

# Bios of Members of the Indigenous Advisory Council



## **CO-CHAIR: Ms. Roberta Louise Jamieson, OC, Kanyen'kehà:ka**

Roberta Jamieson is a Mohawk from the Six Nations of the Grand River Territory. She was the first First Nations woman in Canada to earn a law degree and the first woman to be elected chief of the Six Nations of the Grand River Territory. She is an experienced mediator, having served as Commissioner of the Indian Commission of Ontario. Ms. Jamieson also served ten years as Ontario's first female Ombudsman. She has been awarded 27 honorary degrees, and is an Officer of the Order of Canada. She was appointed to the inaugural Gender Equality Advisory Council of the G7 Summit, to embed gender equality in decisions made by the world's seven most advanced economies. Now a corporate director, Roberta Jamieson is the former President and CEO of Indspire, Canada's largest Indigenous charity, which funds the education of Indigenous post-secondary students. During her time there, Indspire distributed \$132 million in bursaries and scholarships to more than 40,000 students across Canada.



## **CO-CHAIR: The Honourable Murray Sinclair, C.C., M.S.M., Mizhana Geezhik**

The Honourable Murray Sinclair is an Anishinaabe and a member of the Peguis First Nation. He is a Fourth Degree Chief of the Midewiwin Society, a traditional healing and spiritual society of the Anishinaabe Nation responsible for protecting the teachings, ceremonies, laws, and history of the Anishinaabe. He graduated from law school in 1979. He has been involved with the justice system in Manitoba for more than 40 years, as a lawyer representing Indigenous clients, as an Adjunct Professor of Law at Robson Hall, as Associate Chief Judge of Manitoba's Provincial Court and as a Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench. He was the first Indigenous Judge appointed in Manitoba and the second in Canada. He served as Co-Chair of the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry of Manitoba and as Chief Commissioner of Canada's Indian Residential Schools Truth and Reconciliation Commission. He retired from the Bench and was appointed to the Senate in 2016. After retiring from the Senate in early 2021, Murray Sinclair returned to the practice of law and mentoring young lawyers at Cochrane Saxberg LLP. He is currently writing his memoirs.



## **Mark Podlasly (British Columbia)**

Mark Podlasly (Nlaka'pamux Nation, BC) is a major infrastructure specialist, providing strategic advice on Indigenous-corporate environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues. He has over 25 years of extensive experience in the development of capital projects connected to energy, natural resources, and community infrastructure around the world. He is the Director of Economic Policy at the First Nations Major Projects Coalition, a national 75+ Indigenous nation collective that seeks ownership of major projects such as pipelines, electric utilities, and mining infrastructure. He is also the Chair of the First Nations Limited Partnership (Pipelines), a 16-First Nations \$500 million commercial partnership with Chevron/Woodside's Kitimat LNG project, and an Adjunct Professor at University of British Columbia's Sauder School of Business. In addition, Mark informs Indigenous governments on the establishment and management of sovereign wealth funds/trusts. He currently manages a ~\$55 million fund shared by eight First Nations in Western Canada. Mark holds a master's degree from Harvard University and is a regular speaker at global business and governance events.

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## **Dr. Marie Delorme (Alberta)**

Dr. Marie Delorme is CEO of The Imagination Group of Companies, an Indigenous corporation comprising three entities: Imagination - The Aboriginal Gifting Company, Imagination Tobacco, and Imagination Consulting. Imagination is a nationally recognized brand in the promotional products and gifting industry, providing brand management services to industry, governments, and Indigenous groups. The Imagination Group's national consulting practice engages with Indigenous communities, governments, corporations, and educational institutions focusing on strategy, economic development, and governance. Dr. Delorme, a Metis woman, serves on the boards of the CWB Financial Group, the National Indigenous Economic Development Board, the Donner Canadian Foundation, the Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking, and the Canadian Energy and Climate Nexus. She is also an advisor to two Universities. Dr. Delorme is a Member of the Order of Canada. She was named as one of Canada's 100 Most Powerful Women and has received business and academic numerous awards. Dr. Delorme holds a Bachelor of Science degree, a Master of Business Administration from Queen's University, and both a PhD and an Honorary Doctor of Laws from the University of Calgary. Dr. Marie Delorme is committed to diversity, inclusion, cross-cultural economic development, and the participation of Indigenous people in Canada's economy.



## **Leanne Bellegarde (Saskatchewan)**

Leanne Bellegarde is an executive, lawyer and business advisor with 30 years of leadership experience. She is President of Akawe Technologies, a company that fosters positive social change from thoughtful integrated innovations in technology. Ms. Bellegarde has executive experience with Potash Corp., Nutrien Ltd. and the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority, is the former General Counsel to the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, and a former director of SaskEnergy, Sustainable Development Technologies Canada, as well as several other private businesses, not-for-profit and community organizations. Ms. Bellegarde was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2017 and was the recipient of the Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012. She sits on the board of directors of the Saskatchewan Research Council and several private business enterprises, including PrairieSky Royalty Ltd. She is committed to expanding diversity and inclusion, in particular to gender and LGBTQ2 inclusion. Leanne Bellegarde is from Treaty 4 Territory in south Saskatchewan and is a proud member of the Peepeekisis Cree Nation.



## **Phil Fontaine (Manitoba)**

Phil Fontaine is one of Canada's most prominent and recognizable Indigenous advocates. A member of the Sagkeeng First Nation and an expert on Indigenous self-governance in Manitoba, he is widely regarded as a national leader. Mr. Fontaine served as National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) for an unprecedented three terms. He is a strong advocate for human rights; under his leadership, the AFN negotiated both the Kelowna Accord and the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement, his crowning achievement to date. Mr. Fontaine is also a former Grand Chief of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs and former Chief Commissioner of the Indian Claims Commission. He has received several honours and awards, including the National Aboriginal Achievement Award, the Order of Canada, and numerous honorary doctorates. Mr. Fontaine has been an advisor to the Royal Bank of Canada and to Norton Rose, working with Canadian and international clients on Indigenous relations, energy, mining and environmental issues. In 2017, he launched Recognition2Action, a campaign to legally recognize Indigenous peoples as Founding Nations of Canada. Phil Fontaine attended President Obama's inauguration, met with Pope Benedict XVI to seek an apology for his people, and raised the Corporate Challenge to Canadian organizations.

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## **Stephen Augustine (New Brunswick)**

Stephen Augustine is a Hereditary Chief on the Mi'kmaq Grand Council and the Associate Vice President, Indigenous Affairs and Unama'ki College at Cape Breton University. He was the Curator of Ethnology for Eastern Maritimes at the Canadian Museum of Civilization. Mr. Augustine holds a Master's degree in Canadian Studies from Carleton University and a BA in Anthropology and Political Science from St. Thomas University. He has been Elder Advisor to justices of the Federal Court of Canada, to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and to the Human Rights Commission of Canada. As a Hereditary Chief on the Mi'kmaq Grand Council, he has a thorough command of the traditional practices, language and the history of his people. Stephen Augustine was part of an advisory panel on biodiversity issues and worked extensively with United Nations programs on development and the environment. He received the National Aboriginal Achievement Award for his work supporting the recognition and teaching of First Nation culture, heritage and spirituality. He is also the recipient of the New Brunswick Lieutenant-Governor's Dialogue Award.



## **Denise Pothier (Nova Scotia)**

Denise Pothier has a background in chemical engineering and more than 25 years of experience in the energy and resource sector, working in regulatory compliance, quality assurance and management systems, process engineering, and risk assessment. She is Vice President of Practice Services and the first-ever vice president of Indigenous Relations at Stantec, an international professional services company in the design and consulting industry. She sits on the board of directors of Techsploration, the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business, Habitat for Humanity Nova Scotia, the Nova Scotia Community College Foundation and the Center for Ocean Ventures and Entrepreneurship. She also serves on Engineers Canada's Equitable Participation committee and is the current chair of the Indigenous Peoples' Participation in Engineering Committee. She was named one of Canada's most powerful women by the Women's Executive Network, and among the top 150 Canadian Women in STEM by hER VOLUTION. Born and raised in Nova Scotia, with French Acadian and Mi'kmaq heritage, Ms. Pothier is a firm believer that a diverse and representative workforce enhances and strengthens the cultures of quality, innovation, and health and safety within an organization. Denise Pothier earned an MBA from Athabasca University and volunteers with Feed Nova Scotia and the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre.



## **Kateri Coade (Prince Edward Island)**

Kateri Coade was recently seconded to the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI as the Senior Program Coordinator to re-structure the PEI First Nations Child and Family Services Program. Prior to this assignment Kateri was the Director of Social Development Programs for Abegweit First Nations, where she focused on policy development and assisting community members in establishing meaningful education, training and employment opportunities. She is a strong voice for the Mi'kmaq people living in PEI and has worked on various policy and legislative pieces related to Social Development and Child Welfare. She has been a member of the Board of the Confederation Centre of the Arts since 2019. Ms. Kateri volunteers on other boards as well, including the PEI Rape and Sexual Assault Centre's Board of Directors, the PEI 2023 Canada Games Bid/Host Committee as the VP of Protocols and Indigenous Representative, the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI Indigenous Justice Committee and various other committees related to front-line social work and the First Nations populations. She was most recently appointed to UPEI's Board of Governors; the Atlantic Economic Provinces Council (APEC) and was selected as a member for the Governor General's Leadership Conference being held in June 2022. Ms. Coade is dedicated to continuing education and is a Field Instructor in the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Manitoba. Kateri Coade holds a Bachelor of Political Science from UPEI, and a Bachelor's and Master's in Social Work from Dalhousie University.

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## Udlu (Udloriak) Hanson (Nunavut)

Udloriak Hanson is the Vice President, Community and Strategic Development at Baffinland Iron Mines. She is a Former Deputy Minister of Nunavut's Department of Economic Development and Transportation and the former Chief Operating Officer and Chief Negotiator of Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., the land claims organization representing Nunavut Inuit. During her tenure at NTI, she negotiated multilateral agreements between NTI, the Government of Canada and the Government of Nunavut. Ms. Hanson served as Senior Advisor to the Clerk of the Executive Council for the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador on Aboriginal Issues and Arctic Economic Opportunities. She has also served as executive assistant to the Government of Nunavut's Minister of Sustainable Development. Ms. Hanson acted as Executive Director and Special Advisor to Mary May Simon, then the President of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami. She led the development of Qaujsaqtiiit Society, the Nunavut territory's first charitable consortium of Inuit non-profit organizations. She sits on the Board of Directors of the Rideau Hall Foundation, was a Board Member for the Circle of Philanthropy and Aboriginal Peoples of Canada and was Chair of the Arctic Children and Youth Foundation. She was also a proud member of the Canadians for a New Partnership and a founding Board Member of the Annaumakkaijiit Community Foundation. Ms. Hanson was a member of the Board of Directors for ArcticNet, a Laval University-based Network of Centres of Excellence of Canada, and Arctic Peoples and Security co-chair for the Munk-Gordon Arctic Security Program, a four-year multi-dimensional international program to improve public policy in the Circumpolar Arctic. She previously served as a member of the steering committee of the Arctic Governance Project, an alliance of Indigenous leaders, researchers and policy workers. Udloriak Hanson is an Inuk born and raised in Iqaluit, Nunavut. She has undergraduate degrees in Business Administration from Okanagan College and in Adult Education from Brock University.



## Tabatha Bull (Ontario)

Tabatha Bull is the President & CEO of the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business, working to help build a path toward reconciliation and a prosperous Indigenous economy to benefit all Canadians. With a focus on Indigenous economic development, Ms. Bull often works with heads of organizations, companies, and government officials, notably in her role with the federal government's COVID-19 Supply Council. Also a member of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce Board, Ms. Bull is dedicated to diversity and removing systemic barriers across all industry sectors. Ms. Bull was recently appointed to the Catalyst CEO advisory board in Canada, where she collaborates with some of the world's most powerful CEOs and leading companies to help build workplaces that support women. Ms. Bull graduated from the University of Waterloo in Electrical Engineering and previously led the First Nations and Métis Relations team at the IESO, Ontario's electricity system operator. She is a director on the IESO's Board, and also sits as a member on both the Positive Energy Advisory Council and the C.D. Howe Institute's Energy Policy program. Further, Ms. Bull serves as a director on the Board of Wigwamen Housing Inc., the oldest and largest urban Indigenous housing provider in Ontario. She is also an active member on the board of the Young People's Theatre in Toronto. Tabatha Bull is Anishinaabe and a proud member of Nipissing First Nation near North Bay, Ontario.



## Ricky G.L. Fontaine (Quebec)

Ricky G.L. Fontaine is a member of the Ordre des Administrateurs Agréés du Québec, the Collège des Administrateurs de Sociétés, the Institut des Administrateurs de Sociétés and AFOA Canada, the association for Indigenous management, finance and governance professionals. His academic background includes a certificate in corporate governance, a master's degree in finance, and a bachelor's degree in business administration from different educational institutions: Université Laval, Collège des administrateurs de sociétés, Université de Sherbrooke, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières and Harvard University's Consensus Building Institute. Mr. Fontaine has been chair of the board of directors of the Laurentian Pilotage Authority, Chair of the Audit Committee and a member of the board of Régie du Bâtiment du Québec, government owned entities as well as member of the board and audit committee member for M361, a non-profit, focused on developing healthy communities. He is the Interim Executive Director of Innu of Takuaihan Uashat Mak Mani-Utenam, near Sept-Îles, Québec, of which he was the Executive Director from 2013 until 2017. Mr. Fontaine is also the Senior Partner at RGL Fontaine, Adm. A. He served as executive director of the Corporation de Développement Economique Montagnaise, an aboriginal financial institution, from July 2010 to July 2013. Ricky Fontaine was the founder and senior partner of Gestion Conseil RSF, a management consulting firm working primarily for First Nations. He is member of the board of many community-owned businesses and entities of which Tshuuetin Railway LP, passenger, freight and mining services, is one of the key institutions.