

**2nd EDITION**

# **INDIGENOUS JUSTICE SYSTEM: A KNOWLEDGE SHARING SYMPOSIUM**



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## Program

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**NOVEMBER 4 TO 6, 2024 | CALGARY (AB)**

**Grey Eagle Hotel, 3777 Grey Eagle Dr, Calgary, AB T3E 3X8**

## “Indigenous Justice System: A Knowledge Sharing Symposium”

CIAJ wishes to hold this symposium annually in partnership with the Tsuut’ina Nation and the other communities of Alberta and Canada. This annual Symposium is CIAJ’s way to forge a bridge to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples by discussing tangible, actionable steps that advance meaningful and lasting change. It also serves as a platform to exchange information and gather data on ongoing efforts across Canada.

### Symposium Objectives:

1. **Foster Dialogue:** Facilitate meaningful conversations between the Canadian legal community and Indigenous communities to build mutual understanding and collaboration.
2. **Address Childcare Protection:** Explore and develop strategies to enhance childcare protection measures that respect and integrate Indigenous laws, cultural values and practices.
3. **Advance Self-Governance:** Identify and promote pathways for strengthening Indigenous self-governance within the legal framework to support community autonomy and decision-making.
4. **Align the Legal System:** Examine and propose reforms to the Canadian legal system to better address and meet the needs of Indigenous peoples, ensuring equitable treatment and justice.
5. **Integrate Indigenous Legal Systems:** Assess how traditional legal systems can be integrated and adapted to provide more effective and respectful outcomes for Indigenous communities.

### Who should attend?

Members of Indigenous communities, judges, legal professionals and law students across Canada are invited to join the discussion, reflect on the future and collectively work toward solutions.

- *Bilingual event with simultaneous interpretation.*
- *Participation in this program is accredited in provinces where CLE requirements for lawyers are mandatory.*
- *Participation approval is pending (Section 41 (1) of the Judges Act).*



## HONORARY CHAIR

**The Honourable Marion Buller,  
Chancellor, Lawyer and Legal Elder with the law firm, Miller  
Titerle + Co.**

Civil, criminal and human rights lawyer; judge; public speaker; and advocate for Indigenous rights in Canada, she created the First Nations Courts in BC and others, and was also the first woman Indigenous judge in British Columbia. She has held several high-profile positions, including Chief Commissioner for the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Since she retired as a judge, she continues to write about Indigenous issues.

## MEMBERS

- **Jennifer Cox**, K.C., Managing Lawyer, Nova Scotia Legal Aid Sipekne'katik (Indian Brook, NS)
- **The Honourable Deputy Chief Justice Joanne Durant**, Alberta Court of Justice (Calgary, AB)
- **The Honourable Justice Julie Dutil**, Court of Appeal of Quebec, CIAJ's President (Quebec, QC)
- **Koren Lightning**, K.C., Legal Director and Lawyer, Wahkohtowin Law and Governance Lodge, University of Alberta (Leduc, AB)
- **Bradford W. Morse**, Professor, Faculty of Law, Thompson Rivers University (Kamloops, BC), Honorary Professor of Law at Te Piringa - Faculty of Law, University of Waikato, New Zealand, Professor Emeritus at University of Ottawa's Faculty of Law, Common Law Section, Adjunct Professor at Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster - University of Münster, in Germany
- **Clarissa Pearce**, K.C., Executive Legal Counsel to the Chief Justice at the Alberta Court of Justice (Calgary, AB)
- **The Honourable Justice Derek Redman (Miistaknina - Mountain Chief)**, Alberta Court of Justice (Lethbridge, AB)
- **Scott Robertson**, Senior Associate, Nahwegahbow Corbiere (Rama, ON)
- **The Honourable Judge Margaret Wiebe**, Provincial Court of Manitoba (Winnipeg, MB)
- **Christine O'Doherty**, Lawyer, CIAJ's Executive Director (Montreal, QC)

## OUR PROUD PARTNERS

We are proud of our valued partners who support our Symposium on Indigenous Justice System. Their commitment and support are essential to the success of this event.



**11:00–12:00 PM**    **Welcome and registration**

**12:00–1:00 PM**    **Lunch**

**1:00–2:00 PM**    **Opening ceremony**

A culturally rich opening featuring a pipe ceremony by two native elders, Louie Heavenfire and Laura Heavenfire.

*Masters of Ceremony:*

- *The Honourable Justice Derek Redman, Alberta Court of Justice (Lethbridge, AB)*
- *Clarissa Pearce, K.C., Executive Legal Counsel to the Chief Justice at the Alberta Court of Justice (Calgary, AB)*

*CIAJ President:*

- *The Honourable Justice Julie Dutil, Court of Appeal of Quebec, CIAJ's President (Quebec, QC)*

**2:00–2:15 PM**    **Opening remarks**

*Honorary Chair:*

- *The Honourable Marion Buller, Chancellor, Lawyer and Legal Elder, Miller Titerle + Co. (Vancouver, BC)*

**2:15–2:30 PM**    **Keynote: Engaging with Indigenous Law**

*Speaker:*

- *Koren Lightning, Legal Director and Lawyer, Wahkohtowin Law and Governance Lodge, University of Alberta (Leduc, AB)*

**2:30–2:50 PM**    **Health break**

**2:50–4:30 PM**    **Workshop – Drawing out Law: Mastering Narrative Analysis to Unveil Indigenous Law**

– With the implication of Wahkohtowin Law and Governance Lodge

*Speakers:*

- *Koren Lightning, Legal Director and Lawyer, Wahkohtowin Law and Governance Lodge, University of Alberta (Leduc, AB)*
- *Hadley Friedland, Academic Director & Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Alberta (Edmonton, AB)*

*Facilitators:*

- *Gavin Cazon-Wilkes, Legal Counsel & Senior Legal Researcher, Wahkohtowin Law and Governance Lodge, University of Alberta (Edmonton, AB)*
- *Casey Caines, Legal Counsel, Wahkohtowin Law and Governance Lodge, University of Alberta (Edmonton, AB)*
- *Siobhan Washburn, Articling Student, Wahkohtowin Law and Governance Lodge, University of Alberta (Edmonton, AB)*

**5:30–7:30 PM**    **Reception at the Grey Eagle Hotel**

A festive and convivial celebration, with the presence of four Tsuut'ina Nation Drummers for an evening full of lively rhythms. Complimentary finger foods and non-alcoholic beverages. Cash bar.

# NOTES

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## 08:00–09:00 AM Breakfast

### 09:00–09:30 AM Reflections from day one: Why is this work important

Masters of Ceremony:

- *The Honourable Justice Derek Redman, Alberta Court of Justice (Lethbridge, AB)*
- *Clarissa Pearce, K.C., Executive Legal Counsel to the Chief Justice at the Alberta Court of Justice (Calgary, AB)*

### 09:30–10:30 AM Tully Wheel - Making Connections

How to understand and create change.

Speakers:

- *Koren Lightning, Legal Director and Lawyer, Wahkohtowin Law and Governance Lodge, University of Alberta (Leduc, AB)*
- *Hadley Friedland, Academic Director & Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Alberta (Edmonton, AB)*

Facilitators:

- *Gavin Cazon-Wilkes, Legal Counsel & Senior Legal Researcher, Wahkohtowin Law and Governance Lodge, University of Alberta (Edmonton, AB)*
- *Casey Caines, Legal Counsel, Wahkohtowin Law and Governance Lodge, University of Alberta (Edmonton, AB)*
- *Siobhan Washburn, Articling Student, Wahkohtowin Law and Governance Lodge, University of Alberta (Edmonton, AB)*

## 10:30–10:45 AM Health Break

### 10:45–11:45 AM International Perspectives

Conversation with actors of the justice system from the Maori Nation.

Moderator:

- *Bradford W. Morse, Professor, Faculty of Law, Thompson Rivers University (Kamloops, BC)*

Speakers:

- *Her Honour Judge Tania Williams Blyth, District Court Judge (New-Zealand)*
- *Corin Merrick, Barrister at Matariki Chambers, Legal advisor to Waikato-Tainui Mokopuna Ora, Director of Te Korimako Legal Education (New-Zealand)*
- *Melissa King-Howell, Programme Director, Waikato-Tainui Mokopuna Ora (New Zealand)*

### 11:45–1:00 PM Lunch: Storytelling by Elders and Knowledge Keepers

Discussion with elders on how they see their ideal justice system for their people. What does it look like? What advice do they have for the young generations, for Canadian legal actors?

Elders speakers:

- *Violet Meguinis, Commission Chair, Tsuu'tina Police Commission, Elder of Tsuut'ina Nation*
- *Michael Meguinis, Elder of Tsuut'ina Nation*

**1:00–2:00 PM International Perspectives(continued)**

- Moderator:
- *Oleg Shakov, Director of the International Programs Division, Office of the Commissioner for FJA (Ottawa, ON)*
- Speaker:
- *The Honourable Chief Justice José Dionicio Suing Nagua, National Court of Justice, Ecuador (Ecuador)*

**2:00–3:30 PM The Westernized Justice System**

**Circle 1: Representation within the Canadian Legal System**

This group would examine where Indigenous culture, and traditions have been implemented alongside Canadian institutions or under Canadian legislation and whether these initiatives have been successful.

- Moderator:
- *Jaimie Graham, Legal Counsel, Alberta Utilities Commission (Calgary, AB)*
- Speakers:
- *The Honourable Justice Patricia Hennessy, Ontario Superior Court of Justice (Northeast Region, Sudbury, ON)*
  - *Sarah Arngna'naaq, Crown Counsel, Nunavut Regional Office of Public Prosecution Service of Canada (Yellowknife, NT)*
  - *The Honourable Leonard S. Tony Mandamin, IPC, Counsel at Witten LLP, Retired Judge of the Federal Court, Trial Division (Edmonton, AB)*

**Circle 2: Nation-Specific Justice Initiatives**

This group will look at initiatives launched by specific Nations separate from the Western justice system and how they interact with the Canadian system.

- Moderator:
- *Jennifer Cox, K.C., Managing Lawyer, Nova Scotia Legal Aid Sipekne'katik (Indian Brook, NS)*
- Speakers:
- *Earl Stevenson, In-House Counsel, Peguis Child & Family Services (Winnipeg, MB)*
  - *Hadley Friedland, Academic Director & Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Alberta (Edmonton, AB)*
  - *Sharon Bourque, Director of Justice, Otipemisiwak Métis Government (Edmonton, AB)*

**3:30–3:50 PM Health Break**

**3:50–4:45 PM Plenary session | Discussion on the results of the breakout sessions**

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**8:00-09:00 AM Breakfast**

**09:00-09:30 AM Reflections from day two: What do we want to do with the information collected.**

*Masters of Ceremony:*

- *The Honourable Justice Derek Redman, Alberta Court of Justice (Lethbridge, AB)*
- *Clarissa Pearce, K.C., Executive Legal Counsel to the Chief Justice at the Alberta Court of Justice (Calgary, AB)*

**09:30-10:30 AM Best Practices and Successes**

Participants will discuss some of their best practices and what they consider successful practices to ensure the well-being of their communities, families and children. An interactive conversation about success stories from various communities.

*Facilitators:*

- *The Honourable Judge Margaret Wiebe, Provincial Court of Manitoba (Winnipeg, MB)*
- *The Honourable Deputy Chief Justice Joanne Durant, Alberta Court of Justice (Calgary, AB)*

**10:30-10:45 AM Health Break**

**10:45-12:00 PM Where do we go from here?**

This last session will identify deliverables and topics for the next Symposium.

*Facilitators:*

- *Christine O'Doherty, Lawyer and Executive Director, CIAJ (Montreal, QC)*
- *The Honourable Justice Derek Redman, Alberta Court of Justice (Lethbridge, AB)*
- *Clarissa Pearce, K.C., Executive Legal Counsel to the Chief Justice at the Alberta Court of Justice (Calgary, AB)*

**12:00-12:30 PM Closing Ceremonies**

– Prayers by Elders Louie Heavenfire and Laura Heavenfire





DECADES OF EXCELLENCE

# CIAJ IN 2024

CIAJ marks **50 years** of leadership in the advancement of the administration of justice in Canada. Since 1974, the Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice has brought together legal professionals through its annual events, webinars, and publications, reaching a diverse and influential audience.

## OUR MISSION

Improve the administration of Canadian justice and making it more accessible and equitable for all.

CIAJ promotes excellence through knowledge sharing, learning, and the exchange of ideas, by offering the Canadian legal community cutting-edge training and research programs in both official languages.

## COMMUNITY

Join us and our members in shaping the future of justice.



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Members



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**+2,000**

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**+300**

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**+40**

Programs, in person and online

## ACROSS CANADA



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## IN ALL FAIRNESS

A podcast channel to explore how we can all contribute to improve the administration of Justice in Canada.



**42,854**

Downloads of our podcasts.



**#CLAWBIES 2023**

Best Podcast Award

## BLOG POSTS



**+120**

Blog posts to analyze specific topics and contribute to a more effective justice system.



[WWW.CIAJ-ICAJ.CA](http://WWW.CIAJ-ICAJ.CA)

# 50 years: Planting the Seeds of Justice

CIAJ is an independent, non-profit organization that links individuals and institutions involved in the administration of justice across Canada. Since its founding in 1974, CIAJ has taken a critical look at our justice system and explored current issues aimed at improving the administration of justice and preserving a strong and independent judiciary. In collaboration with governments, courts, tribunals, professional associations, law schools, and law firms, CIAJ sponsors and conducts multidisciplinary conferences, specialized seminars, tailored training sessions, national discussions on major issues, and prepares comprehensive papers and reports. Our services are offered in both official languages (french and english).

**Join CIAJ: develop yourself, shape a better world, and make a difference.**

Become a member of CIAJ and benefit from cutting-edge training and research programs, connect with key players in the system, and contribute to improving the Canadian justice system. As a member, you'll also enjoy exclusive benefits such as discount on every in-person program, free webinars and the accumulation of CPD hours.

**JOIN CIAJ**



## Contact us

For more information about our organization, the benefits of membership, and how you can assist us with our mission, please contact us.

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**50 YEARS OF CIAJ**



**FEBRUARY 3-5, 2025 | TORONTO (ON)**

## Conference: Addiction, Mental Health and the Law

**CIAJ's Conference on Addiction, Mental Health, and the Law will delve into the complex interplay between substance abuse, mental health issues, and the criminal justice system. This event will bring together experts from various disciplines and Indigenous Knowledge Keepers to examine the multifaceted challenges faced by courts, law enforcement, treatment providers, policymakers, as well as communities, families, and individuals.**

Key questions to be addressed include: How do mental health issues, addiction, and criminality interact and influence each other? What are the most effective approaches to treating individuals struggling with addiction? How do substance abuse and mental illness complicate treatment and intervention? Why are these issues becoming more prevalent and difficult to manage? What role do harm reduction policies play, and can they be integrated with effective public safety measures? How do treatment courts fit into the broader criminal justice landscape, and are the tools provided by the Criminal Code adequate for addressing these challenges?

Join us as we explore these pressing questions and discuss necessary changes to better address the challenges at the intersection of addiction, mental health, and criminal justice.

