

# KANA WAIN DIDA

LOOKING AFTER EACH OTHER

COVID 19,  
HEALTH SOVEREIGNTY  
AND WORKING  
TOGETHER  
FOR A CHANGE



# WELCOME FROM CO-LEADS

May 2021

Boozoo and Tansi.

We welcome and thank you for taking the time to attend this virtual international gathering. The theme of the conference focuses on Indigenous-led responses to COVID-19 around the world.

We extend a warm welcome to those of you who are joining us from within Manitoba. We also extend a warm welcome to visitors joining from elsewhere in Canada and the US as well as those from Latin America, Europe, and Asia. Participants include members of Indigenous communities and Indigenous organizations and their allies. The great diversity in cultures, experiences and perspectives brought together by participants and presenters promises to make this an especially rich, rewarding, and impactful three-day experience.

This virtual event is being hosted from the original lands of the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Anishinew, Dakota, and Dene peoples and the homelands of the Métis Nation in Manitoba, Canada. On behalf of the Planning Committee, we want to express our gratitude to everyone participating in the 2021 Kana Wain Dida Virtual gathering International Conference.

The Conference title, Kana Wain Dida, means “looking after each other” in Anishinaabemowin. We have assembled a program that brings together Indigenous health-care practitioners, knowledge keepers, artisans, community members, and allies from across the globe so that we can learn from one another and share stories of change and resilience in response to COVID-19. This gathering brings together presenters, and an audience, from across the world to share their diverse insights and experiences of health and wellbeing grounded in culture, support and kinship. The gathering provides a safe and welcoming space for Indigenous peoples and allies to network, to reflect on successes and barriers, and to think and plan for the future as they relate to the pandemic.

Sessions will take many formats. These include individual keynote speakers, multi-person panels, story-telling, film, and art as well as music and cultural gala from around the world. Not only will these sessions be available for those who attend live, we are also hoping to make recordings available into the future. In so doing, we will try and maximize the impacts and accessibility of these sessions long after the gathering itself has ended.

This gathering represents an opportunity to engage in a collective dialogue about ways Indigenous peoples and communities have approached and responded to the COVID-19 pandemic. We hope that all of you feel comfortable sharing your experiences with one another in this affirming and supportive environment, regardless of what or where you call home.

Welcome once again to everyone and thank you for taking the time to attend the 2021 Kana Wain Dida Virtual International Conference.

Ekosani mina kinanaskomitinan (Thank you and with gratitude),

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Ramona Neckoway, PhD  
University College of the North

Myrle Ballard, PhD  
University of Manitoba

Stéphane McLachlan, PhD  
University of Manitoba

# AGENDA AT A GLANCE

## DAY 1 THURSDAY, MAY 20, 2021

- 9:00 am Floor 1**  
Registration and Networking
- 9:15 am** Opening Prayer  
Glen Chamakese
- Honour Song  
Pelican Lake Singers
- 9:30 am Welcome Remarks**  
**Dr. Ramona Neckoway**  
Ithnew, University College of the North
- Dr. Myrle Ballard  
Anishinaabe, University of Manitoba  
Welcome Remarks from University of Manitoba  
and University College of the North
- 10:00 am Dr. Jennifer Denetdale**  
**Navajo Nation, Professor, University of New Mexico**  
Indigenous Gender Politics of Care in the Time of COVID
- Moderator: Dr. Myrle Ballard

### 11:15 am - Health Break / Icebreaker

#### 11:30 am Breakout Sessions

Indigenous Birth Helpers supporting Indigenous families through the pandemic –  
Stephanie Sinclair  
Tara Petti (FNHSSM)  
Valentina McKay (Misipawistik Cree Nation)  
Jolene Mercer, Wijiidiwag Ikwewag

Lessons in community resilience during COVID-19 through radical alternatives –  
Vasna Ramasar (Global Tapestry Alternatives)  
A Folklore of River Teesta worshipped by Indigenous tribe  
Minket Lepcha  
(Northern India)

### 12:30 pm - Health Break / Icebreaker

#### 1:00 pm National Panel National Panel – Impacts

**Dr. Barry Lavallee**  
Métis, St. Laurent, Manitoba; CEO of  
Keewatinohk  
Inniniw Minoayawin Inc.

**Dr. Ojistoh Horn**  
Mowhawk, Kahnawake

**Dr. Nel Wieman**  
Anishinaabe, Little Grand Rapids, Manitoba;  
Acting Deputy Chief Medical Officer for the First Nations Health Authority; President of the Indigenous Physicians Association of Canada

#### 2:15 pm Concurrent Session

**Panel with Four Arrows Regional Health Authority**  
Alex McDougall  
Laurie Ducharme  
Byron Beady  
Grace McDougall  
Jim Harrold

**Panel on Gender, Violence and COVID**  
Diane Redsky, Executive Director of Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata;  
Shavon Dayrock, Community Outreach, Kitatipithitamak Mithwayawin; Hollow Water First Nation  
Doris Difarnecio, Colombian American biracial lesbian sociologist, educator and theatre director.  
Tribes on the Edge Film and Discussion

**Celine Cousteau**  
Los Angeles, USA

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## DAY 1 (continued)

### THURSDAY, MAY 20, 2021

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3:15 pm - Health Break / Icebreaker

**3:30 pm Breakout Sessions**

**The Muskrat Hut Sustainable Hub Project/ The land should lead us: Acknowledging community viability to practice Indigenous health sovereignty in northern Manitoba**

Débora Boratto (UFMG Brazil)  
Dr. Alex Wilson (University of Saskatchewan)  
Asfia Kamal (University College of the North)

**Talking about Water Through Art**  
Ms. Betty Carpick  
(Thunder Bay, Ontario)

**Psychosocial Assessments**

Carl Fontaine  
(Sagkeeng Anicinabe Nation)  
Alrika Rojas  
Somia Sadiq  
(Narratives Inc.)

**Developing an Indigenous virtual care clinic**

Caroline Turner  
Paige Wall  
Michelle Hoeber

**4:45pm COVID-19 Anxiety in the age of the Anthropocene: research creation**

Dr. Joanna Black (University of Manitoba)  
Dr. Pam Patterson  
Daniel Payne (OCAD University)

**Studying in Challenging Times: Reflections on the COVID-19 Pandemic by Indigenous Students at the University College of the North**

Joseph Atoyebi & Ying Kong (University College of the North)

Kis Kin Ha Ma Ki Win: Learning Science through Land  
Taylor Galvin  
Dylan Kensick  
(Kis Kin Hi Ma Ki Win)

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5:45 pm - Health Break / Icebreaker

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7:00 pm - Cultural Celebration

# AGENDA AT A GLANCE

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## DAY 2 FRIDAY, MAY 21, 2021

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|----------------|---|-----------------|--|
| <b>9:00 am</b> | <b>Floor 1</b><br>Registration and Networking   | <b>10:00 am</b> | <b>Dr. Rawiri Taonui</b><br>Māori<br>Independent Writer, Researcher and Advisor<br>New Zealand<br>Pandemic Lessons from Aotearoa – Racism is the<br>Real Virus |
| <b>9:15 am</b> | Honour Song<br>Dene Drummer   |                 |  |
| <b>9:30 am</b> | <b>Welcome Remarks and Recap</b><br><b>Dr. Ramona Neckoway</b><br>Ithnew, University College of the North<br><br>Dr. Myrle Ballard<br>Anishinaabe, University of Manitoba |                 |  |

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|-----------------|---|-----------------|--|
| <b>11:00 am</b> | <b>Introduction to Surveys with the COVID-19<br/>Indigenous App</b><br><br>Shavon Dayrock<br>Hollow Water First Nation<br><br>Craig Dietrich<br>(Independent Software Developer)<br><br>Shanna Lorenz<br>(Occidental College) | <b>11:45 am</b> | <b>On the Vaccine Front Lines</b><br>Diane Redsky<br>Byron QJ Beardy<br>Redsky Campbell<br><br><b>Industry Panel</b><br>Geraline McManus<br>Nathan Neckoway<br><br><b>Youth Panel</b><br>Tristen Durocher<br>Ali Barnaby<br>Curtis Vinish<br>Vincent Short |
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- 12:45 pm** **Community Experiences Panel**
- Dr. Becky Neckoway**  
Ojibway and Cree, Eabametoong and Fox Lake Cree Nation Hospitalist and Family Physician
- Tania Cameron**  
Kenora, Ontario Aboriginal Sports and Wellness Council of Ontario
- Sylvia McAdam Saysewahum**  
nēhiyaw Nation, Idle No More; One House Many Nations
- Nancy Mike**  
Inuk, Pangnirtung, Nunavut, Qaujigiartiit Health Research Centre

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1:45 pm - Health Break / Icebreaker

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## DAY 2 (continued)

### FRIDAY, MAY 21, 2021

#### 2:00 pm Breakout Sessions

Geographical Representation of COVID-19 Cases  
for Indigenous  
Nations Across Canada

Victoria Grima  
University of Manitoba  
Emily Unger  
Kitatipithitamak Mithwayawin

Colby Tootosis  
Cree, Poundmaker, Saskatchewan (Freedom Rising)

Indigenous Elf on the Shelf: Indigenous Ways of  
knowing  
Mark Sweeny  
Cree, Winnipeg, Manitoba

Need a Break? Tea and Bannock: Mental Health,  
Grief Loss and Strategies for Coping

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3:15 pm **Covid-19 in the Amazon: experiences and reflections of a collective of Kichwa midwives.**  
Asociación de Mujeres Parteras Kichwas del Napo  
and Community Engaged-Learning, University of  
Manitoba

**Ganawendamaw – A First Nations Led, Community Based Pandemic Response Strategy**

Pam Grenier  
Dora Simmons  
Candace Linklater  
Steve Berens  
Mike Gibson  
Helene Estrada  
(Southeast Resource Development Council Corp.  
– Health Services)

**Health Sovereignty and Food Sovereignty in the time of COVID- 19: Sharing Community Perspectives –**

Dr. Asfia Gulrukh Kamal  
River Johnson  
(University College of the North);  
Northern Manitoba Food Culture and  
Community Collaborative

**The Mamawi Project: Emergent Technologies as Waterways to the Métis Homeland**

Lindsay DuPré, Métis University of Toronto  
Lucy Fowler, Métis University of Saskatchewan

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#### 4:30 pm - Energy Break & Networking Event

#### 6:00 pm Implementation of the Kenanow learning model throughout all disciplines

Stella Neff, Cree, Grand Rapids, Manitoba (University College of the North Council of Elders)  
Community Engaged Research Strategies and Best Practices in the Virtual World – Integral Ecology Group and  
Kitatipithitamak Mithwayawin)

**Rural Communities in the Dominican Republic during COVID-19: Disablement and Resistance**

Jessica Vorstermans  
(York University)  
Estaban Polanco

**Manito Aki Inaakonigaawin – History and Implementation**

George Kakeway  
(Wauzhushk Onigum);  
Somia Sadiq (Narratives Inc.)

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#### 8:00 pm - Beeding

Joseph Roan-Hatsumomo

# AGENDA AT A GLANCE

## DAY 3 SATURDAY, MAY 22, 2021

9:30 am	Registration and Networking	10:15 am	Senator Mary Jane McCallum
9:45 am	Honour Song West Coast Drum	<b>Lessons Learned from COVID-19 through a First Nations Lens: Why Western Science is Not Enough</b> Cree, Barren Lands First Nation, Manitoba, Senate of Canada	
10:00 am	<b>Welcome Remarks and Recap</b> <b>Dr. Ramona Neckoway</b> Ithineew, University College of the North  Dr. Myrle Ballard Anishinaabe, University of Manitoba		
11:30 am	<b>Global Indigenous Experiences Panel</b>  <b>Keshab Thapa</b> Bagale Thapa clan of the Kshatriya caste, Nepal  <b>Onel Masardule</b> Guna Yala territory of Panama <b>Alejandro Argumedo</b> Quechua Peru Director of the Association ANDES		
12:30 pm	<b>Storytelling</b> Isaac Murdoch Ojibway, Serpent River, First Nation, Storyteller and Traditional Knowledge Holder  <b>Louis Bird</b> Omushkego First Nation, Peawanuck, Ontario Storyteller and Traditional Knowledge Holder	1:45 pm	<b>Virtual Engagement: Relationship building, safe, authentic and culturally appropriate practices</b>  <b>Tina Miller</b> Patient Partner Patient Voices Network  <b>Hélène Campbell</b> Patient Partner, Health Standards Organization  <b>Cathy Almost</b> Engagement Leader, BC Patient Safety & Quality Council
		1:45 pm	<b>Okihtcitawak Patrol Group</b> Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada  <b>Ka-apachihtaaniwan Creating Togetherness when we are apart</b> Laura Forsythe University of Manitoba  <b>Post-COVID Horizons: Income-Transfers, Indigenous Poverty and Meaningful Occupations</b> Julio Lucchesi Moreas Université de Saint Boniface



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## DAY3 (continued)

### SATURDAY, MAY 22, 2021

**3:00 pm**    **Pushing Back Against Systemic Racism in Health Care: Culturally Informed Responses at Alternative Isolation Accommodations.”**

FNHSSM's Turtle Team

**3:00 pm**    **Lessons from Kahkakiw: Covid, and Risk Communications**

**Our place, our home, our vision –**

Jessica Savoy

Matthew Morin

(Aboriginal Life In Vancouver Enhancement Society)

**Caretaking Mental Health and Wellbeing**

Deanna Ledoux, FN Child Advocate & Intergenerational Trauma Specialist

Muskeg Lake Cree Nation

**Pushing Back Against Racism: Culturally Informed Responses at Alternative Isolation Accommodations in Winnipeg**

Ashlyn Haglund

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**4:15 pm**  
**Closing Remarks and Wrap up**





# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



## DAY 1 SPEAKER - Dr. Jennifer Denetdale

Jennifer Nez Denetdale is a citizen of the Navajo Nation. She is professor of American Studies and a historian. She is the author of *Reclaiming Dine' History: The Legacies of Navajo Chief Manuelito and Juanita* (University of Arizona Press), two Navajo histories for young adults and numerous articles and essays. She is the chair of the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission.



## DAY 2 SPEAKER - Dr. Rawiri Taonui

Dr Rawiri Taonui is a semi-retired independent academic writer. Dr Taonui was the first Professor of Indigenous Studies in New Zealand. He was a Professor of Māori and Indigenous Studies and Head of the School of Māori Art, Knowledge and Education at Massey University and the Head of the School of Māori & Indigenous Studies at the University of Canterbury. Rawiri is a well-known political commentator and writer. He has written and delivered over 750 features, columns, articles, documentaries and conference presentations and won nine writing awards. Rawiri has presented papers at the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (New York) and the UN Experts Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (Geneva) and was co-editor of *Conversations About Indigenous Rights: The UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People and Aotearoa New Zealand* (2017) evaluating the 10th Anniversary of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Dr Taonui has been one of the principal Māori commentators and writers on the Covid-19 Pandemic in New Zealand. He is the

Principal Advisor to the National Iwi Leaders Chairs Forum Pandemic Response Group (covering the main 76 tribal groups), an Advisor to the Office of the Kingitanga and Ngā Marae Tōpū (this includes the leadership of 65 traditional communities in the Waikato-Tainui area) and an Advisor to Te Kahu o Taonui (the tribal collective representing the seven main tribes in Northland).



## DAY 3 SPEAKER -Senator Mary Jane McCallum

### TOPIC

**“Lessons Learned from COVID-19 through a First Nations Lens: Why Western Science is Not Enough”**

Mary Jane McCallum is a Cree woman from the Barren Lands First Nation in Brochet, Manitoba. Her husband, Ron Phillips, is a professor at Nipissing University and her two daughters, Courtenay and Keeley Phillips, are both lawyers, one working in Saskatchewan and the other in British Columbia. In 2016, Mary Jane reunited with her son, Jonathan, whom she gave up for adoption in 1975. In the re-connection to her son and his family, Mary Jane is learning the importance of stepping softly, choosing her words carefully, and respecting their sacred space. Mary Jane uses their sacred reconnection as an example of reconciliation. She wishes to thank Jonathan's family, especially his mother and father, for

being parents who loved, kept him safe and prepared him for his journey on earth.

Mary Jane started her career in the dental field as a dental assistant in 1973. Mary Jane then received her dental nursing diploma in 1977, dental therapy diploma in 1979, and her dental degree from the University of Manitoba's Faculty of Dentistry in 1990.

Mary Jane spent most of the past forty-eight years providing dental services and treatment to First Nations in Manitoba as a dental nurse, dental therapist and dentist. From 1996-2000, she worked as the Regional Dental Officer for the province of Manitoba. In 2000, she worked as an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Dentistry at the University of Manitoba. Yet, her passion always remained working with Indigenous people in the community-based setting. After nearly five decades in the dental field, Mary Jane has recently retired from dentistry.

Mary Jane went to the Guy Hill Residential School in Manitoba from 1957-1968. Mary Jane continues to present to school children, university students, academics, and communities about residential school. She believes that Canada must never forget the genocide of their Original Peoples and that lateral and vertical violence against Indigenous Peoples still exists today; a result of sustained governmental policies.

On Dec. 2, 2017, Mary Jane was appointed to the Senate of Canada as a representative of the province of Manitoba. She assumed this mantle with reconciliation top of mind, recognizing its importance for Canada if we are to be recognized as human rights leaders. Mary Jane supports the ongoing resistance, resurgence and rebirth of Indigenous sovereignty. In recognizing and reclaiming our own autonomy, she believes that Indigenous Peoples are well on our journey towards reclaiming our spirit and power. As one Elder had told her: “Our children and grandchildren will climb on our shoulders as we did with our ancestors.”

# SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

THURSDAY, MAY 20, 2021

TIME	LOCATION	KEYNOTE	DESCRIPTION
10:00 am	Floor 1 -  KEYNOTE	Dr. Jennifer Denetdale	Dr. Jennifer Nez Denetdale is a citizen of the Navajo Nation. She is professor of American Studies and a historian. She is the author of Reclaiming Diné History: The Legacies of Navajo Chief Manuelito and Juanita (University of Arizona Press), two Navajo histories for young adults and numerous articles and essays. She is the chair of the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission. Her presentation is on Indigenous Gender Politics of Care in the Time of COVID

TIME	LOCATION	SESSION TITLE	DESCRIPTION
11:30 am	Floor 2	Indigenous birth helpers supporting Indigenous families through the pandemic	This presentation will provide an overview of the Indigenous Birth Helper projects that each presenter is leading, the Indigenous Healthy Lifestyle Trajectory Initiative (iHELTi) Research Project coordination at the regional and community level, and the Restoring the Sacred Bond project. The presenters will share how they have addressed the challenges and strengthened their programs and services, including advocacy, connecting, supporting traditional knowledge and ceremonies, and addressing social isolation of mothers.
	Floor 3	Indigenous birth helpers supporting Indigenous families through the pandemic	In this session, we will share experiences and collectively explore how communities in different parts of the world have built resilience in the face of the multiple impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic (on health, food security, housing, community cohesion, etc.), and the grassroots alternatives that have emerged during that time through a series of stories shared by community representatives
	Floor 4	A folklore of River Teesta worshipped by Indigenous tribe Lepcha	Join an interactive storytelling session led by Minket Lepcha as she shares community stories of River Teesta and Mountain Khanchendzonga. She takes the listeners through these mountains and rivers and helps connect with the forest inside the listener's mind and share local traditional knowledge with future generations.

TIME	LOCATION	SESSION TITLE	DESCRIPTION
1:00 pm	Floor 1  Panel	National Panel	Join Dr Barry Lavallee, Dr. Ojistoh Horn and Dr. Nel Wieman discuss the complexities of the pandemic and provide insight on policy, health inequalities, and Indigenous Peoples' health.

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## THURSDAY, MAY 20, 2021 (continued)

TIME	LOCATION	SESSION TITLE	DESCRIPTION
2:15 pm	Floor 4	FARHA Panel	This session will highlight the unique circumstances of fly-in Indigenous communities during COVID-19 as well as some of the proactive emergency planning and other responses these communities and Arrows Regional Health Authority (FARHA) have achieved over the last 15 months. The Four . (FARHA) is governed by the four Island Lake Anishininew Nations, and was created to help improve health outcomes in northern Manitoba. These Nations include Garden Hill, Red Sucker Lake, St Theresa Point and Wasagamack. These same communities were the intended recipients of the highly controversial body-bag responses by the government during the past H1N1 pandemic.
	Floor 5	Gender, Violence and COVID	Surging rates of gender-based violence is one of the least addressed fallouts from this pandemic, as well as those from the past. This panel will talk about the ways in which this pandemic has intensified the violence being experienced by women in many countries, with a focus on Indigenous women and LGBTQ2S people. This panel will also discuss ways in which people and communities can (and for some, are) acknowledging, raising awareness, and addressing these issues.
		Tribes on the Edge Film and Discussion	Join Director of Tribes on the Edge, Céline Cousteau for a discussion and Q and A , as she explores the timely topics of land threats, health crises, and human rights issues of Indigenous Peoples in the Vale do Jarari Indigenous territory in Brazil, expanding the view to how this is relevant to our world.

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TIME	LOCATION	SESSION TITLE	DESCRIPTION
3:30 pm	Floor 1	The Muskrat Hut Sustainable Hub Project/ The land should lead us: Acknowledging community viability to practice Indigenous health sovereignty in northern Manitoba	The WHO considers shelter as an essential determinate of health. Even so, many Indigenous communities in Canada suffer from housing insecurity. This paper panel will use the Muskrat Hut case study to show how a community-led project about housing and sanitation can be integrated to traditional Indigenous knowledge, sustainability and social justice.
	Floor 2	Talking about Water Through Art	Join Betty Carpick, a Cree and European artist for a discussion and hands on art workshop, where Betty will discuss how they've used community engaged art to inspire people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds to share place, creativity, skill development, traditional and scientific knowledge, camaraderie, and storytelling. Given the considerations for physical distancing, the digital divide, and accessibility to materials, the presentation will offer creative and practical solutions for exploration and engagement.  Betty's personal and community-engaged artwork is about raising awareness and appreciation of our waters and the interconnectivity of the biosphere by looking at social, cultural, and environmental issues in both serious and playful ways.

## THURSDAY, MAY 20, 2021 (continued)

LOCATION	SESSION TITLE	DESCRIPTION
Floor 3	Psychosocial assessments	Through a combination of stories and a visual presentation, this two-part panel will include; 1. An introduction to psychological assessment and their application in demonstrating trauma that may have been caused by projects, initiatives, policies, plans, and practices. 2. Outline areas where such assessments could be of benefit to communities and organizations, and consider how psychosocial assessment can incorporate trauma-informed practices will be shared.
Floor 4	Developing an Indigenous virtual care clinic	This panel will discuss some of the benefits and challenges associated with setting up clinics and providing services virtually. Discussion will include how to facilitate in-person care when required and the future of virtual care post-pandemic.

TIME	LOCATION	SESSION TITLE	DESCRIPTION
4:45 pm		COVID-19 Anxiety in the age of the Anthropocene: research creation	We invite attendees to join this discussion panel of artists, educators, curriculum specialists, and researchers in art and design education to speak to our activities as artists, educators, curriculum specialists, and researchers in art and design education in times of COVID-19. Discussion will include a look at anthropogenic and pandemic/epidemic and potentially post-colonial literature under-represented in art education and some “fictional” practices.
		Studying in challenging times: Reflections on the COVID-19 pandemic by Indigenous students at the University College of the North	This presentation will draw from selected works by University College of the North (UCN) Indigenous student writers published in the special issue to explore some of their coping mechanisms to cope with the new normal occasioned by COVID-19. Their coping mechanism have the unique elements that sets them apart from other students facing similar difficulties around the world.
		Kis Kin Ha Ma Ki Win: Land based learning	Kis Kin Ha Ma Ki Win: Learning Science through Land will be presenting on the importance of land-based education, especially during Covid-19. The presentation will discuss how communities are transitioning from classroom learning to land learning, how we can help, how working with researchers and students from the University of Manitoba can help mitigate environmental degradation caused by industry, and what types of resources are being developed to help your community run a successful land-based education program.

## FRIDAY, MAY 21, 2021

TIME	LOCATION	KEYNOTE	DESCRIPTION
10:00 am	Floor 1  Keynote	Dr. Rawiri Taonui	Dr. Taonui's presentation will be on Pandemic Lessons from Aotearoa – Racism is the Real Virus. Dr. Taonui is an independent writer, researcher and advisor on Maori and Indigenous human rights and racism, having published over 700 articles, and has won 9 writing awards. He represented Massey University at the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in 2017 and previously at the UN Experts Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in 2015. Previously a Professor of Maori and Indigenous Studies and Head of the School of Maori Art, Knowledge and Education (Massey University); first Professor of Indigenous Studies in New Zealand (AUT University); Head of the School of Māori & Indigenous Studies (Canterbury University); and a lecturer in Pacific Studies, Māori Studies and History (Auckland University). Dr. Taonui taught the first Western Science & Indigenous Knowledge course in New Zealand in 1993 and developed the first undergraduate and postgraduate Māori & Indigenous Studies. In his role as a senior Indigenous staff member he has made on-going contributions to the strategic plans of Auckland, Canterbury and Massey University and contributed to promotions policies concerning Indigenous Māori staff at Canterbury and Massey.

TIME	LOCATION	SESSION TITLE	DESCRIPTION
11:00 am	Floor 2	Introduction to surveys with the COVID-19 Indigenous app University College of the North	In this interactive workshop participant will be introduced to and engage with the phone app, "Covid-19 Indigenous," developed as part of the Kitatipithitamak Mithwayawin project. The project was created in response to the current pandemic by an indigenous-led team of researchers from the University of Manitoba and Occidental College in Los Angeles, the app allows First Nations Health Directors to collect real-time data from their communities by distributing multi-media surveys via smart phones and/or local area networks.

TIME	LOCATION	SESSION TITLE	DESCRIPTION
11:45 am	Floor 1	On the Vaccine Front Lines	Vaccines have emerged as an important and highly effective public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet, many are also hesitant about this technology, especially with Black and Indigenous and other people of colour (BIPOC). This session will highlight some successful vaccine programmes focused on urban and on-reserve Indigenous populations, to assess some of the cultural and political dimensions of their use on the front lines in Canada, and to explore traditional Indigenous responses to Covid - in combination with or in isolation of vaccines.
	Floor 2	Industry Panel	Join the Industry panel and hear about the success and challenges in protecting Indigenous communities from hydro development, mining, and pipelines. This panel will shed light on some of the unique challenges faced by communities, and how the pandemic has altered the relationships and futures of resource development projects.



## FRIDAY, MAY 21, 2021 (continued)

<b>Floor 3</b>	Youth Panel	This panel will focus on what youth are experiencing with regards to education, leisure, mental health and wellbeing during the COVID-19 pandemic. Youth will reflect on their current situation, and what they have been engaged with since the start of the pandemic, and if now is the time to make meaningful changes to approaches to education, and community.
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TIME	LOCATION	SESSION TITLE	DESCRIPTION
12:45 pm	Floor 2	Community Experiences Panel	In this session we will highlight some of the impacts of COVID-19 but also the remarkable responses in communities, their strength, resilience, and proactive planning to effectively caretake their own wellbeing. We will also explore how governments in Canada have in many cases failed to support - and in some cases actually undermined – community responses in this time of global pandemic crisis.

TIME	LOCATION	SESSION TITLE	DESCRIPTION
2:00 pm	Floor 1	Geographical representation of COVID-19 cases for Indigenous nations across Canada	This presentation intends to highlight the challenges perceived during the collection of COVID-19 data pertaining to Indigenous Nations across Canada. The presentation will be followed by a question and answer period, where participants are encouraged to share their experiences on the subject-in-question together with the lack of critical accessibility to information on community health and wellbeing during these high-level health risk events.
	<b>Floor 2</b>	Need a break? Tea and bannock: Mental health, grief, Loss and strategies for coping	Join Colby Tootoosis, of Poundmaker Cree Nation, for a workshop session on mental health and wellbeing during the pandemic. Tootoosis will discuss some of the challenges we may have experienced over the last year, and provide strategies for coping, especially when mental health services may not be accessible.
	Floor 3	Indigenous elf on the shelf: Indigenous ways of knowing	Join this story telling session and learn about how a series of daily social media posts (December 1 -25) Elf on the shelf transformed into an Indigenous elf celebrating Cree culture by highlighting and creating illustrations through “Elfy Kamacawit” about Swampy Cree culture, history and traditional teachings from the land passed on by our elders.

TIME	LOCATION	SESSION TITLE	DESCRIPTION
3:15 pm	Floor 1	COVID-19: Experiences of reflections from a collective of Kichwa Midwives	This presentation will include the showing and discussion of a mini-documentary developed by AMUPAKIN is a community of Kichwa midwives that offers birthing and traditional Indigenous health services in the Amazon region of Napo in Ecuador in collaboration with Community Engaged-Learning, at the University of Manitoba. The focuses on three experiences where COVID-19 patients were healed with the use of traditional Kichwa medicine.

## FRIDAY, MAY 21, 2021 (continued)

<b>Floor 2</b>	Ganawendamaw – A First Nations-led, community based pandemic response strategy	In Ojibwe, Ganawendamaw means to take care of, to protect. Through stories and statistics, this panel aims to share SERDC Health Services experience with supporting 8 member First Nations to undertake Covid-19 Response efforts and to take care of and protect their communities from ongoing illness and population-level health impacts as caused by Covid-19. We will walk you through our experiences of Covid-19 and the response that led to positive outcomes for SERDC health services and our First Nations partners.
<b>Floor 3</b>	Health sovereignty and food sovereignty in the time of COVID-19: Sharing community perspectives	Join Dr. Asifa Gulrukh, Rover Jonson and Northern Manitoba Food Culture and Community Collaborative (NMFCCC) in this panel will focus on sharing stories of strength and resilience by sharing case studies from different northern Manitoba Aboriginal communities and issues they face related to health and food sovereignty.
<b>Floor 4</b>	The Mamawi project: Emergent technologies as waterways to the Métis homeland	Written by two emerging Métis scholars and collective members of The Mamawi Project, this paper presentation will explore how Indigenous concepts of relationship to place and kinship are evolving with emergent technologies. It will build on conversations about Métis nationhood by attending to the ways that Métis youth are rejecting harmful political leadership practices, and are actively reimagining and participating in new forms of education and governance.

TIME	LOCATION	SESSION TITLE	DESCRIPTION
<b>6:00 pm</b>	Floor 1	Implementation of the Kenanow learning model throughout all disciplines	Cree Elder from the Misipawistik Cree, Grand Rapids, Manitoba and Chair for the UCN Council of Elders Stella Neff will be sharing her knowledge on the Kenanow Learning Model. This model is in line with the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action with regards to Education of Indigenous students.
	<b>Floor 2</b>	Community Engaged Research Strategies and Best Practices in the Virtual World	This panel discussion will include unique perspectives from a university professor, a community researcher, stewardship and community development managers, and social science consultants on their first-hand experiences of supporting and engaging community members in research during the pandemic. The conversation will range from practical solutions for remotely engaging community members in research, to best practices, and lessons learned.
	<b>Floor 3</b>	Rural communities in the Dominican Republic during COVID-19: Disablement and resistance	In this presentation, presenters share evolving research from our participatory action project with communities of the Federacion de Campesinos Hacia el Progreso (federation of peasant farmers) based in the central mountainous region of the Dominican Republic. The project aims to uncover what the process of disablement looks like at this COVID moment in the specific communities of the FCHP and ways they are actively resisting under these conditions and caring for each other.
	<b>Floor 4</b>	Manito Aki Inaakonigaawin – History and implementation	Come join 2 George Kakeway and Somia Sadiq in their session looking at ceremony, sovereignty and Indigenous law. The presentation will include the history of Manito Aki Inakonigaawin (the Great Law) and how it is being implemented in Treaty 3, and focus on the Resource Law as it relates to protection of the Environment and the environmental assessment process.

# SATURDAY, MAY 22, 2021

TIME	LOCATION	KEYNOTE	DESCRIPTION
10:15 am	Floor 1 Keynote	Senator Mary Jane McCallum	Senator Mary Jane McCallum will be presenting on Lessons Learned from COVID-19 through a First Nations Lens: Why Western Science is Not Enough. Senator Mary Jane McCallum is a Cree woman from the Barren Lands First Nation in Brochet, MB. She started her career in the dental field in 1973, receiving her dental nursing and dental therapy diplomas, and a dental degree from the University of Manitoba. Mary Jane spent most of the past 48 years providing dental services to First Nations in MB. From 1996-2000, she worked as the Regional Dental Officer for the province of Manitoba. In 2000, she worked as an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Dentistry at the U of M. After nearly 5 decades in the dental field, Mary Jane retired from to pursue her passion; working with Indigenous communities. In 2017, Mary Jane was appointed to the Senate of Canada as a representative of the province of Manitoba. Mary Jane went to the Guy Hill Residential School in Manitoba from 1957–1968. Mary Jane continues to present to students, academics, and communities about residential school. She believes that Canada must never forget the genocide of their Original Peoples and that lateral and vertical violence against Indigenous Peoples still exists today. Mary Jane supports the ongoing resistance, resurgence and rebirth of Indigenous sovereignty. She believes that Indigenous Peoples are well on a journey towards reclaiming our spirit and power. As one Elder had told her, “Our children and grandchildren will climb on our shoulders as we did with our ancestors.

TIME	LOCATION	SESSION TITLE	DESCRIPTION
11:30 am	Floor 1	Global Indigenous Experiences Panel	The Global Indigenous Pabel will share different experiences of COVID-19 around the world. This panel will also reflect on the differences and similarities among Indigenous Peoples in different regions. Participating in this panel will be panelists representing the Bagale Thapa clan of the Kshatriya caste, Nepal, the Guna Yala territory of Panama, and the Quechua Peoples of Peru.
	Floor 2	Around the World – Community Perspectives	The COVID-19 pandemic has affected Indigenous communities around the world. Yet, little is known about the nature of these impacts or how these communities have responded, and how these responses have varied in different regions of Canada, and the world. . This session will highlight some of the similarities and differences in community experience around the world, to examine to what degree these reflect a shared colonial legacy, and to explore what might be done to better support communities in the pandemic future regardless of their location.

TIME	LOCATION	SESSION TITLE	DESCRIPTION
12:30 pm	Floor 5	Storytelling	Join two Storytellers and Traditional Knowledges Holder; Isaac Murdoch, Ojibway from Storyteller and Traditional Knowledge Holder from Serpent River, First Nation and Louis Bird, Omushkego First Nation, Peawanuck, Ontario as they share their knowledges and teachings.

## SATURDAY, MAY 22, 2021 (continued)

TIME	LOCATION	SESSION TITLE	DESCRIPTION
1:45 pm	Floor 1	Virtual Engagement: Relationship building, safe, authentic and culturally appropriate practices	Join this co-designed session as we explore lessons learned and strategies for facilitating authentic, safe, and culturally appropriate online engagement in a time that is critical for health care system to listen, learn, and collaborate with Indigenous communities as we all face multiple public health crises.
	Floor 2	Okihtcitawak Patrol Group	This session will look at the origin, role, and realities the Okihtcitawak Patrol Group. This Saskatchewan based group will share stories about how they have been adjusting during the pandemic times, their experiences in becoming our own entity, a non-profit org, and how they have been operating within Harm Reduction framework.
	Floor 3	Ka-apachihtaaniwan Creating Togetherness when we are apart	Hear from the Metis Inclusion Coordinator at the University of Manitoba in a round table discussion to exchange ideas and highlight the initiatives undertaken since March 2020, their impact on the community, and the Metis nation's role. As we approach the second year in isolation, a dialogue of ways forward and best practices within community partnerships.
	Floor 4	Post-COVID horizons: Income-transfers, Indigenous poverty and meaningful occupations	Join this paper panel presented by Julio Lucchesi, Researcher from Wa Ni Ska Tan - An Alliance of Hydro Impacted Communities, University of Saint Boniface as he shares and reflects on Community and Emergency Preparedness Planning; Food Security and Sovereignty; Community Resourcefulness and Governance.

TIME	LOCATION	SESSION TITLE	DESCRIPTION
3:00 pm	Floor 1	Pushing Back Against Systemic racism: Culturally informed responses at Alternative Isolation Accommodations in Winnipeg (Turtle Team)	First Nations Health & Social Secretariat of Manitoba's (FNHSSM) Turtle Team will share their experiences of working with community members at isolation sites for those that have been displaced by evacuation orders and Covid outbreaks. Their mandate is to create culturally informed responses and programs within the Shared Health and Red Cross managed settings, supplying everything essential beyond healthcare. The work daily to push back on harmful policies and misperceptions that undermine healing, and provide culturally relevant health and wellbeing services to community members in isolation.
	Floor 2	Lessons from Kahkakiw: Covid, and Risk Communications	Kahkakiw the Cree Raven has taught viewers about social distancing, the sickness, and ways to cope during the pandemic through short videos on social media. Learn from some of the behind the scenes developers of the Kahkakiw videos about the importance of Indigenous language and culturally relevant messaging around health, wellbeing and risk communications.
	Floor 3	Our place, our home, our vision	Join Jessica Savoy and Matthew Morin from Aboriginal Life In Vancouver Enhancement Society in their discussion on Urban Indigenous Self Governance. This session will take a look at their project as it focuses on gaining real action and support from the federal and provincial and municipal governments to work with us to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), Bill 41 (British Columbia's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples), Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls - 231 Calls for Justice, and the 94 Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, in a meaningful and impactful way.



# EXHIBITORS

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Kis Kin Ha Ma Ki Win

Narratives

Surveys w the Covid-19 Indigenous App

University College of the North

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Wa Ni Ska Tan





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# SPECIAL THANKS

The Planning Committee would like to thank all the Keynote Speakers; Panel Discussion members; Concurrent Session Participants; and Proposal submitted presenters to the 2021 Kana Wain Dida Conference. We would also like to thank our Exhibitors and our Sponsors for attending as well!

Without their contribution, this conference would not have been possible

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