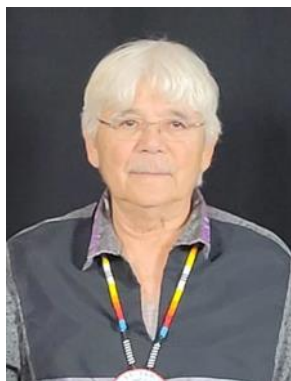




**Emcee Daniel Deleary**

Biindigegizhig, Daniel Deleary is Ojibwe, Bodewadomi, Omaawami, Anishinaabe from the Loon Clan, currently residing in Walpole Island First Nation. Engaged his entire life in Anishinaabe spiritual and cultural practices, his lifework assisting the lives of Indigenous people through the promotion of Anishinaabe ways of knowing and being. Biindigegizhig is requested throughout the Great Lakes region as a recognized cultural and spiritual practitioner. In his professional career, Biindigegizhig works as a consultant, providing his expertise supporting Indigenous Communities in project-based initiatives. Utilizing Anishinaabe approaches and pedagogy, combined with academic experience, Biindigegizhig brings a unique and innovative approach to every project. Biindigegizhig provides support in many capacities, such as project management, strategic planning, event coordination and facilitation. Since birth, Biindigegizhig has been active within the Midewiwin Lodge, where he continues his practice with his Wife and four children. In his spare time, he enjoys hunting, fishing, tanning hides, and traveling extensively every year to Pow Wows throughout North America.



**Knowledge Keeper Mark Sault, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation**

Mark Sault realized he needed to incorporate culture into his life while he was in his mid-thirties. He moved away as there was little knowledge in his community at that time. He left the community and resided in Thunder Bay for approximately 25 years. During this time, he was very active with Wisdom Holders and gained the knowledge he was searching for about his culture, traditions and what it meant to be an Anishnaabe Nini. He also received his name Migizi Gikinoo' amaagew Inin, which means "Eagle Teacher Man". Mark returned to his community of MCFN in 2014 and immediately began sharing his knowledge with family and community. Mark is passionate about the community regaining its culture and traditions. Some of the knowledge he has shared and continues to share far and wide are the teachings of the drum, the process of producing maple syrup, medicines for tea and their uses, tree identification and their uses and fall harvest.





**Chief Stacey LaForme, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation**

Chief Stacey LaForme is the elected Chief of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation (MNCFN). Born and raised on MNCFN, Chief Laforme has served his community for over twenty years, being first elected to council in 1999. He is very active throughout MNCFN's traditional territory, which encompasses 3.9 million acres of Southern Ontario, not only as a Chief, but as a notable storyteller and poet. His best known poem is Remember. Its words are on the Veterans Memorial, and a reading of it is available on You Tube. His most recently published volume of poetry is titled Living in the Tall Grass: Poems of Reconciliation.



**Ontario Regional Chief Glen Hare, Chiefs of Ontario**

A citizen of M'Chigeeng First Nation on Manitoulin Island, Glen Hare served four consecutive terms as Deputy Grand Council Chief of the Anishinabek Nation before being elected Grand Council Chief of Anishinabek Nation in 2018. Glen Hare was elected Ontario Regional Chief at the Chiefs of Ontario All Ontario Chiefs Conference in June 2021. Regional



Chief Hare began his political career as Chief of M'Chigeeng First Nation for six consecutive terms, three consecutive terms as a Band Councillor, and two terms as the Lake Huron Regional Grand Chief. He has also served as co-chair of the Anishinabek and Ontario Resource Management Council, an innovative partnership, policy and discussion forum between the Anishinabek Nation and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Regional Chief Hare continues to be an outspoken advocate for the First Nations child well-being and customary care laws. Regional Chief Hare is critical of the government's imposition of non-Indigenous child protection legislation, favours the establishment of First Nations-led child well-being law, interventions and First Nations

foster homes. During his tenure at the Anishinabek Nation, Regional Chief Hare was a strong advocate for the Anishinabek Nation Governance. Being a fluent Anishinaabemowin speaker, Regional Chief Hare is also passionate about the revitalization of the language. Regional Chief Hare and his wife Sally have been married for 47 years and have four sons and eight grandsons. His #1 goal is commitment not only to family but to the nations he serves. Every day at sunrise, we are instructed to say miigwetch for all the gifts provided by the Creator and Shkagmigaang, the Earth.





**Regional Executive Lisa Westaway, First Nations and Inuit Health Branch, ISC**

Lisa Westaway is an Indigenous leader with extensive experience in health and social service management. Lisa joined the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch, Indigenous Services Canada, in April 2023 where she serves as the Regional Executive for Ontario Region. Before joining the department, Lisa worked at the Centre intégré universitaire de santé et de services sociaux of West-Central Montreal (Jewish General Hospital) where she managed mental health, addictions, and primary care services. Lisa also worked at the MAB-Mackay Rehabilitation Centre, specializing in physical and sensory impairments. More recently, Lisa served as the Executive Director at the Kateri Memorial Hospital Centre in her home community of Kahnawake, Québec. Lisa holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology (McGill University) and a Master of Science (University of Montreal).



**Regional Director General Michael O'Byrne, Ontario Region, ISC**

Michael O'Byrne is Regional Director General, Ontario Region, for Indigenous Services Canada. He joined Indigenous Services Canada in January, 2017 where he has advocated for initiatives to create and maintain a workplace that values diversity, respect, fairness, and openness, including championing the Region's Diversity and Inclusion Committee. Prior to joining Indigenous Services Canada, Michael has held roles in various departments spanning his 30+ year federal public service career, including National Defence, Health Canada, Canadian Heritage and International Trade. As Director of the Settlement Network at Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, Michael was responsible for ensuring the delivery of settlement programs in Ontario and the highly successful resettlement of Syrian refugees. Michael holds a Bachelor of Arts (honours), from Carleton University in Law and Political Science and is a proud dad to his 4 year old French Bulldog, Truman.





**Chief Jason Gautier, Missanabie Cree First Nation**

Jason Gauthier was elected to Council of Missanabie Cree First Nation in August of 2010, and held the whole earth portfolio (Lands and Resources) and went on to be elected as the Chief of Missanabie Cree First Nation in 2013 and re-



-elected in 2016 and 2019. Chief Gauthier graduated from the Sociology Program at Algoma University in 2009 with Honours. Chief Gauthier has continued to create many new partnerships and relationships in his terms as Chief. Chief Gauthier's vision of a balance between economic sustainability and community wellbeing is shared by communities across Canada. On the cutting edge of such projects as Resource Revenue Sharing and First Nation led Passenger Rail service, Chief Gauthier believes that the First Nation communities have to reach out and grasp opportunities to better the lives of their people.

**General Manager Joseph Sayers, Missanabie Cree Business Corporation**

Joseph Sayers is a lifelong member of the Ojibways of Batchewana and identifies as Giizhe Anishinaabe and is of the traditional Crane Clan. Joe has worked to balance his formal education and business career with his cultural upbringing as a



hereditary keeper for his community. A graduate with distinction and gold medal winner in 2018 from the Faculty of Arts, Joseph's undergrad in Public Administration and Governance at Toronto Metropolitan University prepared him for a Master's degree in Public Administration at Queen's University School of Graduate Studies in 2020. He moved on to the PhD program in Social and Political Thought at York University shortly after and continues his studies and research into Indigenous Civics and Political Ethics. He grew up on the Rankin Reserve near Sault Ste Marie, Ontario, and spent his summers with family in the Indigenous village of Batchawana Bay, where his parents were born and raised. His father and two uncles attended the Garnier Indian

Residential School for Boys in Spanish, Ontario and Joe spent over a decade working with survivors. He recorded their stories, developed innovative healing programs and assisted survivors in filing for compensation for the horrific physical and sexual abuse suffered at the hands of school authorities. After completing his degree in Journalism at the University of Western Ontario, Joe began his work in land and rights based claims for his home community. He successfully negotiated the return of a small island in the St. Mary's river to reserve plus a multi-million dollar compensation package and a resource management agreement with the government of Ontario to provide for the treaty right to commercial fish and manage the fishery for all of Eastern Lake Superior based on Indigenous sovereignty and jurisdiction. He continues to practice his culture and his life commitment to his nation as keeper, healer, helper and advocate.





**Deputy Minister Drew Vanderduim, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, Ontario**

Drew was appointed as Deputy Minister, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry on September 18, 2023. Prior to this appointment he was also acting Deputy Solicitor General, Correctional Services and acting Deputy Minister, Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services. Drew has worked in the Ontario Public Service for more than 20 years and has demonstrated his strengths as a collaborative leader who empowers teams and is able to navigate challenging situations to deliver results in large scale operations environments. He brings experience leading teams that focus on safety and protecting the public interest. He is a compassionate people leader who brings a breadth of experience including operational planning, capital planning and fiscal management. He has held several key leadership positions with the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services and the Ministry of the Solicitor General, including as Chief Administrative Officer and Assistant Deputy Minister. He has been instrumental in the transformation, development and delivery of key social services, youth justice, child welfare, policing and corrections programs. He is a graduate of Brock University and has completed executive development programs with the University of Western Ontario, Ivey School of Business.



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**Assistant Deputy Minister Heather Levecque, Emergency Management Operations, Emergency Management Ontario**

Since joining Emergency Management Ontario (EMO) in 2022, Heather has served as the Assistant Deputy Minister of Strategy, Monitoring and Intelligence, where her team delivered the Provincial Emergency Management Strategy and Action Plan (PEMSAP) which marks the first time First Nations have been formally included in a provincial emergency management plan. Recently, she has assumed temporary responsibility for the Operations Division, where she has focused on growing a diverse team with a future focus on First Nations-led emergency management planning and response. Before joining EMO, she worked as the Director of Indigenous Relations and Ministry Partnerships at Indigenous Affairs Ontario, where she led the Covid-19 emergency response for various First Nations communities and provided leadership in the ministry's response to social emergencies, critical infrastructure failures, and natural disasters in First Nations. In addition, Heather co-led the province's response to the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Prior to joining the Ontario Public Service, Heather has served in various leadership roles in national and provincial Indigenous organizations focused on matters related to policy, organizational and community development and has been a long serving Board member for Native Child and Family Services of Toronto.



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**Assistant Deputy Minister Greg Hein, Strategic Policy, Planning & French Language Services, Ontario**

Greg Hein is the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Strategic Policy, Planning and French Language Services Division. In this role, he provides leadership on policy initiatives aimed at improving patient outcomes and the delivery of integrated patient care. He also guides the province's intergovernmental relations and provides leadership at the provincial/territorial and federal/provincial/territorial health tables. Greg also works with internal and external stakeholders to improve health services and outcomes for Indigenous, Francophone and underserved populations. Previous to his current role, Greg was the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Digital Health Division, where he worked to ensure that digital health makes a significant contribution to improving the health outcomes of Ontarians in a way that is both evidence-informed and fiscally prudent. Before his work on digital health, Greg held various leadership positions in the ministry, including the Director of Policy and Delivery in the Deputy Minister's Office. Greg has a Ph.D. from the University of Toronto in political science and public policy.



**Assistant Deputy Minister Candice Telfer, Negotiations and Reconciliation Division, Indigenous Affairs Ontario**

Candice Telfer is the acting Assistant Deputy Minister of Negotiations and Reconciliation at Indigenous Affairs Ontario. Prior to taking on this role, she was the Legal Director of Indigenous Affairs Ontario. After articling with the Constitutional Law Branch of the Ministry of the Attorney General, she provided legal counsel across several provincial ministries and organizations including the Ministries of Health and Natural Resources and the Crown Law Office-Civil. She is an instructor of Constitutional Law for the University of Toronto's Global Professional Master of Laws program, and regularly participates in Continuing Legal Education programs both within and outside of Government. Candice received her J.D. at the University of Toronto, Faculty of Law. Prior to law school she worked as a theatre stage manager and then as an event planner for federal government-sponsored celebrations such as Canada Day in the Capital and Winterlude. She holds a B.A. in theatre and a B.Soc. in Political Science, as well as certification in technical production from the National Theatre School of Canada.





**Elder Jane Chartrand, Algonquins of Pikwakanagan**

Jane Chartrand is an Algonquin Elder, pipe carrier, Canadian Aboriginal Music Award honoree, and holder of the Eagle Staff. She came to storytelling later in life, but in that time, she has gained great notoriety in Indigenous Circles. Growing up, both of Jane Chartrand's parents were of Algonquin bloodline. This allowed her to immerse herself in the unique experiences known only to a child of Indigenous cultural background. These experiences were further instilled in her through her grandmother, Nokomis, who taught her the traditions and beliefs of the Algonquin People. It was through Nokomis's elaborate storytelling that Jane learned the tales that she now retells. With over 25 years of service with the Correctional Services of Canada, working in the former Women's Correctional Institution in Kingston, Jane Chartrand has become a true advocate for Women's Rights and an instrumental leader in her community. As a residential school survivor, Jane Chartrand's tremendous contributions prove her to be a positive role model, mentor, and healer for other survivors. Her wisdom, positivity, and storytelling continues to inspire individuals from all backgrounds to seek common ground and care for one another.

**Dr. Carol Hopkins, Chief Executive Officer, Thunderbird Partnership**

Dr. Carol Hopkins is the Executive Director of the Thunderbird Partnership Foundation (a division of the National Native Addictions Partnership Foundation) and is of the Lenape Nation at Moraviantown, ON. Carol was appointed as an Officer in the Order of Canada, 2018. In 2019, she was recognized with an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Western University. Carol Hopkins has spent more than 20 years in the field of First Nations addictions and mental health. She holds both a



Masters of Social Work Degree from the University of Toronto and a degree in sacred Indigenous Knowledge, equivalent to a PhD in western based education systems. Carol also holds a sessional faculty position in the school of social work at Kings University College at Western University. Carol has co-chaired national initiatives known for best practice in national policy review and development, resulting in the: First Nations Mental Wellness Continuum Framework (FNMWC), the Honouring Our Strengths: A Renewed Framework to

Address Substance Use Issues Among First Nations in Canada, the Indigenous Wellness Framework, and best practice guidelines for culturally based inhalant abuse treatment. Carol has also inspired the development of the Native Wellness Assessment. In recognition of this work, Carol received the Champions of Mental Health Award 2015 for Research/Clinician, the Health Canada Innovations Award, was a member of the leadership advisory council to the Ontario Minister of Health and Long-Term Care and was part of the Canadian delegation to the 2016 United Nations General Assembly, Special Session on the World Drug Problem. Carol also participates on a national mental health advisory council to the federal Minister of Health.

**Mikhayla Patterson, Mental Health and Addictions Manager, M'Chigeeng First Nation**

Mikhayla Patterson is the Department Manager of Mental Health and Addictions for M'Chigeeng First Nation. Originally from the Eastern Townships of Quebec, she has been living in M'Chigeeng First Nation for the past three years. She possesses a Master of Social Work Degree and has been working in the field of social services for 8 years. Mikhayla has extensive knowledge in systemic issues including law, child welfare, politics, and mental health and addictions pertaining to First Nations people and communities. For the past three years, she has been developing and implementing a different strategy to combat the opioid crisis. Since the development and implementation of this initiative, she and her team have been successful in reducing opioid drug poisoning fatalities from 21 in one year to 0 since the initiative has begun. She has built a Mental Health and Addictions Department that prioritizes the needs of those living with mental health and addictions and is currently working on policy development that reflects those needs. She continues to expand services to include wrap around care within the First Nation and is a continued advocate of sustainable funding for First Nation communities.





**Senior Assistant Deputy Minister Joanne Wilkinson, Regional Operations, ISC**

Joanne Wilkinson was appointed as Senior Assistant Deputy Minister of Regional Operations at Indigenous Services Canada on March 30, 2021, after having assumed the role of Assistant Deputy Minister of the Child and Family Services Reform in March 2018, where she and her team co-developed with Indigenous partners and led the Parliamentary process to enact and implement the Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children youth and families. Previously, Joanne held the position of Assistant Secretary for the Review of Laws and Policies related to Indigenous Peoples at the Privy Council Office. In more than 25 years in the public service, she has worked in a wide range of areas, covering policy development and program management at a national level, including preparations for the social policy aspects of several federal budgets. She additionally contributed to the realization of operational priorities like First Nation infrastructure, emergency management, and lands management practices, including expenditure reviews and labour-management consultations. She previously held the positions of Director of Operations in PCO's Social Development Policy Secretariat as well as Director General of Education and Regional Director General for Yukon and Ontario with Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada. Joanne holds a certificate in Public Sector Leadership and Governance as well as a Bachelor of Arts degree with honours in translation from the University of Ottawa.



**Senior Assistant Deputy Minister Candice St-Aubin, First Nations and Inuit Health Branch, ISC**

Candice St-Aubin joined the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) as Senior Assistant Deputy Minister in April 2023. Throughout her public service career, Candice has worked extensively on policy issues and programming based on social determinants of health, particularly about Indigenous individuals, families and communities. Besides leading legislative amendments to the *Indian Act* to address gender inequality, she has also represented various federal departments before the House of Commons and Standing Senate of Canada committees. Additionally, she served as a representative for Canada on the international stage in the areas of reconciliation and lifelong learning. Candice holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in Canadian Studies, with a focus on Indigenous children's rights. Candice held the position of vice president of the Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention Branch at the Public Health Agency of Canada. Proud of her Algonquin Anishinaabe heritage, she's a proud public servant who enjoys supporting Indigenous communities and families. When she's not working, Candice enjoys spending time with her family at the cottage, kayaking and fishing on the lake.







**Knowledge Keeper Mike Ormsby, Curve Lake First Nation**



Mike Ormsby is an Anishinaabe artist, craftsman, musician, writer, storyteller, educator and former canoe builder. He builds birch bark and wood canvas canoes. Mike signs his work as *W' dae b' wae*, the Anishinaabe name given to him by the late Elder Art Solomon. The meaning of *w' dae b' wae* is "he or she is telling the truth, is right, is correct, is accurate." He hopes his artwork speaks to that same truth. Through his art, he tries to share Anishinaabe culture, teachings and traditions. Mike's family is from Curve Lake First Nation. Mike facilitated a canoe building program in Fort Severn on Hudson Bay restoring wood canvas Freighter canoes with local First Nations youth. This workshop awoke a strong desire to continue contributing his skills to other Indigenous communities in a positive way. Since Mike is of the Bear clan, one could say the bear came out of hibernation.

Realizing the power of the canoe, Mike returned to his artistic roots and the canoe became a central focus of his art practice. Mike examined and studied old birch bark canoes at the Canadian Canoe Museum. He sought out master builders, refining his building techniques, and visited Elders to learn traditional Indigenous teachings about the canoe. To put it another way, Mike went over to the 'bark side'. He taught birch bark canoe building (and other related traditional skills) working with Indigenous communities and organizations to help reconnect Indigenous peoples, especially youth, to the land, through their canoe heritage as well as through culture and traditions, including the language. Mike has worked on over 30 birch bark canoe builds; he has built fourteen bark canoes entirely on his own. Mike immersed himself into the 'canoe culture', especially that of Indigenous traditional craft. More recently, Mike has returned to his love of music. He still is on the 'bark side' as he had a custom Telecaster built with birch bark veneers front and back. As well his home studio is called Studio Jiimaan ('jiimaan' is canoe in Anishinaabemowin).

**Assistant Deputy Minister Jennifer Wheatley, First Nations and Inuit Health Branch, ISC**



Jennifer Wheatley joined FNIHB as Assistant Deputy Minister of Regional Operations in July 2023. Prior to this, Jennifer worked at the Correctional Service Canada (CSC) for 23 years. During this time, she held a variety of executive-level positions primarily in the areas of health and women's corrections. From 2016 to 2023, Jennifer was the Assistant Deputy Minister, Health Services at CSC. In this role, Jennifer led legislative, Federal-Provincial-Territorial initiatives and program changes to improve health equity within correctional health care. Jennifer has also had the opportunity to represent Canada internationally at a number of forums, including for the United Nations and World Health Organization, to support and promote the health care needs of incarcerated peoples. She is also a recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee

Medal for her work in mental health. Jennifer began her career in the federal public service at the Canadian Human Rights Commission in 1999. Prior to that, she was an army officer in the Canadian Armed Forces. She holds a Bachelor of Arts, Honours in History and English, from McMaster University and a Master of Arts in War Studies from Royal Military College. Born in Winnipeg and educated in Ontario, Jennifer now resides in Ottawa where she lives with her spouse and two amazing teenage children, Lillian and Coulson.





**Associate Regional Director General Diane Bain, Ontario Region, ISC**

Diane started her indeterminate Public Service career as the Executive Assistant to the Associate Regional Director General in 1991 after graduating as a Registered Nurse from George Brown College. Later, Diane would receive her undergraduate degree in History from Laurentian University. In 2015, she was accepted into the Government of Canada's Aboriginal Leadership Development Program as she worked her way to the executive level. Her career in the public service has focused primarily on building positive and productive relationships with Indigenous communities and other levels of government in the areas of governance and intergovernmental affairs. Diane is an Anishnabe-kwe, Bear Clan, and a member of the M'Chigeeng First Nation, with close family ties to the Chapleau Cree First Nation on her father's side. She is part of the first generation in her family to not have attended residential school. Diane is the proud mother of two sons: Jake, 26, a member of the Canadian Armed Forces at CFB Gagetown, and Cruz, 14, in Grade 9 this year.

**The Honourable Michael Tibollo, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions**

**Michael A. Tibollo** Tibollo was born and raised in Toronto, Ontario. He is an alumnus of St. Michael's College School in Toronto, Ontario. He attended the University of Toronto where he received his undergraduate degree in 1982. He then obtained a law degree from the University of Windsor in 1985. Tibollo was called to the bar of the Law Society of Upper Canada in 1987. In 1995, Tibollo completed the program of instruction for lawyers: negotiation workshop at Harvard Law School. He is currently serving as Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions. He was elected to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario in the 2018 provincial election, representing the riding of Vaughan—Woodbridge as a member of the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario. He served as Minister of Tourism, Culture, and Sport from 2018 to 2019.





**Associate Assistant Deputy Minister Paula Hadden-Jokiel, Regional Operations, ISC**

Paula Hadden-Jokiel was appointed Associate Assistant Deputy Minister for Regional Operations in February 2022. Prior to her appointment Paula was the Director General of the Results and Delivery Officer Sector for Transfer Payments and Regional Corporate Services. From 2018 to 2021 Paula was Deputy Chief Financial Officer and Director General for Corporate Accounting and Transfer Payments. A public servant since 1999, Paula has experience leading internal services organizations, national and regional program delivery organizations and major project initiatives. She has held a number of program and policy roles in the National Capital Region and the Northern Region at Health Canada, primarily in First Nations and Inuit Health Branch. Prior to joining the public service, Paula worked for 5 years with Canadian Red Cross on social justice, community development and injury prevention. Paula has an Honours Bachelor of Science in Health Studies from the University of Waterloo. In 2021, Paula obtained a Certificate in Public Leadership and Governance from the University of Ottawa.



**Associate Regional Director General Chad Aramburo, Regional Operations, ISC**

Chad Aramburo is currently Associate Regional Director General for Indigenous Services Canada, Ontario Region. He was previously the Director of Lands and Economic Development and the Community Infrastructure Directorate in the Ontario Region. He has been working in public service since 2001 when he moved from Toronto to Iqaluit, Nunavut where he held various positions in the Government of Nunavut, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor). Chad is a graduate of the University of Toronto with an Honours Bachelor of Arts. He is married and is the proud father to three children.

