

ahkamêyimok means “to persevere; don’t give up and keep trying” in nehiyawewin (Indigenous Cree Language). This presentation speaks to stories of navigating colonial structured systems and gives voice to Katisha Cardinal’s story while in care of children services. The session includes a 18 minute documentary created by the presenters and proceeds into a sharing circle to create safe space for open dialogue.

The short video will capture the experience of Katisha Cardinal, her kinship family, elders, community members and Blue Quills IBSW graduates. In partnership with community elders and families, capturing the purposeful work being done around supporting engagements with culture and traditional ceremonies. This film captures how families are supporting Indigenous practices and creating safe space for children to participate in cultural ceremonies as a part of their healing journey. Making a short video that shows the importance of culture in the lives of families and how this can impact the outcomes of their relationships.

PRESENTERS

Katisha Cardinal is originally from Saddle Lake Cree Nation and currently resides in Edmonton Alberta. She graduated high school in 2015 at Ashmont Secondary School. Katisha works at the River Cree Resort as a security guard and is a role model and supporter for her younger siblings.



Stephanie Beaunoyer graduated from Blue Quills University with an Indigenous Bachelor of Social Work degree. Originally from St. Paul now residing in Cold Lake Ab, she has 7 years of Children Services experience. She presented at the international signs of safety gathering in 2015 on behalf of the Alberta government highlighting signs of safety work within a rural setting portraying collaboration and partnership work as a step to healing multigenerational trauma. Her passion is supporting families in their healing journey.



Terri Suntjens who's Cree name is wapekihêw iskwew (meaning "white eagle woman"), is from Saddle Lake Cree Nation in Treaty 6 Territory. Professionally, Terri is the Director of Indigenous Initiatives & kihêw waciston at MacEwan University where she has grounded her leadership in culture and ceremony. Prior to MacEwan University, Terri worked in First Nations communities developing and implementing culturally appropriate programming for Indigenous families while mentoring front line workers in the Health and Social Work Field. She holds a Bachelor of General Studies and Indigenous Bachelor of Social Work from University nuhelot'jne thaiyots'j nistameyimâkanak Blue Quills and is beginning her studies in the Master of Social Work program at the University of Calgary.

