



**Event Plan: māmowī āsohtētān "Let's Cross this Together" Building Reconciliation Internal Forum  
February 28, 2020**

**Speaker Bios**

	<p>Peter Stoicheff, President, University of Saskatchewan began his 33-year career at the University of Saskatchewan in 1986 and was appointed its 11th president in 2015. He has led USask to be one of Canada's top research-intensive universities. He has supported the University of Saskatchewan to be a Reconciliation leader in the country, increasing its Indigenous student enrolments and ensuring its close connections with local and national Indigenous communities and organizations. He has also increased the university's partnerships with other world-leading institutions around the world.</p>
	<p>Tony Vannelli, Provost, University of Saskatchewan, is a professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering in the College of Engineering. The Provost provides leadership to USask's College and Schools and works in collaboration with our deans and executive directors to deliver on USask's academic strategy. Working with the university community and leadership, he focuses on strengthening and enhancing academic programs to maintain a strong student and faculty experience.</p>
	<p>His Honour, the Honourable Russ Mirasty, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, is a member of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band. He joined the RCMP in 1976 as one of only two Indigenous cadets in his troop and retired as Assistant Commissioner in 2013. He helped lead the Student First Engagement process which informed the development of a province-wide education strategy. He was appointed to Saskatchewan's Advisory Group on Poverty Reduction, and served on the board of the McDowell Foundation, which supports research, inquiry, and sharing of information for the K to 12 education system.</p>
	<p>Kathleen Mahoney is a Professor of Law at the University of Calgary and former Chair of the Board of the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development. In 2004, she spearheaded a major research project and report examining the Canadian government's response to the claims of Aboriginal residential school survivors. This led to her appointment as the Chief Negotiator for the Assembly of First Nations and the subsequent settlement agreement with Canada for reparations and a Truth and Reconciliation Process. She also led the negotiations for the historic apology from the Canadian Parliament and from Pope Benedict XVI for injustices to Indigenous peoples.</p>
	<p>Phil Fontaine, Former Chief of Assembly of First Nations, is a member of the Sagkeeng First Nation. The TRC credits him for placing the issue of residential schools on the national agenda when in 1990 he spoke publicly about the abuse that he and others had experienced at the Fort Alexander school. In 2005, he successfully negotiated the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement and in 2009, he met with Pope Benedict XVI to obtain an apology for abuses that occurred in First Nations schools. He is founder and President of Ishkonigan Inc., a consulting company that helps establish successful and effective partnerships between Indigenous communities, governments and corporations.</p>



	<p>Willie Ermine, Professor Emeritus, First Nations University of Canada, is from Sturgeon Lake First Nation. Willie lectures in the areas of humanities, Indigenous studies, education, and research methods. He has published numerous academic articles including a widely read academic paper entitled “Ethical Space.” He has worked extensively with Elders in his research. His continuing interests include promoting ethical practices of research, developing the concept of ethical space and creating new currents of thought that flow in different directions and overrun the old ways of thinking.</p>
	<p>Autumn LaRose Smith, VP Student Affairs, USSU, is a proud queer, Métis student who attends Saskatchewan Urban Teachers Education Program (SUNTEP) Saskatoon. She is an active volunteer in her community and was recently awarded the Young Women Leaders Award, recognizing emerging Metis leaders. She is also a National Ambassador of Hope with We Matter. She works as an Emergency Receiving Home Worker with C.U.M.F.I. and is dedicated to providing trauma-informed care and education.</p>
	<p>André Bear holds a Bachelor of Education from USask and is now a Law student. He is the former youth representative of the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations, and co-chair and executive member of the Assembly of First Nations National Youth Council. In 2016, André was appointed as a special advisor to the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations Canada where he co-founded the Indigenous Youth Voices Network, for the full implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Call to Action 66.</p>
	<p>Elder Louise Bernice Halfe is a Cree poet and author of four published books. Her work has won numerous provincial and national awards, and she was Saskatchewan’s Poet Laureate in 2005–06. She has a Bachelor of Social Work and an Honorary Degree of Letters (PhD) from Wilfred Laurier University. She currently works with Elders in an organization called Opikinawasowin (“raising our children”) and meets regularly with USask students to provide support and cultural teachings.</p>
	<p>Elder Norman Fleury is a Michif language expert and storyteller from St. Lazare, Manitoba. He works tirelessly to promote and educate on the importance of the Michif language to the Métis people, and larger community. He is widely recognized as the leading expert in Michif language and has worked on numerous important projects as a language expert over the past decades. He is the author of a 11,500-word comprehensive Michif dictionary that serves as the primary source for Michif language.</p>
	<p>Sheila Pocha</p>
	<p>Randy Morin, Language Keeper</p>