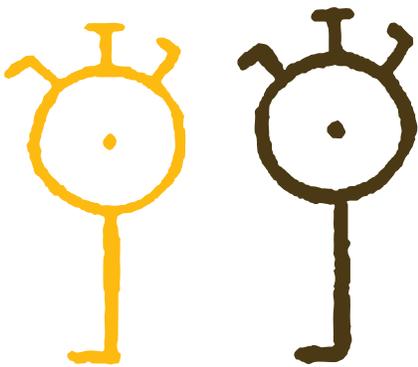
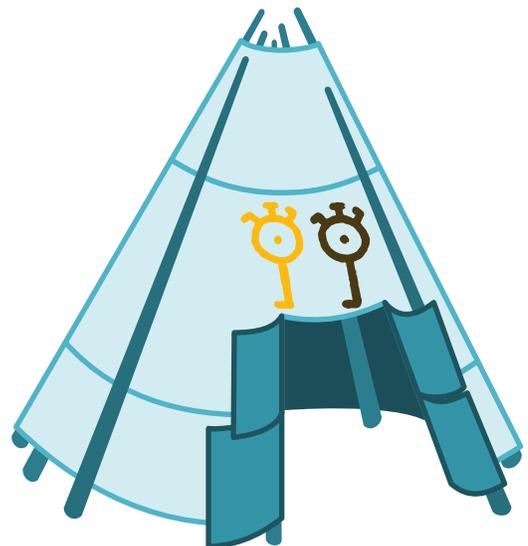


WABANAKI 2-SPIRIT ALLIANCE



2021 ANNUAL GATHERING
SEPTEMBER 10-12



TUNGASUGIT! WELCOME! AQANUTE! PITUKAIEU! P' JILASI!

Welcome to the 2021 Regional Gathering!

While this year we are meeting virtually, our hearts and minds are with you. In these troubled times, maintaining our connections with the community is vital. We hope you find this weekend informative, entertaining and engaging. We look forward to seeing old friends, making new friends and hearing how we can better serve you. Wela'lin! Woliwon! Thank-you for joining us.



Executive Director
John Sylliboy



[facebook.com/groups/wabanaki2spirits/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/wabanaki2spirits/)

[@W2SAlliance](https://twitter.com/W2SAlliance)

[@w2salliance](https://www.instagram.com/w2salliance)

FRIDAY SEPT 10

6:00PM • OPENING CEREMONY

- National Chief RoseAnne Archibald
- Regional Chief Paul Joseph Prosper
- W2SA Board Chair Tuma Young
- Chief Alan (Chicky) Polchies Jr.
- W2SA Executive Director John Sylliboy
- Drummer Terry Young



SATURDAY SEPT 11

6:00AM • • • • • SUNRISE CEREMONY

8:00–9:00AM • • • • • BREAKFAST

9:00–10:00AM • • • • • SHARING CIRCLE

MORNING BREAK • • • • • 10:00–10:30AM

10:30AM–12:00PM • • • • • WORKSHOPS

12:00–1:00PM • • • • • LUNCH

1:00–2:00PM • NON-BINARY GRASS DANCE

2:00–2:30PM • • COMING OUT CEREMONY

2:30–3:00PM • • • • • AFTERNOON BREAK

COMMUNITY PANELS • • • • • 3:00–5:00PM

5:00–6:00PM • • • • • SUPPER

6:30–8:30PM • • • • • PRESENTATION & PERFORMANCE

Top: 1st W2SA Regional Gathering,
Liscombe Lodge, 2011

Bottom: Regional Gathering,
Nibezun, MN, 2018

SUNDAY SEPT 12

8:00–9:00AM • • • • • BREAKFAST

9:00–10:00AM • • • • • MEETING

10:00–10:30AM • • • MORNING BREAK

10:30AM–12:00PM • • SHARING CIRCLE

12:00–1:00PM • • • WORKING LUNCH

1:00–3:00PM • • • • • FILM SCREENING

3:00–3:30PM • • • • • AFTERNOON BREAK

3:30–4:00PM • • CLOSING CEREMONY & REGIONAL GATHERING EVALUATION



SATURDAY SEPT 11

6:00AM • SUNRISE CEREMONY

Hosted by Board Chair Tuma Young & Chief Alan Polchies Jr. This will be broadcast via Zoom for all to take part.

8:00–9:00AM • BREAKFAST

9:00–10:00AM • SHARING CIRCLE

An opportunity for everyone to get to know everyone else, to share stories and learn about our community.

MORNING BREAK • 10:00–10:30AM

10:30AM–12:00PM • WORKSHOPS

Workshop 1: Drum Making featuring Garrett Gloade with 20 attendees taking part. Others may observe.

Workshop 2: Bead Work featuring Naomi Bird with 20 attendees taking part. Others may observe.

12:00–1:00PM • LUNCH

1:00–2:00PM • WORKSHOP

Non-Binary Grass Dance featuring Melody McKiver. Demonstration for all.

2:00–2:30PM • COMING OUT CEREMONY

2:30–3:00PM • AFTERNOON BREAK

3:00–5:00PM • COMMUNITY PANELS

Panel 1: Training Frontline Workers to work with 2SLGBTQQIA+, hosted by Kehisha Wilmot .

Panel 2: Being an Artist that is 2-Spirited, hosted by Gage Perley & Evan Butler.

5:00–6:00PM • SUPPER

6:30–8:30 • PRESENTATION & PERFORMANCE

Chris Cochran, aka Elle Noir, will give a presentation and performance about their personal journey.



8:00–9:00AM • BREAKFAST

9:00–10:00AM • MEETING

Open discussion to suggest future events, brainstorm ideas for the next gathering and engage fellow community members.

10:00–10:30AM • MORNING BREAK

10:30AM–12:00PM • SHARING CIRCLE

Another opportunity for community members to engage and learn about each other. This will also include a workshop led by Tuma Young called Fire and Water Ceremony.

12:00–1:00PM • WORKING LUNCH

The start of our AGM including a Call for Board Members. Bylaws and reports will be reviewed. (Note: from 1:00–2:00PM, the Board will meet in a private session.)

1:00–3:00PM • FILM SCREENING • *North Mountain* (2015)

Written & directed by Bretten Hannam. "In the dead of winter a young aboriginal hunter falls in love with a fugitive ex-con and helps him fight off an army of crooked cops seeking revenge." (IMDb.com) Contains violence. Viewer discretion is advised.

3:00–3:30PM • AFTERNOON BREAK

3:30–4:00PM • CLOSING CEREMONY

Led by Tuma Young & John Sylliboy.

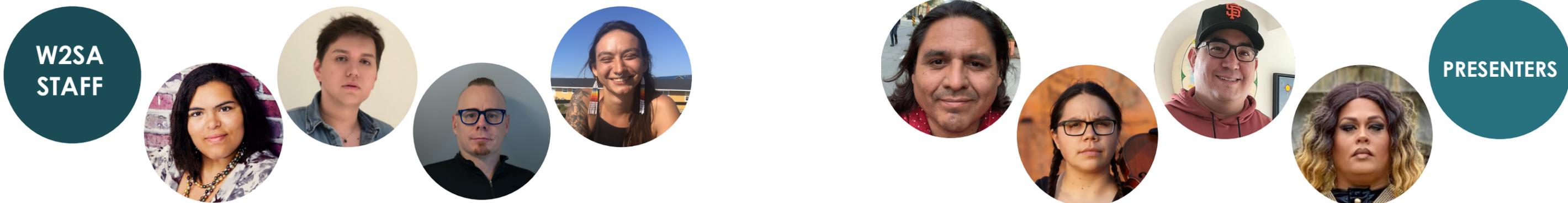
REGIONAL GATHERING EVALUATION

A link to an online survey will be provided. Those that fill out the survey and have attended at least 50% of the gathering will qualify to receive a gift card.

Right: stills from *North Mountain* (2015), featuring Glen Gould & Justin Rain.



SUNDAY SEPT 12

A graphic at the top of the page features two teal circles. The left circle contains the text 'W2SA STAFF' and the right circle contains 'PRESENTERS'. Between these circles is a horizontal row of eight circular portraits of individuals. Below the portraits, the text for each individual is arranged in two columns. The background features a large, stylized orange and yellow sun or moon with geometric patterns, and a faint silhouette of a person in traditional Indigenous dress.

W2SA STAFF



KEHISHA WILMOT

My name is Kehisha, and my pronouns are they/them. I am a non-binary, Two-Spirit, multi-racial, multi-personality individual. I am the Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island Community Engagement Coordinator. I have had the wonderful pleasure of working with people, from around the globe, as part of my University experience, where I completed my BA in Psychology. Through working with grass-root movements, and national movements, I have been given the opportunity to see the world in so many, amazing ways.

GAGE PERLEY

Gage Perley (He/Him) is a Wolastoquey & Mi'kmaq from Tobique First Nation, NB. Gage holds a Bachelor of Arts with a double major in Native Studies and Criminology from St. Thomas University and is a National Ambassador of Hope with We Matter. He has many years of experience working with indigenous youth in all age groups and is an advocate for Mental Health, Wellness and Indigenous youth, often wanting to create opportunities to help youth create a successful future for themselves. In his spare time, he is an artist that practices various mediums such as photography, graphic arts and beading.

EVAN BUTLER

Evan is a Two-Spirit of mixed European and L'nu (Mi'kmaq) descent from Ktaqmkuk (Newfoundland). A graduate of Memorial University and NSCAD University, Evan is a multidisciplinary artist. Currently, he teaches in Digital Animation and Digital Film at the College of the North Atlantic. Evan is also actively involved in the Mi'kmaw cultural revitalization movement in his home region, and is involved with his local Pride committee.

NAOMI BIRD

Naomi Bird (they/them) is a Two-Spirit Nehiyaw person from Treaty Six Territory. They lived in Kijipuktuk while going to school at Dalhousie, and are now back in their territory working on a masters in land-based education. Naomi's research focuses include Two-Spiritness health and identity along with Indigenous trauma and resilience in post-secondary spaces. In their personal life, Naomi likes to bead, and can be found at the local climbing gym, advocating for Indigenous frontline resistances, or watching Netflix.

PRESENTERS



TERRY YOUNG

Terry Young is Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) from Kingsclear First Nation located in New Brunswick. For the last 15 years, he's resided on the Kahnawà:ke Territory of Tio'tia:ke (Montreal) with his husband Justin Mahoney. Young holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from St. Thomas University, with a double major in Native Studies and Anthropology. He's also received formal training on Community Planning and Development from Dalhousie University. Both a pipe carrier for his people and a carrier of traditional Wolastoqew songs, Young has participated for many years in ceremonies with various Nations from all over Turtle Island. He is also a traditional ash basket maker, a craft he's honed for more than 20 years.

MELODY MCKIVER

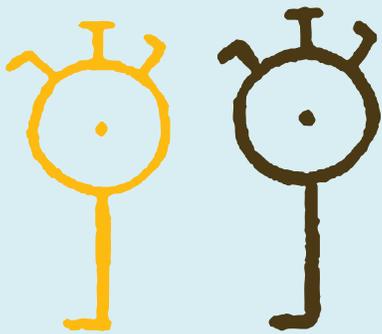
Melody is an Anishinaabe musician, violinist, composer and traditional powwow dancer. Their musical work integrates electronics with Western classical music to shape a new genre of Anishinaabe compositions. Melody is employed as a youth worker in Sioux Lookout, providing mental health and cultural supports to First Nations students. Upcoming projects include a song and music video premiering on *Amplify*, a new APTN show that explores musicians' creative processes, and a full-length album in 2021.

GARRETT GLOADE

Garrett (he/him) has dedicated the last 16 years to help preserve and protect Mi'kmaw and Indigenous Culture the best way he knows how. By being creative. As a pow wow singer and artist, the drum has been a tool that impacted his life for the better, in which the lessons he has learned, he then passes on to his participants that attend his workshop and the youth in his community. Although, everyone has their own path, he hopes the message he sends brings positivity and creativity to those who need it the most.

CHRIS COCHRANE

Chris is a prominent & beloved community advocate and entertainer in Halifax's 2SLGBTQ+ community. In 2019 she became the first Black Trans woman to be Halifax Pride Ambassador, which then led her to become the Vice Chair of said Pride in 2020. Originally from Cape Breton, Chris moved to Halifax in 2005 and has performed drag in our city for 16 years. She has grown to infamy as the show-stopping performer, Elle Noir, who is known as the Beyonce of Halifax.



Clockwise from Top Left:

- Eskasoni Kepmitelsi, 2016
- We'koqma'q Pride, 2018
- Elder Walter Johnson on the W2SA float in the Halifax Pride Parade, 2018
- St. Mary's Pride, 2017



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