







#### Sarah Good Medicine

# Master of Ceremonies and Speaker

**Sarah Good Medicine** is a Hip Hop Emcee and Deejay. She's mixed Cree, Métis and Chippewa and believes in being a good Aunty for her community in Mohkinstsis. She feels that using her medicine (gifts) is why she, and all human beings are here: to use our medicine.

#### Tara Brass

#### Youth Keynote Speaker

**Tara Bras**s is from Ochapowace Nation, Treaty 4, but has lived in Mohkinsis (Calgary) her entire life. She serves as a youth Elder for Planet Youth and works with Indigenous students across Calgary. When not engaged in this work, she can often be found at ceremonies.

Growing up in foster care was a difficult experience that led to struggles with addiction and mental health. For a long time, she felt unworthy of Creator and those around her. However, she eventually found her path to the Red Road, a journey that she now describes as the best decision she ever made.





#### Halle Fox

#### Youth Keynote Speaker

**Halle Fox** is from Piapot First Nation, Treaty 4, and is Plains Cree. Taken from her family at the age of three, she was later adopted at six. She was placed with a religious cult, which resulted in significant trauma, PTSD, and, eventually, addiction when she was returned to foster care as a teenager.

After addiction took hold and caused immense hardship, she made the decision to walk the Red Road. With the support of Creator, her Elders, and ceremony, she turned her life around. Now, nearly two years sober, she has a loving partner, a son, a home, and a fulfilling career. Through therapy and ceremony, she has also healed from trauma-based depression and PTSD, crediting her journey on the Red Road as one of the best decisions she has ever made.

#### Jonah Sundancer Letendre

#### Youth Keynote Speaker

Jonah Sundancer Letendre is from Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation (Treaty 6) with ancestral ties to He Sapa, the Black Hills. Raised between traditional and urban settings, he developed a deep respect for the old ways and a commitment to preserving them. From a young age, he participated in ceremonies, assisting in the sweat lodge and Sundance circle.

Currently pursuing higher education to become a conservation officer, Jonah is dedicated to land stewardship, ensuring future generations can connect with Uncimaka (Grandmother Earth). Overcoming adversity, he credits his strength to the prayers, stories, and traditions passed down by his grandparents, which continue to guide his path.





#### Luke Little Chief

#### Youth Keynote Speaker

Born and raised in Calgary, **Luke Little Chief** is an Indigenous Hip Hop artist from Siksika Nation. As a member of the Tribe Artists Society, a Calgary-based Hip Hop collective, he uses his art to tell personal stories and shed light on the experiences of Indigenous peoples in urban settings.

His high-energy lyricism, storytelling, and spoken word poetry explore themes of identity, resilience, and community. Through his music and performances, he works to preserve and amplify the voices of Indigenous peoples while offering an authentic perspective on their challenges and triumphs.

## **Chantel Large**

#### Keynote Speaker

**Chantel Large** is Cree from Saddle Lake, Alberta, and has lived most of her life in Mohkinstsis (Calgary). She holds a Master of Social Work from the University of Calgary and is the Cultural Services Manager at Miskanawah, as well as a Sessional Instructor at the university's Faculty of Social Work.

With diverse experience in child and family support, mental health, and research, Chantel is a sought-after speaker and recipient of multiple teaching awards. Known as an "Edgewalker" for bridging Western and traditional knowledge, she is dedicated to learning from Elders and serving as an Elder's helper. Her greatest accomplishment is raising her four children alongside her husband.





# Geraldine (Geri) Paul

### Keynote Speaker

**Geraldine (Geri) Paul** (Ootskwi Papoom Akii) is of Inuit and Mi'kmaq descent and grew up in a traditional hunting and fishing community in Labrador. She is a registered psychologist who works exclusively with Indigenous people, bringing years of experience in private practice, Native agencies, and academic institutions.

Geri holds a Master of Science and a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) from the University of Calgary. She is the author of \*You Are a Lovable Native Kid Healing What Hurts Inside: A Guide for Adults to Read with Native Children\* (2023). Her experiences with racism, oppression, and neocolonialism drive her commitment to helping Native communities. Living near the Standoff reserve in Alberta, she remains deeply connected to Native culture and ceremonies.

# **Sonny Campbell**

# Keynote Speaker/ Knowledge Keeper

**Sonny Campbell** is from Sapotaweyak Cree Nation in Treaty 4 and has been a proud resident of Calgary, Alberta, since 2010. A recovering alcoholic with over 12 years of sobriety, he is dedicated to supporting his community through cultural connection and healing.

Sonny is a co-founding member of the Calgary American Indian Movement, established in 2021, which promotes cultural awareness and the revitalization of traditions. As part of this work, he helps lead monthly patrols in Forest Lawn, offering food and songs to the unhoused. He also facilitates a drum group, conducts sweat lodge ceremonies for individuals in recovery, and founded "Times of Change," a Native-based recovery group that ensures every participant's voice is heard.





#### **Emile Ward**

#### Keynote Speaker/Elder

**Elder Emile Ward** is a wonderful 75-year-old knowledge keeper. Emile is a loving father of 3. He is also a very proud grandfather of 3 grandchildren & great-grandchild. Emile is originally from Drift Pile First Nation, which is located on treaty 8 land.

Emile Ward graduated high school in 1966. Emile was in active alcoholism from 1966-1980. This led Emile to start working on himself & he attended a treatment center in the spring of 1980. From that day on, Emile had led a 43-year journey of sobriety that would lead to the passion of helping others with addiction. Emile began counseling others in 1983 in the north west territories. He moved to Calgary in 1984. Emile successfully completed the 'Neechi Addiction Training' from 1984-1986.

Emile was a former Director of adult & adolescent treatment center. During his time there he would develop addiction programs, community workshops, direct counselling. Emile, semi-retired in January of 2020. He is currently an elder support worker for miskanawah, specializing in elder connections & helping others with addiction.

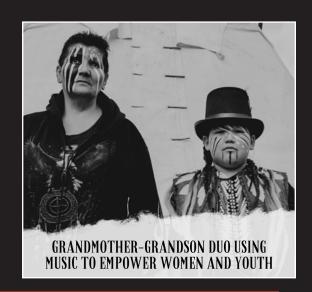
# Carol Powder & Chubby Cree

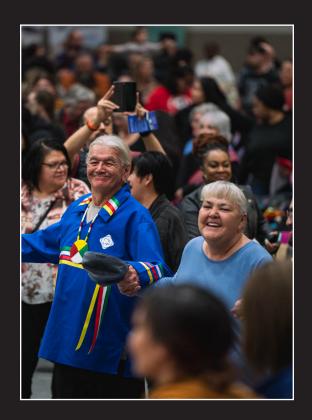
#### Keynote Speakers

**Carol Powder** and **Chubby Cree** are a women's and children's drum group dedicated to honoring women, children, and Elders, who hold knowledge and guide healing, prayers, and cultural remembrance.

Rooted in traditional teachings passed down by her great-grandparents, grandparents, uncles, and aunties, Carol was raised by Elders and lived off the land without modern conveniences. This way of life provided her with invaluable teachings on smudging, healing plants, and preparing for the future.

Carol has been singing and drumming in public since the age of five, carrying forward the wisdom and traditions of her ancestors. She is deeply grateful for these teachings and continues to pass them on to her children and grandchildren.





#### Patrick & Patricia Diagneault

#### Elder

**Elder Patrick and Patricia Diagneault** are Cree Elders from Île-à-la-Crosse, Saskatchewan, and residential school survivors. Married for over 40 years, they have raised four children and three grandchildren while dedicating their lives to ceremony and traditional teachings.

For 25 years, they have practiced ceremony in Calgary, sharing knowledge passed down from their parents and grandparents. As honorary Elder instructors at the U of C Cumming School of Medicine, they foster trust and understanding of Indigenous ways of knowing. They gifted Miskanawah a 24-willow family sweat lodge and continue to hold weekly ceremonies, teach Cree language classes, and support Indigenous governance through the Wahkotowin framework.

They were instrumental in the creation and culture of Miskanawah as we know it today.

## **Darryl Brass**

#### Elder

**Elder Darryl Brass**, mashkode-bizhiki inini (Buffalo Man), is a Cree, Ojibwe, and Tsuut'ina Elder and Knowledge Keeper who shares traditional knowledge and ceremonies to support people and organizations in and around Calgary. With 36 years of experience in ceremonies, he primarily offers guidance through Ojibwe teachings.

A recognized Elder within the Elders Knowledge Circle Society and Braiding The Sweetgrass Elders Groups, Darryl works alongside Treaty 7 organizations to foster meaningful relationships with Indigenous communities. He emphasizes reciprocity, humility, and interconnectedness, helping others reconnect with cultural identity, responsibilities to Mother Earth, and each other. Always willing to share his knowledge, he remains committed to education and support.





#### **Violet March**

#### Elder

**Elder Violet March** is a Denesuline Knowledge Keeper from Cold Lake First Nation, born and raised on the trapline. A mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, she has called Calgary home for 40 years. While working in oil and gas for 30 years, she spent her lunch breaks connecting with Indigenous people experiencing homelessness and later supported families at Inn from the Cold.

Now, as a Knowledge Keeper with Miskanawah, Violet helps youth and families reconnect with culture on their healing journeys. She believes in building trusting relationships that honor people's stories, guided by her grandmother's teaching that everyone has a gift. From hospital blessings to corporate education and community healing, Violet shares her wisdom with organizations like the United Way, City of Calgary, and the Kidney Foundation.

# **Talenny Rose Heavy Head** *Elder*

**Elder Talenny Rose Heavy Head** is dedicated to sharing Blackfoot cultural knowledge to foster understanding and community harmony, reflecting the core Indigenous value of generosity.

From a young age, Talenny learned Blackfoot beliefs and values from elderly relatives, with family deeply rooted in the Sundance ceremony of the Kainai Nation. In the early 1990s, they completed a four-year vow as a piercing Sundancer at Morris Crow's Sundance, earning the rights of a pipe carrier and sweat lodge keeper. Through conversations with Elders, Talenny gained a deeper understanding of their identity as a Two-Spirit person and now shares this knowledge to support and uplift the 2S community.





# Vinnia Van Overdyk (Wapis Bena Si Qua)

#### Elder

**Vinnia Van Overdyk** was born in Pinaymootang First Nation, Manitoba, and has resided in Calgary, Alberta, since 1968. She has dedicated many years to supporting various organizations and enjoys working with people of all ages in the community.

# Edward Anthony Campbell Montilla

#### Entertainer

Born and raised in Panama City, Panama, **Edward Campbell** developed a passion for the arts through his mother. During his high school years, he pursued both dance and design, establishing himself as a B-boy and a graphic designer. He later attended the University of Panama, earning a bachelor's degree in Graphic Design.

In 2017, he founded Edward Campbell Studio, a brand identity and graphic design studio dedicated to helping clients refine their visual presence. Simultaneously, known as Funk-E in the dance community since 2014, he has shared his knowledge of dance and Hip Hop culture across Alberta as an instructor. He also created the brand Adesse Threads to express his mindset through fashion.





#### **Matthew Wood**

#### Entertainer

**Matthew Wood**, also known as Creeasian, is an Indigenous artist from Edmonton. He is a founding member of the Sampler Café collective and has been deeply involved in Hip Hop culture for many years. His career has encompassed DJing, dancing, youth education, and, more recently, beat-making, music production, projection mapping, and filmmaking.

By blending his Indigenous roots with his Hip Hop background, he continuously pushes creative boundaries while highlighting the connections between Cree traditions and modern influences. Dance has played a pivotal role in his life, from breaking to powwow, and he has toured with The Halluci Nation, formerly known as A Tribe Called Red.

# 2024 Buffalo Tracks' Highlights!













# Thank you, everyone.

