



RESEARCH Alberta Hosts Research Day on November 15, 2019

Similar to the 2016 conference, RESOLVE Alberta again co-hosted our Research Day 2019 with the Awo Taan Healing Lodge Society. The Awo Taan Healing Lodge Society is a full-service emergency shelter that provides services to women and children from all cultures. Awo Taan has worked with Indigenous families in need for over 20 years, specifically in the domestic violence sector. This year our research day featured two keynote speakers, 19 concurrent sessions, an Indigenous Elders Panel and two performances by the Turning Robe Singers. Our conference was held on November 15th with the theme of ***Calls to Action, Truth and Reconciliation***. Awo Taan's Executive Director, Josie Nepinak, kicked off the day with introducing Elder Jackie Bromley to begin with a prayer.



The Calls to Action, Truth and Reconciliation theme was chosen in recognition of a need to discuss the TRC's Calls to Action and a focus on community initiatives to address these calls. Our primary goal was to inform communities across the Prairie Provinces about the successfully evaluated programs and initiatives that have been undertaken by various groups serving Indigenous people across Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba (including service providers, researchers, and government officials) to improve the lives of Indigenous people, particularly those who have experienced violence. Our focus was on physical, emotional, social, economic, cultural and spiritual healing and on training the next generation of scholars and community leaders to understand the issues facing Indigenous peoples. We sought to engage Indigenous community members, students, service providers, and researchers in discussion of various topics relevant to truth and reconciliation.



Our first keynote speaker was **Ms. Kimberly Murray**. Ms. Murray is a member of the Kahnésatake Mohawk Nation and is the Province of Ontario's first Assistant Deputy Attorney General for Aboriginal Justice. Prior to this position, she was the Executive Director of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. In 2015, the Indigenous Bar Association granted Kimberly the Indigenous Peoples Counsel (IPC) designation. She provided an overview of the history of the TRC brought many to tears with the stories of children in residential schools.

truth and reconciliation means to understand and change.

We are also thankful to have featured **Dr. Lana Potts**, keynote speaker. Dr. Potts is a member of the Piikani First Family Physician who specializes in First Nation Health. Dr.



an outstanding Commission and heartwrenching We learned that

as our second Nation and a Potts has sat on the

Indigenous Physicians Association of Canada board for three terms and was a founding member of the Aboriginal Wisdom Council, a provincial board that advises on improving health outcomes in Indigenous communities. She provided an outstanding and uplifting end to the day, with many hopeful examples of efforts toward reconciliation.

During our concurrent sessions, researchers and community members shared their innovative studies and ideas about how Canadians can take steps in reconciliation with the Indigenous community. Some of our morning sessions involved discussions from researchers on intimate partner violence, along with speakers from the Office of Child and Youth Advocate, Calgary Police Services, Homefront and various local domestic violence shelters. In the afternoon, we featured story telling from the Stardale Women's Group Inc. Also, healthcare professionals including the College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta spoke about how they are working to change their culture to address the Calls to Action. University researchers shared their work on Indigenous Worldviews and Mainstream Media, MMIWG and Indigenous Media Activism.



During our afternoon conclusion of the conference, prominent Indigenous community members were featured, offering the opportunity to share their knowledge and wisdom with us. **Dr. Reginald Crowshoe** Elder (from Piikani Blackfoot), **Alice Kaquitts** Elder (from Stoney Nakoda), **Alvine Wolfleg** Elder (from Siksika) and **Norton Eaglespeaker** Elder (from Siksika). Each of them offered a call to action to the audience, based on their learnings over the day.

We hope that this conference inspired attendees to have a positive outlook on resolutions to Indigenous issues. For more information refer online to the RESOLVE Alberta website:

www.ucalgary.ca/resolve

