



The Catholic  
**Archdiocese**  
of **Edmonton**

## CAEDM Regional Reconciliation Discernment Circle Membership

### **Cam Alexis, Chair**



Cam Alexis is an experienced consultant with a wealth of experience in indigenous politics and business. He has a demonstrated history of working in government administration, policing, politics and industry.

Mr. Alexis is skilled in negotiations, crisis management and working with non-profit organizations. He graduated from the RCMP Academy Depot Division in Regina and St. Francis Xavier Catholic High School in Edmonton.

### **✠ Richard W. Smith, Archbishop of Edmonton**



Archbishop Richard Smith was formally installed as the seventh Archbishop of Edmonton in 2007.

Archbishop Smith serves as President of the Catholic Bishops of Alberta and the Northwest Territories, and is past president of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops from 2011-2013. He has also been a member and chairman of the Episcopal Commission from Christian Education and spiritual advisor to the Catholic Women's League of Canada.

Archbishop Smith served as General Coordinator of Pope Francis' historic visit to Canada, July 24–29, 2022. The Holy Father's pilgrimage focused on Indigenous healing and reconciliation while also providing the shepherd of the world's 1.2 billion Catholics an opportunity to encounter the faithful in Canada.

### **Kayli Avveduti**



Kayli Avveduti is a First Nations, nēhiyaw iskwew/Cree woman from the Alexander First Nation in Treaty Six territory. She is the executive director of the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations. At 29, Director Avveduti is the youngest person to have served in this role.

Prior to her work with Confederacy, Director Avveduti served the Martin Family Initiative in several capacities in the Early Years Program. She also supported the Alexander First Nation as an advisor to Chief and Council providing analysis and response to government legislation and emerging challenges.

Director Avveduti completed her Master of Public Policy degree at McGill University and also holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science. She lives in Edmonton with her partner, Gerald, her son Rocco and their dog Lola.

### **Jessica Buffalo**



Jessica Buffalo is Indigenous Initiatives Counsel for the Law Society of Alberta. Ms. Buffalo is a member of the Samson Cree Nation and grew up in Edmonton and Nanaimo, B.C. She received her Juris Doctor degree from the Allard School of Law at the University of British Columbia in 2016. She was called to the Alberta bar in 2017.

Most recently, Ms. Buffalo held the role of staff lawyer/duty counsel at Legal Aid Alberta. In this role she acted as dedicated duty counsel for the Calgary Indigenous Court and the Tsuut'ina Provincial Court.

Ms. Buffalo also appeared regularly as duty counsel in youth justice court, domestic court, bail hearings and in circuit court. She was an active member of the Reconciliation and Access to Justice Circle. She was involved in the Indigenous Action Plan and she helped to develop internal cultural competency training for Legal Aid Alberta staff.

Ms. Buffalo has also been involved in developing and delivering education to the legal profession and the judiciary in Alberta on topics relating to cultural competency, the Calgary Indigenous Court, Gladue Report writing, restorative justice and access to justice. She has delivered “Know Your Rights” presentations in Indigenous communities across the province and she has conducted free legal clinics through the Aboriginal Friendship Centre.

### **Dan Cardinal**



Dan Cardinal has been proudly serving the Métis Nation within Alberta for more than six years. He started in 2014 as the MNA Region One vice-president. He was then successful in his campaign for MNA provincial vice-president in 2018.

Vice-President Cardinal is passionate about preserving Indigenous languages including both Cree and Michif, the language of his people. He has taught Cree in the Edmonton Catholic School Division, owned his own business, and served as a practical nurse.

As MNA vice-president, Mr. Cardinal sits on many boards all relating to language, tradition, and culture preservation. He currently sits on the board of Métis Crossing Experience Company.

Vice-President Cardinal's main priority is advancing the Métis Nation through promoting education and Métis culture for future generations.

### **Leila Houle**



Leila Houle is a member of Whitefish (Goodfish Lake) Lake #128 First Nation located within Treaty Six Territory. Raised on her First Nation, Ms. Houle is committed to working towards healing and reconciliation.

Currently, Ms. Houle is a Senior Advisor for First Nations Relations with the Government of Alberta.

### **Maina Manniapik**



Maina Manniapik is Inuk and originally from Pangnirtung, Nunavut Territory. She attended high school in Iqaluit (Frobisher Bay). Elder Manniapik's first job was as medical interpreter at the Baffin Regional Hospital. She has also served as assistant secretary manager for the Hamlet of Pangnirtung and simultaneously an interpreter and translator for the Northwest Territories Legislature.

Elder Manniapik has been the coordinator on Land Quantum and Land Identification for the South Baffin Communities and represented the Communities team in federal negotiations on land quantum and identification.

Elder Manniapik has been a part-time host for the Inuktitut news, called Igalaq on CBC North. After a full career, Elder Manniapik now calls herself retired. She is a member of Pathway Committee for the indigenous applicants for the gynecology/obstetrics program at the University of Alberta.

Elder Manniapik has served with the Norquest College indigenous programs, as well in an advisory capacity. She has two daughters and a beautiful four-year-old granddaughter.

### **Harold Robinson**



Admitted to the Law Society of Alberta and certified as a mediator, Mr. Robinson has applied his legal and mediation/arbitration skills across a range of interests. This includes intergovernmental work with Aboriginal Relations, governance and business development and oversight with the Metis Settlements of Alberta, adjudication services for the Indian Residential School Claims Process and an assignment to the national roster of mediators for the Canadian Human Rights Commission.

Mr. Robinson was born and raised in Edmonton. He is Métis (member of the Metis Nation of Alberta) and an active volunteer.

### **Norma Spicer**



Norma Spicer has a passion for Métis history, culture and customs developed from hearing stories of her ancestors on her mother's side. A descendent of Jean Baptiste Lagimodière and Marie-Anne Gaboury (the first white woman to settle in Western Canada) through their daughter Josepthe, Ms. Spicer's family history includes those who fought alongside Louis Riel during the Métis Resistance.

Formerly with the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) in a variety of positions, Ms. Spicer remains a member of its Cultural Team, and conducts prayers and blessings for MNA events and ceremonies.

Recently, Ms. Spicer prepared a research paper on the Métis History of Fort Edmonton and Surrounding Areas for the Fort Edmonton Management Company and sits as a member of its Indigenous Expansion Committee.

## Advisor

### **Victor Buffalo, AOE, OC, Elder**



Victor Buffalo is a former chief of the Samson Cree Nation, where he continues to reside.

A respected leader in the Indigenous community, Chief Buffalo played an instrumental role in the Samson Cree Nation becoming the first Aboriginal nation in Canada to gain control of its natural resource revenues.

Chief Buffalo then took the lead in establishing Peace Hills Trust, the first and largest Aboriginal-owned financial institution in Canada, which helps to ensure financial stability and support for future generations of Samson Cree.

Through his involvement in a variety of organizations, notably the National Aboriginal Economic Development Board and the Aboriginal Program at The Banff Centre for Management, Chief Buffalo has greatly contributed to the social and economic development of his community.