

Professor Leroy Little Bear



Leroy Little Bear is a member of the Small Robes Band of the Blood Indian Tribe of the Blackfoot Confederacy; born and raised on the Blood Indian Reserve; attended and graduated from St. Mary's School on the Blood Indian Reserve; attended and graduated from the University of Lethbridge, Lethbridge, Alberta with a B.A. Degree in 1971; attended and graduated from the College of Law, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah with a Juris Doctor Degree in 1975.

This veteran educator and renowned academic is a model for all Aboriginals striving for success in higher learning. The founder of the Native American Studies Department at the University of Lethbridge – where he served as Chair for 21 years – also went on to become the founding Director of Harvard University's Native American Program. He's co-authored three texts – *Pathways to Self-Determination: Native Indian Leaders Perspectives on Self-Government*, *Quest for Justice: Aboriginal Rights in Canada*, and, *Governments in Conflict: Provinces and Indian Nations in Canada* – and helped write *Justice on Trial*, the report of Alberta's Task Force on the Criminal Justice System and Its Impacts on the Indian and Métis Peoples of Alberta.

Dr. Little Bear contributed to publications for the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples in the area of criminal justice issues, did the same for the Assembly of First Nations on constitutional issues and has provided legal advice to numerous Aboriginal organizations on land claims, treaties and hunting and fishing rights. He is now recognized as one of the continent's leaders in the advancement and acceptance of North American Indian philosophy. When he began his studies in the 1960s he quickly determined he wasn't attending university for himself. Instead, Leroy Little Bear did it for his people. "Educating Native students was my way of making a difference," he says. "If I can graduate ten or fifty Native students then that makes a big difference." He has already succeeded. In 2003, Dr. Little Bear received a National Aboriginal Achievement Award for his work.

His current research interests include the exploration of North American Indian science and Western physics and the exploration of Blackfoot knowledge through songs, stories, and landscape.

Professor Lorna Williams

Dr. Lorna Williams is Lil'wat from the St'at'yem'c First Nation. She holds the Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Knowledge and Learning in the Faculty of Education and Dept of Linguistics at the University of Victoria. Her research is in the area of teacher development and collaborative learning. She is also the former Director of the Aboriginal Enhancements Branch of the Ministry of Education.



Dr. Williams is an educator with many years of experience in Aboriginal Education, Indigenous Language Revitalization, Curriculum Development, Teacher Development, Mediated Learning, Cognitive education, effects of colonization on learning, and Indigenous ways of knowing. Dr. Williams has co-directed a series of videos called First Nations: The Circle Unbroken. She has written children's books, teachers' guides and developed Lil'wat language curriculum to teach people to read and write the Lil'wat language, which was exclusively oral until 1973. She was a CCL Minerva Lecturer in 2007 and was invested into the Order of BC for her work in education in 1992.

Her Minerva lecture, "Weaving words: Enhancing the learning of Aboriginal students", is available on line at:

<http://www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Events/Minerva/PastLectures/PastLecturesWilliams.htm?Language=EN>

Her Research Chair is highlighted on line at

http://www.chairs.gc.ca/web/chairholders/viewprofile_e.asp?id=1971

Her OBC is online at:

http://www.protocol.gov.bc.ca/protocol/prgs/obc/1993/1993_LWilliams.htm

Grand Chief Edward John (Akile Ch'oh)



Chief John was a member of the tripartite British Columbia Claims Task Force which recommended the establishment of the independent BC Treaty Commission to facilitate negotiations between First Nations, Canada and British Columbia.

In September 1992, Squamish Nation was host to the historic ceremony to sign the tripartite agreement to create the BC Treaty Commission. Grand Chief John was one of the signatories to the agreement on behalf of the First Nations Summit.

Chief John's educational background includes a Bachelors Degree from the University of Victoria and a Bachelor of Laws Degree from the University of British Columbia.

Grand Chief Edward John, a lawyer, is a Hereditary Chief of Tl'azt'en Nation located on the banks of the Stewart Lake in Northern BC . He served as an elected Councillor of Tl'azt'en Nation from 1974 to 1992, and served as an elected Chief from 1990 to 1992. He now is the Grand Chief of the Tl'azt'en Nation.

He has served in leadership roles for many organizations in BC. He is also a former Tribal Chief of the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council (1984 to 1988), a former Minister of Child and Family Services for the Province of BC (2000-2001) and a former member of the National Aboriginal Economic Development Board of Canada.

Chief John was first elected to the three member political executive of the First Nations Summit, the Summit Task Group, in 1993. He was subsequently re-elected to serve two year terms in 1996, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2004 and again in June of 2008. The Task Group is authorized by the Summit to carry out specifically mandated tasks on issues related to treaty negotiations in British Columbia. The First Nations Summit, which is comprised of a majority of First Nations and Tribal Councils in BC, provides a forum for First Nations in British Columbia to address issues related to Treaty negotiations as well as other issues of common concern.

The Honourable Steven L. Point, OBC

Xwě lī qwěł těł

Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia



The Honourable Steven L. Point was sworn-in as British Columbia's 28th Lieutenant Governor on October 1, 2007.

In 2005, he was appointed Chief Commissioner of the British Columbia Treaty Commission. His Honour served as an elected Chief of the Skowkale First Nation for 15 years. He also served as the tribal chair of the Stó:lo Nation Government, and he was honoured as Grand Chief by the Chiefs of the Stó:lo Tribal Council.

His Honour was appointed a provincial court judge in February 1999. Point received an Honorary Doctorate of Law degree from the University College of the Fraser Valley in June 2000 and is a recipient of a National Aboriginal

Achievement Award, also in 2000. He received a Bachelor of Law degree from the University of British Columbia in 1985 and was called to the Bar in British Columbia in 1986.

Born in Chilliwack, the Lieutenant Governor and his wife, Her Honour, Mrs. Gwendolyn Point, have four children and 11 grandchildren