

# First Nations Data Champion Advisory Committee

2024

Mariette Sutherland, Executive Project Lead  
Ontario Data Champion Team





## Elder Vera Pawis-Tabobodung

Senator Vera is a proud Anishinaabe woman from the Wasaukaing First Nation – an Ojibway, Odawa, and a Pottawatomi First Nation, located on Parry Island in Georgian Bay. She first began her life work as the Executive Director for the Parry Sound Indian Friendship Centre and has served in many prominent roles within the Friendship Centre Movement (FCM).

Senator Vera is a past President of the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC), past President of the NAFC, has served her First Nation community as a Councillor and has participated on numerous boards and committees locally, provincially, and nationally. Not only is Senator Vera one of our Matriarchs in the Friendship Centre Movement (FCM), she has been involved with the FCM for over forty years and remains one of the FCM's most vocal and passionate advocates.

She is a beloved and cherished member of the NAFC Senate, loving sister, Mother, Kokomis, and Great Grandmother.





# Grand Chief Abram Benedict



Abram Benedict is a lifetime resident of Kawehno:ke (Cornwall Island) and is now serving his second term as Grand Chief. During his first term, Abram lead a dynamic 12 member Council that focused on building stronger relationships, creating new opportunities, and raising the positive profile of his community. Grand Chief Benedict and his Council brought to a conclusion two large land claims worth over \$284 million.

He has previously served three terms as District Chief of Kawhno:ke. Within that capacity, he served as Portfolio Chairman for social services and housing and was Portfolio Co-Chair for education.

Before Grand Chief Abram's terms on Council, his work experience was in the private business sector and attended Algonquin College. Grand Chief Benedict also served as a volunteer board member as the Aboriginal Representative to the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies (OACAS) board which is a member-based agency representing the 47 CAS's in Ontario, which include the 9 Aboriginal Agencies. Abram also sits as Governor for St. Lawrence College Board and the Cornwall Community Hospital.



# Larry Sault

Larry Sault is currently the VP of CESO Aboriginal Services and Chairman on the National Task Force on Access to Capital for First Nations. He is also the President and CEO of Anwaatin Inc., an Indigenous business working with First Nation Climate Change initiatives. Larry is also a board member of Quality Urban Environmental Systems of Tomorrow (QUEST) and an Indigenous member of Independent Electricity Systems Operator (IESO) Market Renewal Program. He also currently serves as Senior VP of Native American Division at the First American Trust Corporation with a specific focus on financial investment services to National Indian Gaming Tribes across America.

Larry is a former Chief of Mississaugas of the Credits and served several terms as elected Councillor with a particular focus on infrastructure and business development, wealth creation, Treaty Relations, Nation Rebuilding, and Land and Water claims.

Larry has also served as both Deputy Grand Chief and Grand Chief of the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians and has served on several Nation Chiefs Committee's on behalf of Chiefs of Ontario.





## Dr. Jennifer Walker

Jennifer Walker is a Haudenosaunee member of Six Nations of the Grand River with a Ph.D. in Community Health Services (Epidemiology) from the University of Calgary. She is an Associate Professor at McMaster University in the Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence, & Impact.

Dr. Walker's work focuses largely on First Nation community-engaged health research using large health services databases through her work as a Core Scientist and Indigenous Health Lead at ICES in Ontario through the Health Data Research Network Canada.

Dr. Walker has an active research community-engaged research program in aging and dementia. She is the co-lead of the Canadian Consortium on Neurodegeneration and Aging's (CCNA) Team 18 – Issues in Dementia Care for Indigenous Populations and the lead for the Indigenous Cognitive Health Program. She has also completed the validation of the Canadian Indigenous Cognitive Assessment tool and is working on the implementation of the tool in Anishinaabe communities across Northern Ontario.





## Dr. Emily Faries

Dr. Emily Jane Faries is a member of the Moose Cree First Nation. Her education background includes four university degrees, the final one being a Ph.D. from the University of Toronto in 1991. She started her professional journey as a teacher in her own community over forty years ago.



Dr. Faries has taken lead roles in many First Nations initiatives including Nishnawbe Aski Nation's negotiator of two agreements in the education jurisdiction and a framework agreement in governance, curriculum validator for Cree School Board's Indigenous history curriculum, researcher in numerous community-based studies, and is currently Muskegowuk Council's education advisor.

She was awarded a National Achievement Award in 1998 for her education success and contribution to her people. Dr. Faries was an Indigenous Studies professor at Laurentian University of Sudbury for 24 years and just retired in 2019. In March 2020, she was awarded with the title of Professor Emeritus.



## Dr. Christopher Mushquash

Dr. Mushquash is a Canadian Research Chair in Indigenous Mental Health and Addiction, Professor in the Department of Psychology at Lakehead University and the Division of Human Sciences at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, and the Director of the Centre for Rural and Northern Health Research at Lakehead University.

He is a registered clinical psychologist providing assessment, intervention, and consultation services for First Nations children, adolescents, and adults at Dilico Anishinabek Family Care.

Dr. Mushquash is Ojibway and a member of the Pays Plat First Nation.





## Dr. Michael Schull

Dr. Michael Schull was born in Montreal and raised in Quebec until 16 year old, when he moved to Ontario. He achieved his MD at Queen's University in 1988 and has since obtained an M.Sc. in Epidemiology and Biostatistics at McGill University and a FRCPC of Emergency Medicine at the University of Toronto. He currently works as an emergency medicine doctor in Toronto, a researcher and the CEO at ICES, and is a professor at University of Toronto.



Dr. Schull's research focuses on health service utilization, quality of care, and patient outcomes as they relate to emergency care. He is currently working with other researchers and health systemic decision-makers to better integrate healthcare between hospital and community providers.

He is of mixed French-Canadian/Irish/American/German heritage. He is married with 3 kids and has been an empty nester since 2021.





## Dr. Darrel Manitowabi

Darrel Manitowabi is an Associate professor in the Human Sciences Division at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM), where he is the inaugural Associated Medical Services Hannah Research Chair in the History of Indigenous Health and Traditional Medicine.

He is the former Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies and Director of Indigenous Affairs at NOSM, as well as, the former associate professor at Laurentian University, where he served as Director of the School of Northern and Community Studies, Director of the School of Indigenous Relations and Chair of the Department of Indigenous Studies at the University of Sudbury.

While Director of Indigenous Affairs, he led community engagement with the medical school and Indigenous communities in Northern Ontario and coordinated a gathering of Indigenous communities at NOSM in 2018.

He is a citizen of Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory on Manitoulin Island and currently resides in Whitefish River First Nation. He is an applied, medical, and Indigenous anthropologist with research interests in Nishnaabe ethnohistory and Indigenous gambling, Indigenous social determinants of health, Indigenous healing, Indigenous-state relations, and Indigenous self-determination.





# Chief Shelly Moore-Frappier

Chief Shelly Moore-Frappier has been a Chief of the Temagami First Nation for two and a half year. She worked at Laurentian University for five years, in various positions as the Interim Associate VP Academic Indigenous Programs. Previous to that, she was the Director of Indigenous Sharing and Learning Centre.

Her previous work included working for seven years with the Sudbury Catholic District School Board, as a secondary Teacher and Aboriginal Education Program Lead.

She also worked for fourteen years as a Counselor and Coordinator for Laurentian University.





# Gary Allen

Gary Allen has been with Grand Council Treaty #3 since 2015 and ran for four terms as Chief of Nigioonsiminikaaning (Red Gut) First Nation, beginning in 2004.

He is currently a board member of the Chiefs of Ontario.

He previously was the Executive Director of Grand Council Treaty #3 and is currently the Chief Executive Officer of Treaty #3 Investment Group.

