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Weaving Indigenous Wisdom Traditions: The Grandmothers Speak

Maria Campbell, Banakonda Kennedy-Kish & Gwendolyn Point



April 28th, 2022

9:30 AM – 11:30 AM PST | 11:30 – 1:30 PM CST | 12:30 – 2:30 PM EST

The ICS Collaborative is offering a series of four webinars featuring nationally recognized Indigenous Knowledge Keepers and Elders sharing insights into the wisdom needed to thrive in this era of disruption and environmental change. In this first webinar, the Grandmothers Speak, a Circle of Grandmothers will share the wisdom that the Ancestors have left for us in four rounds of discussion. The Grandmothers will introduce themselves, identify the warnings that the land, air, and water are providing to human beings, share the Medicines (teachings, practices) that strengthen hearts, spirits, minds, and bodies, and embrace a vision for a future of peace. Non-Indigenous people are invited to join the webinar as listeners and witnesses. Listening is a key component of traditional Indigenous teaching practices and an essential aspect of learning how to be a good ally.

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About the Elders

Maria Campbell is a Métis writer, playwright and teacher. She has received many awards, including the National Aboriginal Achievement Award and the Gabriel Dumont Order of Merit. She is currently the Elder in Residence at the Centre for World Indigenous Knowledge and Research, Athabasca University and the Cultural Advisor at the College of Law at the University of Saskatchewan. Maria holds six honorary doctorate degrees and has worked as a volunteer with women and children in crisis for over forty years. She is the co-founder of a halfway house for women in Edmonton and an emergency crisis centre for women. She speaks Cree, Michif, Sauteaux and English.

Banakonda Kennedy-Kish (Bell) is Elder in Residence in the Indigenous Field of Study (IFS) Social Work Program at Laurier University. Her Indigenous name is Awnjibinayseekwe. She is Bear Clan, Third Degree Midiwin (Traditional Medicine Society). She is a Traditional Practitioner, cultural advisor, teacher, curriculum developer, writer and artist. She is co-author of *Case Critical: Social Services and Social Justice in Canada* (2017, Between the Lines Publishers).

Dr. Gwendolyn Point is currently the Knowledge Keeper for the BC Assembly of First Nations, a position she has held since 2015. She also served a term 2015-2018 as The Chancellor for the University of the Fraser Valley. She has a Doctor of Education from Simon Fraser University, a Master's in Education from the University of Portland, a Post Baccalaureate from SFU, and a Bachelor of Education from the University of British Columbia. She also has an Honorary Doctorate in Education from the University of Victoria. She served as Chatelaine for Government House and was an Honorary Patron in her role for numerous organizations with her husband who served as Lt. Governor for British Columbia. She has received a number of community awards for her contributions to Stó:lō language and Cultural education, including recognition by the Stó:lō Nation.

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