



## **Panelists Bio and Picture**

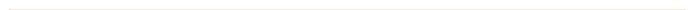
# **Welcome Session**

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Councilman Fred Fox

Chairwoman Janet Alkire

Representative Ruth Ann Buffalo





## BIO of Fred Fox

Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation Executive Secretary | South East Segment (White Shield)

Fred Fox is Councilman and Representative from White Shield East Segment. As a Councilman, he is Chairman of the Judicial Committee/Human Resources and a member of tribes' Natural Resources, Economic Development, and Education Committees.

In 2012, Fox was elected to his position as White Shield Representative with a majority vote, on of only a few Tribal Candidates won their election by a majority vote. In 2016, Fox was elected without opposition.

Fred has worked with the tribe for 18 years. His work experience includes administrator of the Three Affiliated Tribes Energy Department, administrator for Natural Resources and Director of Water Resources for the Tribe.

### Committees:

- Natural Resources Committee, Member
- Health & Human Resource Committee, Member
- Judicial Committee, Member
- Energy Committee, Chairman

### Education

#### **Ft. Berthold Community College**

Associate in Science and Liber Arts, 1999

#### **Minot State University**

Bachelor's Degree, Management 2003

#### **University of Mary**

Master's Degree, Management, 2006



Chairwoman Janet Alkire  
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe

First woman leader in more than 50 years, 2021.



## Representative Ruth Buffalo

### Biography

City: Fargo, ND

- Independent Consultant, Small Business Owner
- BA, Criminal Justice; MA, Management, Business Administration, Public Health
- Fargo Native American Commission (2017); Board, National Native Boarding School Healing Coalition, National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development; "40 under 40" (2017)
- Married (Brian); 4 children
- House since 2019



## **Panelists Bio and Picture**

### **Panel I – Physical, Mental, and Behavioral Health**

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Jerilyn Church

Dr. Justin Douglas (Doug) McDonald

Dr. Jessica White Plume

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**Jerilyn Church**

(Mniconjou Lakota)  
Chief Executive Officer, Great Plains Tribal  
Leader's Health Board

Jerilyn Church was born and raised on the Cheyenne River Reservation in South Dakota. She graduated with honors from Michigan State University with a Bachelor of Social Work degree with an American Indian

specialization and was a recipient of the national Morris K. Udall Scholarship. She obtained her Master of Social Work degree with a Management in Human Services concentration from the University of Michigan where she was a Child Welfare Fellow and was awarded internship support from the Nonprofit and Public Management Center for her work with the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Health Department.

Before her appointment as CEO at GPTCHB, Jerilyn served as the Executive Director of American Indian Health and Family Services of Southeastern Michigan, Inc. (AIHFS). AIHFS is an Urban Indian Health Center that provides primary care services to the American Indian and Alaska Native populations residing in the seven-county region of metropolitan Detroit.

Her public service commitments include the Medicare and Medicaid Policy Committee (MMPC) of the National Indian Health Board (NIHB) and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Tribal Technical Advisory Group (CMS TTAG) Great Plains representative. Church also provides technical assistance for the Great Plains tribal leader representative to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee (STAC).

Jerilyn has been recognized for her leadership as a recipient of the National Indian Health Board's (NIHB) Area/Regional Impact Award in 2014 in recognition of her outstanding service to advance American Indian and Alaska Native health. Church was also honored with the University Of Michigan School Of Social Work's Distinguished Alumni Award in 2017.



**J. Douglas McDonald, Ph.D. (“Spotted Hawk”)**

Dr. McDonald is a Professor of Psychology at the University of North Dakota (UND) and Director of the UND Indians into Psychology (INPSYDE) Program. A member of Oglala Lakota Sioux tribe of Southeastern South Dakota, he earned his Ph.D. (Clinical Psychology, 1992) from University of South Dakota. His research interests include Cross-Cultural Psychology, Masculinity, and Ethics. Dr. McDonald was twice President of the Society of Indian Psychologists (SIP) and served as their APA Council delegate, He has also served twice on APA’s Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest, the Board of Educational Affairs, and three APA Presidential Task Forces. He is also past treasurer and President of APA’s Division 45. He has advised over 50 American Indian Ph.Ds and 60 MAs. He lives in Grand Forks with his wife Cher, 12 cats and two horses. He is a fishing guide and a veteran of the US Navy Submarine Force.



**Dr. Jessica White Plume** is a member of the Oglala Lakota Nation, and her Lakota name is Sung Agli Win (She Brings Back Horses). She grew up on the Pine Ridge reservation, in SD, and went on to complete her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of North Dakota, as well as a Masters in Public Health from the University of Minnesota. She completed her doctoral internship was at the University of Florida, Shands Hospital, with a Behavioral Health specialty focus. Jessica’s career has focused on the integration of holistic approaches to mental health in indigenous communities. In particular, she has developed and led horse culture-based

wellness and mental health programs in a variety of settings, including direct clinical services, education, prevention programming, and cultural strengthening, as well as consulting for a number of tribes on the development of horse culture-based programs. She lives near Twin Buttes, ND, on the Fort Berthold Reservation with her husband Marty Young Bear, their children, and the family horses, dogs, cats, and chickens.



## **Panelists Bio and Picture**

### **Panel 2 – Education and Early Childhood Development**

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Dr. Ace Charette

Dr. Martin Reinhardt

Lucy Fredricks

Sashay Schettler

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**Ace Charette** is an enrolled member of the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa, and he works as an institutional researcher and language revitalization program director at Turtle Mountain Community College, a tribal institution that espouses indigenous worldviews in higher education. In this role, Ace applies nearly a decade of experience serving tribal education organizations toward solutions spanning the student experience, ranging from pre-enrollment to post-graduation. Additionally, Ace promotes an indigenous framework for approaching data discussions and their equity-centered applications to meaningful practice. For efforts involving language revitalization, Ace leverages myriad sources of best practice, intertribal resources and contacts, diverse community educators and parents, and local leaders to pull collective attention toward complex language dynamics.



**Dr. Martin Reinhardt** is an Anishinaabe Ojibway citizen of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians from Michigan. He is a tenured professor of Native American Studies at Northern Michigan University. He is the president of the Michigan Indian Education Council, and the lead singer and songwriter for the band Waawiyeyaa (The Circle). His current research focuses on revitalizing relationships between humans and Indigenous plants and animals of the Great Lakes Region. He has taught courses in American Indian education, tribal law and government, and sociology. He has a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from the Pennsylvania State University, where his doctoral research focused on Indian education and the law with a special focus on treaty educational provisions. Martin serves as a

panelist for the National Indian Education Study Technical Review Panel and as the primary investigator for the Decolonizing Diet Project. He has also served as Chair of the American Association for Higher Education American Indian/Alaska Native Caucus, and as an external advisor for the National Indian School Board Association. He also holds both a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in Sociology.



**Lucy K. Fredericks, Director**  
Office of Indian/Multicultural Education  
ND Department of Public Instruction

Lucy Fredericks is an enrolled member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. She has worked in education for the past 32 years in various positions. She received her Bachelor and Master's degrees from the University of North Dakota in Elementary Education and Educational Leadership.

Prior to being employed as Director of Indian/Multicultural Education for NDDPI, Lucy worked for Standing Rock Elementary School in Fort Yates, ND as the elementary school principal for seven years. She enjoys working with all schools in ND and is strongly committed to improving education for all our students.

Lucy currently resides in Mandan, North Dakota. Lucy and Lyndon have two children; Jonas and Chanda and one Grandson Easton.



**Sashay Schettler** is a citizen of the MHA Nation and the Indigenous Education Director at Bismarck Public Schools. She holds a BA in Indigenous Studies with a minor in History from the University of North Dakota, where she graduated as a McNair scholar. Currently, she is pursuing a Master's degree in Teacher Leadership from the University of Mary. Her work explores the contemporary construction of Indigenous identity and Indigenous education with advocacy on infusing education with the seven generations behind and ahead of us.



## **Panelists Bio and Picture**

# **Welcome Session**

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Chairman Michael Fairbanks

Chairman Ronald Corn Sr.

Chairwoman Cathy Chavers

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## Chairman Michael Fairbanks

Michael Fairbanks, Chairman of the White Earth Band of Ojibwe, since 2019.

Grew up in St. Paul, Minnesota and moved up north after high school. Education consists of two Associate of Science degrees: business management and nutrition, Bachelor of Arts in American Indian studies and Post bachelor's in the Naadamaadiwin Special Education Program. Graduating with a Master of Arts in education from Augsburg University.

Worked in tribal administration in various capacities for the last 20 years, which included the deputy

director of the White Earth Band of Ojibwe.



## Chairwoman Cathy Chavers Bois Forte Band of Chippewa

### Career Overview

For over thirty years, Cathy Chavers has served the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, focusing on health care before shifting her career to politics. In 2008, she kicked off her political career as the District I Representative of the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council (BFRTC) and in April of 2016, she was elected Tribal Chairwoman.

Cathy has had the honor to hold seats on various committees, forums, and Councils. Currently, she is the first female President of

the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT), the Bemidji Area Representative for the National Indian Health Service (IHS) Budget Forum, and a Member of the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC), Results First, and the St. Louis County Public Health and Human Services Advisory Board.

One of her goals as Chairwoman is to be an honest and accountable leader to the Tribal members of Bois Forte. She aspires to provide positive direction for economic and workforce development while incorporating more culture and language back into the Reservation.

### Personal Overview

Growing up in Orr, Minnesota, she is one of four daughters of Daniel and Doris (King) O'Connell. She has been married to her husband Ed for over 40 years and together they have two boys, Eddie and Tim. Cathy has been blessed with seven grandchildren, one great grandchild, seven dogs, and one bearded dragon. In her spare time, she enjoys being active and spending time outdoors. Cathy continues being an avid volleyball and sports enthusiast – still cheerleading and supporting community athletes.



## **Panelists Bio and Picture**

### **Panel 3 – Child Welfare, Juvenile Justice, and Violence**

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Justice Ann McKeig

Nina De La Cruz

Sandy White Hawk

## Anne K. McKeig, Associate Justice Minnesota Supreme Court

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The Honorable Anne K. McKeig joined the Minnesota Supreme Court in September 2016, making her the first female Native American to sit on any state supreme court in the United States.

A descendant of the White Earth Nation, Justice McKeig is a native of Federal Dam, Minnesota, where she grew up on the Leech Lake Reservation. She attended St. Catherine University for her undergraduate degree, and received her law degree from Hamline University. She served as an assistant Hennepin County Attorney for 16 years, handling child protection cases and adoption matters with a specialty in cases that fall under the provisions of the Indian Child Welfare Act. She then served as a district court judge in Hennepin County for almost 9 years before her nomination to the Minnesota Supreme Court.

Justice McKeig co-authored law school curriculum entitled *Child Abuse and the Law*, and teaches as an adjunct professor at both St. Thomas School of Law and Mitchell Hamline School of Law.

Justice McKeig has spoken at numerous national conferences and conventions regarding child protection, domestic violence, family law, diversity & inclusion, working with tribal communities, as well as a multitude of other topics. She is a member of the Speakers Bureau for the Zero Abuse Project, board member of Minnesota Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (“PROOF”), Division of Indian Work, the Infinity Project, a trustee for St. Catherine University, and a member of the State/Tribal Court forum, as well as serving on several national committees addressing domestic violence, child abuse, Native American issues, and diversity.

She is a proud mother of 5 and a Johnny Cash super fan.



*My Name is Nina Lynn De La Cruz (formerly Martin)*

*I am an enrolled member of Spirit Lake Tribe, wife, mother of 5 Beautiful children, alcoholic/addict in recovery and one of many victims of ICWA.*

*I grew up on the Spirit lake Reservation, youngest of 7 siblings went to school there, worked there up until 2013 I moved to Grand Forks. I worked as a server in the food service industry, for many years advancing to Floor Manger, I was laid off March 2020 due to the pandemic. In May of 2020 Cesar and I married, the following month I was offered a position at Digi-Key Electronics in Thief River Falls, where my husband is Supervisor in the Packaging Department. We bought a home in Red Lake Falls, MN where we make our home with our 2 dogs and cat. I have been with Digi-Key for one year, ten months. I was recently promoted to Order Fulfillment Associate/ Mentor training our employees as we are transferring to our new Building.*

*In my sobriety journey, I have found love for art, painting, creating or refurbishing old picture frames, furniture. I love to plant flowers and vegetables in our garden, now getting them to grow is the tricky part, I havent quite mastered that yet. We love to travel, we do a lot of camping and Kayaking.*

*For the past 6 years, I have been researching and studying ICWA. How the law was written, how they are implemented, proper procedure and active efforts ect... searching for whom or what entity is responsible for making sure ICWA is implemented accordingly as well holding those accountable who abuse ICWA and lastly, Where are the resources to help those that have fallen victim to ICWA. I have crossed paths with so many mothers in the same predicament as I was in 6 years ago. I see them come through our support groups completely hopeless and struggling and I am absolutely powerless, I cannot help them because I know there is no happy ending. I have since decided that I will be the voice not just for my own injustice, but the mothers that have lost hope. And will continue to do so regardless of how many doors that have been closed on me in my search for answers. I have also shared my story in a Amici Curiae supporting Brackeen and state petitioners, On Writs of Certiorari to the United States Court of Appeals.*

*My goal is to become an addiction counselor, and become an advocate for Mothers/Fathers and children in the system to ensure they are fully informed and understand their rights under ICWA and afforded all the opportunities offered and required of social workers and case managers. However, my priority at the moment is mending and strengthening my relationships with my children.*



**Sandra White Hawk** is a Sicangu Lakota adoptee from the Rosebud Reservation, South Dakota. She is the founder and Director of First Nations Repatriation Institute.

First Nations Repatriation Institute (FNRI) is the first organization of its kind whose goal it is to create a resource for First Nations people impacted by foster care or adoption to return home, reconnect, and reclaim their identity. The Institute also serves as a resource to enhance the knowledge and skills of

practitioners who serve First Nations people.

Sandra organizes Truth Healing Reconciliation Community Forums that bring together adoptees/fostered individuals and their families and professionals with the goal to identify post adoption issues and to identify strategies that will prevent removal of First Nations children. She has also initiated an ongoing support group for adoptees and birth relatives in the Twin Cities Area.

Sandra is the Elder in Residence at the Indian Child Welfare Law Office, Minneapolis, MN and is a consultant for the Tribal Training Certification Program, University of Duluth, Minnesota.

Sandra has become a spokesperson on the issues of the adoption and the foster care system and how it has impacted First Nations People. She has traveled throughout the United States, Canada, Costa Rica, Australia and Japan, Alaska sharing her inspirational story of healing.

She served as Commissioner for the Maine Wabanaki State Child Welfare Truth and Reconciliation Commission and served as an Honorary Witness of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission on Residential Schools in Canada.

She serves on the boards of: The Legal Rights Center of Minneapolis and The Association for American Indian Affairs.

She is a subject in three documentaries:

- The People's Protectors - <https://www.pbs.org/show/peoples-protectors/>
- Dawnland – [www.ustanderproject.org](http://www.ustanderproject.org)
- Blood Memory – [www.bloodmemorydoc.com](http://www.bloodmemorydoc.com)

She is a contributing author to:

- Outsiders Within: Writing on transracial adoption
- Parenting as Adoptees

- The Kinship Parenting Toolbox

Sandra has received the following awards:

- The Child Welfare Leadership Award, Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare, U of MN, 2019
- The National Indian Child Welfare Champion for Children Award, 2017
- Women in Wellbriety Dana Tiger Award for Creating Change in Nations, 2014
- Named one of The INNOVATORS in Color Lines Magazine, 2008 □
- Named one of the 50 Visionaries Who Are Changing Your World Utne Reader, 2008
- Named Outstanding Native Women Award from the University of Minnesota 2003
- Named one of the “50 Most Influential and Cool People” of Madison, WI, in Madison Magazine, November 2002.



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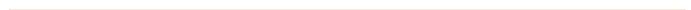
### **Panel 4 – Systems Innovations and Best Practices in Native Communities**

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Anita Frederick

Wendell Waukau

Jerry Waukau Sr.





**Anita Frederick**

President Tribal Nations Research Group

Anita is a citizen of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians and is the President of Tribal Nations Research Group (TNRG) a 501c3 non-profit Tribal organization, located in Belcourt ND on the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Reservation. Anita holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Education and a Master's Degree in Information Management with a focus on Executive Support Systems Management from Minot State University in ND, a graduate certificate in Institutional Research from University of Missouri, St

Louis. Anita is currently ABD in the Doctorate of Education program at the University of North Dakota. The mission of TNRG is "To improve the quality of life for all tribal members through culturally-competent, custom-fit research." TNRG is currently the research regulation center (Research Review Board) for the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians. In addition, TNRG has established a tribal data center that includes a research database, secondary data sources, and custom data sets relating to the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa lands and people. Prior to her work at TNRG, Anita worked at Turtle Mountain Community College for 18 years in various positions with the most recent as the Dean of Students. She is a former Bush Foundation Fellow, Association of Institutional Researchers Data Policy Institute Fellow, and recipient of the 2016 National Indian Health Board Local Impact Award.



**Wendell Waukau, MA, ES**, is currently the Superintendent for Menominee Indian School District. Menominee Indian School District (MISD) is located on the Menominee Indian Reservation in Northeast Wisconsin and serves approximately 1000 students in grades 4K-12. Wendell is an enrolled member of the Menominee Indian Tribe in Wisconsin and considers it both a privilege and an honor to work & serve in the community he grew up in. For 32 years Wendell has served MISD & his community as a teacher, coach, athletic director, dean of students, principal and now superintendent. Once labeled a “drop out factory” (2008) for graduating less than 60% of its students on time; MISD has successfully implemented various reforms/initiatives in the areas of: community & family engagement; mentoring; early childhood; social emotional learning, nutrition & wellness; trauma informed care, resiliency, restorative practices which have led to a present day graduation rate of 90%. In 2012, Wendell was honored at the White House under President Obama’s administration as a *School Turnaround Champion of Change*. Wendell and his wife Lori have 3 children, Joan, Antonette, & Wendell Jr.

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Jerry Waukau Sr. is the Health Administrator of the Menominee Tribal Clinic. He serves as Chairman of the Wisconsin Tribal Health Director's Association, which represents the eleven

(11) Federal recognized tribes in the State of Wisconsin. Jerry serves as faculty on the Pediatric Integrated Care Core Collaborative – Indian Health Service – Johns Hopkins – PICC Team, which focuses on implementing trauma informed integrated care in Native communities.

Jerry received his Bachelors of Arts degree in Economics from Ripon College in 1978.

Jerry was born and raised on the Menominee Indian Reservation. Jerry and his wife Susan, have six

(6) blended children and have raised three (3) foster children and a grandson.

In addition to his work around trauma informed care, he champions work around cross sector collaboration with the school and other tribal partners.