



INDIGENOUS
COURTWORK
PROGRAM

NATIONAL GATHERING
VANCOUVER | 2026



INDIGENOUS COURTWORK PROGRAM

NATIONAL GATHERING

2022

Join us, we are gathering nationally to expand your knowledge, share best practices, and strengthen our collective impact as Indigenous Courtworkers. This conference is an opportunity to come together as a community, learn from one another, and explore new tools and strategies to support Indigenous clients navigating the justice system.

Through presentations, and meaningful dialogue, we aim to:

- Deepen understanding of culturally grounded approaches to justice
- Highlight innovative practices and successful community programs
- Foster professional development and collaboration across regions
- Celebrate the critical work being done by Courtworkers across the country

Your voice and experience are vital. We look forward to learning with you and building stronger pathways toward justice for Indigenous peoples. You will have the opportunity to meet colleagues from across Canada, make great connections and new friendships.

WELCOME EVERYONE

Welcome to everyone taking part in the National Gathering of the Indigenous Courtworkers 2026. This gathering, hosted by the Native Courtworker and Counselling Association of British Columbia, is an excellent opportunity to recognize the importance of improving access to justice for Indigenous people across the country.

Building on the work of volunteers in the 1960's, the Government of Canada piloted the Indigenous Courtwork Program in 1972, and remains committed to supporting these critical services. Multiple renewed and enhanced investments over the years have allowed us to grow and build partnerships in every province and territory where Indigenous Courtworkers support their clients, and help judges and other justice actors understand the cultural and social histories of Indigenous people before the court. Courtworkers are the bridges between Indigenous people and the Canadian justice system.

We are grateful to all the dedicated and compassionate Courtworkers who continue to be a critical part of the justice system by helping Indigenous people obtain fair, equitable and culturally appropriate treatment before the courts.

Thank you and I hope you have a wonderful gathering.



***The Honourable Sean Fraser, P.C., K.C.,**
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of
Canada and Minister responsible for the
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency*

***L'honorable Sean Fraser, C.P., c.r.**
Ministre de la Justice et procureur général du
Canada et ministre responsable de l'Agence de
promotion économique du Canada atlantique*

BIENVENUE À TOUTES LES PERSONNES

Bienvenue à toutes les personnes qui participent au Rassemblement national des conseillers parajudiciaires autochtones 2026. Cette rencontre, organisée par la Native Courtworker and Counselling Association of British Columbia, est une excellente occasion de reconnaître l'importance d'améliorer l'accès à la justice pour les peuples autochtones à travers le pays.

Dans la foulée du travail accompli par des bénévoles dans les années 1960, le gouvernement du Canada a lancé le Programme d'assistance parajudiciaire aux Autochtones en 1972 et continue de s'engager à soutenir ces services essentiels. Au fil des ans, de nombreux investissements renouvelés et améliorés nous ont permis de croître et d'établir des partenariats dans toutes les provinces et tous les territoires où le personnel parajudiciaire autochtone soutient sa clientèle et aide les juges et les autres membres du système de justice à comprendre l'histoire culturelle et sociale des peuples autochtones devant les tribunaux. Le personnel parajudiciaire sert de pont entre les peuples autochtones et le système de justice canadien.

J'exprime ma gratitude envers l'ensemble du personnel parajudiciaire qui, par son dévouement et sa compassion, continue de jouer un rôle essentiel au sein du système de justice en aidant les Autochtones à obtenir un traitement juste, équitable et adapté à leur culture devant les tribunaux. Je vous remercie et vous souhaite un excellent rassemblement.

DAY ONE AGENDA | FEBRUARY 25, 2026

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|--------------|--|
| 8AM | BREAKFAST |
| 9AM | <p>Traditional Opening: Robbie George MC Darryl Shackelly - orientations Keynote Speaker: Hugh Braker, KC (kings council)</p> |
| 10AM | BREAKOUT ONE – 5 sessions within this block |
| 10:45 | HEALTH BREAK |
| 11AM | BREAKOUT TWO – 5 sessions within this block |
| NOON | LUNCH |
| 1PM | <p>Keynote Speaker: Hon Chief Judge Gillespie Panel: Indigenous Specialized Courts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ALST (Sue McLeanan/Emily Hill) • Sto'lo (Alisha Peters) • New West (Raquel Baptiste) |
| 2PM | BREAKOUT THREE – 5 sessions within this block |
| 2:45 | HEALTH BREAK |
| 3PM | BREAKOUT FOUR – 5 sessions within this block |
| 4PM | Elder Closing |

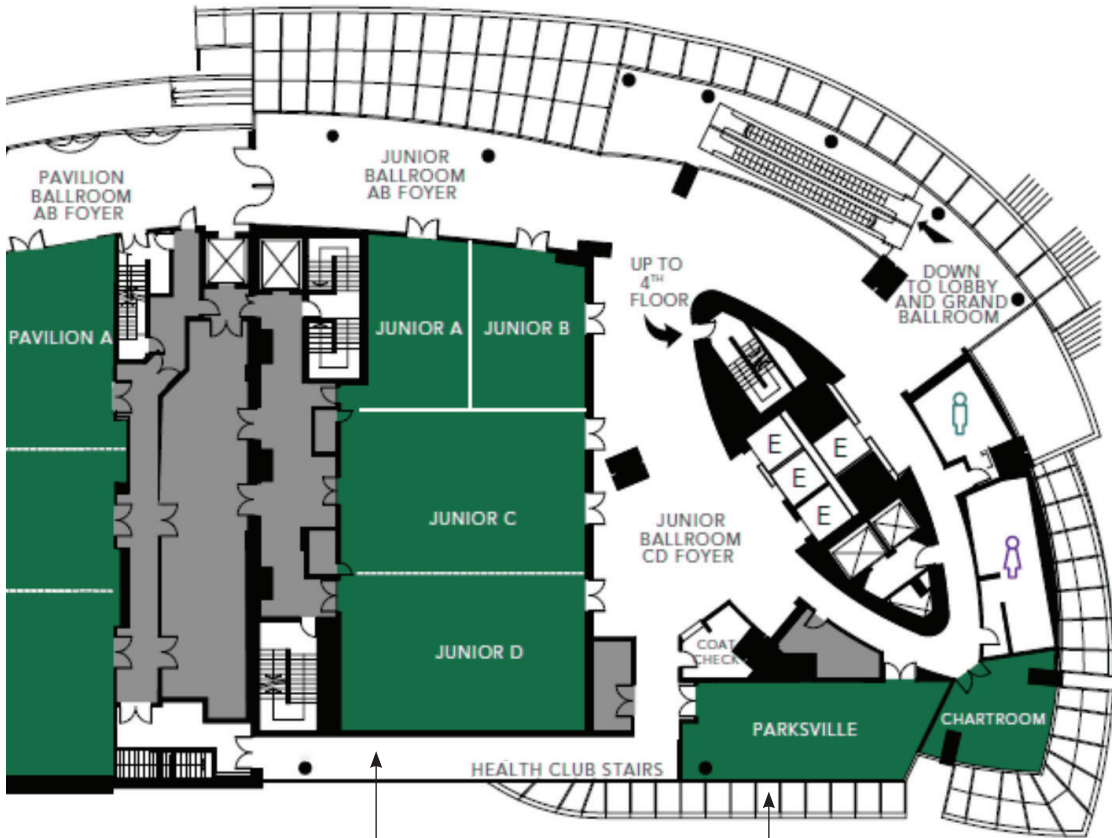
DAY TWO AGENDA | FEBRUARY 26, 2026

| 8AM | BREAKFAST |
|-------|---|
| 9AM | <p>Traditional Opening: Robbie George MC Darryl Shackelly - orientations Keynote Speaker: Chief Aaron Pete</p> |
| 10AM | BREAKOUT FIVE – 5 sessions within this block |
| 10:45 | HEALTH BREAK |
| 11AM | BREAKOUT SIX – 5 sessions within this block |
| NOON | LUNCH |
| 1PM | <p>Keynote Speaker: Hon. Chief Justice Len Marchand, <i>“Reconciliation from the Bench”</i></p> <p>Performance: GIT HAYETSK, “People of the Copper Shield”</p> |
| 2PM | BREAKOUT SEVEN – 5 sessions within this block |
| 2:45 | HEALTH BREAK |
| 3PM | BREAKOUT EIGHT – 5 sessions within this block |
| 4PM | Elder Closing |

SHERATON WALL CENTRE CONFERENCE LEVEL



Blue Whale – Wellness Room – Elder on site



Pavilion Ballrooms ABCD – Plenary ballroom
Junior A, B, C, D and Parksville – break out

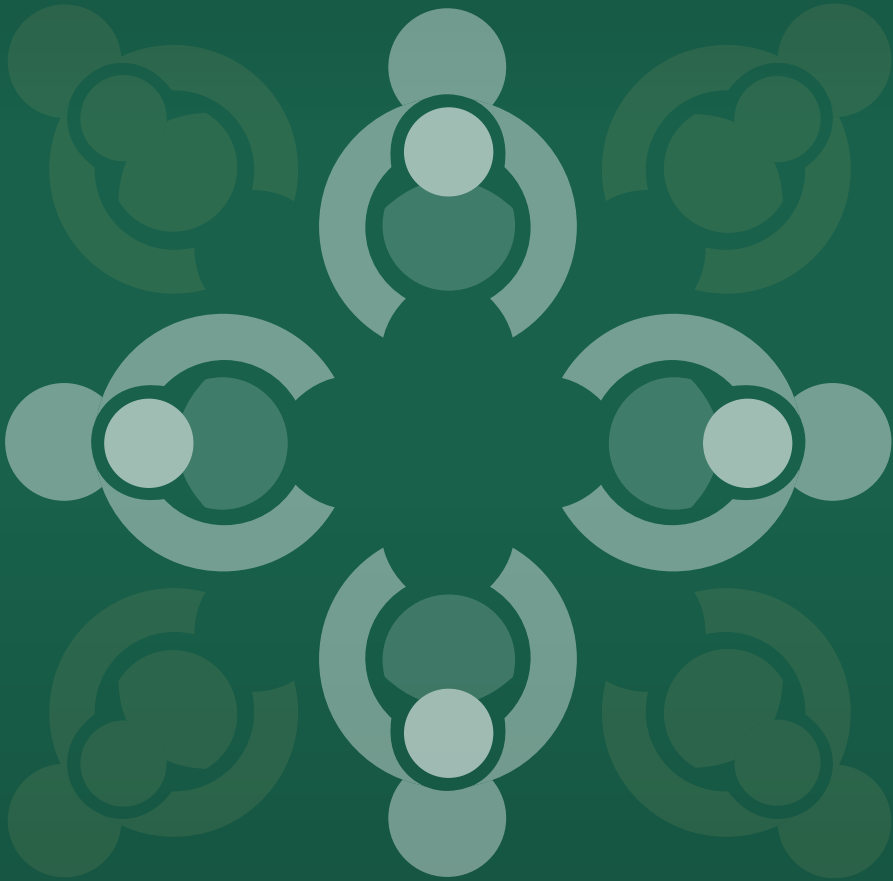
BREAKOUT SESSIONS DAY ONE | FEBRUARY 25, 2026

| BREAKOUT | ROOM | TOPIC | PRESENTER |
|----------|------------------------|---|--|
| ONE | RED – Junior A | Roundtable: Value of the Courtworker | Allan Castle, Castle Consulting |
| | BLACK – Junior B | Roundtable: Gladue impact in Canada | Darryl Shackelly, NCCABC |
| | YELLOW - Parksville | Presenter: Family Court and Bill C-92 | Danielle VanderEnde, LABC Todd McPherson, LABC |
| | WHITE – Junior C PP | Presenter: Indigenous Laws and Traditions | Mary Brown, Heiltsuk Justice |
| | COURT – Junior D | Topic: First Appearance & Court Protocol | Shane Johnson, NCCABC Robert Clydesdale, NCCABC |
| TWO | RED – Junior A | Roundtable: Value of the Courtworker | Allan Castle, Castle Consulting |
| | BLACK – Junior B | Roundtable: Gladue impact in Canada | Darryl Shackelly, NCCABC |
| | YELLOW - Parksville | Presenter: Family Court and Bill C-92 | Danielle VanderEnde, LABC Todd McPherson, LABC |
| | WHITE – Junior C PP | Presenter: Indigenous Laws and Traditions | Mary Brown, Heiltsuk Justice |
| | COURT – Junior D | Topic: First Appearance & Court Protocol | Shane Johnson, NCCABC Robert Clydesdale, NCCABC |
| THREE | RED – Junior A | Roundtable: Gaps and Solutions in the ICP | Darryl Shackelly, NCCABC |
| | BLACK – Junior B | Presenter: Land Based Healing | Michael Ochoa, OKIB |
| | YELLOW - Parksville | Presenter: Bail Reform | Andrea Hilland, BCFNJC |
| | WHITE Junior C PP | Presenter: Clarity in Policing | Angie Kermer, IAGW Consulting |
| | COURT- Junior D | Topic: Proper Adjournment Practice | Shane Johnson, NCCABC Robert Clydesdale, NCCABC |
| FOUR | RED – Junior A | Roundtable: Gaps and Solutions in the ICP | Darryl Shackelly, NCCABC |
| | BLACK – Junior B | Presenter: Land Based Healing | Michael Ochoa, OKIB |
| | YELLOW - Parksville | Presenter: Bail Reform | Andrea Hilland, BCFNJC |
| | WHITE – Junior C PP | Presenter: Clarity in Policing | Angie Kermer, IAGW Consulting |
| | COURT – Junior D | Topic: Proper Adjournment Practice | Shane Johnson, NCCABC Robert Clydesdale, NCCABC |

BREAKOUT SESSIONS DAY TWO | FEBRUARY 26, 2026

| BREAKOUT | ROOM | TOPIC | PRESENTER |
|--------------|------------------------|--|--|
| FIVE | RED – Junior A | Presenter: Land Based Healing | Michael Ochoa, OKIB |
| | BLACK – Junior B | Roundtable: Gaps and Solutions in the ICP | Darryl Shackelly, NCCABC |
| | YELLOW - Parksville | Presenter: Keeping Youth out of the System | Paula Marshall/Mona O'Brien |
| | WHITE – Junior C PP | Presenter: Indigenous Laws and Traditions | Mary Brown, Heiltsuk Justice |
| | COURT – Junior D | Topic: Negotiating with Crown | Shane Johnson, NCCABC Robert Clydesdale, NCCABC |
| SIX | RED – Junior A | Presenter: Land Based Healing | Michael Ochoa, OKIB |
| | BLACK – Junior B | Roundtable: Gaps and Solutions in the ICP | Darryl Shackelly, NCCABC |
| | YELLOW - Parksville | Presenter: Keeping Youth out of the System | Paula Marshall/Mona O'Brien |
| | WHITE – Junior C PP | Presenter: Indigenous Laws and Traditions | Mary Brown, Heiltsuk Justice |
| | COURT – Junior D | Topic: Negotiating with Crown | Shane Johnson, NCCABC Robert Clydesdale, NCCABC |
| SEVEN | RED – Junior A | Roundtable: Value of the Courtworker | Allan Castle, Castle Consulting |
| | BLACK – Junior B | Roundtable: Gladue in Canada for the ICP | Darryl Shackelly, NCCABC |
| | YELLOW - Parksville | Presenter: Family Court and Bill C-92 | Danielle VanderEnde, LABC Todd McPherson, LABC |
| | WHITE – Junior C PP | Presenter: Vicarious Trauma in the Workplace | Lynn Power, Power Counselling |
| | COURT – Junior D | Topic: Assisting with Release Plans | Shane Johnson, NCCABC Robert Clydesdale, NCCABC |
| EIGHT | RED – Junior A | Roundtable: Value of the Courtworker | Allan Castle, Castle Consulting |
| | BLACK – Junior B | Roundtable: Gladue in Canada for the ICP | Darryl Shackelly, NCCABC |
| | YELLOW - Parksville | Presenter: Family Court and Bill C-92 | Danielle VanderEnde, LABC Todd McPherson, LABC |
| | WHITE – Junior C PP | Presenter: Vicarious Trauma in the Workplace | Lynn Power, Power Counselling |
| | COURT – Junior D | Topic: Assisting with Release Plans | Shane Johnson, NCCABC Robert Clydesdale, NCCABC |

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