

Wills & Estates – Exploring Future Needs

October 7, 2021

Indigenous Services Canada



Lynn Murray – Manager of Estates Services

I have been working at INAC or the current Indigenous Services Canada for most of my career in the public service. I have a BA in Business and Psychology. My work background includes working with the office of the Indian Registrar, where I conducted genealogical research and provided program support for cases involved in litigation. In 2003, I joined the Estates Services team in the National Capital Region as an estates advisor. In 2019 I took on the role of manager of the program. I manage a small team of dedicated employees who are passionate about providing estates assistance to Indigenous people. Our team provides national support such as advice, policies, and tools to our regional colleagues who work directly with our clients. Most recently the national team is heavily engaged in managing estates that are impacted by various class action settlements.

Guest



Lois Paul – Senior Estates Officer, Retired

I was ready for a new adventure when I retired four years ago and my husband and I moved to beautiful Penticton, BC. Prior to that we lived on the coast, and I worked for the Department of Indian Affairs for 25 years as a Senior Estates Officer. I thought my job was fascinating; I loved working with my clients, solving problems and visiting bands to give workshops about the legislation regarding Wills and Estates. During the last two years of my employment, I worked only on Section 50 sales, which were estate lands sales. As a retiree, I was invited to present several Wills and Estates workshops across Canada at the request of NALMA. My husband passed away in late 2019 so I have even more compassion for people who have to deal with their grief as well as the paperwork of a bureaucracy.



Patti Wight – Manager, First Nation Support Services BC

Patti Wight is from the Squamish Nation and currently resides in the heart of Lheidli T'enneh traditional territory (Prince George, BC) where she has been working with the Resource Centre since 2012. Patti holds a Bachelor of Science in Geography with an environmental science focus from the University of Northern BC and also has a certificate in Indigenous Peoples Resource Management from the University of Saskatchewan. Prior to joining the Resource Centre, Patti was the Lheidli T'enneh Director of Lands & Natural Resources. Patti enjoys spending her free time in nature exploring and camping. She loves to travel and is always trying out new ways to prepare foods, teas and medicines.



Shawn Speirs – Technician First Nation Support Services BC

Originally from Pointe-Claire Montreal, Shawn Speirs grew up in Westbank, BC. He attended UBC for his undergraduate degree and subsequently received his Law degree from Thompson Rivers University.

His legal practice initially focused on estate and trust planning before he transitioned into law and policy development. Shawn accepted a position with the Resource Centre in 2017 as part of the BC support services team and is excited to continue working with communities both in the development and implementation of their land codes.



Danielle Alain – Technician First Nation Support Services East

Danielle Alain is a proud member of the Wolastoqiyik (People of the Beautiful River) from Woodstock First Nation, New Brunswick. Danielle completed her Bachelor of Arts at St. Thomas University, graduating with a double major in Criminology and Native Studies.

Upon graduation, Danielle accepted a position with, at the time, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada and spent two years as a Band Governance and Estates Officer and eight years as a Lands Officer, where she thoroughly enjoyed working with many of the First Nation communities in the Atlantic. Most recently, Danielle accepted a position with the First Nation Land Management Resource Centre and currently works as a Support Technician for the Eastern Team!



Michelle Bouvier – Environment & Enforcement Advisor - SK

Michelle Delorme is a member of Muskeg Lake Cree Nation within Treaty 6 Territory in Saskatchewan. Michelle attained her J.D. from the University of Saskatchewan where she concentrated her studies on First Nations legal issues and corporate law.

Michelle has worked in private practice and represented hundreds of residential school survivors within the Independent Assessment Process. Michelle's practice has focused primarily on Aboriginal, environmental and corporate law. She has experience in areas that are based exclusively on the legal issues of First Nations people across Canada, including Specific Claims, land and economic development, trust drafting and taxation law matters. Michelle has appeared in all levels of court in Saskatchewan. She is an advisor on the environmental and enforcement team for the Lands Advisory Board and Resource Centre.