong leadership abilities, the knowledge and know-how, and the energetic drive to do what it takes to get the job done.



TYLER SACK

Tyler Sack is currently the Director of Aquatic Resources & Fisheries Management at the Confederacy of Mainland Mi’kmaq. He first joined the CMM in 2020 as the Director of Governance, pursuing a lateral move in 2023 to support the organization’s new strategic plan. He grew up in both Sipekne’katik and Membertou First Nation.

Tyler earned a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Anthropology from Saint Mary’s University and a Master of Arts in Sociology from the University of Guelph. He is an alumnus of the Governor General’s Canadian Leadership Conference, participating in 2022. In May of this year he was named an Action Canada Fellow for the 2024-25 program, and is currently working on a public policy recommendation paper on the future of natural resources in Canada.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

GROWING COMMUNITIES THROUGH ACQUISITIONS & PARTNERSHIPS (SESSION A)



PATRICK LAHEY

Patrick has over 20 years’ experience specializing in domestic corporate and personal tax consulting, including succession and estate planning, mergers and acquisitions, and corporate restructuring. He has extensive experience across various sectors including professional services, fishing and construction.

Patrick specializes in Indigenous taxation, working with many First Nations in Nova Scotia, including the complex tax structure for the Clearwater acquisition. Patrick’s work with First Nations includes the restructuring of commercial operations for tax efficiency related to Indigenous operations in fishing, construction, hospitality, gaming, and aquaculture.



KEVIN FRASER

Kevin has spent his career working in the areas of Corporate Finance and Banking. He has advised a wide range of clients involved in diverse industries throughout his 25-year career in finance, with a particular focus on transportation & logistics, fisheries, manufacturing & distribution, and real estate.

Having been involved in numerous transactions (buy and sell side M&A), debt and financial due diligence assignments, Kevin enjoys working on transactions of all sizes and complexity and supporting clients in private business and indigenous groups. Kevin was one of the lead partners working with the First Nation Coalition on the historic Clearwater acquisition.



TROY MACDONALD

Troy advises domestic and international clients on complex capital market transactions, M&A, valuations, fairness opinions, and financing, including public-private partnerships and project financing.

Prior to relocating to Toronto in 2008, Troy was a member of the firm’s capital markets team in London, England, where he advised on initial public offerings and public company transactions. Prior to 2003, Troy was a member of the mergers & acquisition team at Emera (TSX: EMA), a large publicly traded Canadian energy and utilities company.

Troy possesses a great depth of experience in the power and utilities sector, as well as in Indigenous, food and beverage, manufacturing, financial services, and pharmaceuticals. He was a key member of the team advising the First Nation Coalition on the historic Clearwater acquisition.



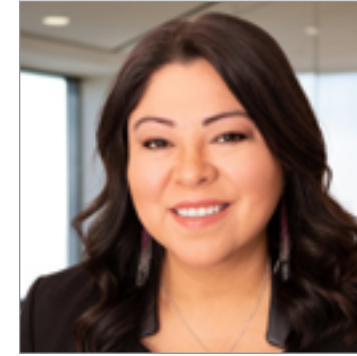
TERRY GOODTRACK

Mr. Goodtrack’s career has spanned over 30 years, during which he has held influential senior finance and management positions within high-profile Indigenous organizations. His enduring commitment to the fields of Indigenous finance, management, and leadership has made a significant impact.

One of his notable achievements is co-founding the AFOA Canada – Harvard Business School Executive Education Program. This annual program, held at the Harvard Business School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, focuses on leadership and the sustainable development of communities. He also co-founded a social enterprise called Ind.Genuity Chartered Professional Accountants which provides accounting services to Indigenous organizations. In 2017, Terry established the inaugural international conference on Indigenous Governance, Management, and Finance, aimed at fostering sustainable Indigenous communities.

Since 2011, Mr. Goodtrack served as the President and Chief Executive Officer of AFOA Canada. Before this role, he was Chief Operating Officer at the Aboriginal Healing Foundation, where he was entrusted with the management of a substantial healing fund totalling more than half a billion dollars. He was Chief Financial Officer at the Assembly of First Nations and at the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations. At the front end of his career, he worked for the Government of Canada in financial, operational and managerial positions.

Recognized for his expertise and leadership, Mr. Goodtrack was appointed by both the Assembly of First Nations and the Minister of Indigenous Services Canada to co-chair the New Fiscal Relationship working group for which he plays a central role in shaping Indigenous policy and finance at a national level. His expertise and leadership in this regard have not only earned him recognition but have also highlighted his collaborative efforts in addressing critical issues affecting Indigenous communities.



CHRISTIANNE JEROME BERNARD

Christianne is the Manager of Indigenous Niche Services for MNP at the Montreal office, and works remotely from her Mi’gmaq community in Gesgapegiag, Qc. She has over twenty years of experience in administration and management, fifteen years in Indigenous economic development, and six years in Indigenous governance. Christianne’s Indigenous sector experience spans throughout her career.

Before joining MNP, much of Christianne’s work experience was with the Micmacs of Gesgapegiag in Economic Development and Leadership. She was also the CEO of Mi’gmawei Mawiomi Business Corporation “MMBC”. A corporation owned by the three Mi’gmaq Communities in Gesgapegiag. MMBC’s mission was to ensure sustainable natural resource development within their territory and economic and financial profits for the communities.

In her roles as CEO and Vice Chief, she participated in numerous Treaty-based negotiations related to territory and natural resources with industry and government. Presently Christianne works with MNP in First Nations communities helping in Leadership planning, strategic planning, operational planning, Board of Directors training, and Indigenous engagement. She also works with industry to facilitate Indigenous awareness training.

Some present and past board and committee positions include - Sipuminu board member (formerly known as Cascapedia Society), Plamugwet board member (salmon sports fishing business), Mesgi’g Ugjus’n (150 mw windfarm) and Mesgi’g Ugjus’n 2 (103mw wind farm in development) board member, First Nations Finance Authority (FNFA) board member, and the Chair of a Finance and Audit Committee for Gesgapegiag.

Her first and only language as a child was Mi’gmaq and she is a fluent Mi’gmaq speaker.

GOVERNING FOR SUCCESS (SESSION D)



MATT TAPPER

Matt Tapper is a proud member of the Sipekne'katik Mi'kmaw Nation and a seasoned Indigenous leader with extensive experience in organizational leadership, financial advisory, and capacity development. Currently serving as a Relationship Manager at the First Nations Financial Management Board, he collaborates with First Nations, Indigenous Not-for profits and other clients to advance their visions with good governance practices. Previously, as the CEO of the Aboriginal Sport Circle, he led strategic initiatives to enhance Indigenous sport and recreation. With a background in finance and policy development, Matt has also served as General Manager at Ulnooweg Development Group, driving entrepreneurship in Indigenous communities. He holds a Bachelor of Commerce from Saint Mary's University and is actively involved as a board member in national and provincial Indigenous and Government organizations.

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL FIRST NATIONS CLIMATE STRATEGIES (SESSION E)



MELISSA NEVIN

Melissa Nevin joined APC as the Director of Fisheries and Integrated Resources in October 2018 and is a proud member of Sipekne'katik First Nation. She holds an advanced Bachelor of Arts in Geography from Saint Mary's University, and has continued her education in public policy, geography, and project management. As director, Melissa works with the Fisheries and Integrated Resources Team to address fisheries and environmental related issues, policy initiatives, identify opportunities, and provide updates to the communities on current and upcoming issues. Her role also consists of coordinating and collaborating with Government, Academia, Industry, Indigenous organizations, Atlantic First Nations communities including the Atlantic Aboriginal Aquatic Research Ocean Management (AAROM) bodies and Commercial Fisheries Liaison Coordinators (CFLCs). Furthermore, she also sits on several committees and working groups, focusing on First Nation policy and fisheries resource management.

Prior to her position at APC, she served as a Mi'kmaq Consultation Researcher for the Kwikmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn Negotiations Office (KMKNO) for eleven years. She also worked with the Un'amak'i Institute of Natural Resources (UINR). Melissa has trained in public management and policy and has worked on National Parks, Fisheries, Indigenous Knowledge, and participated in various committees on energy, mining, environment, climate change, fisheries, both on a provincial and national level.



CHIEF TAMARA YOUNG

Chief Tamara Young was first elected to her position as the Chief of Pictou Landing First Nation in 2023. Prior to that she worked at the Kwikmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn (KMKNO), or the Mi'kmaq Rights Initiative for five years as a Consultation Researcher with a focus on files related to Parks Canada, Aquaculture, and Species at Risk. Chief Tamara holds a Bachelor of Arts with a major in Sociology, and a Masters of Business Administration in Community Economic Development from Cape Breton University.

In addition to her role as Chief, Tamara sits on several Boards and Executive Committees including the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs, The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq, and the Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Tripartite Forum. She lives in her home community of Pictou Landing First Nation with her husband Alfred and their four children.

ATLANTIC REGION ABORIGINAL LANDS ASSOCIATION (SESSION F)



AUDREY WARD

Audrey Ward is from Metepenagiag First Nation. Audrey's area of expertise is in Community Planning, Housing and Lands. She is certified with the First Nations Housing Professional Association. Audrey has been working for the her community for 30 years.



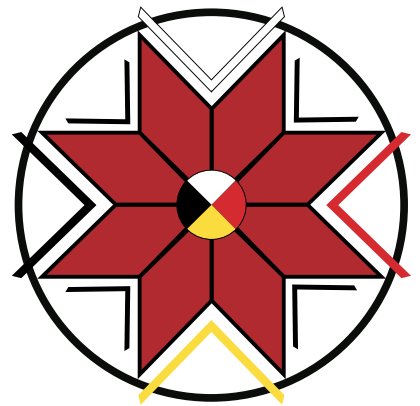
NORAH WARD-OSMOND

Norah Ward-Osmond – is from Elsipogtog First Nation, she has been the Executive Director of ARALA since December 2019.



HOW DID WE DO?

Please fill out our feedback survey:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AFOAatlantic2024>



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