



**National Aboriginal Housing Association/
Association Nationale d'Habitation Autochtone**

**Sixteenth National Urban Aboriginal
Housing Conference
&
Annual General Meeting**

“Aboriginal Housing & Homelessness: Strategies and Solutions”

BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS

September 22 - 25, 2010

**Crowne Plaza Hotel
101 Lyon Street
Ottawa ON**

Senator Art Eggleton – Keynote Speaker at Gala Awards Banquet September 24



Art Eggleton has served the people of Canada and the city of Toronto in public office for over 35 years.

He was born, raised, and educated in Toronto where he worked as an accountant before being elected to City Council in 1969.

He served 22 years as a member of Toronto City Council and the Metropolitan Toronto Council, most of those years on the Executive Committees of both Councils. Between 1973 and 1980, he served as City Budget Chief, the member of Council responsible for financial matters. From 1980 to 1991, for 11 of those 22 years, he was Mayor of Toronto, the longest serving Mayor in the City's history. In addition, he served on the Metropolitan Toronto Police Commission, the Board of the Canadian National Exhibition, and numerous committees and task forces dealing with community issues.

In recognition of his service to the City, Mr. Eggleton received Toronto's highest honour, the Civic Award of Merit, in 1992.

Art Eggleton served 11 years in the House of Commons as the member for York Centre. First elected in 1993, he was soon thereafter appointed to Cabinet where he served in the following positions:

- President of the Treasury Board & Minister Responsible for Infrastructure (1993-1996)
- Minister for International Trade (1996-1997)
- Minister of National Defence (1997-2002)
- Vice-Chairman of Cabinet Committee on Economic Policy (1997-2002)

In his final 2 years in the House (2002-2004), he served as follows:

- Chair of the Greater Toronto Area Liberal Caucus
- Member of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade
- Chair of Canada-Israel Inter-Parliamentary Group

He also serves on the Advisory Board of Directors of the Skylink Group of Companies Inc. (Toronto), and is the volunteer Chair of the Rebuilding Lives Campaign for St. John's Rehabilitation Hospital, Toronto.

On March 24, 2005, Art Eggleton was appointed to the Senate of Canada. He currently serves as Chair of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology as well as its Subcommittee on Cities and is a member of the Standing Committee on National Finance.

He recently released the Senate Report, *"In From the Margins: A Call to Action on Poverty, Housing and Homelessness"*.

Dr. Paulette C. Tremblay, CEO National Aboriginal Health Organization, Speaker



Dr. Paulette C. Tremblay is a Mohawk of the Six Nations of the Grand River Territory in Southern Ontario. Dr. Tremblay began her role of Chief Executive Officer of the National Aboriginal Health Organization located in Ottawa, Ontario, on January 7, 2008. She was the Director of Education for the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation from 2005-2008 and was the Chief Executive Officer for the Six Nations Council from 2002-2005 heading up an Administration with approximately 700 employees and serving the needs of the people in her home Territory. Having been involved in the field of education for 30 years, she has been a former professor at the Six Nations Polytechnic Institute, Algonquin College and the University of Ottawa and the Director of Education for the Assembly of First Nations for five years. Dr. Tremblay has been a curriculum designer; educational, evaluation and training consultant for the private sector; a management instructor, consultant and policy analyst for the federal government; and a high school teacher and Counsellor. She has been the author of many reports, articles and educational curricula.

Dr. Tremblay obtained the following degrees from the University of Ottawa:

- ◆ Doctor of Philosophy in Education, concentrating in Psychopedagogy;
- ◆ Master of Arts in Education, concentrating in Measurement and Evaluation.

She also has a Bachelor of Education from Dalhousie University in Halifax, NS and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, ON

Libby Davies, MP for Vancouver East, Guest Speaker at Luncheon, September 23



Libby was first elected as Member of Parliament for Vancouver East in 1997. Re-elected in 2000, again in June 2004, 2006, and most recently in 2008, she is the Deputy Leader of the NDP, and has served as NDP House Leader since 2003. Libby is also the federal NDP Spokesperson for Drug Policy Reform and Solicitation Laws.

Her history as a strong community activist for Vancouver East began over 30 years ago. She and her late partner, Bruce Eriksen, were key figures in the formation of the Downtown Eastside Residents' Association (DERA) in 1973. In 10 years of community organizing, Libby developed her strong grassroots approach to working with people and diverse communities.

In 1982 Libby was elected to Vancouver City Council and served 5 consecutive terms. She became involved in every community issue, from protecting community services to developing affordable housing, fighting for parks and working for the elimination of poverty.

From 1994 to 1997 Libby worked with the Hospital Employees' Union (HEU) serving in the role of Ombudsperson for Human Rights, as well as Complaints Investigator, and Coordinator of Human Resources.

Since being elected Member of Parliament, Libby has provided a strong voice for East Vancouver. In the House of Commons she has consistently raised issues of concern to her constituents including community safety, affordable housing, adequate childcare, and post-secondary education. Libby's community office has helped hundreds of residents with federal government matters such as immigration, student loans, employment insurance, taxation, pensions, and Aboriginal affairs.

Libby has been an outspoken advocate for drug policy reforms to stop the criminalization of drug users and the harm caused by Canada's prohibitionist policies.

Libby has received awards from organizations such as the Capital Xtra's Community Achievement Award for Political Activist of the Year, the YMCA Peace Medal Award, the Vancouver and District Labour Council's Syd Thompson Award, the Justice Gerald LeDain Award for Achievement in the Field of Law, for her work on drug policy and most recently, the Visionary Award from Jer's Vision.

Born in 1953 in England, Libby came to Canada in 1968. She moved to Vancouver in 1969 and has one son, Lief Eriksen. She lives with her partner, Kimberly Elliott.

Bruce Pearce, President, Canadian Housing and Renewal Association – Guest Speaker at Reception, Sept. 22



Blending a passion for social justice and the environment, Bruce works to develop solutions for healthy, sustainable communities. Before arriving in Newfoundland in 1998, Bruce was executive assistant and policy advisor to Ontario Premier Bob Rae and Metro Toronto Councillor Jack Layton, supporting local and provincial strategies to create affordable housing and end homelessness.

In 2002 he became the community development worker for the 30-member St. John's Community Advisory Committee on Homelessness, which guides local planning and investments under Canada's Homelessness Partnering Strategy. He is a co-founder and steering committee member of the Newfoundland & Labrador Housing & Homelessness Network, established in 2009.

He is an associate member of Eva's Initiatives' national learning community on youth homelessness, and in 2006, he co-chaired Canada's first national youth homelessness conference. Bruce also serves on the Board of Green Communities Canada, an association of community-based environmental groups collaborating with CHRA to tackle energy poverty through low-income energy efficiency. Recently, Bruce helped develop new CHRA policies on homelessness, and green housing & green jobs; and is assisting CHRA's efforts to create a pan-Canadian learning network of communities working to end homelessness.

Brenda M. Torpy, CEO, Champlain Housing Trust, Burlington VT, Speaker



Brenda Torpy has 30 years of experience in the affordable housing field starting with rural community development and affordable housing advocacy in northern Vermont. As the Community and Economic Development Office's first housing Director for the City of Burlington, Brenda led the development of the Burlington Community Land Trust, now Champlain Housing Trust, and served as the founding Board President. In 1991, she joined the staff as Executive Director.

The Champlain Housing Trust is the nation's largest community land trust with over 4,000 members, 68 employees and 2,000 affordable homes in northwest Vermont, including 475 in their shared appreciation homeownership portfolio along with multiple non-profit facilities, retail and commercial tenants. Under Brenda's leadership, CHT was selected as the 2008 winner of the UN World Habitat Award for the Global North for its leadership in the development of the CLT model of permanently affordable and community-controlled housing. CHT is also a housing developer, and in 2009 was engaged in \$45 million in real estate development. CHT's annual operating budget is approximately \$6 million.

Brenda has also worked for the Vermont Housing Finance Agency as Development Director, and coordinated the \$21 million tenant-led buyout of Northgate Apartments, 336 apartments that needed extensive rehabilitation and reinvestment to assure continued affordability. She serves on the Board of the National Community Land Trust Network and on Vermont's Governor's Housing Council.

Donald Robinson, M.S.W., R.S.W., Program Manager, Wi Che Win, Winnipeg MB, Panelist



Don is the Program Manager for the Wi Che Win Intensive Case Management Program (ICM) with Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre, Inc. Wi Che Win is a Cree word that means "walk with me" and is the philosophy guiding the work with participants. Ma Ma Wi is a Housing First initiative of the Mental Health Commission of Canada.

Don has been in senior management positions in the areas of child welfare, health and community development. He has worked with Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Health Canada, Health Sciences Centre, Manitoba Adolescent Treatment Centre, Health Canada and All Nations Child and Family Resource Network. Since 1996, he has been a social work educator teaching regularly for the University of Manitoba and has done extensive consulting and training in many organizations and First Nations communities in Manitoba. He has been extensively involved in the urban First Nations community as a volunteer on many boards.

Don, a Cree man from Oxford House reserve, is involved in the traditional way and is a member of the Wolf Clan. As a member of the Wolf Clan, he is interested in learning traditional teachings about the journey of life.

Patrick Reid Stewart, MAIBC, MSA, MRAIC, LEED™ AP [Luugigyoo Wilp Daaxan], President, NAHA



Nisga'a architect Patrick Reid Stewart MAIBC, MSA, MRAIC, LEED™ AP [Luugigyoo Wilp Daaxan] is the President of the *National Aboriginal Housing Association* (NAHA). He has chaired the *Aboriginal Homelessness Steering Committee* (AHSC) for Metro Vancouver since 2005. Patrick was a Board Member of the Canadian Housing & Renewal Association (CHRA) 2009-2010, and President of the *Architectural Institute of British Columbia* (AIBC) 2005-2007, and founding President of *Tawaak Housing* in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Patrick is a director of a First Nations resource development corporation, *Nass Valley Gateway* and a member of the Editorial Advisory Committee for *Architecture BC Magazine*.

Patrick will be starting doctoral studies in the Fall at UBC. His research is titled, *Architecture Of Displacement: First Nations Residential Schools In Canada*.

Patrick has written for *Architecture BC*, *Canadian Architect* and *City Magazine*. He has been featured in the *Vancouver Sun*, *The Globe and Mail*, *Native Peoples Magazine* and the award winning film documentaries, *Aboriginal Architecture* (2005) and, *Something to eat, a place to sleep and someone who gives a damn* (2008) a film on homelessness. Patrick lives on Tzeachten First Nation near Chilliwack, British Columbia with his wife, Cree fashion designer, publisher (*Bedford Park Press*) and housing consultant, Linda LaVallee. Their blended family includes seven children.

Dr. Tim Aubry, University of Ottawa, Ottawa ON, Panelist



Tim Aubry is a Full Professor in the School of Psychology and a Senior Researcher at the Centre for Research on Community and Educational Services at the University of Ottawa. His areas of research are community mental health, homelessness, and program evaluation of health and social services.

Tim has consulted and collaborated on research projects with community organizations and government contributing to the development of social programs and policies. He is a member of REACH3, a pan-Canadian network of researchers from five Canadian cities, conducting research on homelessness, housing, and health.

He is also a member of the National Research Team and the Co-Lead of the Moncton site in the Mental Health and Homelessness Demonstration Project of the Mental Health Commission of Canada.

Tim teaches graduate courses at the University of Ottawa in community psychology and program evaluation.

Harold Tarbell, Consultant , Trainer & Facilitator, West Vancouver BC, Conference Chairman



Harold Tarbell is a Mohawk from the community of Akwesasne who has been residing in Vancouver since November 2000. Over the course of his career he has been an elected Chief, a political Chief of Staff, an Executive Director/CEO, a program director and a loyal staff person.

Since 1996 he has been providing independent facilitation, consulting and training services to a wide range of government, corporate, non-profit and community based organizations in both Canada and the United States. His services have focused on supporting efforts to effectively consult with constituents and stakeholders, develop strategic plans, and improve organizational and community capacity. This has involved work in a variety of sectors including Housing, Health, Education, Economic Development, Land Management, Early Childhood Development, etc.

Mr. Tarbell has served as lead facilitator at previous national First Nations and Aboriginal housing forums including the 2008 NAHA conference and the 2004 Sectoral Roundtable on Housing (as a follow-up to the Canada-Aboriginal Peoples Roundtable). Most recently Harold has served as the Deputy Chair for the Assembly of First Nations 2010 Annual Assembly and conducted strategic planning projects with the AFN Executive, the First Nations Financial Management Board, the First Nations Market Housing Fund, and supported the strategic planning process of the US based Indian Health Service Division of Behavioral Health.

He resides in North Vancouver, BC and can be reached at #701-100 Park Royal South, West Vancouver, BC V7T 1A2, by email at htarbell@total.net or by phone at (604) 787-8638.

Dewey Smith, Senior Housing Policy Advisor, Assembly of First Nations, Ottawa ON, Speaker



Dewey Smith is a committed Aboriginal housing professional with extensive experience, background and knowledge in all matters of housing, both On and Off Reserve. He has demonstrated an ability to provide focus in the development of concepts, strategies and policies that build the capacity of First Nation peoples, communities and organizations.

He combines the professional elements of technical skills proficiency with concept and policy development. He provides a balance of policy, program and performance that is connected to the aspirations of First Nation communities, organizations and people that seek to develop solutions to housing problems.

He is currently a Senior Policy Advisor for the Assembly of First Nations where he provides analysis of current issues on housing and infrastructure to the Office of the National Chief and the AFN Housing and Infrastructure Secretariat.

He regularly contributes the First Nation perspective to various federal departments and agencies through active participation in the AFN Chiefs Committee on Housing and Infrastructure, its Technical Working Group, and a number of national liaison committees.

Mr. Smith is an accomplished carver, and has chosen to present a photograph of a mask that he recently carved, rather than presenting a photo of himself.

Rob Rainer, Executive Director, Canada Without Poverty, Ottawa ON, Speaker



Rob Rainer joined Canada Without Poverty in November 2006 following 20 years of leadership and consulting positions in environmental conservation and sustainable development. His work over 1986-2006 was thematically tied to concerns such as water pollution, climate change, biodiversity conservation and ecotourism; geographically spanned local, regional, national and international levels; and was predominantly within the not-for-profit sector.

Through his “green” work, Rob came to fully appreciate that a sustainable society cannot be achieved without social justice, in particular the elimination of poverty and the attainment of more socially equitable communities. At Canada Without Poverty he has led the evolution to the new organizational name (from National Anti-Poverty Organization) and logo (symbolizing the rising above of one’s poverty line) and creation of new mission, vision and values statements. He has strengthened relations with many partner groups, and in 2008 initiated the founding of *Dignity for All: The Campaign for a Poverty-free Canada*.

Rob is a Canadian Fellow of the international Leadership for Environment and Development (LEAD) network (www.lead.org), to which he has belonged since 1997. He is also a past President of LEAD Canada Inc., implementing LEAD’s program in Canada. He currently is a Board member of the [Public Interest Advocacy Centre](http://www.piaa.ca), based in Ottawa.

Donna Mayer, Senior Advisor, CMHC's Affordable Housing Centre, Ontario Region, Toronto ON, Speaker



Donna Mayer is a Senior Advisor with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's Affordable Housing Centre in the Ontario Region. She works with individuals and organizations, including several urban Aboriginal groups, helping them to develop affordable housing.

Donna has been working in the affordable housing field for over 20 years. Before joining CMHC, she worked as a Housing Developer for the City of Ottawa where she helped facilitate several hundred affordable housing units. Previous to entering government service, Donna worked in the non-profit and co-op housing sectors in the areas of housing development, community development, tenant organizing, advocacy and adult education.

Renée Masching, Research and Policy Manager with the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network, Dartmouth NS, Panelist



Renée Masching is a First Nation woman originally from Southern Ontario. For more than 14 years Renée has been honoured to contribute to the Aboriginal HIV/AIDS movement in Canada with dedication and determination. Contributions have included: support to community-based HIV/AIDS organizations; serving as a Board member with national organizations; the development of government policy in the Atlantic Provinces and Federally; numerous committees; and by working directly with Aboriginal People living with HIV/AIDS.

Renée earned her degrees at McMaster University, finishing her undergraduate work in 1995 and a Masters in Social Work in 2003, with a research award from the Canadian Institutes for Health Research. Her research interests are focused on community-based research frameworks, indigenous knowledge and community health.

Renée is the author/co-author of several peer reviewed publications and has delivered numerous poster and oral presentations at local, regional, national and international conferences.

Renée has dedicated her professional energies to working with Aboriginal Peoples in health related programs. She has worked in addictions programs, in community health education and held the position of Executive Director of Healing Our Nations, the Atlantic First Nations AIDS Network from 1997-2005. Renée began employment with the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network (CAAN) as a Community-based Research Facilitator supporting a community response to HIV/AIDS through research. Presently, Renée is the Research and Policy Manager with CAAN and co-PI on several active research projects. Renée lives by the ocean in Nova Scotia with her husband, two sons and menagerie of pets.



The Wellesley Institute is an independent, non-profit research and policy dedicated to advancing urban health. Michael has worked extensively in Toronto, and in many other parts of Canada, as well as nationally and internationally. He has worked with Aboriginal people at the local and national levels on a variety of housing and related initiatives. He is recognized as one of Canada's leading community-based housing and homelessness experts.

Most recently, Michael led the Wellesley Institute team that produced *Precarious Housing in Canada 2010*, an overview of housing and homelessness issues at the national level. Michael is co-author, with Jack Layton, of *Homelessness: The Making and Unmaking of a Crisis* (Penguin, 2008) and co-editor, with David Hulchanski, of *Finding Room: Policy Options for a Canadian Rental Housing Strategy* (CUCS Press, 2004).

Steve Pomeroy, Senior Fellow University of Ottawa Centre on Governance; & President Focus Consulting Inc. , Speaker



Steve Pomeroy is a housing policy research consultant, based in Ottawa, Canada. After working in municipal and federal government he established Focus Consulting in 1994.

Widely acknowledged as one of the leading housing policy experts in Canada, Steve has over 30 years of experience in housing policy analysis has completed over 120 reports and studies covering issues of socio-economic analysis, homelessness, housing policy and affordable housing financing. This research includes:

- *A Time for Action: A National Action Plan to Address Non Reserve Aboriginal Housing, 2009* Prepared by the National Aboriginal Housing Association, Ottawa
- *Non-reserve Aboriginal Housing Need and the Cost of Remedies: Background Working Paper.* National Aboriginal Housing Association. 2004.
- *Pro-Active versus Reactive Responses The Business Case for a Housing Based Approach to Reduce Homelessness in the Region of Waterloo.* 2007 Region of Waterloo
- *The Cost of Homelessness: Analysis of Alternate Responses in Four Canadian Cities* (2004) Prepared for National Secretariat on Homelessness

In January 2007 he was appointed as a Senior Research Fellow with the university of Ottawa Centre on Governance and in the Spring of 2010 initiated a new professional development program in the Fundamentals of Housing Policy and Governance through the University of Ottawa Centre for Continuing Education.

Dr. Aaron Burry, General Manager of Community and Social Services, City of Ottawa, Ottawa ON, Speaker



As the General Manager of the Community and Social Services department, Aaron Burry is responsible for the delivery of the following services: Children's Services, Community Development and Funding, Housing Services, Long Term Care and Social Services.

Over the past 10 years, Aaron has lead and managed the delivery of social, recreation, health and dental services within the Ottawa community.

Aaron has been the General Manager of the Community and Social Services since March 2010. Previously, he held the position of General Manager of Parks and Recreation from 2009 to 2010 and was the Director of Parks and Recreation from 2003 to 2009.

Aaron continues to serve as the City's Dental Officer of Health and holds a speciality certificate in public health dentistry. Aaron holds MHA and MBA degrees from the University of Ottawa.

Aaron is dedicated to collaborating with diverse communities and organizations to build partnerships to provide human services that meet the needs of Ottawa residents. He is committed to service excellence and providing easy access to integrated and consistent social services.

Description of CSSD

The Community and Social Services Department, in collaboration with the Community, delivers and funds programs and human services to residents in need of child care, employment and financial assistance, housing services and long term care. The Department has the responsibility to administer and deliver provincially and federally legislated programs and services.

Nancy Martin, Executive Director, Miziwe Biik Aboriginal Employment and Training, Toronto ON, Panelist



Under Nancy's direction, Miziwe Biik is responsible for funding Aboriginal non-profits in the GTA, and for arranging employment placements and training positions for the Aboriginal community. Nancy Martin also serves as President of Miziwe Biik Development Corporation.

MBDC was created as a vehicle that could take on revenue-generating projects; these projects would in turn fulfill programming and services needs not currently met within the Aboriginal community of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) while supporting a developing local Aboriginal economy.

Ms. Martin's previous employment history includes a position as a Community Advisor with the Toronto Board of Education, a Community Outreach person with George Brown College and as an Executive Director of the Wanepuhnud Corporation which provided tanning and employment opportunities for Native women.

Jayshree (Jay) Thakar, National Manager, Aboriginal Housing Program, Habitat for Humanity Canada, Ottawa ON, Panelist



Habitat for Humanity is an international Association united by the commitment to build affordable housing and provide a hand up to families in vulnerable situations. Its vision is a World where everyone has a safe and decent place to live. Habitat Canada is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year and its very first-ever build in a First Nations Community.

Ms. Thakar with her employment with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) over the past 20 plus years has been quite familiar with the Canadian housing environment. Ms. Thakar has worked on the international stage for 15 years. In the past 10 years, she has played an instrumental role in assisting emerging economies enhance their housing system. With her efforts the Corporation has collaborated with over 35 countries around the world. She also facilitated the Canadian housing industry export housing products, materials and expertise in Asia and Americas.

Prior to joining CMHC International, Ms. Thakar was in charge of development and management of the Corporation-owned large land portfolio across Canada.

Ms. Thakar holds a Bachelor's degree in Architecture and Planning.

Jim Lanigan, President, Gignul Non-Profit Housing Corporation, Ottawa ON, Panelist



James J. Lanigan is a Métis and originates from Big River, Saskatchewan. As President of Gignul's Board of Directors, he strives to meet the challenges, which exists for Aboriginal families to find safe, adequate and affordable housing in urban centres.

He believes the home is the foundation of the family and the Aboriginal community.

Coming from a small remote community and a family of ten, understanding the relationship that housing has to health, education, recreation and well-being came early in his life.

Don McBain, Executive Director, Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services, Saul Ste. Marie ON, Speaker