

# THE NATIVE COURTWORKER

AND COUNSELLING ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



A HELPING HAND TO JUSTICE



CELEBRATING  
**50**  
YEARS

For 50 years the NCCABC has helped Indigenous people navigate the criminal justice system in BC, as well as providing the many support services needed to help build a healthier and more satisfying life free from alcohol, drugs and violence, for both themselves, their families and their communities.

**A HELPING HAND TO JUSTICE**

1973 - 2023





# A HELPING HAND TO JUSTICE

The Native Courtworker and Counselling Association of British Columbia provides culturally-appropriate services to Indigenous people and communities consistent with their needs. Our services are accomplished by assisting persons involved in the criminal justice system; providing access to counselling and referral services for clients with substance abuse and detox support issues; providing advocate services for Indigenous family and youth. Our dedicated employees are responsible to the needs of the community by providing quality, innovative and educational options where people are treated with dignity and respect.





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### TIMELINE

**1973  
2023**

**50 years of change** by embracing our unique and diverse cultural backgrounds, values, and perspectives is critical in developing our workplace and our communities where everyone feels heard and respected.



**CELEBRATING**  
**50**  
**YEARS**

**A HELPING HAND TO JUSTICE**  
**1973-2023**

**1970**

1970 - The Vancouver Indian Friendship Centre, Indian Homemaker's Association, Union of BC Indian Chiefs, BC Association of Non-Status Indians, North American Indian Brotherhood, and the John Howard Society, met to start a Courtworker program.

**1970**



1971 - Alfred Scow, is the first Indigenous person to graduate from a BC law school, the first Indigenous lawyer called to the BC bar and appointed to the BC Provincial Court.

# 50 YEARS STRONG | Honouring our past, embracing our future

**Darryl Shackelly**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This year marks a significant milestone in the journey of the Native Courtworker and Counselling Association of British Columbia as we celebrate our organization's 50th anniversary. I am both deeply humbled and incredibly honoured to stand with you as the newly appointed Executive Director, entrusted to lead this remarkable organization into the future.

As we reflect on the past five decades, we are reminded of the dedicated individuals who have tirelessly worked to uplift Indigenous communities and ensure that justice is accessible, fair, and culturally sensitive. The NCCABC's legacy is one of resilience, compassion, and a commitment to positive change. Our organization has been a steadfast advocate for Indigenous

rights, a source of support for those navigating the justice system, and a beacon of hope for countless individuals and families.

The significance of this anniversary cannot be overstated. It is a testament to the strength of our collective spirit, the power of collaboration, and the unwavering resilience and dedication of our team. It is a reminder that even in the face of challenges and adversity, our shared purpose drives us forward.

As we look to the future, my vision for the NCCABC is rooted in building upon our strong foundation. We will continue to provide culturally appropriate services that empower Indigenous individuals to navigate the complexities of the legal system. We will amplify our advocacy efforts to address systemic issues and work towards a more just and equitable society. And we will foster partnerships

*I am committed to leading with respect, integrity, and a deep understanding of the unique needs and strengths of Indigenous communities..*



**1970**

July 26, 1973 the Native Courtworker and Counselling Association of British Columbia is officially incorporated.







*Political organizations in the 1970's allowed for the rise of Aboriginal activism on a national scale, uniting indigenous communities across Canada*

**1973**  
**2023**



**1973**

1973 *Calder Case* recognized for the first time that Aboriginal title has a place in Canadian law.

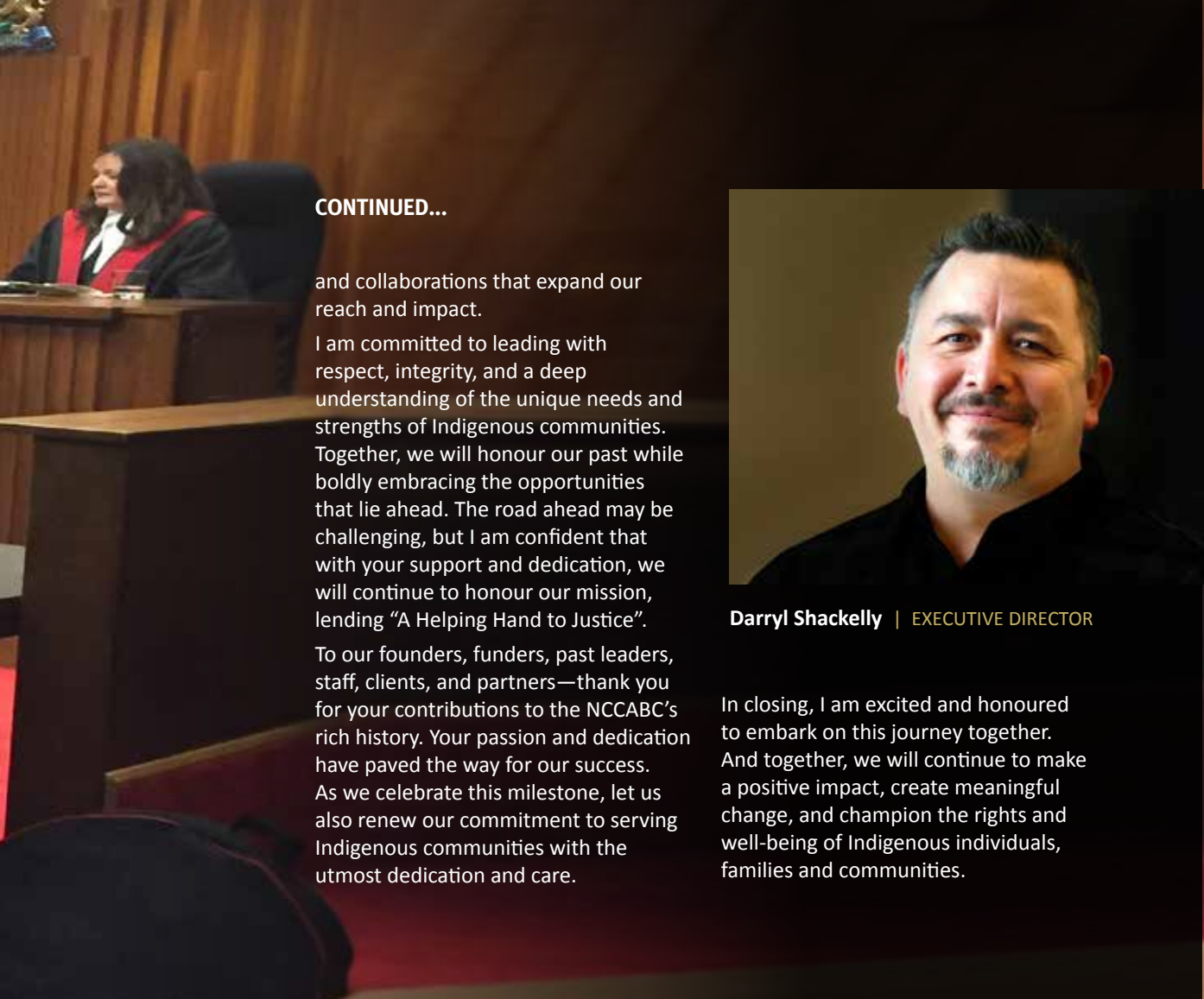
**1974**

1974 - Start of the NCCABC Vancouver Alcohol and Drug Program.

**1977**

1977 - Start of the Prison Liaison Worker Program to assist Indigenous inmates in the transition to community.





**CONTINUED...**

and collaborations that expand our reach and impact.

I am committed to leading with respect, integrity, and a deep understanding of the unique needs and strengths of Indigenous communities. Together, we will honour our past while boldly embracing the opportunities that lie ahead. The road ahead may be challenging, but I am confident that with your support and dedication, we will continue to honour our mission, lending “A Helping Hand to Justice”.

To our founders, funders, past leaders, staff, clients, and partners—thank you for your contributions to the NCCABC’s rich history. Your passion and dedication have paved the way for our success. As we celebrate this milestone, let us also renew our commitment to serving Indigenous communities with the utmost dedication and care.



**Darryl Shackelly** | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In closing, I am excited and honoured to embark on this journey together. And together, we will continue to make a positive impact, create meaningful change, and champion the rights and well-being of Indigenous individuals, families and communities.

**CLIENT TESTIMONIAL**

My Hul’q’umi’num’ name is Susa’lie, my English name is Sadie.

I went through the Native Court system when I was in trouble for drinking and driving in 2018/2019.

I have been sober since June 2019.

I am grateful for the ‘alternative’ to the ‘main stream’ system. Having to go in front of elders, for me, was more personable. The Elders that were there for me are respected members of the community and being disciplined by an elder had more of an impact, personally. I am also grateful and appreciate



the blanket wrapping ceremony at the end. I still have my blanket and will treasure it.

It was also helpful to have the assistance and guidance from Mabel.

*I am grateful for the ‘alternative’ to the ‘main stream’ system*



**1982**

1982 Aboriginal and treaty rights are recognized and affirmed by the Constitution Act, in section 35(1), which states “The existing aboriginal and treaty rights of the aboriginal peoples of Canada are hereby recognized and affirmed. Queen Elizabeth II signed the Canada Act on April 17, 1982.

**1984**

1984 - The Young Offenders Act (YOA) is adopted from the former Juvenile Delinquents Act (JDA) of 1908. The YOA gave youth the same rights as adults but shielded them from the influence of the adult corrections system.

**1985**

1985 Amendments to the Indian Act - Bill C-31. Those who had lost status through marriage were reinstated as Status Indians and as band members.

# AN INSIDE LOOK | Our journey of justice through change



## Darlene Shackelly

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR / RETIRED

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate the Native Courtworker and Counselling Association of British Columbia (NCCABC) as they celebrate their 50th year anniversary.

### Founding and Early Years:

Since its formation in 1973, the NCCABC has become highly recognized for its dedication to advocate for justice for Indigenous peoples throughout BC. The Association was established in response to the need for culturally appropriate support and guidance for Indigenous individuals who were interacting with the Canadian justice system. In the early 1970s' several Indigenous organizations in Vancouver met as they were concerned about the systemic injustices faced by Indigenous peoples within the legal system. Discrimination, lack of cultural under-

standing, and communication barriers often hindered fair treatment for Indigenous individuals.

### 1970s-1980s:

During its early years, the NCCABC focused on building relationships with Indigenous communities across British Columbia. Native Courtworkers acted as advocates, accompanying Indigenous clients to court, and helping them navigate the legal processes. The organization's efforts were aimed at improving communication between Indigenous individuals and the justice system, providing cultural insights to legal professionals, and ultimately promoting better outcomes for Indigenous defendants and victims.

### 1975s-2000s:

As the NCCABC gained recognition for its valuable work, its services expanded to include counselling and support beyond the legal context. The association recognized the importance of

addressing the broader mental health and social needs of Indigenous people. This expansion led to the incorporation of counselling services, which aimed to provide culturally sensitive mental health and addiction support to individuals and families.

### Cultural Advocacy and Community Engagement:

Throughout its history the organization has actively worked to bridge the gap between traditional Indigenous practices and the western legal system. This has involved educating legal professionals, judges, and law enforcement about the cultural nuances and historical context that affect Indigenous interactions with the justice system.

Challenges and Achievements: The NCCABC has faced numerous challenges throughout its history, including restricted funding, the impact of covid-19, and changing government

I am very proud to have worked for NCCABC since 1982 and I am confident the Association will continue to play a significant role advocating for Indigenous people.



# 1973 2023

## 1990

1990 - NCCABC hosted a Provincial Native Child Welfare Symposium in Vancouver. The objective was for First Nations to take control of our children's welfare.

## 1990



1990 - While sitting as opposition member in the Manitoba Legislature, Elijah Harper blocked the Canadian constitutional amendment known as the Meech Lake Accord..

## 1990

1990 – The Supreme Court of Canada rules on a landmark case that reaffirms First Nations' constitutional right to fish for food for social and ceremonial purposes. Ronald Sparrow, of the Musqueam First Nation was charged while fishing in the Fraser River.





Justice Institute of BC training event, 1998

priorities. Despite these challenges, the association has achieved significant milestones. It has helped shape the discourse around Indigenous justice, raised awareness about systemic issues, and contributed to positive changes within the legal system.

I am very proud to have worked for the NCCABC since 1982 and I am confident the Association will continue to play a significant role advocating for Indigenous people.

Finally, I would like to thank the employees. To those who have come and gone to other careers; to those who continue to work tirelessly for the Association; and to those who have volunteered their time to serve on the Board of Directors; to all levels of government who recognized and financially supported the valuable work of the Native Courtworker and Counselling Association of British Columbia. It has been a pleasure working with all of you.



Squamish Nation Head Office



Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Award



NCCA formed & meets with Premier Dave Barrett



BCFNJC Honouring Ceremony



## 1990



1990 – Donald Marshall, a Mi'kmaq from Nova Scotia receives an apology from the Nova Scotia government after spending 11 years in prison for a crime he did not commit.

## 1991

1991 - Aboriginal Justice Inquiry, (Chief Justice Alvin Hamilton and Judge Murray Sinclair) suggest that "Aboriginal Canadians must have their own police forces and courts if they are to have any chance of fair treatment."

# A LEGACY OF SERVICE | Inspiring our path moving forward

*Congratulations NCCABC,  
on your 50th anniversary.  
Your journey is a source of  
inspiration, and your impact  
is immeasurable.*



**Hugh Braker, KC**

President, NCCABC Board of Directors

I am honoured and delighted to extend my warmest congratulations to the Native Courtworkers and Counselling Association of BC on reaching a remarkable milestone - 50 years of unwavering dedication and exceptional service to our community.

Throughout the five decades of your impactful journey, NCCABC has been a beacon of hope, support, and advocacy for those in need. Your tireless commitment to walking alongside individuals during their most challenging times is a testament to the profound difference you have

made in countless lives.

As the President of the Board, I have had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the transformative work that NCCABC has undertaken. From providing vital assistance within the justice system to offering essential counselling services, your organization has consistently stood by individuals, families, and communities, guiding them towards brighter horizons.

This significant anniversary is not only a celebration of the past but also a testament to the promising future that lies ahead. Your dedication to cultural understanding, compassion, and collaboration sets a standard for excellence that we can all aspire to.

On behalf of the entire Board and in recognition of the invaluable contributions of our dedicated staff, volunteers, and supporters, I extend my heartfelt gratitude. Your commitment has paved the way for a stronger, more inclusive society.

As we commemorate this remarkable achievement, let us reflect on the lives you've touched, the challenges you've overcome, and the positive change you've ignited. May your legacy of service continue to inspire us all to work towards a better tomorrow.

**1973  
2023**

**1991**

1991 The Aboriginal Justice Strategy was created (originally called the Aboriginal Justice Initiative), to support a range of community-based justice initiatives such as diversion programs, community participation in the sentencing of offenders, and mediation and arbitration mechanisms for civil disputes.

**1991**

1991 The Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP) was established with the aim of investigating the relationship between Indigenous peoples in Canada, the Government of Canada, and Canadian society as a whole.





**Chief Stewart Jackson** | BOARD MEMBER / LOWER NICOLA INDIAN BAND

*I'm very honoured and privileged to be a member of the board of directors of the NCCABC. I'm very proud to see the continued work and success of this organization is providing all our people all across BC. With the continued efforts of our team, our administration and our Board of Directors, I can only hope that we can continue the hard work of advocating and representing our people when they are in need of our services.*



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Terry La Liberte, KC



Chief Stewart Jackson



Shannon Wright



Michael Ochoa



Mary Brown



Marie Watmough



Chief John Powell



Jacob Caouette



Faith Tait



Connie Greyeyes



Cecilia Teneese



Joan Charleyboy

### 1995

1995 – NCCABC and The Justice Institute of BC start the Aboriginal Sex Offender Retraimer Program.

### 1995



1995 - Parliament passed Bill C-41, a bill amending the **Criminal Code** with respect to sentencing. The new law came into force in 1996 and contained **Criminal Code** intended to ameliorate high rates of incarceration of Indigenous people.

### 1996

1996 - the last federally-run facility, Gordon's Residential School in Punnichy, Saskatchewan, closed. The first one opened in the 1840's.

# HAND IN HAND | helping navigate the challenges of addiction



*Together, we will continue to create a safe space where healing can take place, where lives can be transformed, and where hope can flourish*



## Rae Alcock

PROGRAM MANAGER, INDIGENOUS OUTPATIENT  
ADDICTION COUNSELLING & DETOX SUPPORT  
REGIONAL MANAGER, LOWER MAINLAND COURT SERVICES

As we come together to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Native Courtworker and Counselling Association of British Columbia, I am filled with a sense of gratitude and pride. It is an honour to be a part of this organization and to witness the profound impact we have had on the lives of Indigenous individuals and communities over the past five decades.

In my role as the Program Manager of Indigenous Outpatient Addiction Counselling and Detox Support & Regional Manager, Lower Mainland Court Services, I have had the privilege of working with individuals who are on a journey of healing, recovery, and self-discovery. Our centre's

commitment to culturally sensitive and holistic support has allowed us to walk hand in hand with our clients as they navigate the challenges of addiction and strive for a better future.

As we reflect on our history, let us remember the stories of resilience, courage, and transformation that have unfolded within these walls. Each success, no matter how small, is a testament to the power of community, compassion, and the unwavering belief in the potential of every individual we serve.

Our journey has not been without its challenges, but it is through these challenges that we have grown stronger and more determined in our mission. We have adapted, evolved, and learned from each experience, always striving to improve and refine our services to meet the ever-changing needs of our community.

# 1973 2023

## 1996

1996 - Federal government declared June 21st as National Aboriginal Day.

## 1997

1997 – Supreme Court of Canada ruled that claims to traditional lands had to show exclusive occupation of the territory by a defined Aboriginal society. The court ruled that oral histories of Aboriginal peoples were to be accepted as evidence proving historic use and occupation.

## 1998

1998 - 25th year of NCCABC was celebrated. NCCABC hosted the National Courtwork Directors Meeting of Indigenous Courtwork Programs in Kelowna, BC.



## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

*Native Courtworkers is good. They have been around for years. It's great to acknowledge they have been around and I can refer others or access support from Indigenous staff who understand and support my needs.*



*Native Courtworkers has been nothing but helpful and giving. Counsellors are great and knowledgeable. I'm 2 1/2 years sober and Melissa my counsellor is part of that.*

*I enjoy in person group. The hands on learning and the in-person personal teaching. I enjoy community learning and sharing and knowing I'm not alone.*

*The program I like is in person group and mindfulness group we have on Tuesday. It is so mind altering and this is great. I makes me feel and look at my own self being and growth and awareness. Keep up the great work.*

As we look to the future, I am excited about the possibilities that lie ahead. Our commitment to providing culturally relevant and effective addiction counseling and detox support remains steadfast. We will continue to stand alongside our participants as they take courageous steps towards healing and reclaiming their lives.

To all the dedicated staff, partners, and supporters who have contributed to our centre's success—thank you. Your passion, dedication, and tireless efforts have shaped our centre into the beacon of hope that it is today. The work we do is a collective endeavour, and it is through our

collaboration that we can truly make a difference.

In celebration of this milestone, let us renew our commitment to the values that have guided us for 50 years: respect, compassion, and a deep understanding of the unique journeys of Indigenous individuals. Together, we will continue to create a safe space where healing can take place, where lives can be transformed, and where hope can flourish.

Happy 50th anniversary to the Native Courtworker and Counselling Association of British Columbia. May our future be as bright and inspiring as our past.





**1999**

The Tripartite Working Group (TWG) was established by Federal-Provincial-Territorial (FPT) Deputy Ministers (DMs) Responsible for Justice, as a forum to address program and operational issues of the Indigenous Courtwork program

**1999**

1999 - Decision of the Supreme Court of Canada – The decision provided the first interpretation of s. 718.2(e) of the Criminal Code. This section was elaborated upon by the Supreme Court of Canada in the 1999 decision of R.v.Gladue



**1973  
2023**

**1999**

1999 – The Aboriginal Justice Implementation Commission is established to develop an action plan to improve aboriginal justice as recommended by the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry.

**1999**

1999 – NCCABC development of the first “A Safer Place” booklet on Violence Against Women.

**2000**

2000 - NCCABC withdrew, due to federal government policy, its direct service to family court due to government policy on cost-shared agreement.

**2001**

2001 – NCCABC employees showed their support by participating in the Terry Fox Run to find a cure for cancer.







Trainers event



Changing Directions



Board of Director Strategic Planning, Cranbrook, BC



Congratulations to NCCA's longest serving Courtworkers Flora Raynes (1991) and Boyd Gallic (1984)



Blanketing of Judge Linda Thomas



Strategic planning session



Carol-Ann Nickel

National Courtwork training session

## 2001

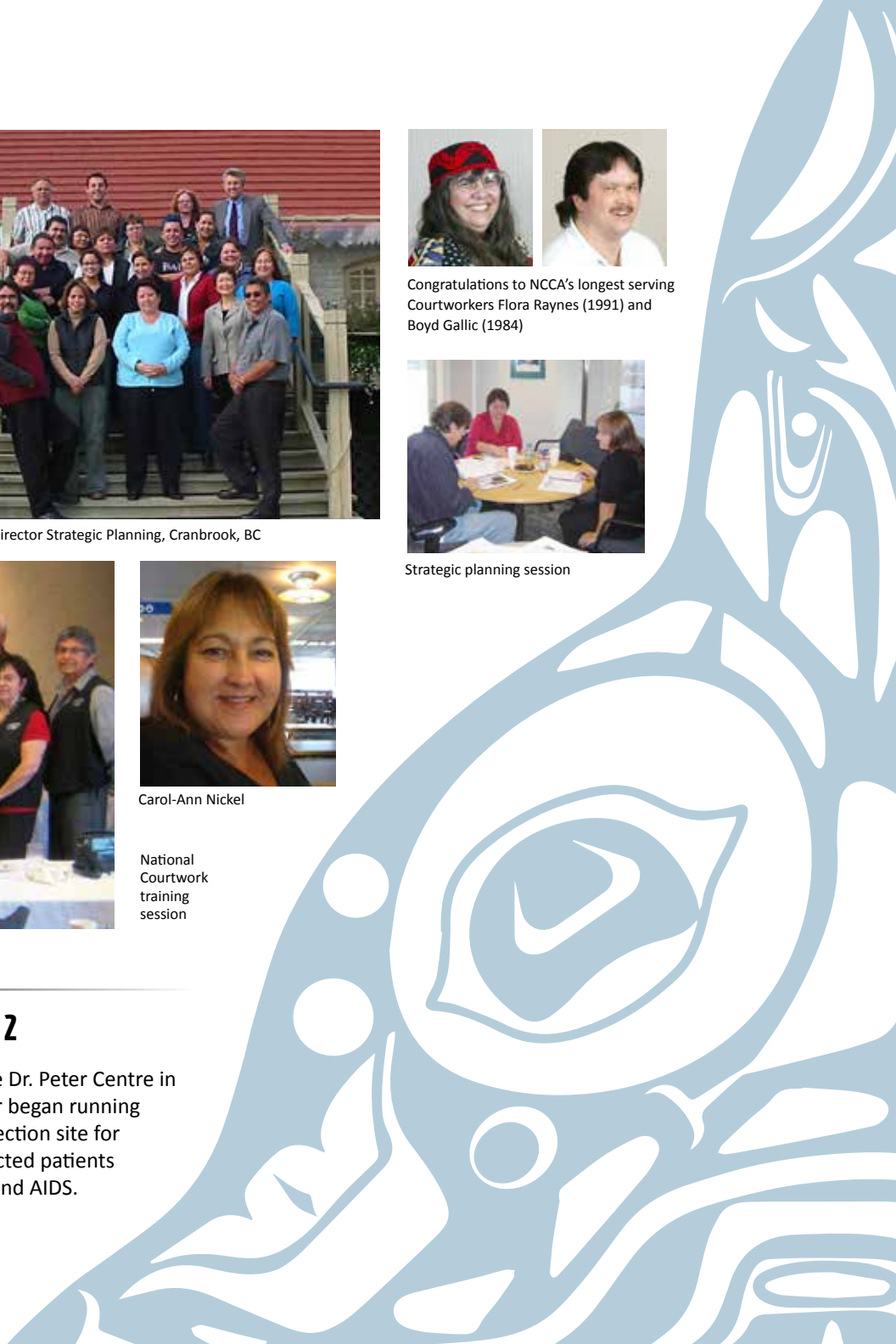
2001 – Start of the Native Courtworker Youth Court at the Robson Street Courthouse.

## 2002

2002 - Closures of community law offices and legal information program due to funding cuts by the Province of BC.

## 2002

2002 - The Dr. Peter Centre in Vancouver began running a safe-injection site for drug-addicted patients with HIV and AIDS.



# CONGRATULATIONS



*“ I am incredibly proud to be part of an organization that truly makes a difference”*



## Robert Clydesdale

NATIVE COURTWORKER

I've been with the Association for eight years now, starting in 2015. This job is more than just work; it's about making meaningful connections every day. We bridge the gap between courts, the judiciary, and the indigenous community with passion and understanding. Growing up in various communities across the province, I've built relationships with judges, lawyers, and courthouse staff beyond the professional sphere. These relationships are about connecting with real people.

The positive impact we have on the people we serve is self-rewarding. Making a difference for someone else is what drives us. Recently, a young man recognized me on the street and shouted, 'There's the guy that saved my life.' Those moments define our purpose.

The 50th anniversary of this association speaks to the incredible value Native Courtworkers bring to the community. We create a sense of calm and understanding in courtrooms, appreciated even by crown prosecutors who see the difference we make. I'm proud to be part of an organization that truly makes a difference.”

**1973  
2023**

**2002**

2002 - A police raid on the farm of Robert Pickton turns up evidence of missing women. Since 1984 at least 50 women had vanished from the streets of Vancouver, many of them Indigenous women.



**2003**

2003 - The First Nations Summit passed a resolution asking NCCABC to provide report on Aboriginal people in BC and Canada who in the last 50 years have been shot or had died in police custody as a result of police action or inaction.

**2003**

The Youth Criminal Justice Act replaced the Young Offenders Act “to stop overuse of incarceration, minor cases not belonging in court, unfair sentencing, insufficient reintegration and a lack of consideration for victim’s rights.”





**Azalea Milwid** | Former Courtworker, Campbell River

*“Being a Native Court worker was an honor. In court, I provided support to lost individuals seeking help. As a First Nation person, my presence offered them safety and comfort in a confusing system.”*



*Your remarkable contributions have made a positive impact on countless lives. Well done to all past and present staff and board members.*



**Jen Thomas**

Chief Tsleil-Wauthuth Nation, Former Courtworker

During my time as a court worker, I realized the crucial lifeline we provided to our clients, offering vital support in a complex system. One of our members reached out daily, highlighting the importance of our role.

Now, as Chief, I recognize the significance of Native Courtworkers in connecting communities. This connection isn't limited to our immediate community; it extends to the downtown east side, the entire province, and beyond. I regularly refer individuals to native court workers for assistance, even aiding someone with court matters in another city.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Native Courtworkers and Counselling Association of BC on 50 years of dedicated service.



**Andrew Van Eden**

Community Safety Manager at Tsleil-Wauthuth Nation

*“Congratulations to the Native Courtworkers and Counselling Association of BC for 50 years of dedicated service to British Columbia and its Indigenous communities. Your work is deeply appreciated. Keep up the good work!”*



**2004**

2004 - NCCABC received the Employee Gold Award from the United Way of the Lower Mainland for its outstanding contribution to the community.

**2004**

2004 - NCCABC developed an interactive CD showing Circle Sentencing processes used for Aboriginal Restorative Justice Programs in BC

**2004**

2004 – NCCABC established a new Aboriginal Detox Support Program in Vancouver to assist clients in carrying out their aftercare recovery plans.



**NATIVE COURTWORKER**  
AND COUNSELLING ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

**2005**

2005 - The NCCABC Logo and Name is copyrighted and protected through the Canadian Trade-Marks office registry.



# 2005

**2005**

2005 - the Native Courtworker program was designated under s.802.1 of the Criminal Code.

**2006**

2006 – The Solicitor General Ministry of BC orders a full public inquiry into the death of Frank Paul

**2007**

2007 – The Union of BC Indian Chiefs passes UBCIC Resolution, which endorses and supports the implementation of the BC First Nations Justice Action Plan.

**2008**

2008 - June 11, Prime Minister Stephen Harper officially apologizes for more than a century of abuse and cultural loss involving residential schools

**2008**

2008 - The new Vancouver Downtown Community Court opens. NCCABC hires a worker to work directly from this court.



**2008**

2008 – The creation of “Trust Your Instincts” a safety guide for women who work and travel alone.

**1973  
2023**







Graduation day: Justice Institute of BC



Courtworker conference, Ottawa



A&D counselling team



AIDS Walk Vancouver



Mel Morgan 29 years with NCCA



Community event downtown and NCCABC's Sun Run team!



Les Taylor

## 2008

2008 – NCCABC hosts a provincial conference in Nanaimo, BC, on “Problem-Solving Courts and Communities Working Together”.

## 2009

2009 – NCCABC receives Premier’s Award, Lower Mainland Region Cross-Government Integration Category for Vancouver Community Court.

## 2009

2009 – NCCABC hosts 2 National Training seminar for participants from all Indigenous Courtworker Programs across Canada



# CONGRATULATIONS



## Larissa Rutquist

Indigenous Courtwork Program Policy Implementation Directorate Department of Justice Canada

**M**y name is Larissa Rutquist, and I manage the National Indigenous Court Work Program with Justice Canada. My connection with the NCC ABC began years ago when I met Darlene in 2016, working on MOUs to bridge justice workers and court workers.

I absolutely love what I do through organizations like the NCC ABC. It's crucial to meet people where they are and provide the service the court

workers offer. They recognized a gap and filled it 50 years ago, paving the way for positive change.

Observing Robert Clydesdale in court was eye-opening. His professionalism, ability to connect with everyone involved, and the impact he had on the courtroom was remarkable. It made me realize the need for more court workers like him across the country.

Congratulations on 50 years of service! You've made a significant impact on the process, families, victims, and the community. Thank you for your incredible work.

*"Congratulations on 50 years of service! You've made a significant impact on the process, families, victims, and the community. Thank you for your incredible work."*



**1973  
2023**

**2012**

2012 - Youth Justice and Strategic Initiatives - Changing Direction in Support of Aboriginal Youth in Nanaimo and Williams Lake.



**2012**

2012 - NCCABC receives funding to support Aboriginal Restorative Justice Collaboration.

**2013**

2013 – NCCABC develops the Social Justice Policy Platform and Strategic plan which includes a commitment to create a BC Aboriginal Justice Council.





**Stephanie Dulude**

Regional Director, Indigenous Services Canada

*“The program’s dedication to building partnerships for holistic support stood out to me, influencing both the criminal justice system and policy development.”*



**Jack Kruger**

Former Courtworker

The Indigenous Courtwork Program stands as one of the best organizations ever developed, with a remarkable existence span. It’s about giving Native individuals an opportunity to navigate the system without despair, and that’s crucial. The court workers offer hope and often all that’s needed.

We’ve left an indelible mark on history and the legal system, becoming indispensable. I joined in 1974, retired in 2015. It’s a remarkable organization.

I relished moments like convincing judges to opt for probation over jail time. We triumphed in unexpected ways, guiding clients to trust us and paving the way for a brighter future. We’ve come a long way and now hold authority, combining our cultural wisdom with legal effectiveness. The organization is extraordinary, instilling pride in our impact and the proud Indigenous individuals we’ve empowered.

**Karen Osachoff**

Legal counsel - Nova Corp, Former Courtworker

*The significance of NCCABC is immense, especially in the courtroom. Our presence provides a trusted connection for our people, enabling us to assist them in navigating the justice process. We’re not only their voice, but also their relatable representation in the court.*



**2014**

2014 – Through an Aboriginal Lens: Training professionals to address fetal alcohol spectrum in aboriginal youth, Department of Justice Canada, Youth Justice Fund



**2014**

2014 -The *Tsilhqot’in* case further clarified the requirements for establishing Aboriginal title. Several court cases, including those involving the “Nuu-chah-nulth in BC had already been launched over these issues. The duty to consult was affirmed by the Supreme Court and is in the UN Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples.







**1973  
2023**

**2015-2017**

2014 -2017 Through An Aboriginal Lens Program, in partnership with the Asante Centre, creates an awareness and understanding of the intersection of an FASD diagnosis with justice involvement among Indigenous youth. The program worked with youth who have been referred to the Asante Centre for a FASD assessment by youth probation officers in the Lower Mainland.



**2015-2021**

2015-2021 – Four Women’s Right to Be Safe guides are created





Nanaimo: Problem-Solving Courts and Communities Working Together



Blanketing ceremony, Jody Wilson-Raybould



Ken Watts, NCCABC president



Henry Hall and Jaden Shackelly



Arthur Paul, Jenny Kwan, MP and Darlene Shackelly

Courtworker training event

## 2015

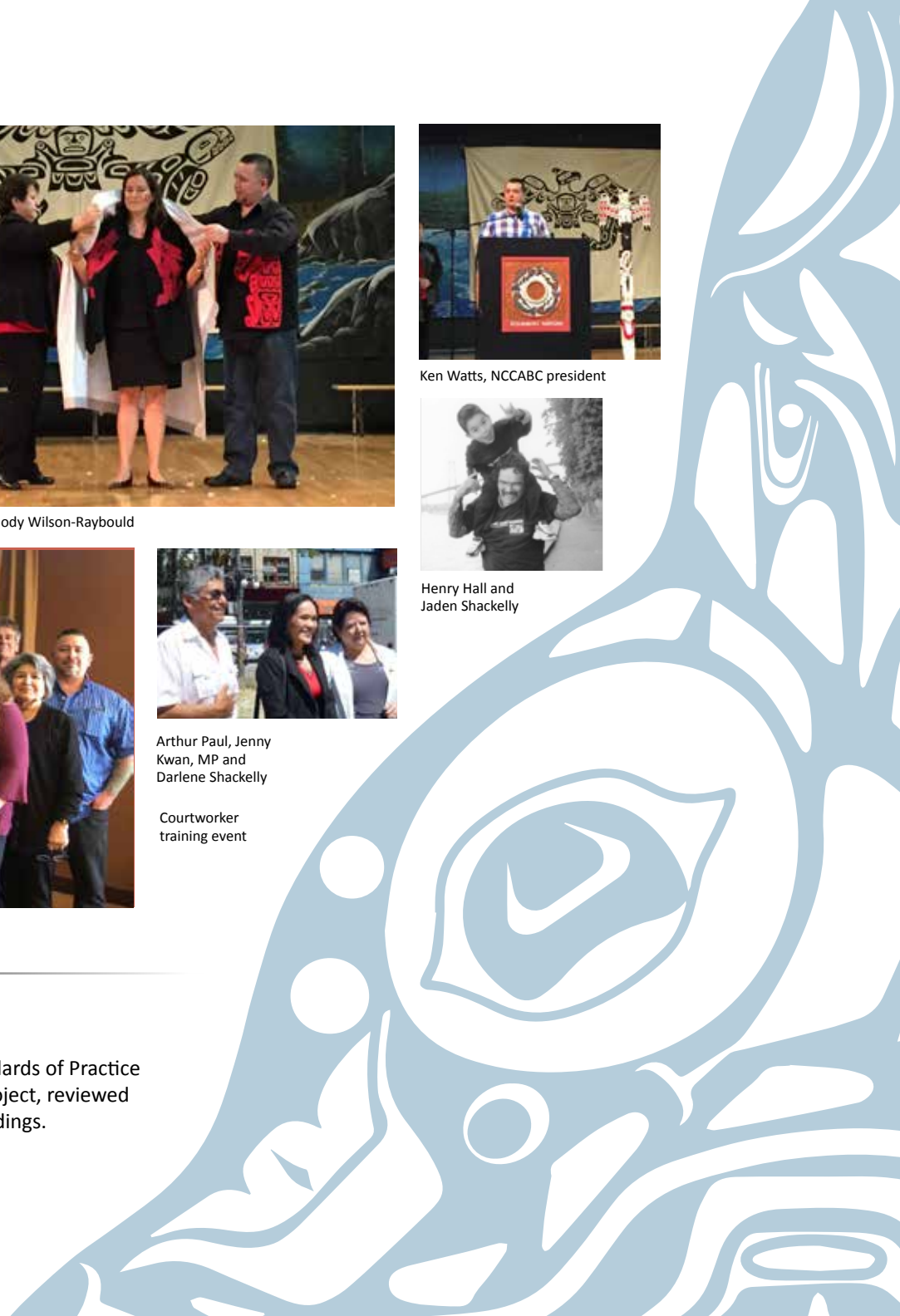
2015 – The BC Aboriginal Justice Council had its first meetings as a technical group.

## 2015

2015 - the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada released its entire 6-volume final report.

## 2017

2017 - Standards of Practice Initiative project, reviewed IPPI Hub findings.



## NIKI SHARMA

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

As the NCCABC marks this significant milestone, I'd like to thank all your staff, both past and present, for all the important work that you have been doing across the province over the past 50 years. For five decades now, the NCCABC has been providing fair, just, equitable and culturally sensitive treatment

for Indigenous Peoples before the courts, while also working to ensure their clients understand the criminal justice process at the earliest possible stage. The work of the NCCABC aligns with our government's commitment to working with Indigenous Peoples to change the trajectory of history and to improve the outcomes for Indigenous Peoples involved in the justice system. On behalf of the Province and everyone in B.C., thank you for all your hard work and dedication, and congratulations on your 50th anniversary."



Niki Sharma,  
Attorney General



## Chastity Davis-Alphonse

MANAGER OF INDIGENOUS SERVICES

"I am proud to have been able to support the important, impactful, and critical work that the NCCABC does along side our Indigenous communities in BC for over a decade in my role as consultant. The multigenerational, negative, and cumulative impacts that colonialism has had on Indigenous Peoples, families, and communities are too many to list, however, we see some of the greatest impacts when it comes to Indigenous Peoples in the justice system. The Indigenous-lead, culturally relevant, wrap-around support services that NCCABC has provided for 5 decades is unprecedented and continues to uplift Indigenous Peoples, families, and communities across this province and country. Congratulations to NCCABC on their 50th anniversary of operation!"



## Larissa Maxwell

CEO MAXWELL CONSULTING GROUP

"NCCABC has had a life changing impact on many lives both in their work, and in how they journey in and lead reconciliation alongside allies and community partners. Their services are available, compassionate, and heart connected, and we know it's always a safe place to refer someone who needs it. We applaud the Indigenous-led, ethical approaches they are developing to end human trafficking, support communities and families impacted by MMIWG2S+, and address gender based violence in communities. We celebrate the transformative impact they have had across BC over the last 50 years."



# 1973 2023

## 2018

2018 - "Moving the National Strategic Plan Forward".

## 2018

2018 – NCCABC "Celebrating 45 Years – Serving and Caring for Our Community" guide.



## 2018

2018 - The Indigenous Incarcerated Parents to Reintegration Initiative provides a culturally appropriate and effective avenue to support Indigenous parents who are incarcerated in Federal correctional institutions in British Columbia as they prepare for reintegration.





**Kim Van Der Woerd, PHD**  
RECIPROCAL CONSULTING GROUP

“Our team at Reciprocal Consulting Inc hold our hands up to NCCABC for your unwavering commitment to justice and equity, and improving the lives of hundreds of thousands of Indigenous people in your 50 years of service. NCCABC and your phenomenal teams have continued to go above and beyond to create a strong vision and leadership within justice and safety, having a profound impact in Indigenous lives, Indigenous communities, and policy at the provincial and national level. Heartfelt congratulations from our team to yours!”

**ixkʷasʷalala xis ma’yudtʷmxdamus**  
**Happy 50th Birthday NCCABC!**



**Ryaea Bailey**  
MANAGER OF INDIGENOUS SERVICES

My name is Ryaea Bailey, and I have had the privilege of working with NCCABC in a variety of different capacities along my professional journey. The work conducted by NCCABC is invaluable. This significance stems from your unwavering support during individuals’ most challenging life moments, walking beside them through the process.

Everyone in the justice field knows what you bring to the table in that regard. I’ve never had a Native Courtworker say no I can’t help you with that. The helping hand concept really makes sense, it rings true. There is so much important work that you do.



## JODY WILSON-RAYBOULD

*I wish to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Native Courtworker and Counselling Association of British Columbia on your 50 years of service.*

*Your ongoing commitment and dedication to your work—of helping to transform the criminal justice system—has made and will continue to make an important difference in the lives of Indigenous people.*

*Gilakas’la for your helping hand to justice.*



### 2019

2019 - BC became the first Canadian jurisdiction to incorporate the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples into law.

### 2019

2019 -The Out of Court Community Support Services Initiative is a crime reduction and community safety effort for Indigenous persons accused of a crime.

### 2019

2019 - Community Action Initiative Surrey – Indigenous mental health and addiction counsellor, Ministry of Mental Health and Addiction.



### 2019

2019 - The Final Report on “Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls” released final report titled “Reclaiming Power and Place.”





**2020**

2020 - Indigenous Resilience and Adaptability: National Indigenous Courtwork Program Response to COVID-19” project, Department of Justice.

**2020**

June 21, 2021, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act received Royal Assent and came into force.

**2021**

2021 - Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary May Simon was sworn in on July 26, 2021, as Canada’s first Indigenous governor general, making her the first Indigenous person to hold Canada’s viceregal position.



**1973  
2023**

**2021**

2021 - Possible 200 unmarked graves found on grounds of Tk’emlúps te Secwépemc (Kamloops Residential School) — at one time the largest residential school in the country. Canada recognized the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation as an annual statutory holiday.

**2022**

2022 - “Putting Indigenous Courtworkers Learnings from COVID to work: Towards Indigenous-informed and Client-Centres ‘Virtual’ Service Provision” project funded by Department of Justice.

**2022**

2022 – Honourable Michelle O’Bonsawin appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada. She is an Abenaki member of the Odanak First Nation, Québec,





3rd Annual Charity Golf: Harvest Project.



BC Cabinet & First Nations Leaders' Gathering



Visit to the Aquarium



Terry Fox Run for Cancer, 2001

David Faubert, Manager, Southern Interior with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at Tsilhqot'in territory, personally exonerating chiefs hanged during Chilcotin War

## 2023

2022 - Indigenous-led to End Human Trafficking in BC – Department of Women and Gender Equality

## 2022

2022 - Training Justice Professionals on Gladue Principles, Ministry Attorney General Canada

## 2023

2023 - Ending Gender-based Violence Department of Women and Gender Equality

**CELEBRATING**

**YEARS**





**A HELPING  
HAND TO  
JUSTICE**





**A HELPING HAND TO JUSTICE**

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