



The Indigenous Circle (ICC) of the Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association

Agenda for the Annual Gathering Meeting (AGM)
June 30th, 2026 (via Zoom): 6:00 to 7:30 pm Eastern

In attendance: ICC Leadership: Darlene Denis-Friske, Heather Lash, Judy Letendre, Meredith Ramsey, Andrea Currie (Elders and Knowledge Keepers Council), Lindsay Ashmore (Indigenous Relations Lead and ICC member), as well as three members of the Indigenous Circle.

Opening our time in a good way

The Indigenous Circle welcomed [Kevin Lemarr Jr.](#), who opened our meeting with good thoughts and a special song. Kevin is a proud member of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation and a cultural educator, facilitator, and community advocate. Chi miigwech to Kevin!

Andrea Currie shared thoughts on continued care for the Indigenous Circle and the significance of relationships formed and sustained through our shared connections through the circle, now 21 years old. Chi miigwech to Andrea!



The Indigenous Circle activities from May 2025 to June 2026

What we have been up to from May 2025 to June 2026?

1. We held our usual Virtual Sharing Circles to mark the Solstices and Equinoxes.
2. The ICC held leadership circles open to the full membership for consultation, support, check-in.
3. We organized the ICC Virtual Speaker Series (First Nations, Inuit, Métis perspectives)
 - Indigenous CEC Program: advocated in 2015, solidified 2018
 - We are grateful to share that the following CCPA Chapters have gifted resources to assist with the series: Social Justice Chapter; Career Counsellors Chapter; Nova Scotia Chapter

Heather Lash	February 2026	Cultural Humility: Indigenous Realities
Andrea Currie	March 2026	Finding Otipemisiwak: The People Who Own Themselves
Judy Letendre	April 2026	Sharing Our Stories
Darlene Denis-Friske	May 2026	A Wise Practice Concept (CCPA Annual Conference in Halifax)
Vanessa Brousseau	June 2026	No More Stolen: Speaking Truth for Awareness and Prevention
Meredith Ramsey	August 2026	Currently developing her focus

4. We attended the focus on developing a CCPA strategy towards 'Indigenous Self-Identification'.
5. We were involved with reviewing the First Nations, Inuit, Métis Directors positions.
6. CCPA Annual Conference in Halifax (Amanda, Darlene, Heather and Judy attended)

- Assistance in facilitating the invitation for our Knowledge Sharer in Residence
 - Elder-in-Residence at CCPA Conferences: advocated/initiated in 2018
- Assistance in organizing and holding space within the Indigenous Gathering Space
 - Indigenous Gathering Space: advocated/initiated in 2015



Monique Fong Howe
2026 CCPA Conference
Halifax

Banking and Budget from May 2025 to June 2026

Budget Area from (May 2025 to June 2026)	Membership	Expenses	Balance
Opening Balance in May 2025			\$3706.19
Total Membership Fees: Membership is \$10.00 per year September 2025: \$2250.00 March 2026: \$2380.00	\$4630.00		
Contributions to Speaker Series - with gratitude! Social Justice Chapter, Nova Scotia Chapter, Career Counsellors Chapter	\$2500.00		
Expenses / Activities include: Honoraria (Speaker Series, Elders and Knowledge Keepers), books for book draws, Virtual Sharing Circle (cultural guidance and facilitation), Annual Conference Supports and Conference Activities (Halifax 2026), conference gifts for Indigenous Gathering Space.		\$4870.00	
Total Service Charges (RBC): \$6.00 each month for 12 months, cheques; a bank charge		\$124.50	
Current Balance in June 2026			\$5841.69

NOTE about banking processes: Any future banking changes require a consensus agreement from the current ICC leadership, a letter signed by all attesting to the agreement, and submission to a branch of the Royal Bank (along with identification) to enact the change.

Shifts and changes to the ICC Leadership Circle!

- ❖ It was noted that Carla Pauls has decided to step back from the Leadership at this time. We shared thoughts of appreciation and gratitude for her care and support of the circle!
- ❖ Carmel Shalom confirmed her intentions to join the leadership circle - welcome!
- ❖ We honoured and appreciated Angela Grier for her significant advocacy and voice, now stepping back from the First Nations Director position ○
- ❖ We honoured and appreciated Lisa Marie Van de Water Harvey ○

AGM Decisions: It was decided by consensus to raise the annual ICC membership fee to \$15 (it has been \$10 for the last 21 years). This increase will support the ICC Speaker Series through honoraria, the ICC Learner Appreciation Gifts, and a possible ICC Advocacy Appreciation Award.



Moving Forward in 2026/27:

We spoke about: continuing the focus on the ICC Speaker Series; offering the Learner Appreciation Gifts for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis knowledges (September 2026); discussing the ICC Advocacy Appreciation Award (September 2026); and supporting Meredith Ramsey's offering in August 2026.

We considered the cultural importance of staying connected in the larger CCPA circle of Indigenous Initiatives, decisions, and focus, including the ICC Leadership, Indigenous members of the CCPA Board of Directors, and the Indigenous Relations and Advocacy Leads. We noted that a formal message in this regard had been sent to the CCPA CEO and Board via the CCPA Past President to introduce and invite the creation of a regular forum.

Closing the circle - Judy Letendre closed our circle in a good way with song - chi miigwech ○