

## Speaker Biographies

### Chris Marchand



Chris Marchand is a member of the Okanagan Indian Band. She has been with her partner for over 40 years, and they have two children and three grand-children. She is from the Sixties Scoop experience.

Since 2007, Chris has been involved as a co-creator and adjunct Professor, presenting a Cultural Safety Program to third year Nursing students at University of British Columbia Okanagan (UBCO). Recently, she has taken on the role of adjunct professor and educator of a Cultural Safety program within Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies (FCCS) at UBCO.

Chris is an Elder in Residence at the Aboriginal Center at UBCO. For three years, she has served as an educator and has presented on Cultural Safety to teachers and administrators at school district #22 and the Trinity United Church in Vernon.

Chris credits a journey called the “Unity Ride” from 1996 to 2004 – an annual Spiritual Ceremony with horses – for her strength, wisdom, and ability to excel as an educator of Cultural Safety to varied audiences.

### Eric Mitchell



Eric Mitchell is a member of the Okanagan Indian Band with family ties to the Fountain Band near Lillooet. He has been with his life partner for over 40 years and they have two children and three grand-children together. He is a survivor of the Residential School system in Kamloops.

Since 2007, Eric has been involved as a co-creator and adjunct Professor, presenting a Cultural Safety Program to third year Nursing students at University of British Columbia Okanagan. Recently, he has taken on the role of adjunct professor and educator of a Cultural Safety program within Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies (FCCS) at UBCO.

Eric is an Elder in Residence at the Aboriginal Center at UBCO. For three years, she has served as an educator and has presented on Cultural Safety to teachers and administrators at school district #22 and the Trinity United Church in Vernon.

Eric credits a Spiritual journey called the “Unity Ride” that he and his family travelled with for bringing to life the knowledge and wisdom of his elders. This journey helped him understand the full meaning of traditional spirituality and cultural ways that were taught to him by his Elders and family.



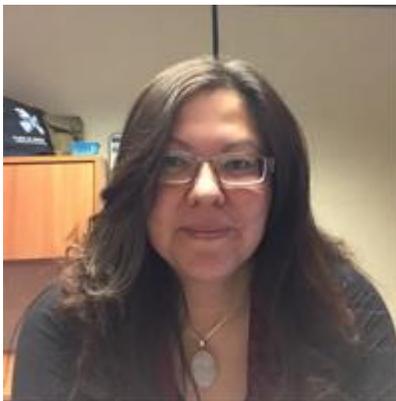
## Elder Roberta Price



Elder Roberta Price from the Snuneymuxw and Cowichan First Nations, has worked tirelessly over the past three decades to educate and raise awareness about issues affecting First Nations people in a positive, informative, and productive manner. She does this by working as a First Nations educator, sharing her traditional knowledge in schools, within the community, and with First Nations people.

Healing is something Roberta is familiar with as she recalls a very painful childhood survived in foster care. Feeling isolated and separated from her culture took a toll on her. Today, she has “risen up” and is completely devoted to being an agent of positive change. The mother of four and grandmother of eight shared for the longest time, she thought she was doing the work for her children, but now realizes it’s for her grandchildren.

## Vanessa Mitchell



Vanessa has been with Interior Health (IH) for 3.5 years and in her position as Aboriginal Lead she both manages the Aboriginal Cultural Safety program and provides support to two of the seven Nations in the Interior region. She believes that all her previous personal and professional experiences led her to this position.

Vanessa continues to provide positive leadership throughout the research, development, implementation and evaluation of the program. In this role, she has advocated for cultural safety at the highest levels of IH and continues to build relationships across portfolios to build, enhance, and maintain relevant culturally safe practice and educational opportunities.

She believes that we each have a responsibility, individually and collectively, to put our skills and knowledge to use to advocate for meaningful ways to address the immense inequities that Aboriginal people, families, communities, and Nations face in their daily lives. Vanessa strives to lead by example and in her practice, she encourages and invites those she works with to engage in critical self-reflection.



## Leslie Bryant



Leslie Bryant's (MSc, CSEP-CEP, Regional Practice Lead, Research & Indigenous Engagement, Interior Health) research interests lie in the areas of health service delivery, Indigenous health, knowledge translation and application within healthcare and research capacity building.

Ms. Bryant is working on developing key relationships with Indigenous communities and academic researchers across Canada to enable collaboration and networking opportunities. She is engaged in the measurement of KT activities, particularly the measurement of relationship building and its influence on knowledge transfer. She is a co-principle investigator currently on two CIHR-funded projects; one focused on urban Indigenous diabetes and obesity prevention and care and the other is on exploration of Many Ways of Working together with the Ktunaxa Nation for identification of Indigenous wellness.

She is also involved in research that's exploring and supporting land-based health and healing with both the Tsilhqot'in and Secwepemc Nations. Leslie is the mother of three children and has an organic farm in Sylix Nation territory in Lake Country, BC.

## Chris Macklin



A proud member of the Métis Nation of BC, Chris Macklin completed his Master of Public Health at Simon Fraser University. Chris has long been a champion for advancing cultural safety within all aspects of healthcare and recently joined Interior Health's Aboriginal Health Team in a Knowledge Facilitator role. He brings with him a breadth of expertise in areas such as quantitative/qualitative research, Indigenous community engagement, knowledge translation, program development/evaluation and the application of Indigenous research methodologies. Previously, Chris has collaborated on several diverse and community-based projects with organizations such as the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network, the CIHR Institute of Indigenous Peoples Health and the First Nations Health Authority.