

Winnipeg, MB – Family and Child Welfare

October 1st & 2nd, 2018 – Cora Morgan & Dr. Amy Bombay

Cora Morgan is the First Nations Family Advocate of the First Nations Family Advocate Office (FNFAO) of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC). The FNFAO was established by the AMC in 2015. FNFAO responds to, among other things, child welfare-related concerns from First Nations people. It works directly with First Nations families to gather information about and an understanding of the issues facing those families, including dealing with the parents, grandparents and extended family of children who are being apprehended.

Dr. Amy Bombay is an Assistant Professor at Dalhousie University in the Department of Psychiatry and School of Medicine. She is also Adjunct Professor at Carleton University in the Department of Neuroscience. Dr. Bombay currently holds memberships with the Healthy Populations Institute, National Network for Aboriginal Health Research and Network for Research and Action on Racism and Indigenous Health. She has received numerous Honors and Awards for her work in areas such as Aboriginal Mental Health and Aboriginal Policy Research. She has been an expert witness in several high profile cases dealing with residential school trauma, negative effects of the Sixties Scoop and Child Welfare. Dr. Bombay has published extensively and presentations in her areas of work.

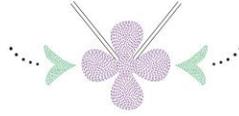
Final confirmation of all witnesses on this panel is pending.

October 3rd, 2018 – Dr. Cindy Blackstock & Susan Aglukark

Dr. Cindy Blackstock is a member of the Gitksan First Nation with over 30 years of social work experience in child protection and Indigenous children's rights. Dr. Blackstock's expertise for the purpose of her testimony is specifically in the areas of social work, with knowledge in Indigenous theory, child engagement and the identification and remediation of structural inequalities affecting First Nations children, youth and families.

She has authored over 50 publications. Dr. Blackstock has collaborated with other Indigenous leaders to assist the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child in the development and adoption of a General Comment on the Rights of Indigenous children. Recently, she also worked with Indigenous young people, UNICEF & the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to produce a youth friendly version of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of the Child. Her promotion of culturally based & evidence informed solutions has been recognized by the Nobel Women's Initiative, the Aboriginal Achievement Foundation, Frontline Defenders and many others.

Our Women and Girls are Sacred / Nos femmes et nos filles sont sacrées



Susan Aglukark is an Inuk singer. Songwriter, author and motivational speaker. Born in Churchill, MB and raised in Rankin Inlet and Arviat, Nunavut, Susan has written and recorded 10 albums and has won many accolades for her accomplishments in music. Susan's music blends Inuit culture and language with a variety of different sounds. During a career that has spanned more than 25 years, Susan's journey as a singer-songwriter has led her to reflect on who she is, where she comes from and the importance of discovery – discovery of history, culture and self, this time of reflection, writing and songwriting has Susan coming back to one area of profound knowing, the Inuit are an extraordinary people, a people whose history must be part of the healing as indigenous meaning move's forward. Ms Aglukark has received several honorary degrees in Law and in the Fine Arts, Susan received the Order of Canada in 2005 and was recognized with the Governor Generals Awards in Arts in 2016. Susan is founder and Executive Director of the Arctic Rose Foundation. Susan has resided in Ontario area for over 25 years and has received numerous awards and recognition for her work with Inuit and Indigenous youth and woman and children at risk.

October 4th, 2018 – Mary Ellen Turpel Lafond

Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond is a lawyer, judge, legislative advocate, and professor of law from the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation. She holds a Doctorate in Law from Harvard Law School. A Masters in international law from Cambridge University, a JD from Osgoode Hall at York University and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Carleton University. She was appointed as British Columbia's first Representative for Children and Youth in 2006, a position for which she was reappointed in 2011. A large part of her career has been dedicated to working with First Nations and Metis families and communities. Ms. Turpel La-fond was also the first treaty member to be appointed to the bench of the Provincial Court of Saskatchewan, a position she held for 20 years. Currently, Ms. Turpel-Lafond has been appointed as the inaugural Director of the Indian Residential School History and Dialogue Center and also as a professor with the Peter A. Allard School of Law.

October 5th, 2018 – We are in the process of finalizing and confirming witnesses for this panel.