

Biographies and Abstracts

Bain, Angie

Angie is a researcher with the Union of BC Indian Chiefs. She is Nlaka'pamux (Ing-kla-cap-ma) from the Lower Nicola Indian Band of Merritt, BC. Angie has almost 20 years of research experience and has worked the majority of her career as a land claims researcher.

Bélanger, Edith

Edith is a proud member of the Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) Wahsipekuk community in Cacouna, Québec. Now living in the north of Montreal, she works as a consultant for the Wahsipekuk First Nation on the negotiations and claims team and sits at the cultural committee as an advisor. In addition, she is a mother of four children and she is actually completing a master's degree in public administration in indigenous context while learning her traditional language. Her interests for indigenous traditions, cultures and rituals goes way back to her childhood. Over the years, Edith studied in many fields such as philosophy, law, herbal medicine and hypnotherapy. These various and eclectic interests tend to confirm the rumor about her that she is a (wolotoqewi) Maliseet by her father and a witch by her mother.

Charette-Chabot, Aubrey

Aubrey Charette-Chabot is counsel to the Specific Claims Tribunal, where she assists with the final adjudication of specific claims. She has worked on specific claims since 2014, for the Tribunal and for First Nation clients while on leave from the Tribunal. She was called to the New York bar in 2011, starting her practice at a New York law firm, and in Ontario in 2015. She has common and civil law degrees from McGill University.

Prior to law school, Aubrey worked in the field of economic development for the United Nations, non-governmental organizations and First Nations. She has bachelors and masters degrees in Politics and Economics from Oxford University. She is Anishnaabe from Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg in Quebec, and currently lives in Ottawa.

Good, Dr. Reginald

Reg has over 25 years of experience as a historical consultant specializing in Indigenous land issues. In 1994 he graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with a PhD in history. His dissertation was an innovative comparison of the 19th-century dislocations of Métis from the Red River Valley and the Six Nations from the Grand River Valley.

Gunn, Kate

Kate Gunn is a lawyer at First Peoples Law Corporation in Vancouver, BC. She represents Indigenous groups across Canada on environmental and constitutional law issues.

Kate is also a founding member of the Justice and Corporate Accountability Project, a legal clinic based at Osgoode Hall and Thompson Rivers University which supports litigation and legal work at the intersection of transnational corporate activities, resource extraction, and communities. Kate recently completed an LLM at the University of British Columbia. Her research focuses on issues related to the interpretation of the numbered treaties between Indigenous Peoples and the Crown.

Jetten, Ben

Ben Jetten is a senior litigation partner at Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP, practising from Blakes Toronto office. Ben has a complex litigation and dispute resolution practice, before the federal and Ontario courts and specialized administrative tribunals. Ben's advocacy experience has included matters in the subject areas of aboriginal, environmental and public law.

Ben has been ranked among Canada's leading lawyers by various legal directories including:

- *The Best Lawyers in Canada 2019* (Aboriginal Law, Administrative and Public Law, Environmental Law)
- *The Legal 500 Canada 2018* (Aboriginal Law)
- *The Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory 2018* (Aboriginal Law)
- *Best Lawyers' Toronto Aboriginal Law Lawyer of the Year 2011*

Lillico, Kristina

Director, ATIP and Litigation Response Division, Public Services, Library and Archives Canada

Kristina Lillico has been with LAC since 2004. She holds a degree in History from Queen's University and a Masters' of Public Administration in Management from Dalhousie University. She has worked in many different areas at LAC, including Web Project Partnerships, Policy, Grants and Contributions, Private Archives, Government Archives and Information Management initiatives, responses to class action lawsuits, and since 2016 she has been the Director responsible for Access to Information, Privacy and Personnel Records.

Monture, Phil

Phil Monture is Mohawk from the Six Nations of the Grand River. From 1975 to July 2002; he was the Director of the Land Claims Research Office at the Six Nations of the Grand River. Phil developed a long-term research program and supervised the research for the Six Nations of the Grand River as relates to lands which are no longer used for their benefit or legal surrender obtained under prevailing legislation. He was the principle architect of the ongoing 1995 litigation against Canada and Ontario for an accounting of all Six Nations Lands, resources and assets supposedly held and managed on Six Nations behalf by the Crown(s).

Over the years, Phil has facilitated various workshops in relation to items such as Land Claims, assisted in policy review and community planning. He was also a member of the Planning Team for the National Land Claims Research Summit and has attended, participated in and facilitated the National Land Claims Research Conferences and Summits. Phil brings many years of experience related to land rights and constantly challenges Canada's extinguishment of Indigenous Rights policies.

Opekokew, Delia

The Law Society of Ontario presented a degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa (LLD) Delia Opekokew, at its Call to the Bar ceremony in Toronto on September 25, 2019.

A member of the Canoe Lake Cree Nation in Saskatchewan, Ms. Opekokew was the first Indigenous woman to be called to the Bars of Ontario (1979), and Saskatchewan (1983). She practised family, criminal and First Nations law in Toronto as a partner in the firm of Zlotkin & Opekokew from 1979 to 1980, and as an associate in the firm of Blaney, McMurtry LLP from 1985 to 1990 in First Nations law. Early in her legal career, Ms. Opekokew pressed for recognition of the survivors of Residential Schools, two of which she attended for 11 years. She was also the first woman to run for the leadership of the Assembly of First Nations.

She was counsel to the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations from 1980 to 1985. Since 1990, she has practised as a sole practitioner, specializing in Indian treaty rights and Aboriginal law. She was one of three commissioners appointed to inquire into the shooting death of Leo Lachance by self-proclaimed white supremacist, Carney Nerland.

Ms. Opekokew also initiated legal action in Ontario for the family and estate of Anthony O'Brien "Dudley" George, the Indigenous activist shot and killed by police at Ipperwash Provincial Park in 1995. The resulting public inquiry led to many reforms, including the creation of the first-ever Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs in Ontario, as well as important changes in policing approaches to First Nations settings.

Between 1998 and 2004, Ms. Opekokew litigated a case which led to a major financial settlement for First Nations war veterans who had been neglected after their return to Canada from serving abroad. She was appointed from 2008-17 as a Deputy Chief Adjudicator on the Independent Assessment Process (IAP), Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement (IRSSA). Prior to that, she was an adjudicator on the IAP IRSSA and was also an adjudicator under the Indian Residential Schools Adjudication Process created by the Government of Canada (2004-09).

Widely recognized by her peers as a passionate advocate and trailblazer, Ms. Opekokew has received many awards, including the National Aboriginal Achievement Award (2009), the Women's Law Association of Ontario President's Award (2012), the Law Society Medal (2013) and the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations' Saskatchewan First Nations Women's Commission's Lifetime Achievement Award (2016). She was designated in October 2004 as an Indigenous Peoples' Counsel (IPC) by the Indigenous Bar Association.

Powless, Richard C.

Richard C. Powless is a citizen of the Mohawk Nation (Wolf Clan) born and raised on the Six Nations of the Grand River First Nation in Ontario. He possesses over 40 years of experience working on issues affecting First Nations and Indigenous Peoples. He has worked with First Nations organizations and governments at local, regional, national and international levels, as well as work with the federal government. Professional services provided by Mr. Powless include: meeting facilitation, strategic planning, writing, research, policy analysis and process development, community engagement and consultation, coordination and governance development.

Since 1996 Mr. Powless has been an Advisor/Consultant on issues affecting First Nations. In 2016 Mr. Powless served on contract as Political and Policy Advisor to the Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief

Patrick Madahbee. At various times from 2007 to 2017 Mr. Powless provided a range of services as an advisor and consultant to the Elected Council of Six Nations of the Grand River. Work with Six Nations has included the development of an Inherent Rights based law on matrimonial real property (MRP) as well as monitoring, analysis and providing advice on federal policy initiatives and legislation affecting Six Nations of the Grand River. From 2010 - 2012 Richard coordinated the participation of the Six Nations Elected Council in the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), and served in 2012 served as a Co-Rapporteur to the North American Indigenous Peoples Caucus (NAIPC) meeting in preparation for an intervention at the UNPFII in NYC. Mr. Powless also participated, as an advisor to Six Nations Council in the Iroquois Caucus, working with the 7 Iroquoian communities in Canada.

Mr. Powless has worked as Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor to the former National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Matthew Coon Come from 2000 – 2003, and managed the AFN's Constitutional Negotiation Support Team during the 1992 *Charlottetown Constitutional Accord* negotiations, under the leadership of then National Chief Ovide Mercredi and Chief Joe Mathias. Mr. Powless also coordinated the AFN intervention in the 1996 *Final Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP)*.

Mr. Powless has served as an advisor to two National Chiefs (Mercredi and Coon Come) and the Ontario Regional Chief Gordon Peters and Grand Chief Patrick Madahbee of the Anishinabek Nation in Ontario,. During the early 1980's Mr. Powless was a technical advisor to as part of the negotiation team participating in the revision of the Canadian constitution Act 1982. During that time he also participated in meetings in England, attempting to block repatriation of the Constitution. Richard participated in a speaking tour in Europe (public education and advocacy for First Nations rights) including the United Nations in Geneva.

As a consultant over the past decades, Richard has worked on many issues affecting First Nations. He has served as a policy analyst and advisor, writer, researcher, negotiator and meeting facilitator on a broad range of issues affecting First Nations including Treaty and Aboriginal rights, land rights, self-government, social policy, education, human rights, legal and constitutional rights, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, home and community care, environmental issues, membership and citizenship and taxation, to name a few.

Silver, Chief Dalton

Lemxyltexw (Dalton Silver) has been serving as the elected Chief for Sumas First Nation since April 2004. Prior to his position as Chief, Dalton sat on Council for more than 13 years. He holds the Treaty, Land Claims, Environment, and Culture Portfolios. Chief Silver is also Co-chair of the UBCIC BC Specific Claims Working Group. Chief Silver held the position as Hereditary Chief for Yakwekwioose for four years while still holding his position as Council for SFN. When elected Chief of Sumas First Nation he stepped down from the position of Hereditary Chief for Yakwekwioose.

Chief Silver was trained at the Capilano College in Media Production. He then worked for 10 years as an off set press operator, reporter and dark room technician at Coqualeetza Education Training Centre. While he was there, his grandfather The-latch-ya-til, Richard Malloway, had taught him politics in a cultural way. He would get called to lunch at least twice a week, where he was taught about the land, the environment, cultural values/teachings, family-ties and First Nations Rights and Government. His Grandfather had "molded" him to be the person he is today and started teaching Chief Silver the Cultural History of our people at a very young age. Dalton has strong beliefs in our traditions and environment and practices his teaching on a day to day basis.

Wilson, Chief Judy (Kukpi7)

Kukpi7 (Chief) Judy Wilson has served her community for over ten years as Chief and eight years as a Council member since the age of 26 years. She is a strong advocate for recognition of inherent title and rights and self-determination and for the fundamental shifts needed for the survival of all Peoples. These shifts involve transitioning to clean energy from fossil fuels or pipelines, regenerative economies with growing and buying local, and shifting our lifestyles by supporting and maintaining traditional food security and harvesting, most importantly lessening our footprint on the land, and restoring lands, lakes, rivers, and oceans.

Her education includes public administration with focus on governance, public relations, and media (audio-visual production, book publishing, broadcast journalism, and web planning). Her experience and knowledge includes; data technician, communications officer, project developer, news reporter, broadcast manager, and marketing coordinator.

Currently she serves as a member of the following boards and committees:

- the Union of BC Indian Chiefs Executive (as Secretary-Treasurer)
- the First Nations Leadership Council
- the Assembly of First Nations Lands, Territory and Resources Committee
- the Assembly of First Nations Chiefs Committee on Climate Change
- the BC Specific Claims Working Group (as co-chair),
- the BC Small Business Roundtable Advisor
- the Secwepemc Chiefs Health Caucus
- the Rural BC Centre Board (Southern Interior)
- and several other community-based committees

Woods, Jody

Jody has her master's degree in History from the University of British Columbia. She has been working at the Union of BC Indian Chiefs for almost 20 years, first as Senior Researcher, then as Research Director and Acting Administrative Director. Prior to that she worked as a Title in Rights researcher for the Sto:lo Nation. Jody is the BC Technical representative on the AFN Chiefs Committee on Lands Territories and Resources, sits on the AFN Joint Technical Working Group on claims reform, coordinates the National Research Directors group, and is the technical lead on the BC Specific Claims Working Group.

Abstracts

Indigenous Laws and Specific Claims: a Resource Website

Presented by Angie Bain

Angie will be introducing the UBCIC Indigenous Law Project website. Building on the previous work with Ardith Walkem, Ardith and the UBCIC BC Specific Claims Working Group undertook a short filming project with B.C. communities to discuss the inclusion of indigenous laws into specific claims.

An Unexpected Identity Quest, Finding our Roots while Researching for the Claims

Presented by Edith Bélanger

How can a community find a source of revival through the claims process ? That's what you will learn in this talk. Formerly known as the Viger band of Maliseets, the Wolastoqiyik Wampanapik First Nation has now entered a new era of cultural reappropriation and is more alive and prouder than ever. In fact, this community actually vanished from the official history for over a century and was only recognized again in 1989 by the federal government and the Province of Quebec. Strangely, this community was amongst the first ones to obtain a reservation in Lower Canada back in 1827. While searching to file a specific claim about the illegal surrender of that reserve in 1870, the team uncovered many astonishing facts. So far, this research had become a quest, a journey that already contributed to change the collective identity.

Update on the Lac Seul Specific Claim

Presented by Kate Gunn

In June 2019, the Federal Court of Appeal released its decision in *Southwind v. Canada*. The Court dismissed Lac Seul First Nation's appeal of the trial decision and approved the lower court's order of compensation for the historic flooding of Lac Seul's reserve lands. In September 2019, Lac Seul filed an application for leave to appeal the decision to the Supreme Court of Canada.

This presentation will examine the implications of the Federal Court of Appeal's decision for First Nations across Canada, including in relation to the calculation of compensation for the Crown's illegal taking of reserve lands and the interpretation of the numbered treaties, and provide an update on the application for leave to appeal the decision at the Supreme Court.

Nativelands Ltd.

Presented by Phil Monture

As a result of restructuring by the Six Nations Elected Council in 2002, Phil established his own company "Nativelands Ltd." to utilize his expertise to study and develop Land Tenure and Land Rights for Indigenous Peoples in Canada, the United States and Central America.

In 2006 Phil's expertise was again sought to assist with the Haudenosaunee Six Nations / Canada and Ontario negotiations in the confrontation at Caledonia, Ontario and land encroachments throughout the Six Nations Tract.

Phil has also been active in taking Six Nations unresolved Land Rights issues to the United Nations and working with developer proponents utilizing the legal duty to consult and accommodate; implementing the UN requirement to obtain our free, prior and informed consent.

Phil is presently involved in discussions between Six Nations, Canada and Ontario to establish a framework for negotiations based on Six Nations sovereignty and a truly self-governing framework unique for Six Nations. The ultimate goal is to replace the Indian Act with Six Nations' own legislation by establishing a stable, secure and independent economic base for the Six Nations Peoples per the intent of our Haldimand Treaty "*which Them and Their Posterity are to enjoy forever.*"

Nativelands LRMS

Presented by Phil Monture

When the Six Nations of the Grand River commenced their 1995 litigation against Canada and Ontario, Phil soon realized the challenge to properly resource the ongoing research and litigation going forward would be the Crown(s) greatest defense to our legal challenge. They had the financial resources and we

didn't. When Canada terminated all research related funding to Six Nations in 1995, that is when the concept of securing the required finances by insuring low interest loans with select financial institutions to properly do the research and cover litigation costs, commenced. Phil began working with corporate Canada and after more than 25 years of due diligence, Nativelands Ltd. and Litigation Risk Management Services (LRMS) came together and formed Nativelands LRMS Ltd in July 2019 to level the land rights playing field and provide back room assistance for First Nations' pursuit for justice. Nativelands LRMS can now bring to the table top financial institutions to allow First Nations to vet and select proper researchers, implement the First Nations' historical knowledge transfer, build their internal capacity, undertake planning for success and seek the best legal representation. And should the First Nation not succeed, any and all debts would be covered for the First Nation; and no contingency fees are required.

[The Life and Accomplishments of Dr. Rose Charlie](#)

Presented by Kukpi7 Judy Wilson and Jody Woods

This presentation will explore research conducted by UBCIC into the Life and Accomplishments of Dr. Grand Chief Rose Charlie, Founder and President of the Indian Homemakers Association and lifelong advocate for the rights of Indigenous Women.

[Emerging Issues in Negotiations](#)

Presented by Kukpi7 Judy Wilson, Chief Dalton Silver and Jody Woods

Since its inception, the Union BC Indian Chiefs has actively participated in reform of land claims mechanisms including the specific claims process. This has included researching and preparing submissions, public reports, media releases etc on aspects of specific claims resolution that Indigenous Nations have identified as important or concerning. As part of this work, we have launched and reported on a number of surveys to gather data directly from Nations involved in the specific claims process. This presentation reports on the most recent of these surveys which focuses primarily on emerging issues in negotiations.
