



**Thursday April 22, 3 - 4:15 p.m. ET**

***Rights, legislation, and moving beyond forensic approaches to child and family well-being.***

**Expert panelists/Co-conveners & bios:**

**Raymond Shingoose, Executive Director, Yorkton Tribal Council Child and Family Services (Yellow Thunderbird Lodge)**

Raymond Shingoose is an Anishinabek from the Cote First Nation. He experienced traditional adoption, the 60's scoop and residential school; the life lessons of each of these experiences contributed to his vision for child welfare. Raymond went on to continue his education at the First Nations University of Canada and has attained over 30 years of experiential knowledge in the profession of Indian Social Work and Child Welfare. Raymond has broken down many barriers and has established innovative approaches to governance, administration and program services in the child and family services sector, and his efforts have set a strong precedent for many other First Nations developments. He has successfully established the Yorkton Tribal Council Child and Family Services as a leading example of a First Nation Treaty Based governance structure. Raymond is also one of the leaders and founders of the establishment of many Institutions in Saskatchewan and Canada such as the First Nations Caring Society of Canada, Saskatchewan First Nations Family and Community Institute and Four Directions Child and Family Services. Throughout Raymond's life experiences, he remains humble and continues to practice his culture and traditions passed down to him by his family, Elders, mentors and Leadership. Raymond is a strong advocate for our children and will continue to be the voice of the child and always and forever honor the spirit of the child.

*Quotation: "I firmly believe that the answers to the issues facing our communities lie in the imaginations of our children, the knowledge of our families and communities and the experience and traditions of our Elders."*

**Vice Chief Dave Pratt, Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations**

As a member of Muscowpetung Saulteaux First Nation located in the unceded, traditional and ancestral lands in Treaty 4 territory, Vice-Chief David Pratt knows and understands the importance of maintaining close ties to family, community, culture, and

connections to the land. Vice-Chief David Pratt is currently in his first term as an Executive member for the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN), a Treaty and Inherent Rights organization that represents 74 First Nations which encompass the Cree, Dënësųlíné, Saulteaux, the Dakota, Nakota, and Lakota. As a Treaty and Inherent Rights champion, he continues to work tirelessly relying on traditional laws, values, and advice and the support of Elders, Traditional Knowledge Keepers (TTK) and Indigenous Knowledge Keepers (ITK). He continues to inform and bring awareness to a variety of issues that affect First Nation people, bridging gaps in areas of human rights, duty to consult, fighting systemic racism, and discrimination. Vice-Chief David Pratt holds a Bachelor of Education degree, Indian Teacher Education Program (ITEP) from the University of Saskatchewan which he successfully completed and graduated with distinction in 2016. His main goal continues to be improving the lives of First Nation people both locally, provincially, and nationally.

**Irwin Elman, Fellow, Laidlaw Foundation of Ontario & Global Strategic Advisor, Until the Last Child.**

Irwin Elman served as Ontario's Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth from 2008 - 2019. Today he is a Fellow with the Laidlaw Foundation of Ontario and the Global Strategic Advisor to Until the Last Child. He is a husband and the proud but slightly tired parent of two young boys all living in Toronto, Ontario.

**Raji Mangat, Executive Director, West Coast LEAF**

Raji Mangat is the Executive Director of West Coast LEAF, a non-profit organization located on the unceded homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tseil-Waututh peoples (Vancouver). West Coast LEAF uses legal strategies to address gender-based discrimination and inequities for all women, trans people of other genders, Two Spirit people, people with non-binary gender identities, intersex people, and gender non-conforming people. Since 2018, West Coast LEAF has undertaken work in collaboration with Indigenous communities that is aimed at shifting the child welfare system in British Columbia from one of apprehension to one focused on support and prevention.

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