

42<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL

# Protecting Our Children

Together We Stand:  
Preserving the Spirit of ICWA



**NICWA**






National Indian Child Welfare Association  
Protecting Our Children • Preserving Our Culture

**2024 Agenda**

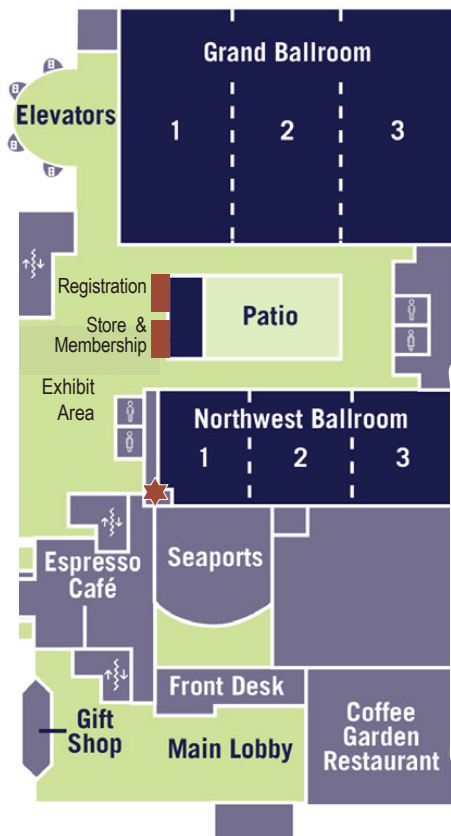
April 7-10, 2024 • Seattle, WA

# Conference Map

## Floor Map Key

-  Elevators
-  Meeting/Conference Rooms
-  Amenities/Service Areas
-  Public Space
-  Handicap accessible elevator access to Evergreen Rooms

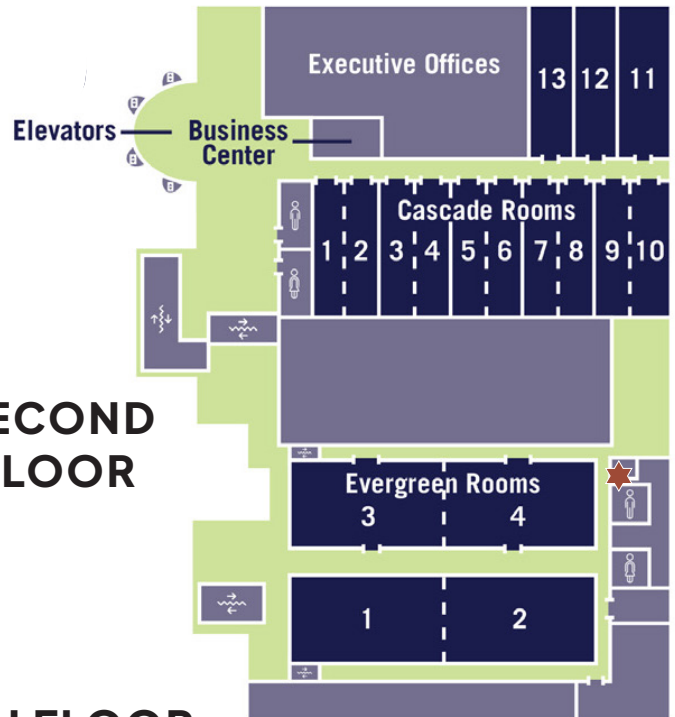
## GROUND FLOOR



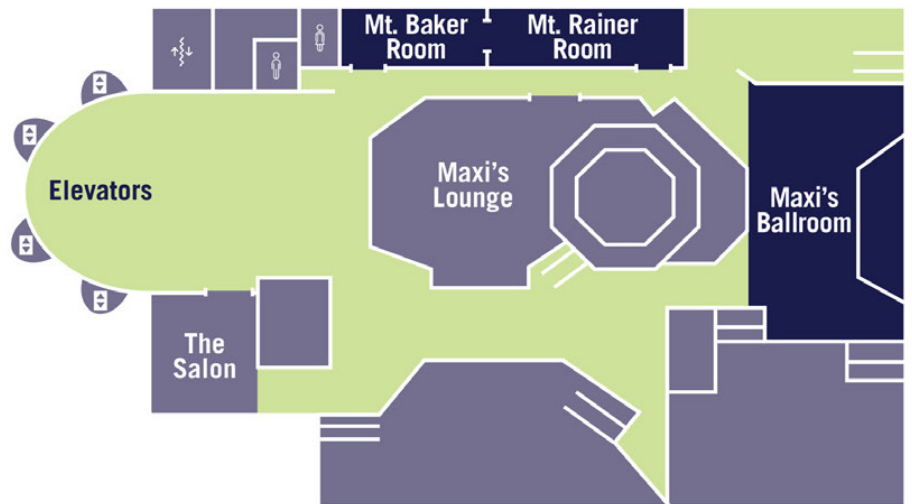
## Ground Floor

- General Session (*Grand Ballroom*)
- Overflow General Session (*Northwest Ballroom*)
- Day of Prayer (*Patio, as weather allows*)
- Registration (*Foyer*)
- Store and Membership (*Foyer*)
- Exhibits (*Foyer*)
- Workshops (*Northwest Ballrooms*)

## SECOND FLOOR



## 14TH FLOOR



## Second Floor

Workshops (*Cascade and Evergreen Rooms*)

## 14th Floor

- Community Lounge (*Maxi's Lounge*)
- Craft Room (*The Salon*)
- Computer Lab (*Mt. Baker Room*)
- Play Lab (*Maxi's Ballroom*)

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# Schedule at a Glance

## SUNDAY

3:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.

**Registration**

4:30 p.m.–6:00 p.m.

**Presenter Orientation**

7:00 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

**Membership Reception &  
Annual Meeting**

## MONDAY

7:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

**Registration**

8:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

**Opening General Session**

1:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

**Workshops A**

3:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

**Workshops B**

## TUESDAY

8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.

**General Session**

10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

**Workshops C**

1:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

**Workshops D**

3:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

**Workshops E**

6:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

**Banquet Dinner**

## WEDNESDAY

8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.

**Workshops F**

10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

**Closing General Session**

# Customize Your Conference

Download the NICWA Annual Conference app now to personalize your conference experience for maximum professional development and networking!

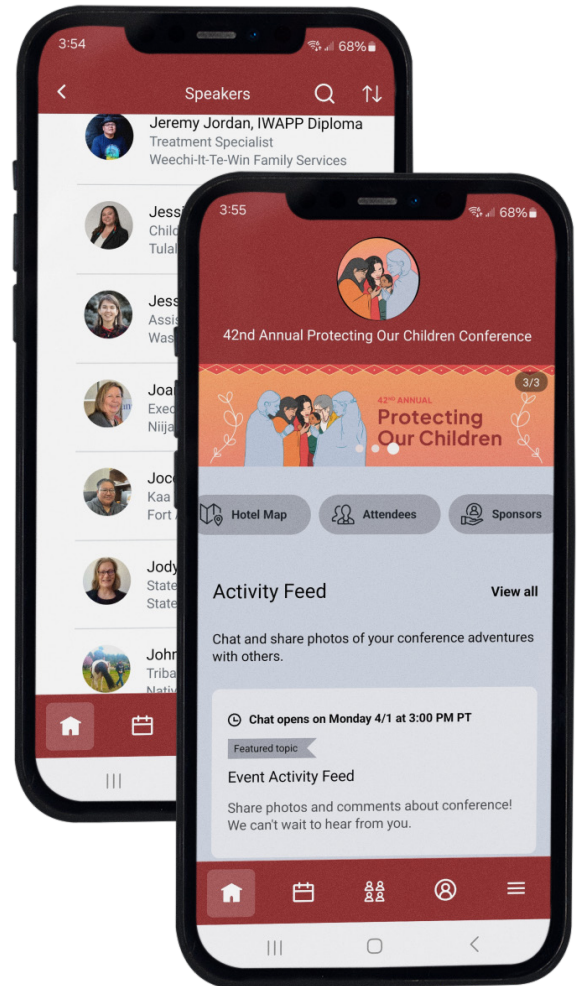
## GET STARTED:

1. **Download** the conference app by going to the App Store (iOS) or Play Store (Android) and searching for “Cvent Events” or by scanning the QR Code below.



2. **Search** for the event titled “42nd Annual Protecting Our Children Conference.”
3. **Enjoy** all the conference details. To customize your agenda, log in using the name and email address used to register for the event.

Full workshop descriptions, presenter bios, and the most current updates to the conference schedule can only be found on the app!



# Welcome Letter

## Dear NICWA Members and Conference Attendees,



On behalf of the National Indian Child Welfare Association Board of Directors and staff, we are pleased to welcome you to the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Protecting Our Children Conference. We welcome you to our home region of the Pacific Northwest, Seattle, Washington.

We hope you can learn from and connect with each other and feel the warmth of the local hospitality and cultures throughout the plenary sessions, workshops, and opportunities for relationship-building during the conference.

This year's conference theme, "Together We Stand: Preserving the Spirit of ICWA," speaks to the moment of opportunity before us. The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) powerfully proclaims "...that it is the policy of this Nation to protect the best interests of Indian children and to promote the stability and security of Indian families..." (25 U.S.C. § 1902). The spirit of ICWA ensures our children grow up with strong cultural identities, rooted in the language and traditions of our ancestors, so that our tribal communities remain strong.

For over 45 years, tribal nations fought to uphold this declaration and constitutional protection of their children. This has never been more evident than the coalition-building, including grassroots efforts, that occurred during the *Haaland v. Brackeen* case. Standing in solidarity and using our collective power is how we achieved success. With this decision on the record, Indian Country is emboldened in our work to ensure compliance with ICWA and strengthen its implementation.

It takes many months of work to organize an event like this conference, and we want to thank the many people who have worked hard to make this year's conference a success: our presenters, the local planning committee, board members, staff, and especially all of you, our conference attendees.

Our host sponsors also deserve our sincere thanks. This year, we have four host sponsors, three of whom call this region home. We are grateful for the sponsorship of the Muckleshoot Tribe, who will also host a special cultural experience, a traditional Coastal Jam, on Monday night, where songs and dances will be shared by the region's tribes. We are thankful for the sponsorship of the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, longtime supporters of NICWA's work who are sponsoring our conference for the first time. Fellow first-time sponsor The Pokémon Company International (TCPI), with its U.S. headquarters in Bellevue, Washington, is deepening its relationship with Native and First Nations communities, hosting a Play Lab during the conference. Meet TCPI employees on the 14<sup>th</sup> floor of our conference hotel to join in the fun and games. Finally, the Seminole Tribe of Florida has provided generous support for this conference for the 16<sup>th</sup> straight year. We are deeply grateful for their unwavering partnership.

We hope you find our time together valuable, enjoyable, and beneficial to your vital work. We hope that you leave the Protecting Our Children Conference inspired to carry this relentless advocacy back to the children, families, and communities you serve.

Thank you,

**Gil Vigil (Tesuque Pueblo)**

President, Board of Directors  
National Indian Child Welfare Association

**Sarah L. Kastelic, PhD (Alutiiq)**

Executive Director  
National Indian Child Welfare Association

# Welcome to Seattle!



Jason Elkins, Chair

Donny Stevenson, Vice-Chair

Jessica Garcia-Jones  
Secretary

John Daniels Jr., Treasurer



Virginia Cross

Leroy Courville Jr.

Mike Jerry Sr.

Anita Mitchell

Louie Ungaro



## MUCKLESHOOT TRIBAL COUNCIL



Ancestral Homeland of the Muckleshoot People.

### The Puyallup Tribe of Indians is a proud sponsor of the 2024 NICWA Protecting Our Children Conference.

The goal of the Puyallup Tribe's Children's Services Foster Care Program is to keep Native Children with Native or Tribal community foster parents. It is vital to keep our children connected to their culture, especially given the traumatic history of Native children being taken away from their communities.



3009 E Portland Ave. Tacoma, WA 98404  
253-573-7800 | puyalluptribe-nsn.gov

# Conference Schedule

## Sunday, April 7, 2024

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3:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.

**Registration**

Main Lobby

4:30 p.m.–6:00 p.m.

**Presenter Orientation**

Evergreen 1–2

7:00 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

**Membership Reception and Annual Meeting**

Grand Ballroom

## Monday, April 8, 2024

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7:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

**Registration**

Main Lobby

8:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

**Opening General Session**

Grand Ballroom and overflow  
in Northwest Ballroom

**Indigenizing the Future: The Journey of  
Healing of the Canoe Youth Curriculum**

**Ombimindwaa Gidinawemaaganinaadog  
Uplifting Our Relatives—Taming the Beast:  
Decolonizing Child Welfare**

1:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

**Workshops A**

3:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

**Workshops B**

7:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.

**Coastal Jam hosted by the Muckleshoot Tribe**

Northwest Ballroom

## Tuesday, April 9, 2024

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7:30 a.m.–8:15 a.m.

**National Day of Prayer for Native Children**

Patio

8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.

**General Session**

Grand Ballroom and overflow  
in Northwest Ballroom

**Indigenous Youth’s Perspective  
on Child Welfare**

10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

**Workshops C**

1:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

**Workshops D**

3:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

**Workshops E**

6:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

**Banquet Dinner**

Grand Ballroom and overflow  
in Northwest Ballroom

*Featuring comedian Kasey Nicholson*

## Wednesday, April 10, 2024

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8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.

**Workshops F**

10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

**Closing General Session**

Grand Ballroom and overflow  
in Northwest Ballroom

**Mobilizing to Strengthen ICWA: Our  
Relentless Advocacy**

# Welcome

The NICWA board of directors and staff welcome you to the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Protecting Our Children Conference.

## NICWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Gil Vigil** (Tesuque Pueblo), *President*  
**Angela Connor** (Choctaw), *Vice President*  
**W. Alex Wesaw** (Pokagon Band of Potawatomi),  
*Secretary*  
**Aurene Martin** (Bad River Band of Lake Superior  
Chippewa), *Treasurer*

**Teresa Baldwin** (Inupiaq)  
**Justine Bautista** (Northern Cheyenne)  
**Mikah Carlos** (Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian  
Community)  
**Patricia Carter-Goodheart** (Nez Perce)  
**Rose Domnick** (Orutsararmut Native Council)  
**Brad Earl** (Colville descent)  
**Rochelle Ettawageshik** (Little Traverse Bay Band of  
Odawa Indians)  
**Debra Foxcroft** (Tseshaht First Nation)  
**Charles Martin** (Morongo Band of Mission Indians)  
**Robbie McGhee** (Poarch Band of Creek Indians)  
**Gary Peterson** (Skokomish)  
**Robin Sigo** (Suquamish Tribe)  
**Stephanie Weldon** (Yurok Tribe)

## Thank you, Local Planning Committee!

This year, we are proud to present our local planning committee who volunteered time out of their busy schedules to help bring our event together. Only with their help and direction could we connect with members of local tribes and organizations, ensuring a diverse and well-represented conference.

### Serving on our local planning committee this year are:

- Amanda Andujar, Nisqually Children and Family Services
- Anna Bean (Puyallup Tribe of Indians), Puyallup Tribe
- Virginia Cross (Muckleshoot Indian Tribe), Muckleshoot Indian Tribe
- Alexandra James (Muckleshoot Indian Tribe), Muckleshoot Indian Tribe
- Kateri Joe (Swinomish/ Halat), Treehouse
- Cheryl Miller (Assiniboine Sioux), Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
- Anita Mitchell (Muckleshoot Indian Tribe), Muckleshoot Indian Tribe
- Yvonne Oberly (Osage/Comanche/Nez Perce), Muckleshoot Indian Tribe
- Nina Old Coyote (Lummi Nation), Suquamish Tribal Child Welfare
- Shannel Squally-Janzen (Puyallup Tribe of Indians), Puyallup Tribe Children's Services
- Angel Van Brunt (Colville), Treehouse



# General Sessions

## Monday, April 8

8:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

This plenary session consists of two panels

### Indigenizing the Future: The Journey of Healing of the Canoe Youth Curriculum

The Healing of the Canoe curriculum is a life skills and substance abuse prevention curriculum for use with tribal youth. It was designed to be adapted by tribal communities using their unique tribal traditions, practices, beliefs, values, and stories to teach youth the skills they need to navigate life's journey and to promote a sense of belonging to their tribal community. The curriculum consists of 14 chapters and uses the Pacific Northwest Tribal Canoe Journey as a metaphor for life. Traditional stories, cultural activities, and speakers from the community are woven into each chapter. This curriculum is available for free at <https://healingofthecanoe.org/>.

#### Alberta-Jane (Albie) Lawrence (Tlingit), MSW

Alberta-Jane (Albie) Lawrence is Tlingit, Tsimshian, and Filipino. She is Killer Whale Clan from Metlakatla and an enrolled member of the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska. Albie is the mother of three, grandmother of one, and has been married to the love of her life for more than 25 years. She received her BSW from Eastern Michigan University in 2009 and her MSW from the University of Washington in 2011. Albie is an experienced grant writer, researcher, and program developer. She has been a part of the Healing of the Canoe team since 2009 as a facilitator, trainer, and now executive director of SaltFire, the nonprofit that is the current home of the Healing of the Canoe training center.



#### Vincent Chargualaf (Suquamish Tribe)

Vincent Chargualaf is a member of the Suquamish Tribe. He is the father of an adorable daughter and is grateful to raise her with the ancestral wisdom and contemporary joy of her Indigenous roots. Vincent was one of the first students to go through the Healing of the Canoe curriculum and is now a facilitator and trainer. Additionally, Vincent is a Lushootseed language speaker, singer, drummer, canoe puller, and mentor. Currently, he works for the Suquamish Tribe in the Family and Friends Center and has spent many years working with the Grand Ronde Tribe.



#### Robin Little Wing Sigo (Suquamish Tribe), MSW

Robin Little Wing Sigo is a Suquamish tribal leader and director of the Suquamish Foundation. After obtaining her MSW from the University of Washington in 2006, she ran the Suquamish Tribe Wellness Center and provided mental health counseling, specializing in dual disorders and complex trauma. She left this work to serve as principal investigator of the Healing of the Canoe research project for over 15 years. Robin has served on the NICWA Board since 2020. She also co-founded SaltFire, the Indigenous mental health nonprofit that houses Healing of the Canoe. She has four children and considers herself an aunty to children, plants, and animals.



## Monday, April 8

8:30 a.m. –12:00 p.m.

### **Ombimindwaa Gidinawemaaganinaadog Uplifting Our Relatives—Taming the Beast: Decolonizing Child Welfare**

The intersectionality of federal, state, county, and tribe regarding the child welfare system is complex. Utilizing sovereign status, Red Lake Nation is navigating the structures created to remove Indian children from their homes and realigning them using Indigenous values and practices. Active engagement with all systems is a critical factor in protecting families from the colonized approach to child welfare. You will learn how renaming the Red Lake child welfare program in the traditional language to Ombimindwaa Gidinawemaaganinaadog (Uplifting our Relatives) has set the intention on how the program moves forward. Our intergenerational family wellness model, grounded in Anishinaabe values, shows evidence of effectiveness through decreased numbers of children in out-of-home placement by 67% since 2017. Our dynamic team will share the multisystem approach to Taming the Beast, also known as the child welfare system.

**Wabiski Aanakwad, Cheri Goodwin**, (Red Lake Nation), MSW, LGSW



Cheri Goodwin is a Red Lake tribal member belonging to the Eagle Clan. In 2015, she transitioned from working with elders to leading the tribe's child welfare program as executive director. Colonization's harmful impact due to child removal and family destruction drives her determination to decolonize. Believing in a multisystem approach, working from the heart, and creating meaningful relationships has led to change. Ms. Goodwin has secured funding through a state-tribal Title IV-E agreement, leveraged federal and state funds, increased the workforce, shifted focus to family preservation, and implemented an intergenerational practice model based on the Anishinaabe traditional values.

**Waasamooginini (Lightning Man), Makwa Doodem (Bear Clan) – Frederick Desjarlait** (Red Lake Nation)



As the cultural coordinator at Ombimindwaa Gidinawemaaganinaadog and an enrolled Red Lake Band member, Frederick Desjarlait ensures culture is at the forefront of their intergenerational family wellness practice model. On a systems level, his cultural knowledge and spiritual connection set the tone for intergovernmental collaboration, where discussion happens within the context of an Anishinaabe worldview. In addition, Mr. Desjarlait is a direct care provider, offering traditional healing to individuals, families, and the community.



## Tuesday, April 9

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

**Oshkiibaagaa Waasimo –  
Andrea Goodwin**, (Red Lake  
Nation), BSW



Andrea Goodwin is a Red Lake Nation Band member from the Wolf Clan and the American Indian Child Welfare Initiative coordinator for Ombimindwaa Gidinawemaaganinaadog. Since joining the team in 2017, she has utilized her gift of seeing strengths in others, uplifting relatives who work in Tribal programs and relatives who are involved with child welfare services. In honoring her mentors and teachers, Ms. Goodwin shares the Anishinaabe culture and traditional teachings in a way that is decolonizing child welfare. Furthermore, Ms. Goodwin believes in team leadership and team decision making to influence positive changes at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels.

**Miskwaanakwad Ikwe –  
Amy RedCloud** (White Earth  
Nation), MS, LPCC



Amy RedCloud is from the White Earth Nation belonging to the Loon Clan. She brings her lived and professional experience to her current position at Red Lake as the mental health clinical treatment director for Ombimindwaa Gidinawemaganinaadog. Ms. RedCloud oversees community-based mental health services and is part of the team leading Red Lake Nation's interdisciplinary approach to child welfare.

### Indigenous Youth's Perspective on Child Welfare

Panelists will share about the essentialness of connection to culture, tradition, land, family, and community for Native children and youth. On this panel, we will address the journey and fight to protect ICWA and where child welfare goes post-SCOTUS ICWA decision. We will also provide personal connection and reflection on the harm that is still felt today by Native communities as the result of a long history of oppression and mass removal of Native children and what that means to us as Native system-impacted young people. To finalize this panel, we will also share our hopes and vision for the future of child welfare and our Native communities.

**Panelist: Alejandra Gomez**  
(First Nations Ojibwe-Cree)



Alejandra Gomez is a committed human rights activist advocating for foster youth and Indigenous communities nationally and internationally. As an Indigenous former foster youth who experienced homelessness during her youth, she intimately understands the challenges of losing family, language, culture, and traditions, and starting anew. Alejandra's advocacy extends beyond her college campus as she actively engages in policy analysis, aiming to influence public policy on critical issues such as youth homelessness, the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), foster care, and Indigenous affairs/tribal sovereignty across the globe. Her focus revolves around harnessing Indigenous cultural strength, fostering community support, and advocating for comprehensive investment to drive positive change within the child welfare system while strengthening Indigenous communities.

**Panelist: Shanell Lavallie**  
(Aaniiih and Nakoda)

Shanell is currently teaching elementary school in Great Falls, MT. She graduated with a BS in Elementary Education in 2021. Shanell was in two foster care placements, and one became her long-term placement; she spent a total of 17 years in the foster care system and aged out at 18 years old. She was placed with a tribal foster family and was able to connect to Native culture and broad traditions; however, she is still reconnecting to her tribal nations, Aaniiih and Nakoda. Shanell was able to grow up with two of her siblings while in foster care; she is still connected to three of her five siblings. Shanell is passionate about being a voice for Native American foster youth in the education system.



**Panelist: Robert Mesa**  
(Navajo Nation and Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians)

Robert I Mesa is a Navajo and Soboba works internationally as an actor, writer, multi-disciplinary artist, and humanitarian who calls Santa Fe, New Mexico, home. He studied filmmaking at the Institute of American Indian Art before taking on his role as the first Native American actor to star in Grey's Anatomy. Using his platform as a TV personality, Robert has made it his mission to give back to his community. He has led numerous benefit events for the Lightning Boy Foundation, the Violence Against Women Act, CASA First, and Ukrainians of New Mexico. Having navigated the foster care system and homelessness as a child and youth, Robert hopes to ensure wide audiences hear about the need to understand and fully support children and youth while in foster care.



**Moderator: Veronica Krupnick** (Hopi Tribe and Jemez Pueblo)

Veronica Krupnick is a youth, tribal advocate, and leader within the local, state, and national levels of the child welfare community. Veronica is an established voice on state and national issues as a lived experience expert, working with child welfare leadership and stakeholders across the United States. After serving four years as the mentorship, advocacy, and peer support program coordinator at the Court-Appointed Special Advocates First Judicial District (CASA First), she now serves as vice president of the organization's board of directors. In 2022, Veronica began her venture into the New Mexico legislature, first serving as a campaign assistant and then the Senate liaison for the House. She aspires to be a role model, a supportive and positive mentor, and a fierce and dedicated voice for other children, youth, and young adults impacted by the child welfare system, especially those from tribal communities.

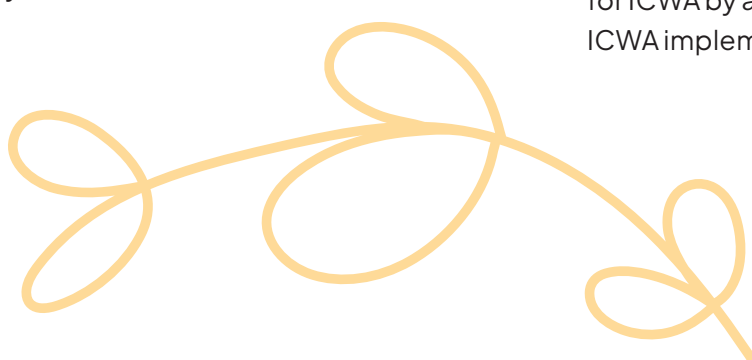


## Wednesday, April 10

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

### Mobilizing to Strengthen ICWA: Our Relentless Advocacy

The US Supreme Court's *Haaland v. Brackeen* decision strongly upheld the Indian Child Welfare Act, a victory for tribal sovereignty and tribal nations. Opponents have made clear that they will continue to challenge ICWA, and we will vigilantly monitor new attacks on ICWA in courts, federal and state policy, and the media. In parallel, we are rising to meet the moment of widespread support for ICWA by advancing our agenda to strengthen ICWA implementation and compliance.



In this session, NICWA leaders and partners will share what we've heard from tribal leaders about their priorities and how we're mobilizing to protect ICWA and Native children's rights to their families, communities, and cultures. Don't miss this exciting conversation to hear more about what you can do.

**Panelist: Amory Zschach**  
(*Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes*)

Amory Zschach is a citizen of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes and is passionate about the work of Native-led nonprofits driving narrative change through communications. She is the communications director at NICWA. With over eight years of experience leading communications efforts in the nonprofit sector, Amory is skilled in media relations, content strategy, and brand management. Amory was raised in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, and currently lives in Portland, Oregon. She is vice president of the Nonprofit Association of Oregon.



**Panelist:**  
**David Simmons, MSW**

David Simmons has over 30 years of professional experience in child welfare services as a direct service provider and in program and policy development. He is NICWA's director of government affairs and advocacy and works extensively with tribal, federal, and state governments, and private organizations. He is a nationally recognized expert on public policy issues affecting American Indian and Alaskan Native children and has led successful efforts to improve tribal policies and funding in federal programs. He is also an accomplished trainer and technical assistance provider with experience in a variety of program development areas.



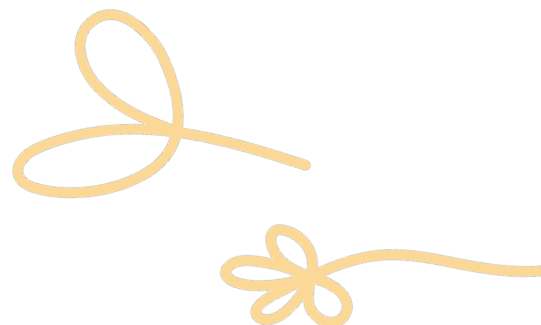
**Panelist: Sarah Kastelic**  
(*Alutiiq*), MSW, PhD

Dr. Sarah Kastelic (*Alutiiq*), an enrolled citizen of the Native Village of Ouzinkie, became the executive director of NICWA in January 2015. Prior to joining NICWA in 2011, Sarah led the National Congress of American Indians' (NCAI) welfare reform program and, in 2003, was the founding director of NCAI's Policy Research Center. She began her career at the Bureau of Indian Affairs central office as a child welfare specialist in 1998. She earned a master's degree and PhD from the George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis, where she serves as adjunct faculty. She is a member of the boards of directors of the Independent Sector, Generations United, and Underscore.



**Moderator: Robbie McGhee**  
(*Poarch Band of Creek Indians*)

Robbie McGhee (*Poarch Creek*) is vice chairman of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians Tribal Council. He previously worked at the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs, the U.S. Senate, and Troutman Sanders LLP-Indian Law Practice Group. He currently serves on the boards of the National Indian Child Welfare Association, National Museum of the American Indian, Children First Alabama, and the Center for Native American Youth.



# Workshops by Session

**Monday, April 8, 2024**

**1:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m.**

**The Impact of State ICWA Laws on Improving Foster Care Outcomes for Indian Families**

Allison Dunnigan, Claudette Grinnell-Davis, and Abram Lyons

*Cascade 1–2*

**Safe Babies Approach:  
A Good Fit for Tribal Communities?**

Kimberly Nabarro, Sarah Kastelic, Ekaterina (Kateryna) Zoubak, and Darneshia Allen

*Cascade 3–4*

**Alternatives to Termination of Parental Rights**

Nikki Baker-Limore

*Cascade 5–6*

**Collaboration Among Cree First Nation Communities and Urban Child Protection Agencies**

Jocelyne Sutherland and Joanne Koehler,

*Cascade 7–8*

**Resources to Support Missing and Exploited Children in Tribal Communities**

Melissa McGee and Kim Parks-Bourn

*Cascade 9*

**Working with Alaska Native Tribes**

Tasha Yatchmeneff, Ali Wykis, and Casey Groat

*Cascade 10*

**Culturally Responsive Recruitment and Retention within Indigenous Communities**

Kendra Lowden and Kimberly Bonham

*Cascade 11*

**Mitakuye Oyasin (We are all Related):  
Mentoring through a Traditional Kinship Model**

Valeriah Big Eagle and Tasha Fridia-Mousseau

*Cascade 12*

**Applying Family Healing to Wellness Court Best Practices to Improve Outcomes for Families**

Ashay Shah and Will Blakeley

*Cascade 13*

**Working with Substance–Abusing Families**

Terry Cross and Dallas Archuleta

*Evergreen 1–2*

**Better Tech, Better Outcomes: Leveraging Technology for the Well–Being of American Indian Youth**

Dorelia Miller and Tara Bruening

*Evergreen 3–4*

**Community Healing–Community Building**

Sandy White Hawk and Jacque Wilson

*Northwest 1*

**ICWA Court Practice, Implication,  
and Early Outcomes**

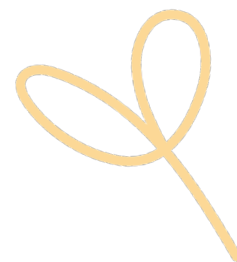
Sheldon Spotted Elk, Chereese Phillips, and Caroline Black

*Northwest 2*

**Reducing Child Welfare Cases: The Power of Community Involvement**

Cheryl Miller and Joylina Gonzalez

*Northwest 3*



## Monday, April 8, 2024

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3:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

### **Simulation–Based Training as a Best Practice for Child Welfare Workers and Child Advocates**

Dana Klar

*Cascade 1–2*

### **Listening Session to Improve Mental Health Outcomes**

Mary Wichansky, Erin Bader, Becky Main, and Shannon Crossbear

*Cascade 3–4*

### **Campus Community Dialogue with Future Leaders on Keeping Native Families Together**

Celeste Kimimila Terry, Ambey Clark, and Nevaeh Ramon

*Cascade 5–6*

### **Collaboration for Strengthening Urban Natives (SUNs)**

Valerie Uken, Terry Medina, and Erin Binneboese

*Cascade 7–8*

### **Culturally Responsive Multi–Disciplinary Teams Ensure the Connection to Family, Community, Culture**

Kimee Wind–Hummingbird, Deanna Chancellor, and Kara Pasqua

*Cascade 9*

### **Alaska's Transformative & Collaborative Approach to Strengthening ICWA**

Nicole Borrromeo, Lucille Johnson, and Kim Guay

*Cascade 10*

### **A Legal Advocacy Model with Children and Families at Its Center**

Shana King, Marlee Torrence, and Ann Haines

*Cascade 11*

### **Understanding ICWA: Learning the Basics of the Indian Child Welfare Act**

Mariah Meyerholz and David Simmons

*Cascade 12*

### **Active Efforts for State Agencies and Courts**

Robert Ludgate

*Cascade 13*

### **Neqqiaput linruugut (Our Food is Medicine): A Framework Using Subsistence to Promote Health Equity**

Katrina Domnick, Rose Domnick, and Andrea Bersamin

*Evergreen 1–2*

### **Setting Expectations from the Start: How Active Efforts Can Lead to Reunification**

Lindsey Fooks, Jacqueline Yalch, and WyndSOR Yazzie

*Evergreen 3–4*

### **Coyote Cast of Characters**

Yvonne Peterson, James DelaCruz, and Jace Hoag

*Northwest 1*

### **Connecting History of Self Through Traditions and Story Telling**

Gary Smith, Jeremy Jordan, and Edward Yerxa

*Northwest 2*

### **All of the Pieces: Cultural Identity for Indigenous Children in Care**

Terry Eastman and Cindy Ghostkeeper

*Northwest 3*

## Tuesday, April 9, 2024

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10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

**Finding Their Way Back: Lessons Learned from 45 Boys Who Died by Homicide or Suicide in Manitoba**

Sherry Gott and Kelly Gossfeld

*Cascade 1–2*

**Good Child Welfare Governance is Prevention: Strengthening the Leadership of Tribal Child Welfare**

Sarah Kastelic

*Cascade 3–4*

**California's Tribal Dependency Representation Program**

Stephanie Weldon, Charlissa Strong, and Tamara Honrado

*Cascade 5–6*

**Grounded in Our Values: Uplifting a Tribal Sovereignty Paradigm in State Child Welfare Practices**

Sommer Dey Rosette and Crystal Hedemann

*Cascade 7–8*

**Healthy Families "Elluarluteng Ilakutellriit"**

Kimberly Jackson, Hilda Nicholai, and Ashleigh Hensley

*Cascade 9*

**Early Intervention and Prevention Programs**

Laura Newton, Elaine Connelly, and Cassidy Korbitz

*Cascade 10*

**Supporting Relative Caregivers through Improved Foster Care Licensing**

Cheryl Miller, Ana Beltran, and David Simmons,

*Cascade 11*

**Chehalis Basketry as a Healing Art**

Yvonne Peterson and Samantha Hiatt

*Cascade 12*

**ICWA Resource Center for Caregivers**

Kelly Tannehill and Rita Hart

*Cascade 13*

**Development and Implementation of Tribal Foster Care and Relative/Kinship Care Standards**

Terry Cross and Mariah Meyerholz

*Evergreen 1–2*

**Healthy Native Youth: Culturally Relevant Curricula, Tools & Resources for Native Youth & Families**

Taylor Dean and Michelle Singer

*Evergreen 3–4*

**Nurturing Our Relatives: Community-Driven Practice**

Victoria Fisher and Rhonda Kelly

*Northwest 1*

**Decolonizing the History of the Gender Binary in Service of Supporting Indigenous Youth**

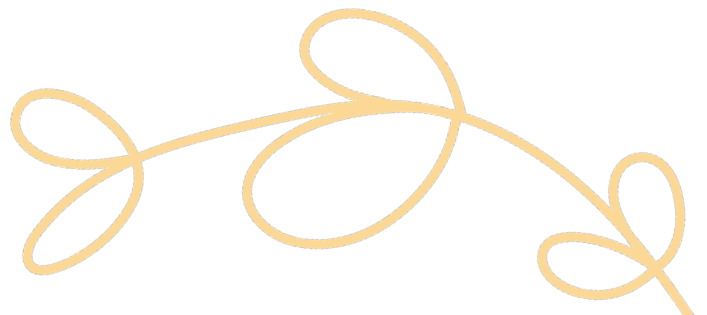
Arc Telos Saint Amour

*Northwest 2*

**Healing the Whole Circle: Working with Parents in Corrections to Heal Families**

Lu-Anne Haukaas and Austin Brown

*Northwest 3*





## Tuesday, April 9, 2024

1:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

### **Passing a State ICWA Statute: Processes Analyzed, Outcomes Improved, and Lessons Learned**

Misty Flowers and Claudette Grinnell-Davis

*Cascade 1–2*

### **Tribal Engagement in Establishment of Early Childhood–Safe Babies Courts: A Washington State Example**

Morgan Silverman and Tara Reynon

*Cascade 3–4*

### **From Strength to Strength: The Perseverance of Indigenous Laws Amidst Supreme Court Rulings**

Hadley Friedland and Koren Lightning-Earle

*Cascade 5–6*

### **The State of Minnesota Guardian ad Litem Program: ICWA Division Presents a New Model**

Lynn Brave Heart and Jody Alholinna

*Cascade 7–8*

### **Cultivating Trauma–Responsive and Healing–Informed Tribal Child Welfare Programs**

Kimee Wind-Hummingbird

*Cascade 9*

### **Bizayok Abinojisak–Bringing Our Children Home**

Seymour Monias and Chad Vincent

*Cascade 10*

### **New Mexico Indian Family Protection Act: First Year Review**

Grace Nailor, Donalyn Sarracino, and Christiana Sisneros

*Cascade 11*

### **Our Calricaraq Community Story**

Katrina Domnick and Rose Domnick

*Cascade 12*

### **A Tribal Approach to Monitoring and Advocating for Active Efforts**

Robert Ludgate

*Cascade 13*

### **Breaking the Silence: Supporting Native Boys Experiencing Sexual Violence**

Lenny Hayes, Jana Pfeiffer, and Whirlwind Bull Yellow Bear

*Evergreen 1–2*

### **Narrative Change for Native Children and Families**

Amory Zschach and Kyra Antone

*Evergreen 3–4*

### **ICWA in Australia: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Welfare**

Jackie Cammell

*Northwest 1*

### **It All Starts with ICWA**

Emily Adams

*Northwest 2*

### **Following the Trail: Using Process Mapping in Tribal Child Welfare**

Pricilla Day and Erin Geary

*Northwest 3*

### **The Way Forward: Report of the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children**

Anita Fineday and Lisa Rieger

*Olympic 2*



## Tuesday, April 9, 2024

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**3:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.**

**Walking in Balance:  
A Trauma-Informed Curriculum**

Abraham Bearpaw

*Cascade 1–2*

**Tribal Foster Kids and Healing with Horses**

John Spence

*Cascade 3–4*

**Connecting to the Land: Healing Practices  
for Indigenous Communities**

Rhonda Apetagon and Madeline Gamblin-Walker

*Cascade 5–6*

**Building a Connectedness Curriculum with  
Nome Eskimo Community to Heal and Prevent  
Relational Wounds**

Jessica Ullrich, Jady Bright, and Lola Tobuk

*Cascade 7–8*

**Nevada Tribal–State Agreements for Cross  
Jurisdictional Placement of Children**

Fran Maldonado and Sharon Benson

*Cascade 9*

**First Nations Fostered and Adopted Relatives:  
Using Research to Tell Our Stories**

Sandy White Hawk and Ashley Landers

*Cascade 10*

**Compassionate Caregiver Connections: A  
Kinder Journey Through Caregiver Suitability**

Terri Brunelle, Rosemary Treherne,  
and Stacia Jones

*Cascade 11*

**Digital and Visual Strategies to Improve Tribal  
Child Welfare Practice**

Adrienne Jalbert, Sarah Nelson, and Esther Anne

*Cascade 12*

**Our Shared Legacy: Southern Plains Tribal  
Consortium Authentic Engagement with  
Children and Youth**

Taylor McClellan, Sandra Mithlo, and Rita Hart

*Cascade 13*

**Understanding the New Performance  
Standards for Attorneys Who Represent Tribes  
in ICWA Proceedings**

Kimberly Cluff and Adrian Smith

*Evergreen 1–2*

**A River of Culture—From Sacred, Scared,  
Scarred, to Healing**

Yvonne Peterson and Gary Peterson

*Evergreen 3–4*

**Connecting Our Children to Native American  
Culture**

Damon Polk, Lane Shepherd,  
and Breeanne Good Bear

*Northwest 1*

**Finding \$ for your Child Welfare Program:  
Federal Funding Streams**

Nanette Bishop, Tabitha Carver-Roberts,  
and Angela Connor

*Northwest 2*

**Improving ICWA for the Next Generation:  
Identifying Indian Country Priorities for ICWA**

Sarah Kastelic and David Simmons

*Northwest 3*



## Wednesday, April 10, 2024

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**8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.**

**Tribal Child Welfare Workforce Needs: A Discussion about Retention, Training, and Capacity Building**

Evan Roberts, Tara Reynon, and Dallas Archuleta

*Cascade 3–4*

**Walking in Balance for Overall Well-Being**

Kara Pasqua and Salli Kerr

*Cascade 5–6*

**Attorney Representation for Native Youth in Dependency Cases**

Rebecca Ciaramitaro-Rogstad, Jessica Pouley, and Meredith Drent

*Cascade 7–8*

**Shawendaawsowin Anishinaabe Ombigaawsowin**

Theresa Roseborough and Howard Copenace

*Cascade 9*

**Sewing Seams for Culturally Strength-Based Services**

Suzie Kuerschner

*Cascade 10*

**Stronger Together: Grief Support for Mothers Whose Children Are Parented by Others**

Teresa Day and Amelia LeGarde

*Cascade 12*

**Nizigos Nimishomeh Endaad: The Development of a Semi-Independent Living Home**

Sierra Cousineau

*Cascade 13*

**Wóksape: Sharing Wisdom, Knowledge, and Understanding for Indigenous Social Work with Children**

Tasha Guerrero

*Evergreen 1–2*

**The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation (CTWS) Foster Care Program**

Bernaidine Jackson

*Northwest 1*

**Tribal Considerations for Title IV-E Foster Care, Adoption, and Optional Guardianship Funding**

Melanie Rodriguez and Carlette Randall

*Northwest 2*

**Art Therapy To Heal Trauma: START UP! Art Therapy Curriculum for The Tribal Classroom**

Misty Flowers and Carey MacCarthy

*Northwest 3*

**YOU'RE INVITED!**

# NICWA Banquet Dinner and Paddle Raise

NICWA and host sponsors Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, Puyallup Tribe of Indians, Seminole Tribe of Florida, and the Pokémon Company International, LLC., cordially invite you to attend NICWA's annual Banquet Night and Paddle Raise, featuring a three-course meal and performance by rising star and Native comedian Kasey Nicholson in support of our work protecting Native children and families!

**Tuesday, April 9**

**6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**

*Grand Ballroom/Northwest Ballroom (overflow)*



## CHAMPIONS FOR NATIVE CHILDREN

At this year's Banquet Dinner, we will honor the recipients of the 2024 Champion for Native Children awards. Join us to recognize and celebrate the work of Julie Taylor (*Umatilla*), director of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation Department of Child and Family Services, and the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Social Services program.

## ENTERTAINMENT

### Krazy Kasey Comedy

Kasey Nicholson has over 20 years of experience working with a diverse set of demographic populations and provides an array of services for communities and organizations. Kasey is a self-employed motivational speaker, powwow and event emcee, entertainer, comedian, acrylic artist, and wellness educator.

Kasey has emceed, presented, and entertained for a variety of ages and backgrounds on issues pertinent to both Native and urban communities. Kasey speaks about cultural identity, self-esteem, self-empowerment, educational endeavors, spiritual awareness, cultural understanding, communication, cultural competency, leadership, substance abuse awareness, suicide prevention, bullying, workplace wellness, goal setting, traditional vs. westernized issues, and many other issues that face Native America today.

## PADDLE RAISE

Get ready for an exciting opportunity to commemorate and uplift NICWA's mission and work advocating for current and future generations of Native children and their families. As part of the banquet dinner program, every attendee will have a chance to support our services with different dollar donations during our paddle raise. This activity has special significance and connection to Native peoples in the Northwest, where NICWA calls home. Paddles are used for canoes and kayaks. Historically, they enabled people to travel long distances on the ocean to secure food for their families, trade with other communities, and visit friends and relatives. **The raising of paddles refers to a canoe coming in peace, support of another village, and honoring important work. Thanks to all who raise your envelopes—or paddles—and help sustain NICWA's important work protecting Native children and families. Those who participate are gifted with a cedar paddle.**

# ANNOUNCING NICWA'S 2024 Grand Prize Sweepstakes

NICWA and four directions sponsors Ak-Chin Indian Community, Chickasaw Nation, Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council Inc., Eaglesun, Molina Healthcare, Morongo Band of Mission Indians, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi, Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, and Suquamish Tribe are proud to announce this year's grand prize sweepstakes! We welcome all eligible participants to enter, so please share the link with your friends and family. Our sweepstakes raise mission-critical funds that support our work to mobilize Indian Country, strengthen ICWA implementation, and protect tribal sovereignty.

## GRAND PRIZE

### Hawaiian Getaway for Two

Dreaming of your next vacation? Here is your chance to win our 2024 grand prize trip for two to Hawaii! Enjoy a room with an ocean view at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki Beach Resort during your four-day, three-night stay in Waikiki. Two round-trip tickets will get you there to experience everything Hawaii has to offer. Enjoy all the sunshine you could want, a stroll down the beach, local-approved dining, and much more! Take advantage of the grand prize expense-paid attractions as you visit the island of Oahu.

Don't wait. Secure your sweepstakes tickets today!

## RUNNER UP

### Try your luck for a chance to win a Microsoft Surface Pro 7+

All participants will also be entered to win our runner-up prize of a Microsoft Surface Pro 7+ donated by Eaglesun Systems Products. The Surface Pro 7+ transforms from tablet to laptop, making it a great piece of tech to take with you wherever you go. This high-performance digital canvas features a beautiful 12.3-inch touch display, up to 15 hours of battery life, and comes with a Surface Pen, keyboard, and a laptop protective sleeve.



Enter to win by scanning the QR code or visit: [bit.ly/NICWASweepstakes](https://bit.ly/NICWASweepstakes).

### Enter to win the grand prize sweepstakes online

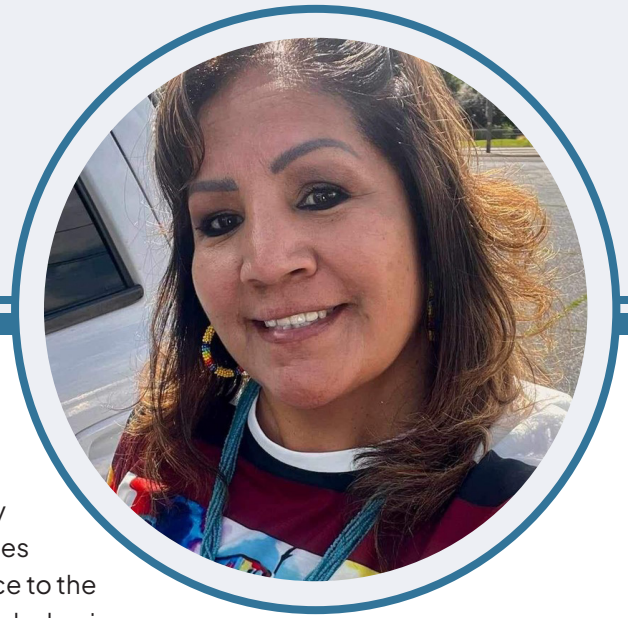
The 2024 NICWA Grand Prize Sweepstakes will close on April 23, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time. Entries are \$10 each. To view the full rules and enter to win, visit: [bit.ly/NICWASweepstakes](https://bit.ly/NICWASweepstakes).



A special thank you to our grand prize sweepstakes donors: Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki Beach Resort, Alaska Airlines, and Eaglesun Systems Products.

## 2024 CHAMPION FOR NATIVE CHILDREN INDIVIDUAL

# Julie Taylor



Julie Taylor is an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) and is a dedicated advocate leader within her community, serving as the Department of Children and Family Services director. Taylor's commitment to her community is deeply rooted in her culture. Through her ways of life, she exemplifies how culture and connectedness can be translated to lifelong service to the community. With a joyful heart, Julie has demonstrated outstanding behavior for decades in child welfare practice and personal habits, engaging in service to her people, foraging innovation, and always striving to make the next best decision for future generations.

In her own tribe, Julie's unwavering dedication to its well-being and development is evident. Within the CTUIR community, Taylor is recognized for her leadership, commitment, and her strength in empowering others. Members commend Julie's steadfast commitment to reducing foster care placements by 70% over a three-year period. At the forefront of change, Julie has worked to shape the next generation of leaders through her founding of the CTUIR Youth Leadership Council. The council's principles are centered on honoring tribal values, embracing healthy challenges, and cultivating individual resilience. While maintaining their respectful and reserved bearings, members of the youth council skillfully point out the treaty responsibilities for the education, health, and well-being of its members.

Taylor's extensive involvement in various committees and positive engagement with government agencies underlines her commitment. Julie was integral in the creation of an ICWA Qualified Expert Witness tribal pool, which expanded from one resource to over 20 tribally approved resources across the state over the course of three years. Julie also contributed her court expertise to develop the QEW curriculum, which is still in use today. Regularly hosting visits from state and other tribal programs, Julie maintains relationships crucial for the well-being of children and families. Additionally, she supports parents whose children have been placed in stranger's homes outside the reservation, assisting them to successfully complete all mandated training to reunite with their children.

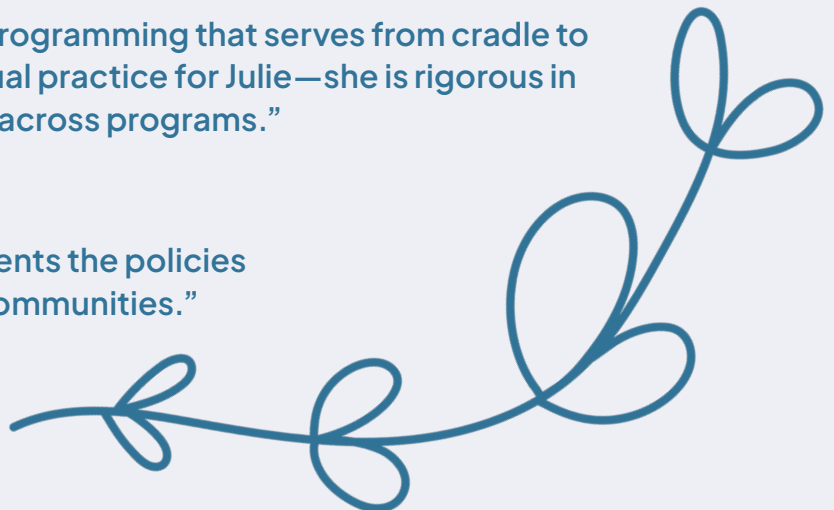
Beyond her professional achievements, Taylor cherishes her role as a mother and maternal figure for the many children in her community. Drawing from her experiences as a single mother, she passionately approaches her work, empathetically assisting members of her community facing similar challenges. Her family's support has been a source of strength throughout her journey, igniting her passion for service and advocacy.

"Her ability to include and enhance programming that serves from cradle to elder status is a long-standing habitual practice for Julie—she is rigorous in establishing practice improvements across programs."

-Nadja Elm

"Ms. Taylor understands and implements the policies that protect children, families, and communities."

-Zenaida M. Lyles



# 2024 CHAMPION FOR NATIVE CHILDREN ORGANIZATION

## Salt River Pima–Maricopa Indian Community Social Services



The Salt River Pima–Maricopa Indian Community (SRPMIC), located in central Arizona, is comprised of two tribes, the Onk Akimel O’Odham and the Xalychidom Piipaash, and has over 11,100 enrolled members. The SRPMIC Social Services department defines its mission as providing community-based services which enable families and individuals to achieve social and economic progress through effective and culturally appropriate services. “We envision a healthy, empowered community where the values, culture, and traditions are acknowledged, restored, and supported.” SRPMIC Social Services is also tasked with overseeing a number of community programs, from child welfare to the community foodbank program and managing the Life Enhancement and Resource Network (LEARN), which is the umbrella for community support programs such as TANF and the Family Resource Center. The variety of programming offered allows the department to serve over 1,000 families every month.

Over the last decade, the Social Services department has reduced the number of youth placed in out-of-home care from 430 in 2014 to less than 120 in 2023 while strengthening and increasing the number of services provided to the community and its members. These are the results of intentional efforts by the Social Services department to reform their approach to child welfare in the community. For the children who do enter the welfare system, the department practices ICWA gold standards. Families who have community children placed in their care are required to maintain ties to the culture, language, and traditions. The department and its divisions offer year-round opportunities for children to engage in traditional practices and their community. The Salt River Pima–Maricopa Indian Community Social Services department is dedicated to serving our community, youth, and families.



“There are many more services provided by social services and their divisions; these are the ones I am most proud to have seen implemented over the last decade. The collaboration the department has pursued to increase their outreach and services to the community has shown how seriously they have taken their responsibility to the community and its people by being a champion for its children and families.”

—SRPMIC Council Member Mikah Carlos

# Optional Programming

## Membership Reception and Annual Meeting

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**Sunday, April 7, 2024 | 7:00 p.m.–8:30 p.m.**

### ***Grand Ballroom***

Help us kick off our conference at our Annual Membership Meeting supported by NICWA's Sacred Circle sponsors. We will be welcomed by the Puyallup Tribe's Heritage Division who will share a song and blessing to start us off in a good way. This is a great opportunity to relax, network with your fellow NICWA members, and enjoy some light refreshments and inspiring words from NICWA Founder and Senior Advisor Terry Cross as he speaks on the topic of "Why NICWA Members Matter: A 27-year Retrospective." Additionally, NICWA Executive Director Sarah Kastelic will address the assembly, the board will provide a brief year-in-review, and we will announce the board members up for election.

## Gathering for Adoptees, Former Foster Children, and Birth Relatives

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*Anyone who has been touched by adoption or foster care*

**Monday, April 8, 2024 | 6:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.**

### ***Evergreen 3–4***

First Nations Repatriation Institute Founder and Director Sandy White Hawk will facilitate a special meeting intended for American Indian and Alaska Native adoptees, former foster children, and birth parents. Birth parents are parents whose children were adopted out. Birth relatives are relatives who have a sibling, cousin, or other relative who was or is adopted out or in foster care. All are welcome, and a light dinner will be provided.

## Coastal Jam Hosted by the Muckleshoot Tribe

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**Monday, April 8, 2024 | 7:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.**

### ***Northwest Ballroom***

Join us for a memorable Pacific Northwest cultural experience hosted by the Muckleshoot Tribe. We will enjoy traditional songs and dances as we celebrate our shared commitment and dedication to protecting our children and families. Light refreshments will be served.





## National Day of Prayer for Native Children

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**Tuesday, April 9, 2024 | 7:30 a.m.–8:15 a.m.**

### ***Patio near general session***

As advocates for Native children gather for NICWA's 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Protecting Our Children Conference, we call upon Native communities and our partners nationwide to join together in a National Day of Prayer for Native Children. Please join us in person for this respectful gathering or host an event in your community to demonstrate support for all Native children.

## Chehalis Basketry as a Healing Art

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**Tuesday, April 9, 2024 | 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.**

### ***Cascade 12***

Join master weaver, educator, and founding member of the Hazel Peete Institute of Chehalis Basketry Yvonne Peterson and her team for this exciting workshop. Chehalis basketry is a sit-beside art; cultural sharing is a healing aspect of weaving. Participants have an opportunity to work with cedar and sweet grass to weave a basketry pouch. Traditional teachings are incorporated into the workshop and an honoring of ancestors who worked to reclaim Indigenous basketry gathering, processing, storage of weaving materials, and teaching are highlighted. *There is a \$50 fee for a craft kit. Purchase the craft kit from the NICWA store in advance of the session.* Funds from this workshop are used to support the adoptee gathering sponsored by Sandy White Hawk.

## Conference Shirt Day

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**Wednesday, April 10, 2024**

Get ready to showcase your conference spirit in style! In celebration of conference unity, we invite you to wear your conference shirt or NICWA sweatshirt on Wednesday, April 10.

# We're Here for You!

Our annual conference is a time when participants experience respite from the demands of their daily lives. To make your experience great, we have set aside space in our host hotel where attendees can rest, visit, or jump on the computer.

## Membership Booth



### SHAKOPEE MDEWAKANTON SIOUX COMMUNITY

and check-in table to get information on membership benefits, becoming a new member, renewing membership, and NICWA handouts. Share what inspires you to be a NICWA member and be entered to win a door prize!

## NICWA Store

**First floor lobby next to the conference registration**

Stop by the NICWA store for all your shopping needs. We have puzzles featuring this year's conference art, t-shirts, sweatshirts, tumblers, and more. We also have a limited supply of curricula on site for sale. Craft kits for the basket weaving session and craft room are also available from the NICWA Store.

## Craft Room

**The Salon (14<sup>th</sup> floor)**

This year, our local planning committee has created a special space just for crafting. Bring your own crafting project or stop by the NICWA Store on the first floor for a kit and head to the crafting room in the Salon on the 14<sup>th</sup> floor. The lounge will be open during general conference hours on Monday and Tuesday. There will be various projects to work on. Enjoy a relaxing moment with new and old friends while learning some Pacific Northwest crafts.

## NICWA Community Lounge

**Maxi's Lounge (14<sup>th</sup> floor)**

Join us on the 14<sup>th</sup> floor in Maxi's Lounge for a community space. Grab a cup of coffee with a new friend and take a break from the busy conference schedule. The lounge will be accessible during general conference hours.

## Healing Room

**Ask NICWA Staff for location**

NICWA encourages you to take care of yourself. Our staff and board are available to you for confidential emotional and spiritual support if you are activated by any of the presentations or discussions throughout the conference. If you would like to receive support, please find a staff or board member or visit the registration table for assistance.

## Computer Lounge

**Mt Baker Room (14<sup>th</sup> floor)**

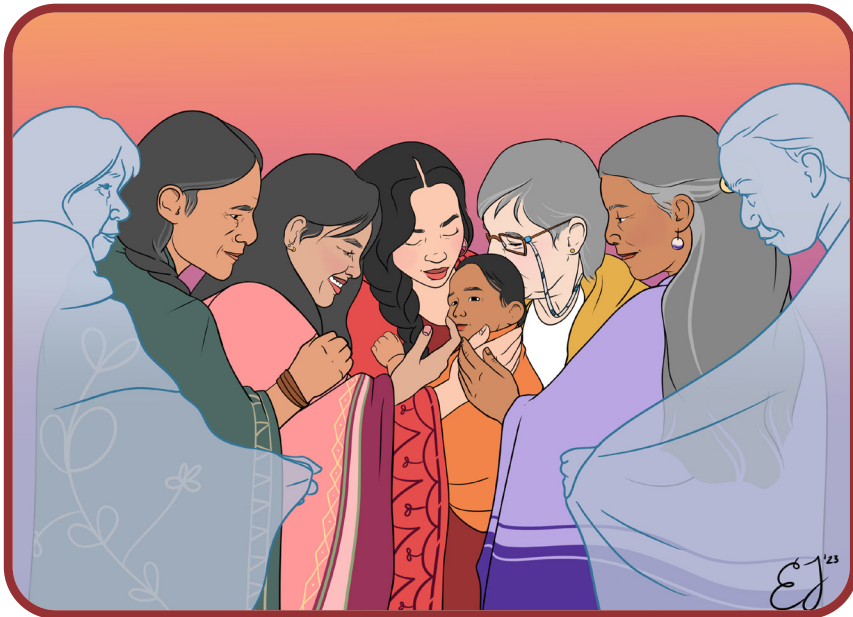
Thanks to Eaglesun Systems Products for hosting a computer lounge for conference guests. Check your email, print your boarding pass, prepare handouts, or connect with friends. Be sure to stop by on the way to workshops or any time during conference hours.

## Play Lab

**Maxi's Ballroom (14<sup>th</sup> floor)**

Take a break and join the Pokémon Company International's Play Lab for some relaxation. Learn a new game and take home a Pokémon Battle Academy kit to play later. Open during the following times: Sunday, April 7, 2024: 3:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m., Monday, April 8, 2024: 12:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m., and Tuesday, April 9, 2024: 10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.

# About the Conference Artwork



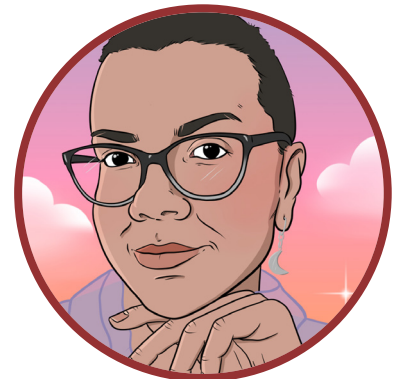
## ABOUT THE ARTWORK

*Generations of Love* was created to honor the strength and beauty of our Indigenous families. The wisdom passed down by our ancestors and the resilience of our communities is beyond measure. Our love for one another is something that cannot be replaced. As we continue to fight to keep Indigenous children in their communities, the artist knows it is important to remember that we are not fighting alone. From our ancestors to the generations yet to come, the love for our children transcends all time and space.

## ARTIST BIO

**EJ Miller-Larson** is a Queer, Two-Spirit artist and activist based in Green Bay, Wisconsin. They are a proud member of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa and the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin. EJ is an illustrator and bead worker who blends contemporary and traditional designs to create art that celebrates their culture.

Instagram: [@ejmillerlarson](https://www.instagram.com/ejmillerlarson) | Website: [www.ejmillerlarson.com](http://www.ejmillerlarson.com)



## Call For Artists

NICWA invites American Indian and Alaska Native artists to participate in our call for artists. NICWA is excited for artists to showcase their talents in support of our 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Protecting Our Children Conference in Orlando, Florida, in 2025.

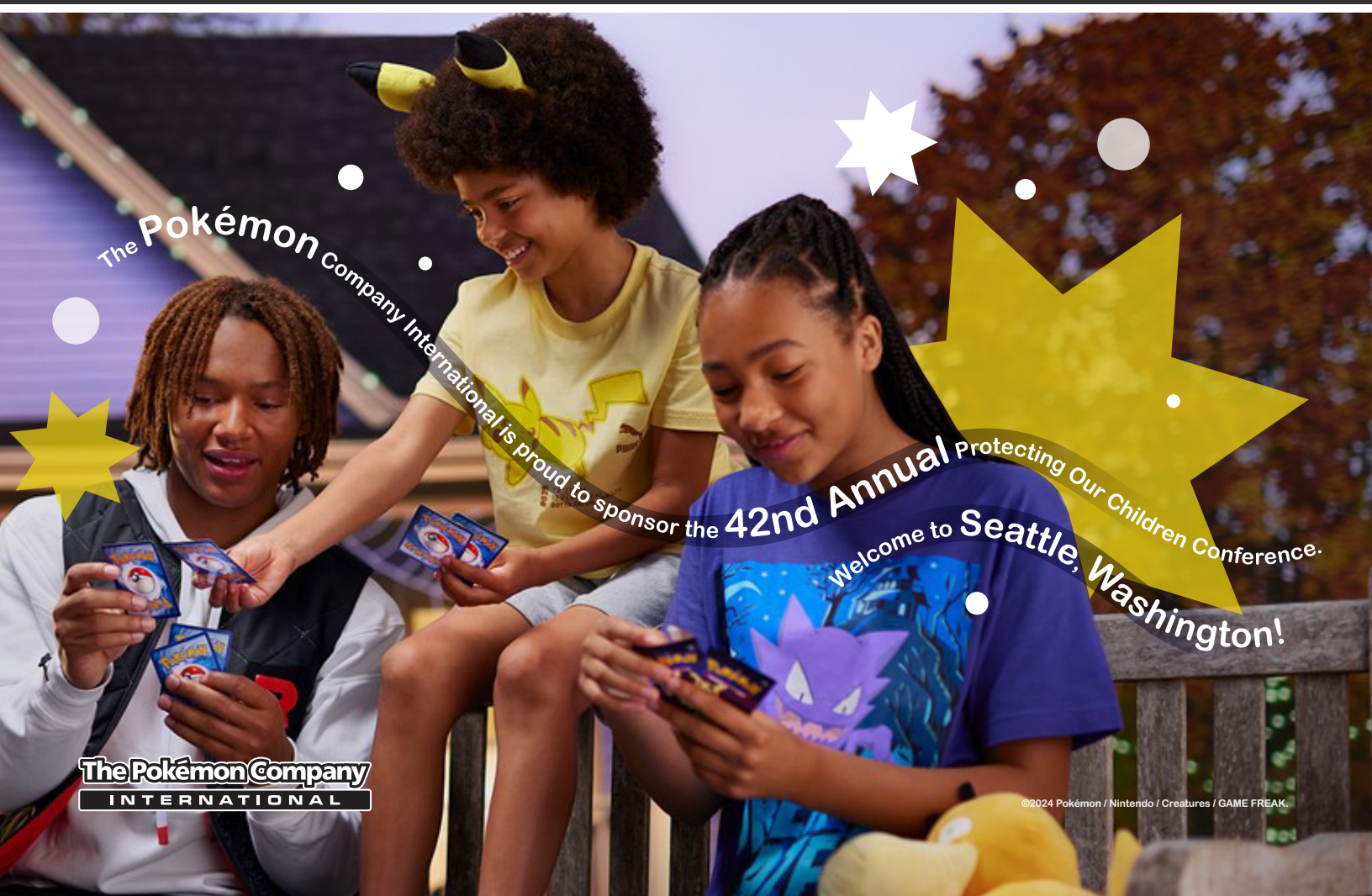
The selected artist will be awarded a cash prize of \$2,000 for the use of their work in promotional materials for the conference. Artists also may receive a free arts and crafts vendor spot. The image will be published on NICWA's website and printed materials reaching thousands as well as being the visual centerpiece throughout the event. This is a can't-miss opportunity for any Native artist looking to achieve exposure on a national scale.

Visit [www.nicwa.org/call-for-artists/](http://www.nicwa.org/call-for-artists/) to apply. Apply by May 17, 2024.



The Seminole Tribe of Florida is proud to sponsor the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Protecting Our Children Conference and support NICWA's work dedicated to the well-being of Native children and families.

**WELCOME TO SEATTLE,  
WASHINGTON!**



The Pokémon Company International is proud to sponsor the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Protecting Our Children Conference.  
Welcome to Seattle, Washington!

**The Pokémon Company**  
INTERNATIONAL

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# Save the Date

**43<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL**

## Protecting Our Children Conference

**March 30–April 2, 2025  
Orlando, Florida**

For more information visit [www.nicwa.org](http://www.nicwa.org)  
We hope to see you there!



## Mark Your Calendars for NICWA Training Institutes

### Training on these great topics:

- Qualified Expert Witness
- Positive Indian Parenting
- Tribal Customary Adoption
- Working with Substance-Abusing Families
- Cross-Cultural Skills
- Child Protection Teams in Indian Country
- Understanding ICWA
- Establishing PIP in Your Community

Visit [www.nicwa.org/training-institutes](http://www.nicwa.org/training-institutes) for more information.

**June 2024**  
*Portland, OR*

**September 2024**  
*Anchorage, AK*

**January 2025**  
*Scottsdale, AZ*

**April 2025**  
*Orlando, FL*

**July, September, and October 2024**  
*Virtual*



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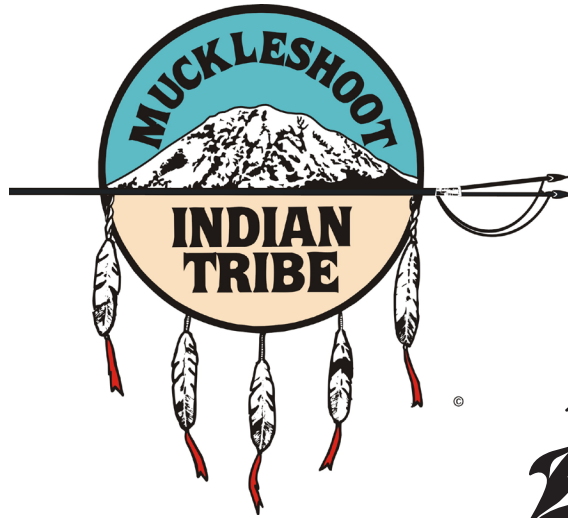
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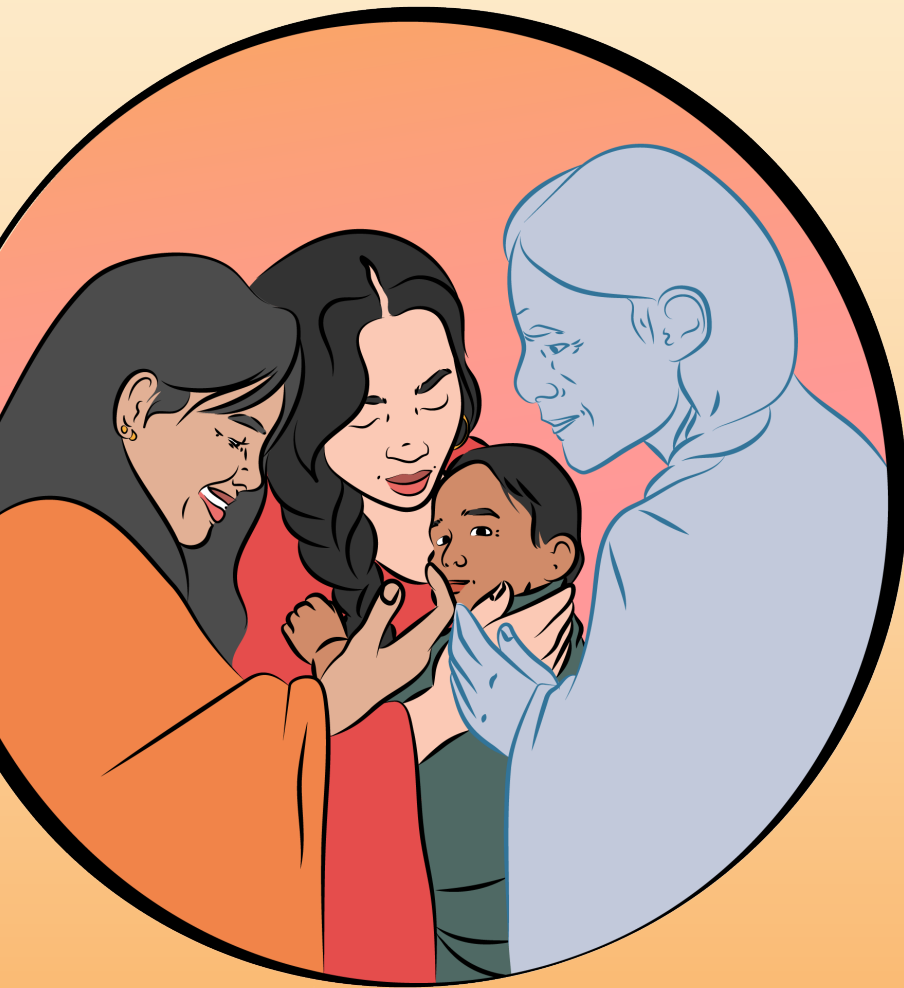
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**Pokégnek Bodéwadmik**  
POKAGON BAND OF POTAWATOMI



*the*  
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42<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL

# Protecting Our Children

Together We Stand:  
Preserving the Spirit of ICWA  
April 7-10, 2024 • Seattle, WA



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