



**CTIP**  
CENTER FOR TRAUMA  
INFORMED PRACTICES

# 6TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

**“The Practical Applications of Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA™)  
& the Traumatic Event Systems (TES) Model”**

**BANFF, ALBERTA  
APRIL 18 & 19, 2024**

THIS CONFERENCE IS FOCUSED ON THE DIVERSE AND PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS OF VTRA AND TES ON THE GROUND. ALL OF THE PRESENTERS IN THIS CONFERENCE ARE VTRA TRAINED, AND MOST ARE TES TRAINED AS WELL. COLLEAGUES FROM ACROSS NORTH AMERICA WILL BE PRESENTING, INCLUDING:

## **Dr. Mike Bruised Head - Opening Keynote**

DR. MIKE BRUISED HEAD IS AN ELDER FROM KAINAI NATION OF THE SIKSIKAITSIKAPI (BLACKFOOT CONFEDERACY) AND IS A FLUENT BLACKFOOT SPEAKER. HIS BLACKFOOT NAME IS NINNA PIIKSII MEANING CHIEF BIRD. MIKE IS AN KAAHSINNOONIKSI (ELDER) FOR MANY KAINAI CEREMONIES AND CULTURAL EVENTS. HE IS AN KAAHSINNOONIKSI AND INSTRUCTOR FOR THE KIIPATAHPIISINNOON (COURSE PROGRAM) & NIITSITAPIISINNI: REAL PEOPLES' WAY OF LIFE PROGRAMS IN THE WERKLUND SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY. HE COMPLETED HIS DOCTORAL STUDIES IN PHILOSOPHY, MAJORING IN SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND POLITICAL THOUGHT FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE. IN JUNE OF 2023, MIKE WAS THE FIRST PERSON EVER TO DEFEND HIS THESIS IN SIKSIKAITSIPOWAHSIISTSI (THE BLACKFOOT LANGUAGE). HIS THESIS IS TITLED: THE COLONIAL IMPACT OF THE ERASURE OF BLACKFOOT MIISTAKISTSI PLACE NAMES IN PAAHTOMAHKSIKIMI, WATERTON LAKES NATIONAL PARK WHICH INCLUDES RETURNING THE BLACKFOOT NAMES TO THE MOUNTAINS IN WATERTON LAKES NATIONAL PARK.

## **Andrew Culberson - Darren Oaks and Team**

**TITLE: NEW BRUNSWICK PROVINCIAL VTRA PROTOCOL**

**DESCRIPTION: VTRA IN NEW BRUNSWICK IS QUICKLY BECOMING THE WAY WE DO BUSINESS ACROSS SECTORS AND WITHIN COMMUNITIES. WE WILL SHARE WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED FROM OUR JOURNEY AS WE DEVELOPED OUR PROVINCIAL AND COMMUNITY PROTOCOL GUIDES. OUR GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES WILL ENSURE ACCOUNTABILITY WHILE SHARING OF INFORMATION BECOMES SEAMLESS AND DOES NOT HINDER THE OVERALL VTRA PROCESS. WE WILL EXPLORE HOW A RELATIONSHIP FOCUSED AND TRAUMA INFORMED APPROACH LAYS THE FOUNDATION FOR EFFECTIVE VTRA TEAMS.**



## **Bree Claude (PhD. Candidate)**

**TITLE: MINDSET MATTERS: INCREASING COMMUNITY SAFETY AND WELLBEING THROUGH LOCAL LEADERSHIP**

**DESCRIPTION: OVER THE COURSE OF HER NEARLY THREE-DECADE CAREER, BREE CLAUDE HAS BEEN STRUCK BY THE DIVERSITY OF EXPERIENCES SHE HAS HAD IN COMMUNITY OUTCOMES WITH A PARTICULAR FOCUS ON INCREASING COMMUNITY SAFETY AND WELLBEING. AS A PUBLIC SERVANT IN MANY DIFFERENT CAPACITIES, SHE HAS BEEN A PART OF COMMUNITY EFFORTS THAT HAVE CREATED MEANINGFUL, AWE INSPIRING CHANGE FOR CITIZENS, WHILE OTHERS HAVE EXPENDED GREAT FUNDS AND EFFORTS, WITH LITTLE OR NOTHING TO SHOW FOR IT. BREE HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY FASCINATED BY HOW WE "SHOW UP" TO THE WORK AND HOW OUR MINDSETS, INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE, AFFECT OUR OWN PRACTICE AND THE ULTIMATE IMPACT ON THOSE WE ARE HERE TO SERVE. BREE IS CHANNELING THIS CURIOSITY INTO HER DOCTORAL RESEARCH AND WILL SHARE SOME OF HER AHA MOMENTS AND REFLECTIONS ON THIS JOURNEY.**

## **Sgt. Brian Smith, Toronto Police Service & David O'Brien, Yorktown Family Services**

**TITLE: A PARTNERSHIP MODEL FOR PSYCHOSOCIAL INTERVENTION PRACTITIONERS AND POLICE FOR WORKING WITH HIGH-RISK CLIENTS**

**DESCRIPTION: DISCUSSIONS ABOUT HOW TO BEST STRUCTURE AND MANAGE THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN PREVENTION PROGRAMS AND POLICING SERVICES CONTINUE TO BE A PROMINENT QUESTION FOR THE FIELD OF PREVENTING IDEOLOGICALLY MOTIVATED VIOLENT EXTREMISM (P/IMVE) ALSO REFERRED TO AS PREVENTING/COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM (P/CVE). THE TORONTO POLICE SERVICE, ALONGSIDE PARTNER YORKTOWN FAMILY SERVICES (YFS) AND THEIR P/IMVE SPECIFIC PSYCHOSOCIAL INTERVENTION PROGRAM KNOWN AS ETA (ESTIMATED TIME OF ARRIVAL) HAVE DEVELOPED A VARIETY OF PROCESSES TO DEAL WITH HIGH-RISK CLIENTS. THEIR JOINT APPROACHES, USING VTTRA AS THE FOUNDATION AND TOUCHSTONE, EVOLVED OVER MULTIPLE YEARS OF WORKING THROUGH COMPLEX CHALLENGES SUCH AS BARRIERS FOR INFORMATION SHARING, TRUST, MANDATES AND PRIORITIES THAT CAN COME INTO CONFLICT, AND DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES ON HARM PREVENTION. TORONTO'S P/IMVE PROGRAM BEGAN IN 2014 AND IS STRUCTURED WITHIN A LARGER PREVENTION/INTERVENTION PROGRAM INVOLVING OVER 170 COMMUNITY/GOV'T AGENCIES, KNOWN AS FURTHERING OUR COMMUNITIES - UNITING SERVICES (F.O.C.U.S TORONTO) SITUATION TABLES.**

## **Dr. Jennifer Turner**

**TITLE: FINDING CALM IN CHAOS: IMPLEMENTING A RESEARCH-INFORMED CONTINUUM OF SUPPORTS AND SERVICES MODEL**

**DESCRIPTION: WORRISOME BEHAVIOUR AND MENTAL HEALTH CONCERNS ARE AT AN ALL-TIME HIGH IN SCHOOL SETTINGS. POLICYMAKERS, SYSTEM AND SCHOOL LEADERS, CLASSROOM TEACHERS, AND COUNSELLORS ARE ALL SEEKING WAYS TO FIND CALM IN CHAOS. THIS SESSION WILL PRESENT RESEARCH FINDINGS AND PRACTICAL STRATEGIES TO CONSIDER WHEN IMPLEMENTING A CONTINUUM OF SUPPORT AND SERVICES IN SCHOOL SETTINGS.**



# Chief Shahin Mehdizadeh Lethbridge Police Service

**TITLE: HONOUR BASED CRIMES: A THREAT ASSESSMENT PERSPECTIVE**

**DESCRIPTION: THIS SESSION WILL COVER SOME DISCUSSIONS ON “HONOUR BASED CRIME/S” AND “FORCED MARRIAGES” WITH A QUICK CASE STUDY AND DISCUSSIONS ON HOW IT MAY RELATE TO SCHOOLS, WORKPLACES AND OTHER SIMILAR INSTITUTIONS WHEN MAKING ASSESSMENTS (ACTUAL OR SUSPICIONS) AND DEVELOPING THREAT ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING MEASURES.**

# Dr. Coralee Pringle-Nelson

**TITLE: NAVIGATING POST-TRAUMATIC GROWTH: PERSPECTIVES FROM SCHOOL LEADERS**

**DESCRIPTION: THIS SESSION WILL EXAMINE THE RESEARCH COMING OUT OF THE STUDY, “SCHOOL LEADERS’ EXPERIENCES LEADING AFTER A TRAUMATIC EVENT: A POST-TRAUMATIC GROWTH PERSPECTIVE.” ORIGINATING FROM THE PRESENTER’S OWN EXPERIENCES WITH LEADERS DEALING WITH WORKPLACE-LINKED TRAUMATIC EVENTS, THE EXPLORATION IS BOTH ESSENTIAL AND TIMELY. RELYING ON INTERPRETIVE DESCRIPTION, THE RESEARCH METHODOLOGY COMBINES THE POST-TRAUMATIC GROWTH INVENTORY (TEDESCHI & CALHOUN, 1996) WITH QUALITATIVE INQUIRY IN EXAMINING LEADERS’ POST-TRAUMA EXPERIENCES. THROUGH THIS PROCESS, THE FINDINGS UNFOLD A FASCINATING REALITY: DESPITE THE HARDSHIPS THEY FACED DUE TO THE TRAUMATIC INCIDENTS, LEADERS RECOGNIZED SUBSTANTIAL GROWTH AND PROFOUND CHANGES IN THEIR WAY OF UNDERSTANDING THEIR WORK AND THEIR PERSONAL LIVES. IN THIS SESSION, ATTENTION IS GIVEN TO SUPPORTING LEADERS MANAGE THE EMOTIONAL LABOUR THAT COMES OUT OF CUMULATIVE STRESS AND TRAUMA, MITIGATING POTENTIAL BURNOUT, AND FOSTERING POSTTRAUMATIC GROWTH. THE PRESENTATION ILLUMINATES THE PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE STUDY, OFFERING MUCH-NEEDED UNDERSTANDING FOR LEADERS IN SIMILAR SITUATIONS.**

# Bonnie Randall

**TITLE: VTRA INTERVIEWING STRATEGIES FROM AN ACE’S PERSPECTIVE**

**DESCRIPTION: WITH THEIR TENDENCY TOWARD HIGH REACTIVITY, INDIVIDUALS WHO SCORE HIGH ON THE ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES (ACES) SCALE PRESENT UNIQUE CHALLENGES BOTH RELATIONALLY AND IN THE DATA-COLLECTING INTERVIEW PROCESS WITHIN OUR ASSESSMENTS OF RISK TO OTHERS. THROUGH A COMPASSIONATE LENS AND IN THE SPIRIT OF ‘MATCHING RESOURCE TO RISK’—BONNIE RANDALL DRAWS ON STRATEGIES COVERED IN BOTH ACES FROM A VTRA PERSPECTIVE & TRAUMATIC EVENTS IN SYSTEMS TO CREATE A ROSTER OF PRACTICAL METHODS FOR PRODUCTIVE INTERVIEWS WITH HIGH ACES INDIVIDUALS—WHO OFTEN SHARE MANY TRAITS IN COMMON WITH THE INDIVIDUALS OF CONCERN WE SOMETIMES DEEM AS “HIGH BASELINE,” OTHERTIMES AS OUR ‘EMPTY VESSELS.’**



## **Madison Cameron, Youth Specialist, CTIP**

**TITLE: A MOMENT IN TIME: THE POWER OF SOCIAL MEDIA, RELATIONSHIPS AND MEANINGFUL CONVERSATIONS**

**DESCRIPTION: MADISON WILL DISCUSS HER ONGOING WORK WITH STUDENTS AND YOUNG ATHLETES ACROSS THE COUNTRY AND HOW THEIR STORIES ARE INFORMING OUR CTIP PRACTICES. SHE WILL SHARE INSIGHTS FROM COLLABORATIONS WITH SCHOOL DISTRICTS/DIVISIONS INVOLVING WORK WITH SCHOOL-CONNECTED PROFESSIONALS AS WELL AS PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS.**

## **J. Kevin Cameron, Executive Director, CTIP Lionel Rabb, President and CEO**

**TITLE: INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW STAGE TWO VTTRA/ARTO REPORT FORM**

**DESCRIPTION: THIS CONCLUDING PRESENTATION WILL INTRODUCE PARTICIPANTS TO THE NEW STAGE TWO VTTRA/ARTO REPORT FORM AND CASE FORMULATION PROCESS (CFP). THIS WILL BE THE FIRST TIME THAT CTIP HAS FORMALLY GUIDED VTTRA TRAINED PRACTITIONERS IN TREATMENT PLANNING AND INTERVENTION BEYOND THE STAGE ONE PROCESS. BUILDING ON THE TRAUMA-INFORMED AND EQUITY AND INCLUSION GUIDED "ASSESSMENT OF RISK TO OTHERS" (ARTO), INTRODUCED AT THE LAST CTIP CONFERENCE, THIS ADDITIONAL RESOURCE WILL ENHANCE THE STREAMLINED WORK OF BEING HELPFUL AND NOT HURTFUL IN OUR PURSUIT OF SAFETY AND WELLNESS FOR ALL.**