

Fay Lorraine Blaney
Xwemalhkwu First Nation

Professional Profile

- Co-founder of the Aboriginal Women’s Action Network (AWAN) filling an array of organizing roles in Indigenous women’s issues, particularly feminist anti-violence issues
- Development and delivery of Women’s Studies, Aboriginal Studies and Canadian Studies syllabi at Langara College, UBC and SFU at undergraduate level over a 10-year period
- Served for 2 years as Chair Person of the annual Valentine’s Day Women’s Memorial March Committee & on-going involvement in other capacities over decades, and participating in other committees & coalitions related to the ‘murdered & missing Indigenous women’
- Popular Education instruction in Life Skills, Basic Literacy, First Nations Studies in Aboriginal & Women’s agencies
- Conference/Events organizer for Indigenous Women’s issues including 2 recent (2016) national gatherings on the National Inquiry on the ‘murdered & missing Indigenous women & girls’, several feminist anti-violence gatherings, and other actions
- Graduate course work on Indigenous women’s organizing, from a multi-disciplinary perspective including history, education, literature, sociology and women’s studies
- Project management for AWAN and Homalco First Nation – 2 Participatory Action Research Projects and other smaller organizing initiatives for AWAN; Treaty Negotiations, Housing Portfolio and “Comprehensive Community Planning for Homalco First Nation; projects ranged from coordinating multiple stakeholders, facilitating/chairing workshops and meetings, media relations, community outreach, record keeping and report writing.
- Policy and legislative analysis – Lobbying at federal and provincial level for legislative improvement for women & children, increased funding of programs and services for women, especially Indigenous women as part of AWAN and other community Boards.

Education and Training

- Bachelor of Arts Degree – Graduated with a Major in History, a Minor in Women’s Studies and a Minor in Education in 1993 from Simon Fraser University
- Graduate Level course work towards a Master of Arts Degree at SFU
- Addictions Counsellor Training at Hey Way Noqu Healing Circle

Employment History

Project Coordinator/Facilitator

Jan 2014 – March 2016

Downtown Eastside Women’s Centre
Immediate Supervisor – Masami Tomioka

- Organize & facilitate the “Warriors Organizing Women” bi-weekly group on a variety of Social Justice Issues including the ‘murdered & missing women’, women’s health, electoral participation, etc

Mentor

May 2015 – Present
(Summer Semester)

St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish Nova Scotia
Immediate Supervisor – Dr. Robyn Bourgeoise

- Provided Mentorship to a student(s) of the “Indigenous Women in Community Leadership” Program including overseeing her research, facilitating community engagement and supporting in a variety of ways

Consultant (Project Management & Community Engagement)

Nov 2012 – Present

Chief Robert Joseph & Associates/ Bright New Day Reconciliation Circle
Immediate Supervisor – John McCandless

- Bringing together Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in a reconciliation circle; event planning and organizing, community outreach, lead facilitator, etc.

Treaty Coordinator/Assistant Negotiator

April 2003 – June 2007

Homalco First Nation, 1218 Bute Cres, Campbell River, BC V9H 1G5

- Stage 4 of the BC Treaty Commission Process – negotiations with federal & provincial representative, research for chapters/resources; education and outreach to Homalco community members;
- Oversaw the “Comprehensive Community Planning” initiative of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, overhaul of Band Policies (Finance, Education, Personnel, Housing Committee, Chief & Council), consultative workshops with community members;
- Oversaw the Xwemalxkwu Literacy Needs Assessment and wrote the Final Report, as a lobbying tool for the creation of a Band run primary grade level school.

Instructor

Fall 1994 – Spring 2003

Langara College, 100 West 49th Ave, Vancouver, BC V5Y 2Z6

- Women’s Studies courses – Two Introductory courses at the 100 level;
- Aboriginal Studies courses – “The Roles of Aboriginal Women in Canada”, “Social Issues of Aboriginal Peoples”, “Research Methodology”, “Literature Review”
- Canadian Studies courses – “First Nations Concerns” and “Racism and Ethnic Relations in Canada”

Sessional Instructor

Fall 1997 – Spring 2003

University of British Columbia, Centre for Women’s Studies & Gender Relations,
2080 West Mall Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z2

- Department Chair: Valerie Raoul
- Women’s Studies Courses – 3rd & 4th year course – “The Roles of Aboriginal Women in Canada”; Introductory course at the 100 level
- Served as “Visiting Scholar”

Basic Literacy Instructor

Fall 1999 – Spring 2000

Capilano College, Field School at Carnegie Community Centre,
401 Main St. Van, BC, V6A 2T7

Life Skills & Pre-employment Training Instructor

Fall 1998

Vancouver Community College, Employment & Educational Access for Aboriginal People
250 West Pender St. Vancouver, BC

Sessional Instructor

Summer 1997

Simon Fraser University, 8888 University Dr. Burnaby, BC V5A 1S

- Women’s Studies Course – “Aboriginal Women in Canada”

Instructional Assistant

Fall 1983 – Spring 1987

Native Education College, 285 East 5th Ave. Vancouver, BC V5T 1H2

- Programs of Instruction – “Native Job Readiness Training”, Level I; “Native Adult Basic Education, Levels III & IV “College Preparation” (English, Math, Social Studies for all 4 levels)
- Coordinator for Frontier College Tutoring Program
- Created a Native tutoring program

Life Skills & Pre-Employment Training Instructor

Jan 1989 – Dec 1989

Urban Images for Native Indian Women

- Outreach, recruitment & selection of candidates for students
- Instruction in Life Skills and Pre-employment Training
- Identifying and overseeing student practicum placements

Community Service/Volunteer Experience**Aboriginal Women’s Action Network**

Founded in November 1995

Manager/Collective Member

- Organized a 2-day national gathering of “Indigenous Women & Allies” in March & June 2016 to educate, consult & bring attention to the National Inquiry into the ‘Murdered & Missing Indigenous Women & Girls’ (MMIWG)
- Active Participant of Coalition on Murdered & Missing Indigenous Women that arose out of the Oppal Commission of Inquiry.
- Served for 2 year (2014 – 2016) as Chair of the Valentine’s Day Women’s Memorial March Committee & actively participated over twenty-five years; included this event as assignment in Women’s Studies courses
- Organized regular meetings & conscientiousness-raising groups to discuss pressing issues such as child apprehension, bill C-31, impacts of racism and sexism, male violence, prostituted women and girls, housing concerns, etc.; often resulting in organizing rallies, lobbying government, letter writing campaigns, media & communications strategies, etc.
- provided advocacy, referrals, court accompaniment
- Organized Aboriginal women to take leadership roles in the “Canadian Women’s March Against Poverty and Violence” across Canada in June 1996.
- Organized the “Journey for Justice” rafting trip down the Fraser River, from Prince George to Musqueam Territory as part of the “World Women’s March Against Poverty and Violence” in 2000; organized 5 focus groups and 4 rallies as we travelled; co-authored the Final Report.
- Organized a series of 12 workshops to educate ourselves on laws and policies related to violence against women and children, as well as Restorative Justice, prior to “Journey for Justice”.
- Organized a ‘participatory action research’ project on Bill C-31, the Indian Status/membership issue for First Nations women; organized consultation meeting for 40 women from around BC to identify research direction culminating in women returning home to conduct interviews; AWAN Collective members met to conduct Literature Review and analyze data from taped interviews; I co-authored the Final Report.
- Regular participation in community forums, workshops, healing circles, etc on the ‘Murdered and Missing Aboriginal Women’, public speaking on prostitution, violence, racism, policy and legislative change & increase in programs and services provision.

Board Appointments

Rise Women's Legal Centre – 2016, *present*
Homalco First Nation – Elected Band Councillor, 2005 - 2008
Women of Spirit and Faith Canada – Member of organizing committee, 2012 - 2014
Feminist Research and Educational Development Association – Board Member, 1998 - 2003
Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre – President of Board of Directors, 2003
Downtown Eastside Women's Centre – Board Member, 2002 - 2003
National Action Committee on the Status of Women – Executive Board Member, 1996 - 2002
SFU First Nations Student Association – Organizing Committee Member, 1991 – 1994

Publications & Research

- “Empowerment, Revolution and Real Change” in Making Space for Indigenous Feminism 2, Dr. Joyce Green (Ed). Fernwood Publishing (2016), Co-authored with Samantha Grey
- Featured in *Finding Dawn*. Developed a Guide for Teaching and Action National Film Board <http://www.onf-nfb.gc.ca/sg/100567.pdf>
- Xwemalxkwu Literacy Needs Assessment (Sept 2004) Co-authored with Sandra Nichol (Unpub)
- “Aboriginal Women's Action Network” (2003) in Strong Women Stories: Native Vision and Community Survival Kim Anderson & Bonita Lawrence (Eds) Toronto: Sumach Press
- The Implications of Restorative Justice for Aboriginal Women and Children Survivors of Violence: A Comparative Overview of Five Communities in British Columbia (2001) Co-authored with Wendy Stewart & Audrey Huntley (Unpub)
- Bill C-31: Its Impact, Implications and Recommendations for Change in British Columbia – Final Report (Dec 1999) Co-authored with Audrey Huntley
- “Aboriginal Women”(1998) in NAC Voter's Guide Publication
- “Policy: Where We are Now & Where We Want to be” (April 14, 1997) in Violence Against Women: Meeting the Cross-Cultural Challenge Conference Proceedings; Leslie Sherlock (Ed) Vancouver: BC Institute on Family Violence
- “Backing Out of Hell” (1996) in Bringing it Home: Women Talk about Feminism in their Lives Brenda Lea Brown (Ed) Vancouver: Arsenal Pulp Press
- Numerous small articles in newsletters for the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre, Aboriginal Women's Action Network, Homalco First Nation, Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre, End Legislated Poverty, Under the Volcano, Carnegie Centre, Indian Homemakers Association, etc.

Presentation/ Public Address Highlights

“International Day of No Prostitution” “Links Between Racism, Colonialism & Prostitution” panel October 5, 2016 Montreal.
“Women & Leadership: Radical Conversations on Gender Justice, Art & Reconciliation” October 13 – 15, 2016 Friends of St. Ann's Academy, Victoria, BC
Participation in several roundtables at the Annual Montreal Massacre Memorial (e.g. 2016, 2015, 2014)
Downtown Eastside Women's Centre – 2 day “Cross-cultural/Anti-racism” Workshop for staff (Nov 2013)
Annual Valentine's Day Memorial March, Vancouver, several public addresses on “Murdered & Missing Indigenous Women”
NWT Department of Justice, Violence against Women Conference, Yellowknife, 2004, “Violence Against Indigenous Women”

National Action Committee on the Status of Women, Annual General Assembly, Lobby on Parliament Hill with each Party, 1996 - 2002

Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies/Canadian Association of Sexual Assault Centre's Conference, Parliament Hill, 2001, "Violence against Indigenous Women & Restorative Justice"

Canadian Criminal Justice Association Annual Conference, 2001, "Violence against Indigenous Women & Restorative Justice"

BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance Workers, 2001, "Violence against Indigenous Women & Restorative Justice"

BC Institute on Family Violence Conference "Violence Against Women: Meeting the Cross-Cultural Challenge, Vancouver, Trout Lake Community Centre, April 14, 1997.

National Women's March Against Poverty and Violence, Parliament Hill, June 1996

BCGEU, Women & Leadership Conference, BCIT, 1996

HEU Annual General Assembly, "Colonization & Anti-racism" UBC, 1996

Exhibit: National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls		
Location/Phase: <u>Part III: Quebec City</u>		
Witness: <u>Fay Blaney</u>		
Submitted by: <u>Big Canoe, C. Counsel</u>		
Add'l info: <u>PO346200101</u>		
Date: <u>MAY 14 2018</u>		
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