

DAGUNAK ICUMI

(CONFERENCE PROGRAM AGENDA)



"HONOURING OUR YOUTH"



HOSTED BY ALEXIS NAKOTA SIOUX NATION

www.ansn.ca



2025 HOST COMMITTEE ALEXIS NAKOTA SIOUX NATION

1. Hûgakebi Tony Alexis
2. Togahackēbi Cameron Alexis
3. Togahackēbi Darwin Alexis
4. Togahackēbi Dwayne Alexis
5. Togahackēbi Hank Alexis
6. Togahackēbi Tina Cardinal
7. Togahackēbi Darren Kootenay
8. Togahackēbi Emily Potts

9. Doreen Alexis - Wahkonabi
10. Elizabeth Letendre - Wahkonabi
11. Howard Mustus - Wahkonabi
12. Isabel Aginas - Wahkonabi
13. Judy Alexis - Wahkonabi
14. Sam Aginas Wahkonabi

15. Eugene Alexis - Coordinator / MC
16. Stephanie Alexis - Logistics & Sponsorships (Lead)
17. Rodney Mustus - Finance (Lead)
18. Gina Letendre - Finance (Helper)
19. Ramona Couillonneur - Registration (Lead)
20. Leah Reynolds - Market (Lead)
21. Alexandra Alexis - Decorations (Lead)
22. Heather Potts - Door Prizes (Lead)
23. Patti Potts - Apparel (Lead)
24. Lanny Potts - Security (Lead)
25. Dale Alexis Sr - Cultural Lead
26. Arnold Alexis - Cultural Lead – Ahiyaabi
27. Bernice Alexis - Cultural Helper
28. Jonathan Letendre - Cultural Helper
29. Paul Q. Kootenay - Cultural Helper
30. Johnny Powderface - MC
31. Katerina Rain - Resource Table
32. Cherith Mark - Resource Table
33. Arlene Potts - Translator (Lead)
34. Henry Alexis - Translator
35. Tom Snow Jr - Translator
36. Eugene Paul Jr - Translation Equipment



37. Kristina Roan Alexis - Helper
38. Alexei Letendre - Helper
39. Andrea Kootenay - Helper
40. Angel Petawaysin - Helper
41. Brandis Roan Alexis - Helper
42. Candy Potts - Helper
43. Charley Roan Alexis - Helper
44. Daylynn Paul - Helper
45. Eve Rain - Helper
46. Jodie Jones - Helper
47. Lori Alexis - Helper
48. Mildred Alexis - Helper
49. Sadie Kootenay - Helper
50. Winnie Morin - Helper
51. Landon Potts - Helper
52. Luke Reynolds - Helper
53. Marcus Letendre - Helper
54. Ryu Kootenay - Helper
55. Torbin Mustus - Helper
56. Tammy Turner - Helper



Welcome from the Alexis Host Committee

On behalf of the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation and the Host Committee, I welcome all Chiefs, Leaders, Knowledge Keepers, Educators, and Youth to the 2025 Nakota Language Conference — Watezehebi Yobami: Honouring Our Youth.

We gather here on Treaty No. 6 Territory, the homeland of our Isga (Nakota) people. This conference brings together those committed to our language, the speakers, learners, and teachers, who share a purpose to protect, strengthen, and carry forward the Nakota language and identity.

As hosts, we're honoured to welcome you to a space where old teachings meet new energy, and where our youth help guide the path ahead. May this gathering strengthen our connections and remind us of our shared responsibility to ensure our language lives on.

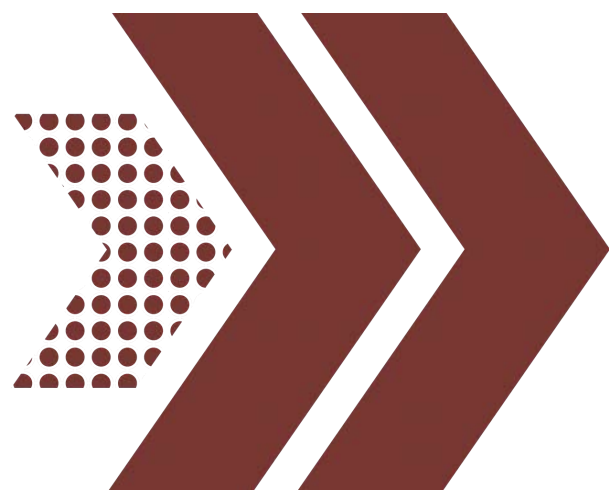
We offer our thanks to all who made this conference possible, the organizers, volunteers, sponsors, and community members. Together, we honour the spirit of Watezehebi Yobami, and the living voice of our people.

Ishnish

Chief Tony Alexis

Council Members & 2025 Host Committee

ALEXIS NAKOTA SIOUX NATION



HÛGAKEBI (CHIEF)



Hûgakebi
Tony Alexis
Alexis Nakota
Treaty No. 6

Chief Tony Alexis is a fluent speaker and long-standing leader of the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation, with decades of experience in First Nations governance, economic development, and strategic advocacy at local, regional, and national levels. Under his leadership, the Nation has expanded housing, built critical infrastructure, negotiated major agreements, and positioned itself as a serious and capable partner in both policy and business. His leadership is grounded in the principles of sovereignty, self-determination, and long-term Nation-building. Chief Tony has worked to ensure that Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation is not only consulted but actively engaged in shaping decisions that affect its lands, people, and future. He is known for building meaningful relationships across government and industry while remaining firmly rooted in the values and vision of his people.



Hûgakebi
Casey Bird
Paul
Treaty No. 6

Chief Casey Bird is the elected leader of the Paul First Nation, a Stoney (Nakoda) community located near Duffield, Alberta, within Treaty 6 Territory. With over 20 years of leadership experience, Chief Bird has been a steadfast advocate for Treaty Rights, youth empowerment, and community development. Under his leadership, the Nation has advanced initiatives in governance, economic growth, and cultural renewal, including efforts to strengthen language preservation and education. Chief Bird relies on community Elders and language experts to guide the development of Paul First Nation's language bundle, ensuring that Nakoda teachings remain a living part of community life. Committed to building a strong and self-sustaining future for his people, Chief Bird continues to balance modern governance with the traditional values and heritage, fostering unity, opportunity, and cultural pride.



Hûgakebi
Aaron Young
Chiniki
Treaty No. 7

Chief Aaron Young is a fluent speaker and the elected leader of the Chiniki First Nation, one of the three Stoney Nakoda Nations in southern Alberta. A long-serving leader dedicated to the well-being of his people, Chief Young's vision is grounded in Nakoda language, culture, and economic strength. He has championed initiatives that preserve and revitalize Stoney Nakoda traditions while supporting business development that creates employment and long-term sustainability for the Nation. As Chair of the Chiniki Group of Companies, he promotes opportunities that align economic growth with cultural values, ensuring that development benefits future generations. Guided by traditional teachings and a deep respect for Nakoda identity, Chief Young continues to lead with a focus on unity, cultural pride, and self-determination for the Chiniki people.



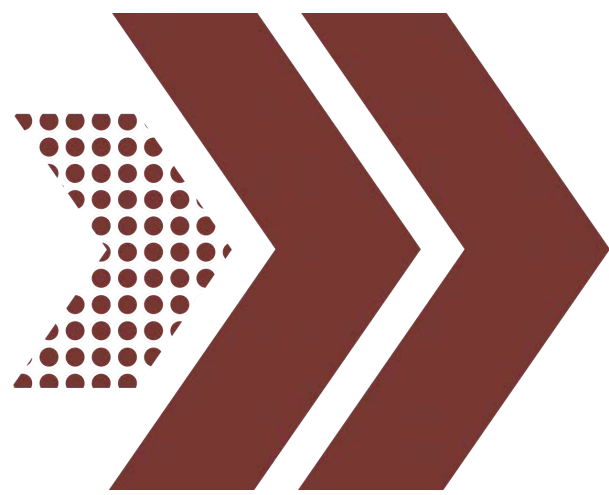
Hûgakebi
Clifford Poucette
Good Stoney
Treaty No. 7

Chief Clifford Poucette is a fluent speaker and the elected leader of the Goodstoney First Nation (formerly Wesley First Nation), one of the three Stoney Nakoda Nations in southern Alberta. A long-serving leader first elected in 2006 and re-elected in 2019 and 2022, he is dedicated to strengthening Nakoda language, culture, and economic self-determination. Chief Poucette has guided major projects that create employment and business opportunities for his Nation, including renewable energy initiatives and community-owned developments like Goodstoney Meadows. His leadership emphasizes unity, youth empowerment, and the preservation of Stoney Nakoda traditions while advancing sustainable economic growth for future generations.



Hûgakebi
Darcy Dixon
Bearspaw
Treaty No. 7

Chief Darcy Dixon is the longtime elected leader of the Bearspaw First Nation, one of the three Stoney Nakoda Nations in Alberta. Serving as Chief for over two decades, he is recognized for his steady leadership and commitment to language, culture, and economic self-determination. Under his guidance, Bearspaw has strengthened governance, expanded business partnerships, and earned national recognition for community development. Chief Dixon continues to promote Nakoda values and cultural preservation while creating sustainable opportunities for future generations through education, youth empowerment, and economic growth.



HÛGAKEBI (CHIEF)



Hûgakebi
John Waditaka,
Wahpeton Dakota

Chief John Waditaka is the elected leader of the Wahpeton Dakota Nation near Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. A fluent Dakota speaker and former language teacher, he is deeply committed to revitalizing the Dakota language and preserving traditional knowledge for future generations. Guided by Dakota values, Chief Waditaka's leadership blends cultural teachings with modern governance to strengthen his Nation's self-determination. He also serves as President of the Prince Albert Development Corporation, advancing community-based economic growth and training opportunities. Through his work, he continues to champion language, culture, and prosperity for the Wahpeton Dakota people.



Hûgakebi
Raymond Brown,
Canupawakpa Dakota

Chief Raymond Brown is the elected leader of the Canupawakpa Dakota First Nation, located near Pipestone, Manitoba. His leadership is guided by a vision rooted in Dakota language, culture, and self-determination. Chief Brown is a strong advocate for reclaiming Dakota identity and strengthening nation-to-nation relationships with Canada. He has advanced initiatives focused on cultural revitalization, land stewardship, and sustainable economic growth, including strategic partnerships in emerging industries aligned with the Dakota principle of Tokata — meaning "future." Chief Brown emphasizes that true reconciliation requires both recognition and meaningful action, combining traditional values with modern governance to build a prosperous and culturally grounded future for the Canupawakpa Dakota people.



Hûgakebi
Tréchelle Bunn
Birdtail Sioux

Chief Tréchelle Bunn is the elected leader of the Birdtail Sioux First Nation in Manitoba and made history in 2025 as the first woman and youngest chief in her Nation's history. A law student, athlete, and community advocate, she is known for her commitment to youth empowerment, cultural revitalization, and reconciliation. Before her election, she founded the Reconciliation Run, a healing initiative that honours residential school survivors and promotes cross-cultural understanding. Chief Bunn's leadership emphasizes transparency, community engagement, and the inclusion of Elders and youth in decision-making. She continues to inspire a new generation of Indigenous leaders, guided by Dakota values, language, and a vision for a strong, self-determined future for Birdtail Sioux First Nation.



Hûgakebi
Tanya Stone
Mosquito, Grizzly Bear's
Head, Lean Man
Treaty No. 4 & 6

Tanya Stone serves as the Chief of Mosquito, Grizzly Bear's Head, Lean Man First Nation (MGBHLM), a Nakoda/Assiniboine community in Saskatchewan's Eagle Hills region on Treaty 4 and Treaty 6 territory. She guides her Nation at a critical juncture of cultural revival and economic renewal, overseeing portfolios that include community development, economic strategy, governance, language, finance, settlement trusts and Elders' affairs.

Under Chief Stone's leadership, the Nation has advanced significant initiatives: acquiring a historic property near the former Battleford Indian Residential School to create a cultural-wellness centre; launching an independent Economic Development Corporation to build employment and revenue streams; and partnering in prairie-bison renewal efforts as part of the wider Indigenous conservation movement.

Chief Stone is recognized for her vision of self-sufficiency, cultural resurgence, and economic empowerment—positioning MGBHLM First Nation to transform historical legacies into future-facing opportunities for her people.



INAPĒYA (Spotlight)



Cameron Alexis
Togahacakēbi
Alexis Nakota
Treaty No. 6

Cameron Alexis is a fluent speaker and Band Councillor for the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation with decades of experience in first nation governance, federal policing and law enforcement advocacy. A former Chief of Alexis, former Grand Chief of Treaty Six and Regional Chief of the Assembly of First Nations for Alberta, Cameron has dedicated his career to advancing Indigenous peoples rights. Highly respected as a 23 year veteran of the RCMP, he is dedicated to improving community safety in Alexis. Guided by traditional values, he serves his Nation with pride and honour, continuing to practice and uphold Stoney Nakoda culture and traditions in all aspects of his life.



Darwin Alexis
Togahacakēbi
Alexis Nakota
Treaty No. 6

Darwin Alexis is a fluent speaker and Band Councillor for the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation who is devoted to serving his community with pride and traditional leadership focused on governance, cultural preservation, and education. He supports initiatives that promote education and business while working closely with Elders and community members to strengthen programs and opportunities for the Nation. Darwin's commitment to his people reflects his belief in the importance of language, culture, and community growth for future generations of the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation.



Dwayne Alexis
Togahacakēbi
Alexis Nakota
Treaty No. 6

Dwayne Alexis is a passive speaker and Band Councillor for the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation. Born and raised in Alexis, he combines his background in business management and education with a passion for empowering his people. He is dedicated to building partnerships and creating opportunities that promote employment, self-sufficiency, and long-term prosperity for his community. Dwayne honours his culture and teachings and is a traditional singer. A proud family man, he continues to lead with dedication, ensuring that economic progress supports the cultural and collective well-being of the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation.



Henry Hank Alexis
Togahacakēbi
Alexis Nakota
Treaty No. 6

Hank Alexis is a fluent speaker and Band Councillor for the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation who is deeply respected for his cultural knowledge and commitment to preserving traditional ways. He is an active supporter of language, and community initiatives. One of Hank's most notable achievements is the founding of the Nakota Strong Music Festival. This annual event celebrates indigenous music, art, and culture, drawing participants and spectators from far and wide. Through the festival, Hank has created a platform for indigenous artists to showcase their talents while fostering a sense of community pride and unity.



INAPĒYA (Spotlight)



Tina Cardinal
Togahacakēbi
Alexis Nakota
Treaty No. 6

Tina Cardinal is a passive speaker and Band Councillor for the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation with deep family roots and a lifelong dedication to community service. Tina has over 15 years of experience in the Social Development Department, where she has developed programs that support youth and strengthen the community.

Tina holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and a Certificate in Business Management, combining her education with practical leadership and financial management skills. In honour of her late mother's 40 years of service as Director, Tina established a memorial garden at the Social Development Office, reflecting her commitment to both family and Nation. Guided by the values instilled by her parents, she continues to serve with compassion and determination to improve the lives of the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation.



Darren Kootenay
Togahacakēbi
Alexis Nakota
Treaty No. 6

Darren Kootenay is a passive speaker and Band Councillor for the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation and a dedicated advocate for cultural preservation and community development. Raised within the traditions of his people, Darren began his career in construction before being elected to Council, where he has helped advance key projects, including the construction of new homes for community members. A proud cultural helper, traditional drummer, and singer, he remains deeply involved in ceremonies that strengthen the Nation's identity and spirit. Beyond his leadership role, Darren is also an athlete and devoted father to his daughter, Sophie, balancing his responsibilities with humility, strength, and a commitment to the growth and well-being of the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation.



Emily Potts
Togahacakēbi
Alexis Nakota
Treaty No. 6

Emily Potts is a passive speaker and Band Councillor for the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation and a respected leader dedicated to the health, wellness, and prosperity of her community. A proud mother and wife, she balances family life with her commitment to public service, bringing both traditional knowledge and professional expertise to her role. With a background in business education and experience with the Yellowhead Tribal Council, Emily provides strong financial and organizational leadership in advancing community programs. Her work has included key contributions to Alexis Health, Police Services, and the Northern Isga Foundation, as well as leading community wellness initiatives such as the ANSN rally against drugs and alcohol. Guided by her faith and deep cultural values, Emily continues to foster healing, unity, and growth within the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation.



DAGUNAK ICUMI

(AGENDA)

ABA WAZHI (DAY 1)

 November 5, 2025

 River Cree Venue
300 East Lapotac Boulevard, Enoch, Treaty No. 6



12:00 PM

HIBID (ARRIVE) **DUWĒ OPABIDI** (REGISTRATION)

3:00 PM

BARĒC'ĒBI (GENERAL ASSEMBLY)
WAZIKEBI ITO INAABINA, SHECASH WAKOHNAABID AHIYAABI
(OPENING CEREMONY & SONGS)

5:00 PM

BARĒ WAGICIBI (GRAND ENTRY)
PICIHNI AHIYU (BRING IN THE EAGLE STAFF)

5:15 PM

HAXDIDU WATABI (SUPPER)
WINABCĒ AWAKOHNAABI (BLESSING OF FOOD)
BAZOOBI (OFFERING OF FOOD)

5:45 PM

AHIYAABI (CHIEF'S SONG) **HŪGAKEBI I?ABICAD:** (INVOCATION BY CHIEFS)
HŪGACAKEBI I?ABICAD: (INVOCATION BY FEDERAL & PROVINCIAL LEADERS)
TOBA UHYABI (DOOR PRIZE)

7:00 PM

AHIYAABI (SONG) **I?ACIN K'UBI** (KEYNOTE): **CHIEF ARVOL LOOKING HORSE**
TOBA UHYABI (DOOR PRIZE)

8:00 PM

WAKAMNĒ WATĒZHĒBI WICAYUBAAMI (HONOURING OUR ALEXIS YOUTH)
AHIYAABI (SONGS)

9:10 PM

TOBA UHYABI (DOOR PRIZE)
GICUNIMI IDUS YAD (RECAP – END OF DAY)
ISH?AWIMIN WAKOHNAABI (CLOSING PRAYER BY ELDER)

9:15 PM

PICIHNI GICUNICIN (RETIRE THE EAGLE STAFF)
AHIYAABI PINA WAGICIBID (THANKSGIVING SONG)

WATĒZHĒBI WICAYUBAAMI
(HONOUR OUR ALEXIS YOUTH)

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DAGUNAK ICUMI

(AGENDA)

ABA NUM (DAY 2)

November 6, 2025

River Cree Venue
300 East Lapotac Boulevard, Enoch, Treaty No. 6



8:00 AM

HIBID (ARRIVE) **HAKĒN WATABI** (BREAKFAST)
BAZOOBI (OFFERING OF FOOD) **AHIYAABI** (SONG)

9:00 AM

BARĒC'ĒBI (GENERAL ASSEMBLY) **WAZIKEBI ITO INAABINA, SHECASH**
WAKOHNAABID AHIYAABI (OPENING PRAYER, SONG & SMUDGE)
INAPĒYA (SPOTLIGHT) **TUGAHAMI TIMANI** (LEADERSHIP VISIT)
TOBA UHYABI (DOOR PRIZE)

10:00 AM

AHIYAABI (SONG)
I?ACIN K'UBI (KEYNOTE): **DR. JORDAN LACHLER** ON "STATUS OF LANGUAGE"
AHIYAABI (SONGS BY LIGHTNING STRIKES)
GAD'E XBAABI (BREAK - 15 MIN) **TOBA UHYABI** (DOOR PRIZE)

11:00 AM

AHIYAABI (SONG)
I?ACIN K'UBI (KEYNOTE): **ISHA?WIN CHARLIE LETENDRE**
GAD'E XBAABI (BREAK - 15 MIN) **TOBA UHYABI** (DOOR PRIZE)

12:00 PM

ANIKUNIGE WATABI IDUS (LUNCH)
WINABCĒ AWAKOHNAABI (BLESSING OF FOOD)
BAZOOBI (OFFERING OF FOOD)

1:00 PM

AHIYAABI (SONG)
I?ACIN K'UBI (KEYNOTE): **DR. TERRY POUCKETTE**
GAD'E XBAABI (BREAK - 15 MIN) **TOBA UHYABI** (DOOR PRIZE)

2:00 PM

AHIYAABI (SONG)
I?ACIN K'UBI (KEYNOTE): **ISHA?WIN TOM SNOW**
GAD'E XBAABI (BREAK - 15 MIN) **TOBA UHYABI** (DOOR PRIZE)

3:00 PM

AHIYAABI (SONG)
I?ACIN K'UBI (KEYNOTE): **FIRE THUNDER FAMILY**
GAD'E XBAABI (BREAK - 15 MIN) **TOBA UHYABI** (DOOR PRIZE)

4:00 PM

GICUNIMI IDUS YAD (RECAP - END OF DAY)
ISH?AWIMIN WAKOHNAABI (CLOSING PRAYER BY ELDER)
AHIYAABI PINA WAGICIBID (THANKSGIVING SONGS & HUGS)

WATĒZHĒBI WICAYUBAAMI
(HONOUR OUR ALEXIS YOUTH)

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DAGUNAK ICUMI

(AGENDA)

ABA YAMNI (DAY 3)

November 7, 2025

River Cree Venue
300 East Lapotac Boulevard, Enoch, Treaty No. 6



8:00 AM

HIBID (ARRIVE)
HAKĒN WATABI (BREAKFAST) **BAZOOBI** (OFFERING OF FOOD)
AHIYAABI (SONGS)

9:00 AM

BARĒC'ĒBI (GENERAL ASSEMBLY) **WAZIKEBI ITO INAABINA, SHECASH**
WAKOHNAABID AHIYAABI (OPENING PRAYER, SONG & SMUDGE)
WAKAMNĒ WATĒZHĒBI WICAYUBAMI GAMUMU OPANAMI
(LIGHTNING STRIKES HONOURING OUR ALEXIS YOUTH - HONOR SONG)

10:00 AM

AHIYAABI (SONG)
I?ACIN K'UBI (KEYNOTE): **TERRY RIDER**
GAD'E XBAABI (BREAK - 15 MIN) **TOBA UHYABI** (DOOR PRIZE)

11:00 AM

AHIYAABI (SONG)
ATICAMANIMI WATEZHEBI (YOUTH PANEL)
GAD'E XBAABI (BREAK - 15 MIN) **TOBA UHYABI** (DOOR PRIZE)

12:00 PM

ANIKUNIGE WATABI IDUS (LUNCH)
WINABCĒ AWAKOHNAABI (BLESSING OF FOOD)
BAZOOBI (OFFERING OF FOOD) **AHIYAABI** (SONGS)

1:00 PM

HŪGAKEBI AHIYAABI (CHIEFS SONG)
DAGUCAYAMI INOSHNOBGE (ALEXIS CHIEFS MEMORIAL TRIBUTE)
TOBA UHYABI (DOOR PRIZE)

2:00 PM

PAULINA ALEXIS SPECIAL GUEST
ISHNISH SONG BY ARLENE POTTS
DUKĒN ICANIMI (CONFERENCE EVALUATIONS) **TOBA UHYABI** (DOOR PRIZE)

2:30 PM

ISH?AWIMIN WAKOHNAABI (CLOSING PRAYER BY ELDER)
AHIYAABI PINA WAGICIBID (THANKSGIVING SONGS & HUGS)

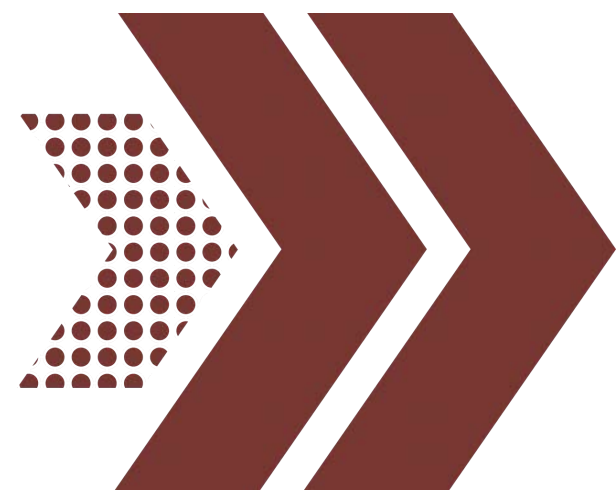
3:00 PM

ÎC'IGIBÂMI (MAKE YOUR WAY BACK)
END OF CONFERENCE - SAFE TRAVELS TO YOUR HOMEFIRE
SEE YOU AGAIN NEXT YEAR!

*REVISED

WATĒZHĒBI WICAYUBAAMI
(HONOUR OUR ALEXIS YOUTH)

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EUGENE ALEXIS

CONFERENCE COORDINATOR /
MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Traditionally known as Nabe Gdusahan (Broken Hand), Eugene Alexis is a fluent Stoney Nakoda speaker, storyteller, and historian.

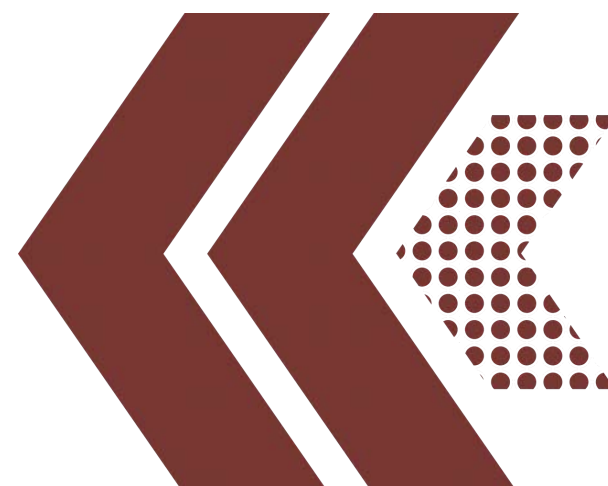
The son of the late Logan and Jean Alexis, he was raised on the Alexis Reserve #133 and is a proud husband, father and grandfather. He has devoted over 30 years to documenting, teaching, and revitalizing Stoney language and culture. A respected educator and historian, he serves as the Director of Language for the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation and, in 2016, was recognized as a Stoney Nakoda Language Expert by the Canadian Indigenous Language and Literacy Development Institute.

Eugene lives in Wakâ Mne (God's Lake / Sacred Lake or Lac Ste. Anne) with his wife, Lisa, where he continues to honour his family's legacy through his language, art, and cultural teachings.



JOHNNY POWDERFACE

MASTER OF CEREMONIES



Johnny Powderface is a proud member of the Chiniki First Nation from Mîni Thnî (Morley), Alberta, within the Stoney Nakoda Nations. He is the son of the late Clifford Powderface and Verna Powderface, who currently serves as a leader for the Chiniki Nation. Johnny was named after his great-grandfather, Johnny Powderface, continuing a family legacy of leadership and community service.

He currently serves as a Programs Coordinator at the Mîni Thnî Recreation Centre, where he promotes youth engagement through cultural and recreational initiatives. Previously, he worked with Stoney Nakoda Child and Family Services as a case aide and Chiniki Band Designate, coordinating cultural camps for children and fostering connections with Elders.

Fluent in the Nakoda language, Johnny is also a respected singer, dancer, and cultural facilitator. He regularly leads singing lessons, cultural camps, and demonstrations throughout Mîni Thnî and surrounding communities. From 2016 to 2022, he coordinated local powwows before transitioning to his role as Master of Ceremonies.

Johnny is deeply committed to Nakoda language revitalization and believes that speaking and teaching the language is both an act of identity and resistance against colonial erasure. Through his work, he continues to honour his ancestors, strengthen community connections, and inspire the next generation to walk proudly in their Stoney Nakoda identity.





DALE ALEXIS

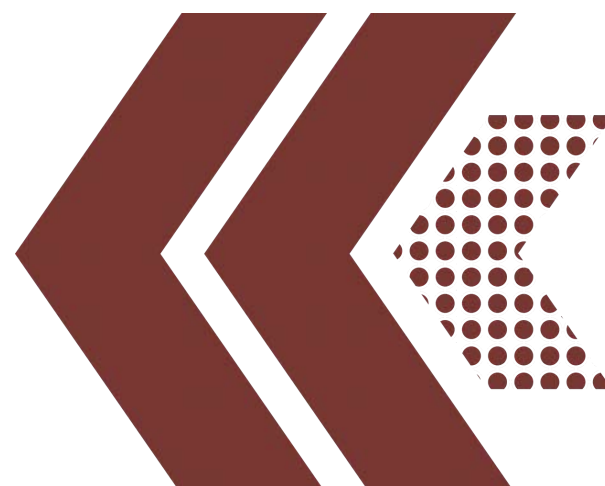
CULTURAL LEAD

Dale Alexis Sr. is a respected spiritual and ceremonial leader of the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation, located within Treaty 6 Territory. The son of Alexander Alexis and Bella (Kootenay) Alexis, Dale upholds the sacred ways of the ceremonial lodges, teaching through humility, respect, and gratitude. His leadership reflects a lifelong commitment to cultural preservation, healing, and wellness, ensuring that the spirit, language, and strength of the Stoney Nakoda people continue to thrive for generations to come.

A former certified Addictions Counsellor, Dale has dedicated much of his life to helping his people reconnect with their traditional values, healing, and identity. Guided by the teachings of his ancestors, he continues to share cultural knowledge and preserve sacred practices. He was gifted the art of rattle making by Elder Paul Daniels of Morley and honours this teaching with deep respect, blending his craftsmanship with the traditions in which it was passed down.

ARNOLD ALEXIS

CULTURAL LEAD – AHIYAABI



Arnold Alexis, known by his traditional name Tataska (White Buffalo), is a respected Elder and cultural leader from the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation, born and raised by his parents Logan and Jean Alexis. A fluent speaker of Stoney Nakoda, he was guided by the teachings of his family and Elders, grounding him in Nakota traditions and spirituality.

Renowned across North America as a singer, drum keeper, and teacher, Arnold shares his gifts through ceremonies and his “Gamumu Garabi” hand drum workshops, where he teaches the sacred art of drum making. As a Spirit Big Drum Keeper, he believes in the power of the drum to unite and heal the people.

Honouring a lifelong promise to his Elders, Arnold continues to serve the xaamcashdabi (people of the earth), preserving and passing on Nakota knowledge with humility, generosity, and dedication.





I?ACIN K'UBI
(ASKED TO SPEAK / KEYNOTE SPEAKER)

CHIEF ARVOL LOOKING HORSE

19th Generation Keeper of the Sacred White Buffalo Calf Pipe
Lakota, Dakota, and Nakota Nations



Chief Arvol Looking Horse is the 19th Generation Keeper of the Sacred White Buffalo Calf Pipe and the spiritual leader of the Lakota, Dakota, and Nakota Nations. Born in 1954 on the Cheyenne River Reservation in South Dakota, he grew up in a traditional Lakota family, learning his ancestral language before English. At only twelve years old, he inherited the sacred responsibility of caring for the White Buffalo Calf Pipe, a role passed down through nineteen generations. His grandmother once cautioned that if humanity did not live in balance and respect for creation, he might be the last of the bundle keepers, a message that continues to guide his life's purpose.

As a young leader, Chief Looking Horse became a voice for peace, prayer, and global healing. In 1994, he founded World Peace and Prayer Day, first held on June 21 to honor the birth of a white buffalo calf, a sacred sign for Indigenous Nations. Each year since, communities around the world gather under his call to “pray for peace in our hearts and peace on Mother Earth.”

He is also the founder of the Big Foot Riders, who retrace the historic trail from the Standing Rock Reservation to Wounded Knee to commemorate those lost in the 1890 massacre. Through prayer rides such as the Unity Ride and the Dakota 38+2 Memorial Ride, he continues to promote healing from historical trauma and intergenerational grief.

Chief Looking Horse's lifelong advocacy extends to environmental and Indigenous rights, including the Lakota's struggle for the return of the Black Hills and the protection of sacred waters. His message — that “only through spiritual unity can we heal our nations and the Earth” — has reached audiences at the United Nations, international peace gatherings, and presidential inaugurations.

He is the author of *White Buffalo Teachings* and a contributor to *Indian Country Today*. His leadership has earned him global recognition, including the Juliet Hollister Award for Interfaith Leadership and numerous humanitarian honors.

Today, Chief Arvol Looking Horse continues to travel the world carrying the sacred pipe and teachings of peace, reminding all nations of their shared responsibility to protect life for future generations.



I?ACIN K'UBI

(ASKED TO SPEAK / KEYNOTE SPEAKER)



DR. JORDAN LACHLER

Associate Professor - University of Alberta, Canadian Indigenous Languages and Literacy Development Institute (CILLDI)

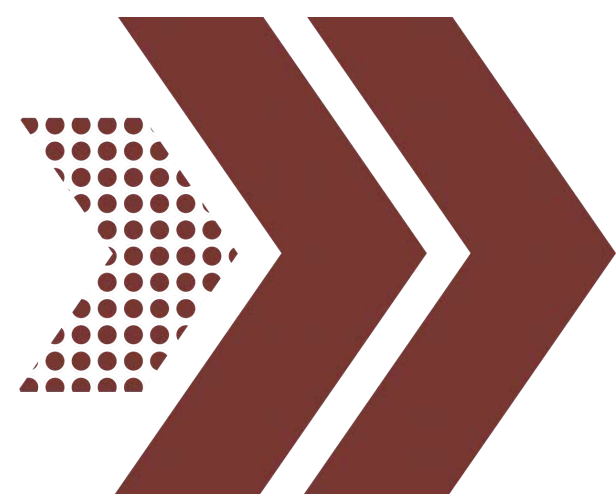
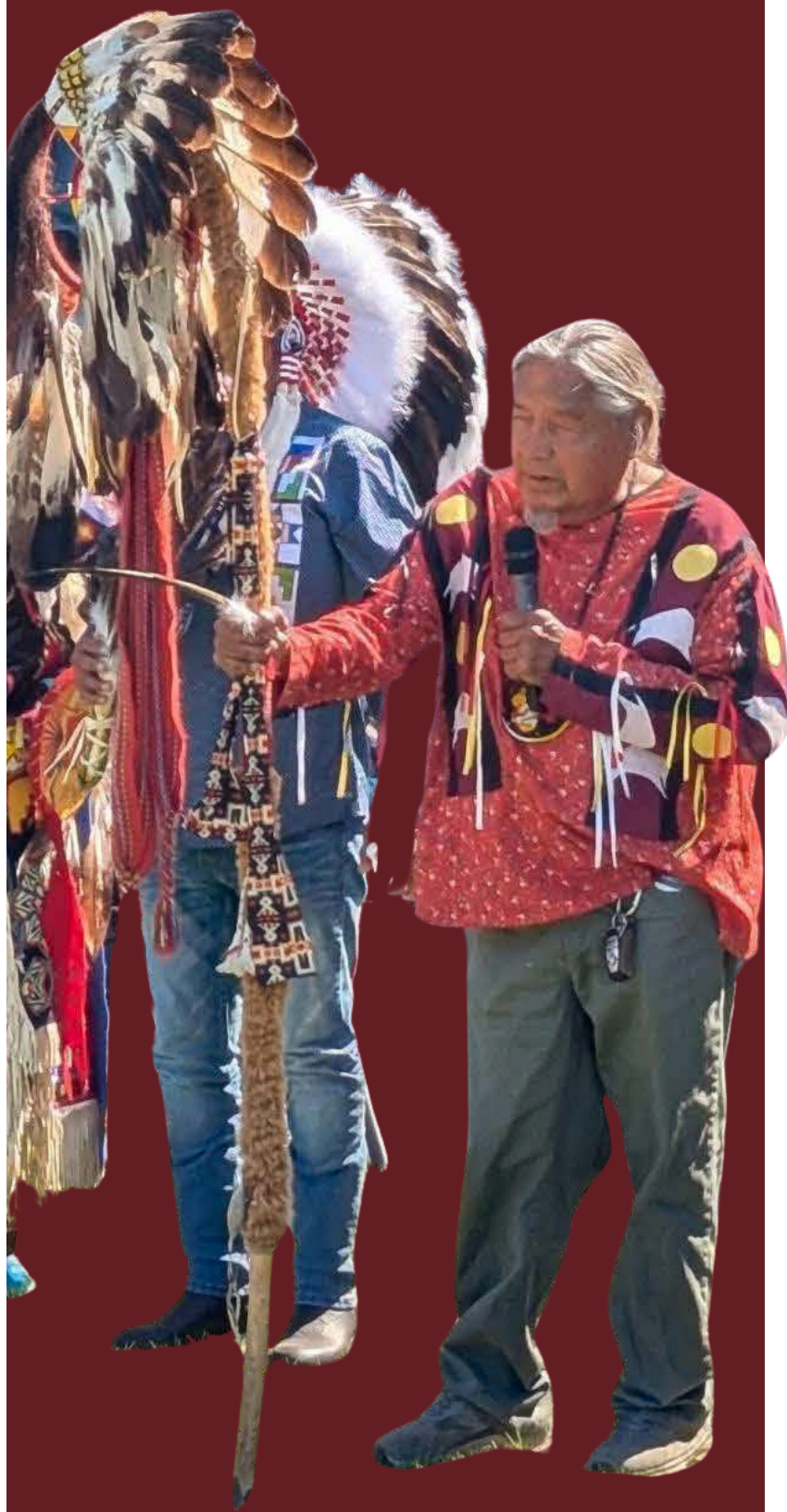
Dr. Jordan Lachler is an Associate Professor in the Department of Linguistics at the University of Alberta, and is the Director of CILLDI, the Canadian Indigenous Languages and Literacy Development Institute. His work focuses on the documentation and revitalization of Indigenous languages. He is in his second term on the executive council of SIGEL, the ACL Special Interest Group for Endangered Languages, and works on a number of projects to develop technology to support Indigenous languages. He has worked extensively with Indigenous language communities including the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation, and is dedicated to advancing language revitalization through education, research, and community collaboration.

The sustainability of Indigenous knowledge is also tied to the broader vision of empowering younger generations to carry forward the work of language and cultural revitalization.

His vision: "My vision is there's no reason this university can't have something like that. We have an entire province full of people who need to see these pathways and need to have these options available to them... Their career is doing language revitalization in their communities" (April 29, 2024). This insight highlights the role institutional support can play in fostering new generations of Indigenous language revitalization experts, creating career pathways grounded in traditional knowledge and cultural continuity.

Indigenous knowledge within SILR speaks to the vital role of Elders, the protection of knowledge by rightful holders, and the need for academic institutions to actively support and validate these efforts.

SILR's sustainability hinges on maintaining the sacredness of Indigenous knowledge while fostering its growth in future generations. The narratives shared by participants emphasize that the project's success is tied to the respectful integration of Indigenous knowledges into the university without compromising its cultural and spiritual significance.



I?ACIN K'UBI
(ASKED TO SPEAK / KEYNOTE SPEAKER)

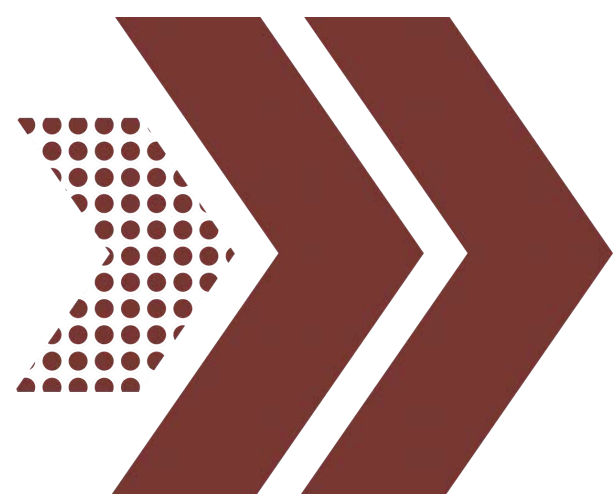
WAGIYA IKTU ISH?AWIN CHARLIE LETENDRE

Ish?awin Charlie Letendre (Wagiya Iktu) has faithfully walked the “Red Road” for more than three decades, journeying each year from his home community of the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation to the sacred Black Hills of South Dakota. His annual pilgrimage is an act of prayer and remembrance, a living expression of respect, humility, and connection to the Creator that continues to guide his life and leadership.

The grandson of Chief Aranazhi, who signed Treaty No. 6 on behalf of the Alexis People, and the son of Adam and Helen (Akanas) Letendre, Charlie inherited enduring values of faith, service, and community. A carpenter by trade and a former leader (Headmen) of the Alexis People, he helped negotiate and signed off Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation's 'Treaty Land Entitlement' (1996), securing a legacy for future generations. During his leadership, the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation became the first First Nation in Canada to successfully develop a Custody Care Program in collaboration with Corrections Canada, an initiative under Section 81 that supports Indigenous inmates in reintegrating into society through traditional teachings and community care.

Deeply rooted in cultural and ceremonial life, Charlie continues to lead his family in the Sundance Lodge, upholding the sacred traditions of his ancestors. He resides in Wakamne (Sacred Lake, also known as Lac Ste. Anne) with his wife Martha, and together they have raised seven children, along with many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Today, Charlie shares his wisdom as an Elder in Residence at Yellowhead Tribal College and has lectured to youth at Tradewinds to Success (Edmonton, AB) as well as on numerous projects across the land. Through his teachings and example, he inspires all who walk alongside him to live with prayer, respect, and balance upon the sacred Red Road.



I?ACIN K'UBI

(ASKED TO SPEAK / KEYNOTE SPEAKER)



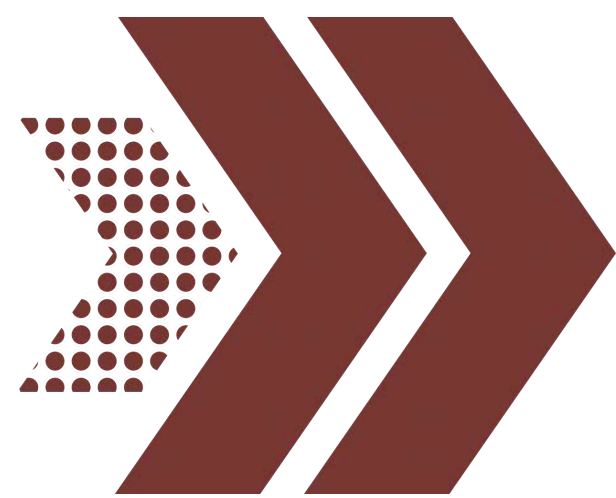
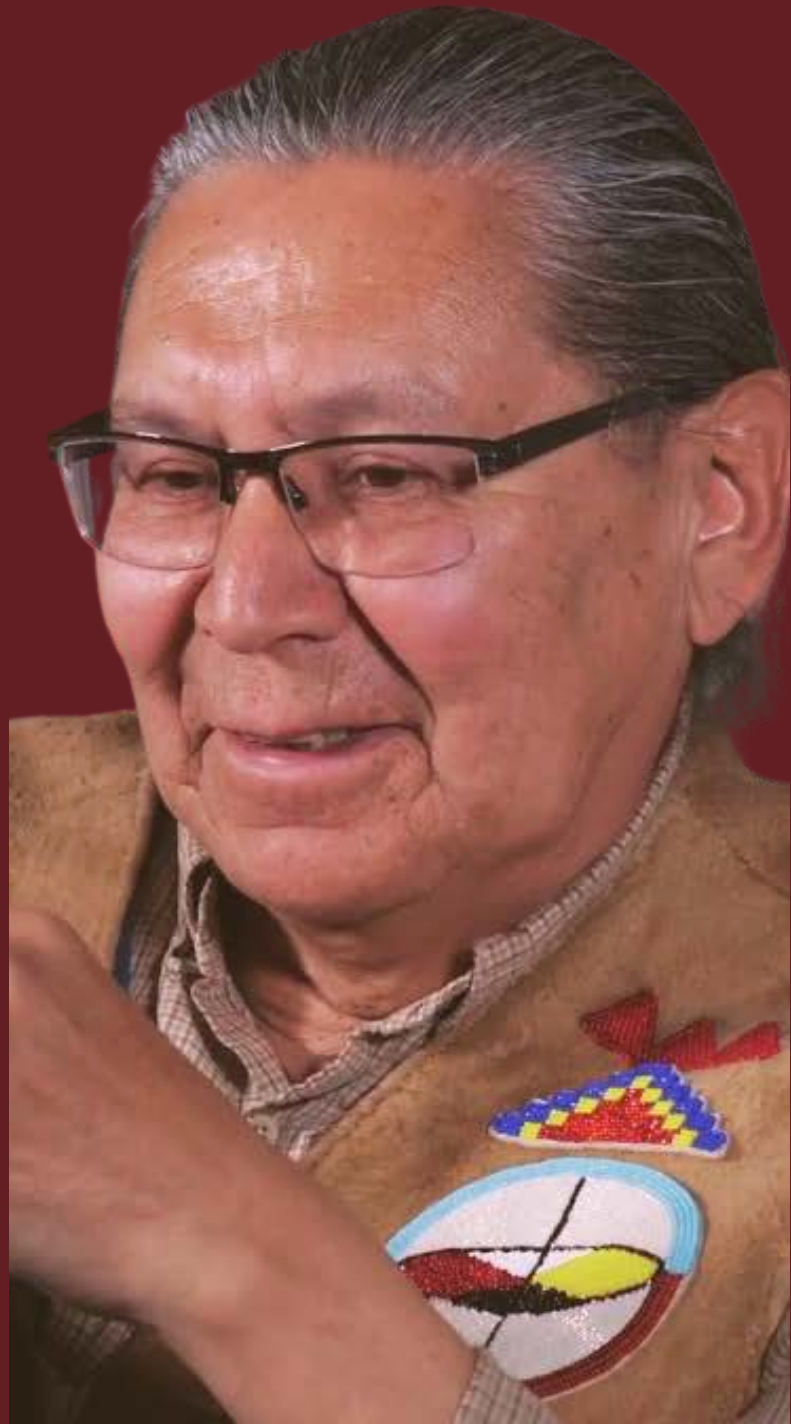
DR. TERRY POUCETTE

Terry Poucette is a member of the Goodstoney First Nation of the Stoney-Nakoda First Nations of Treaty Seven in Alberta. Terry was raised on reserve by strong Stoney women in her family who taught her Nakoda culture and the Îethka language, which she speaks fluently.

Terry has a doctorate in public administration from the University of Victoria, a master's degree in public administration from the University of Victoria, bachelor's degree in First Nations studies from Vancouver Island University and a social work diploma from Mount Royal University. For her dissertation, Terry researched good First Nations governance. This gave her the opportunity to learn from First Nation leaders, administrators, Elders and community members about the challenges of First Nations governance under an Indian Act regime. What Terry learned informed the title of her dissertation report: Effective First Nations Governance: Navigating the Legacy of Colonization.

Terry has spent most of her career as a senior manager of on-reserve First Nations organizations in Alberta and BC. After she got her doctorate, Terry was a limited term assistant teaching professor and manager of the Diploma in Indigenous Community Development and Governance at the University of Victoria. Following that, she led the Indigenous Relations Office at the City of Calgary for 4 years. Terry is currently an Associate Professor and Director of the Grandmother's Lodge (Kiipitakyoyis) at the Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary.

As a resident of the Stoney reserve, Terry sees firsthand the effects of colonization and language loss. As a result, she is passionate about supporting First Nations people with healing, decolonization, maintaining languages and cultures, and rebuilding strong, healthy and prosperous communities.



I?ACIN K'UBI
(ASKED TO SPEAK / KEYNOTE SPEAKER)

TATÂGAGAN TOM SNOW SR.

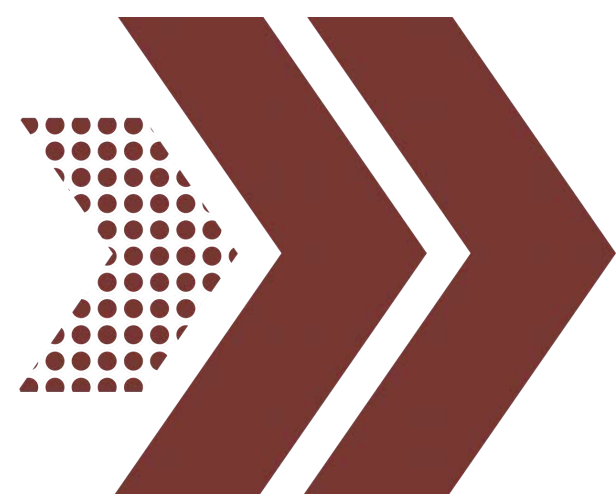
Tom Snow is a respected Îethka Nakoda (Stoney, Assiniboine) Elder from the Stoney Indian Reserve in Morley, Alberta. For decades, he has carried and shared Traditional Nakoda teachings and ceremonial knowledge across Alberta, British Columbia, and Montana. Tom's work centers on healing, cultural revitalization, and supporting the well-being of Indigenous youth and families through both community-based and institutional roles.

He spent 11 years managing a child services agency where he provided youth mentorship, family reunification support, language instruction, and transportation services. He later developed a wellness program for Wesley First Nation that addressed addictions through culturally grounded practices, and served as a ceremonial Elder with Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society, where he led circles, supported cultural education for staff, and reconnected families with their Nakoda language and traditions.

Tom created a 96-page presentation on Historical Trauma to help illuminate root causes of many systemic issues facing Indigenous Peoples. He has contributed as a Knowledge Keeper to Alberta Child Services' Youth Suicide Prevention Policy, and is an Elder advisor for the Kihciy Askiy project in Edmonton, supporting the development of a ceremonial and cultural gathering space for Indigenous Peoples. He also serves on the Edmonton Urban Indigenous Framework committee.

Tom is the Elder-in-Residence at kihêw waciston, MacEwan University's Indigenous Centre, where he offers cultural guidance, ceremonial support, and mentorship to students and staff. His work continues to bridge ancestral knowledges with contemporary systems, advancing healing and cultural continuity.

When not in ceremony or community work, Tom enjoys spending time with his wife and family, hunting, fishing, camping, and exploring Indigenous antiquity throughout North America.



I?ACIN K'UBI

(ASKED TO SPEAK / KEYNOTE SPEAKER)

TERRY RIDER

Âba wathtech miyech Terry Rider I am a member of the mînî thnî îyethkabi. I grew up hearing the îyethka (Stoney) language from my parents and grandparents who were Nat Hunter and Gertrude Beaver, they were cultural teachers they camped at the Calgary Stampede and Mînî hrpa indian days. I am 4th generation of John Hunter Sr. My maternal side I am 5th generation of Chief Hector Crawler a leader and holy man of the îyethka Stoney people.

The presurvation of the îyethka stoney language is maintained today by our children and young people. My family and I own Sîktoge ja FM radio station where we broadcast in îyethka language, since last winter we have aired pod cast of stories and teachings from elders in Stoney which is on going and keep our nation members informed on news and events.

Currently I am attending the summer Language revitalization program offered at the University of Alberta CILLDI and co-teaching the Stoney language at the Univery of Calgary. I teach langue and culture with Mini hrpa youth leaders as an elder and Howl youth group land based learning.

Terry's presentation will discuss the history of the Stoney Cultural Education Program (SCEP), founded in mini thni in the late 1960s. SCEP developed an alphabet for the Mini thni Stoney, published educational resources, and put out newsletters in Stoney. They had their own printing press and dark room for developing graphic film for the printing press and operated independently, providing some of the first language learning materials for the Stoney language.



I?ACIN K'UBI
(ASKED TO SPEAK / KEYNOTE SPEAKER)

FIRETHUNDER FAMILY

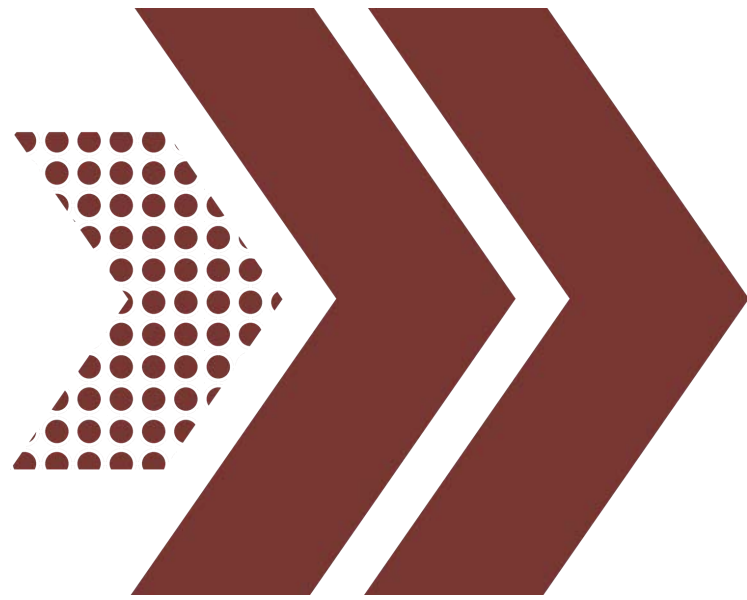
Alex Loeb FireThunder
Camille Sine FireThunder
Odowan Sine FireThunder
Iyoyanpa Firethunder
Wahcazi Win Fire Thunder

The Wakínŋyaŋ Pǎ́éta Thiwáhe (FireThunder Family) are proud enrolled members of the Oglála Lakǎ́óta and Sisíthuŋwaŋ Waǎ́péthuŋwaŋ Dakhóta Nations. Alex FireThunder serves as Chair of the Lakota Studies Department at Oglala Lakota College and has dedicated more than a decade to Lakota language revitalization through teaching, leadership, translation, community initiatives, and music. His wife, Camille FireThunder, a former school teacher and now full-time mother, is deeply committed to raising their children in the Lakota/Dakota language. She is the creator of Language for Littles with Thuŋwín Camille, a Lakota/Dakota YouTube series that provides families with early childhood language-learning resources.

Married in 2019, Alex and Camille made a sacred commitment to raise a Lakota/Dakota-speaking family. Their three children—Odówaŋ, who loves powwow dancing, singing, performing, and the outdoors; Iyóyanpa, who enjoys powwow singing, dancing, sports, and making people laugh; and Waǎ́čázi Wín, a jingle dress dancer who loves dolls, books, and playing with her brothers—are all first-language Lakota speakers, having learned Lakota before English.

Together, the FireThunder family embodies the living strength and resilience of their ancestors. Through education, music, family life, and daily language use, they are dedicated to living, sharing, and strengthening the Lakota/Dakota language, ensuring that it continues to thrive for generations to come.





ATICAMANIMI WATEZHEBI (YOUTH PANEL)



Martina Aginas Paul
Alexis Nakota Sioux
Treaty No. 6

Martina Aginas is a passive speaker and proud Dene / Stoney Nakoda woman. She is a former Stoney Language Teacher at Chief Aranazhi School and is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Education at the University of Alberta, specializing in Indigenous language and cultural education. She is passionate about language revitalization and cultural education. She continues to inspire youth to embrace their identity and carry forward the teachings of their ancestors.

As both an educator and dancer, Martina lives the teachings of healing, movement, and expression embodied in the Jingle Dress tradition. She continues to serve as a cultural role model for youth, using her voice, artistry, and platform to celebrate the strength and beauty of the Stoney Nakoda people.



Myra Alexis
Alexis Nakota Sioux
Treaty No. 6

Myra Alexis is a fluent speaker and Stoney Language Teacher at Wakâmne Elementary School and a proud member of the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation. She is the daughter of Eugene and Lisa Alexis and the mother of her daughter, Keira.

Myra is currently in her third year of the Bachelor of Education program at the University of Alberta, specializing in Indigenous language and cultural education. Deeply passionate about Stoney (Nakoda) language revitalization, she is dedicated to preserving and sharing her Nation's language, stories, and traditional values with the next generation.

Through her teaching, Myra fosters pride, identity, and connection among her students—helping them understand the strength and beauty of being Nakoda. Her commitment to education and community reflects her belief that language is the heart of culture, and she continues to walk in the footsteps of her ancestors, ensuring the Nakoda language thrives for generations to come.



Jonah Letendre Jr.
Alexis Nakota
Treaty No. 6

Jonah Letendre Jr, "Wopika" (One Gifted to Earth), is a fluent Nakota speaker and works as an Education Assistant at Chief Aranazhi School, where he supports students in their learning and cultural growth.

A proud Nakota-Anishinabe youth, he plans to continue his education in Wildlife Biology, combining his love for nature, language, and traditional knowledge.



Delaney Potts
Alexis Nakota Sioux
Treaty No. 6

Delaney Potts is a passive speaker and Cultural Helper from the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation (Treaty No. 6) who is dedicated to sharing traditional knowledge, drum protocols, and teachings with youth. A gifted singer and mentor, he performs with the Lightning Strikes Jr. drum group, where he helps inspire the next generation to carry on the heartbeat of Nakoda music and culture.

Delaney was raised and guided by his adopted parents, Charles and Robin, who nurtured his love for song, ceremony, and community. Through their teachings, he learned the importance of respect, humility, and the responsibility that comes with carrying traditional songs. Today, Delaney continues to share his gifts as both a father and community helper, using music to strengthen cultural pride.



ATICAMANIMI WATEZHEBI (YOUTH PANEL)



Janelle Potts
Alexis Nakota Sioux
Treaty No. 6

Janelle Potts is a proud mother of three boys and a passionate early childhood educator from the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation. Since 2020, she has worked at Alexis Mne Koodi Head Start, where she teaches Stoney (Nakoda) language to young children through songs, play, and daily interaction.

Janelle introduces her students to Stoney numbers, animals, colours, and commands, helping them build a strong foundation in language and identity from an early age. She enhances the learning environment by labeling classrooms with Stoney words and encouraging her coworkers to use them as well.

A Level 1, 2, and 3 certified child care worker, Janelle loves teaching three- and four-year-olds and is dedicated to continuing her work for years to come. Coming from a family of fluent Stoney speakers, she takes pride in her heritage and strives to pass that knowledge to both her children and her students. Through her teaching, Janelle helps ensure the Nakoda language and culture remain vibrant and alive for future generations.



Katerina Rain
Paul First Nation
Treaty No. 6

Katerina Rain is a passive speaker and Stoney-Nakota woman from Paul First Nation, Alberta, and a dedicated second-language speaker of Stoney-Nakota. She is currently a fourth-year Linguistics student at the University of Alberta, where she focuses on Indigenous language revitalization and documentation.

Katerina serves as a Stoney Language Leader, contributing to the Paul First Nation Language Revitalization Initiative through community-based projects, mentorship, and educational outreach. Passionate about preserving and strengthening her ancestral language, she combines academic research with cultural knowledge to support a new generation of speakers.

Through her studies and community work, Katerina continues to honour her heritage and the vision of her Elders, helping ensure that the Stoney-Nakota language and identity remain strong for future generations.



Melika Holloway
Mini Thni
Treaty No. 7

Melika Holloway is a fluent speaker and proud Stoney Nakoda woman from Mini Thni, formerly known as Morley, Alberta. She works at Nakoda Elementary School as an Educational Assistant, where she supports students in their learning and fosters a deeper connection to Stoney Nakoda culture and identity.

Culture and language are central to Melika's life. She is dedicated to preserving and teaching the Stoney Nakoda language and traditions, ensuring that the next generation continues to walk proudly in their culture.

A 2024 graduate of Canmore Collegiate High School, Melika is now in her first year at the University of Calgary, pursuing a Bachelor of Education. Her long-term goal is to earn a Ph.D. and become a professor, continuing her lifelong commitment to Indigenous education, language revitalization, and cultural preservation.

Melika's passion and determination reflect her vision of a future where Stoney Nakoda knowledge, language, and ways of life continue to thrive.



Margaret Holloway
Chiniki
Treaty No. 7

Margaret Holloway, a fluent speaker and proud member of the Stoney Nakoda Chiniki Nation in Mini Thni, served as the 2024 Calgary Stampede First Nations Princess. Her family has long been a part of the Elbow River Camp community and has participated in the Calgary Stampede for many years. Through daily involvement, they have proudly demonstrated cultural practices that continue to thrive in First Nations communities today. During her reign, Margaret was celebrated as the first Calgary Stampede First Nations Princess from the Stoney Nakoda Nation in 22 years. This historic milestone provided her with unique opportunities, including contributing to the design of the official Calgary Stampede boot collection for both women and men in partnership with the Alberta Boot Company.

Margaret's main goal during her reign was to inspire and uplift the next generation of young Indigenous women—those who now look up to her, just as she once admired the First Nations Princesses before her.

Following her reign, Margaret continues to proudly share and celebrate her culture. She performed during the Calgary Flames' Indigenous Celebration Night, and collaborated with her brother—the founder of Yethka Mental Works—to design pins that were worn by world leaders at the 2025 G7 Leaders Summit.

Today, Margaret remains an active voice in her community, often speaking with local youth about her journey as the Calgary Stampede First Nations Princess and the unforgettable experiences she gained through her involvement with the Stampede.



LIGHTNING STRIKES

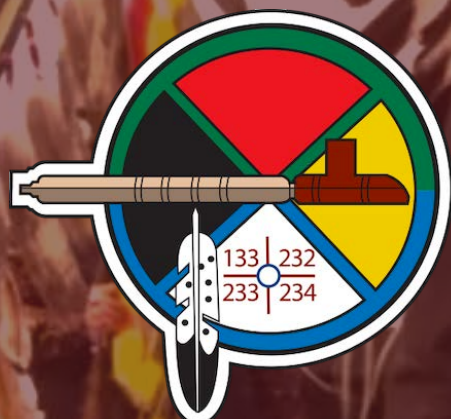
ALEXIS NAKOTA SIOUX NATION



WATĒZHĒBI WICAYUBAAMI
(HONOUR OUR ALEXIS YOUTH)

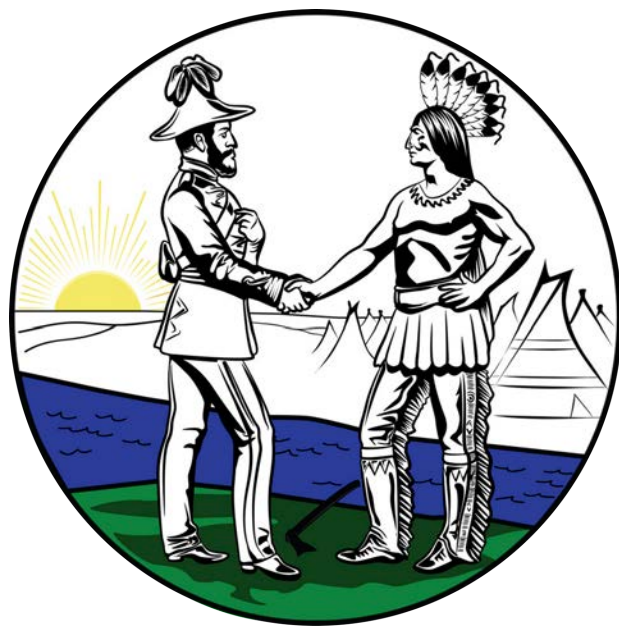
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