



Strengthening Environmental Governance Through Solid Waste Management (East)

July 22-23, 2026

MELISSA MACDONALD

Lands Director, Membertou First Nation



Melissa MacDonald is from Membertou, Nova Scotia. Over the span of 22 years, she has been a part of Membertou's workforce, wearing various hats within different departments including human resources, employment and training, tenant relations, and currently, the lands department. Currently, she oversees tax administration and tenant relations, alongside her responsibilities as the Lands Director.

Melissa has extensive professional development and training which includes a Bachelor and a Master's degree in Business Administration, with a focus on community economic development. Melissa is a certified Lands Manager through NALMA's Professional Lands Management Certification Program. She is committed to continuous education and personal growth. Melissa completed the Tax Administration, Applied Economics and Applied Lands Management certificate programs at the Tulo Centre of Indigenous Economics. All of these programs have empowered her to enhance governance and resource management in Membertou. This proficiency is particularly beneficial as Membertou strives towards greater autonomy, and taking back our jurisdiction.

Melissa sits on the Atlantic Region Aboriginal Lands Association Board of Directors as CoChair and the First Nation Tax Administrators Association (FNTAA) board as Secretary.

COLETTE ISAAC

Lands Director, Moose Deer Point First Nation



Colette Isaac is the Lands Director at her home community of Moose Deer Point First Nation. She has a background in Indigenous health geography, cartography and information management. The challenge of trying to map indigenous interests, advocate and protect indigenous rights has been a longstanding interest.

BILL NASH

Director of Public Works, Sitansisk Wolastoqey (St. Mary's First Nation)



Hello, my name is Bill Nash. I am a St. Mary's First Nation Community Member. My position is the Director of St. Mary's Public Works, which I took over in 2019, and serve on 3 Committees in our Community, Pow Wow, Land Advisory and also Community Safety. Prior to SMPW I worked multiple Management positions within Retail Sales for over 20 years. I also hold a Certificate in Heavy Equipment and Class 3 Air Brake endorsement. Under my supervision I have 11 employees who are trained in various skills such as Heavy Equipment operator, safety, First Aid, Traffic Controls, chainsaw safety, etc.

Within the 6 years of management of SMPW Department multiple responsibilities were added to SMPW. Ex. Road repairs, commercial and residential mowing, landscaping, tree work, snowplowing, and of course weekly garbage pickup for businesses and residential locations.

"Dedicated to enhancing our Community". Woliwon Bill Nash

CARLA KOSKI

Waste Management Coordinator, Pwi-Di-Goo-Zing Ne-Yaa-Zhing Advisory Services Tribal Council



Carla Koski was born and raised in Northwestern Ontario and grew up in the country just outside of Fort Frances. She currently is the Waste Management Coordinator for Pwi-Di-Goo-Zing Ne-Yaa-Zhing Advisory Services Tribal Council. Her time with the Tribal Council and prior work experience with Manitoba Agriculture and the forestry industry as well as an Environmental Science Degree from the University of Manitoba has driven her passion for environmental sustainability.

Pwi's environmental services division works with communities to provide technical and advisory services to our member communities. The Solid Waste Coordinator provides guidance and advice in the area of solid waste management, including landfill operations and best practices, waste diversion, and environmental monitoring. Other initiatives include assisting the communities in other waste/environmental projects and initiatives such as used tire removal, scrap metal removal, and hazardous waste removal.

The Solid Waste Coordinator also acts as a liaison between First Nations and surrounding communities to identify partnership opportunities to create Municipal Type Service Agreements (MTSA) for waste management. The Solid Waste Coordinator also seeks out other organizations interested in providing training opportunities for community members, including youth. Secure consultants, contractors, and suppliers for various waste/environmental related work. Develop MCA's and Terms of Reference for various waste related community projects.

Water and Wastewater Technicians work with First Nations Public Works Departments to assist with the operation of the Community water treatment plants and provide support and advice on their efficient operation.

Resource Centre (RC) Presenters

AMANDA MISNAKOSHKANG

Environment & Solid Waste Management Advisor, Land Code Governance, Resource Centre



Amanda is a proud 2-spirit Anishinaabe and band member of Long Lake #58 First Nation. She was born and raised in Thunder Bay, Ontario, surrounded by the great outdoors and home to Nanabijou (the Sleeping Giant). Growing up Amanda spent a lot of time playing outside catching tadpoles, hiking, camping, learning about the land, plants and animals where her passion for the Land, Water and Environment was ignited.

Amanda holds a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies, with a major in Geography/Geomatics from Lakehead University. Her academic journey cultivated a passion for addressing environmental challenges, particularly those faced by Indigenous communities. Over the years Amanda has worked closely with First Nations in various capacities. Her experience includes serving as a Geomatics Intern for the Matawa First Nation Tribal Council, where she honed her skills in spatial analysis, building capacity for in-house First Nations Geomatics technicians, and environmental monitoring. Amanda also held the position of Lands Officer for Long Lake #58, where she focused on community-led land stewardship initiatives, additions to reserves, resource and land management as well as chaired a community committee to focus on First Nation Governance.

Believing in the importance of integrating traditional knowledge with contemporary practices, Amanda devotes a 2-eyed seeing approach to land and resource management. This perspective allows her to bridge the gap between Indigenous wisdom and modern scientific methods, ensuring that land use reflects the needs and values of the communities she serves. Through her work, Amanda continually strives to foster a sustainable and equitable future for Indigenous peoples and their territories for generations to come.

In her spare time Amanda strives for the reclamation of her cultural heritage by learning Anishinaabemowin (Ojibwa language), practicing traditional hide tanning, Pow Wow trail and ceremony. Amanda wishes to pass the teachings of land stewardship, language, and ceremony down to her three children who she adoringly calls her "ravens".

JENNIFER PREDIE

Manager, Land Code Governance, Resource Centre



Jennifer Predie is a member of Six Nations, Onondaga. She is a professionally certified First Nations Land Manager with an applied degree in Environmental Management and diplomas in Terrain and Water Resources. In 2002, Jennifer received a four-year Ministerial appointment as a member of NACOSAR (National Aboriginal Council on Species at Risk) and was subsequently elected as one of the committee's co-chairs.

Jennifer began her professional career in 2000 as an Environmental Scientist with EBA Engineering Consultants in Edmonton, AB. In 2002, Jennifer moved to Regina, SK to work as a Fish Habitat Biologist with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), and in 2006, she transferred to the DFO Parry Sound, ON District office where she became their Senior Habitat Biologist. In 2013, Jennifer accepted a position as the Lands Manager for Wasauksing First Nation, located on Parry Island in Georgian Bay, leading the First Nation to the successful ratification of their Land Code in 2017.

A proud Haudenosaunee citizen, Jennifer resides just outside Parry Sound, ON, in the traditional territory of the Anishinabek, specifically of the Wasauksing First Nation. Jennifer is married and has an 11-year-old daughter. She most enjoys reading, fishing, boating, and spending time with family and friends at her cottage on Georgian Bay.