



PROVINCIAL SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE STRATEGY LEADS

Dr. Yvette Emerson is an emergency medicine and family physician registered with Sandy Bay First Nation, who also recognizes her prior membership in the Manitoba Métis Federation and her white settler ancestry. She grew up in Winnipeg and spent the first 10 years of her career working in diverse Métis, Inuit and First Nation communities in British Columbia (Haida Gwaii), Manitoba, Nunavut and northwestern Ontario.

She has worked as a teacher of family medicine in Winnipeg at an academic teaching clinic and performed several different leadership and administrative roles at the University of Manitoba. Her most recent clinical work has been at the Selkirk Regional Health Centre. She has been with Keewatinohk Inniniw Minoayawin Inc. Northern Peoples' Wellness for three years, working on northern primary care system transformation, and is the lead of Sakihiwewin, a system designed to address Indigenous-specific racism in health in the north.

Dr. Vanessa Poliquin is provincial specialty lead for women's health at Shared Health. She was previously section head of obstetrics at Health Sciences Centre Winnipeg and associate professor of obstetrics, gynecology and reproductive sciences at the Max Rady College of Medicine. She has experience at the Aboriginal Health and Wellness Centre, Klinic Community Health Centre and Interlake Regional Health Authority.

Dr. Poliquin has a bachelor of health sciences from McMaster University, doctor of medicine from the University of Western Ontario and masters of science (epidemiology) from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. She completed both her residency in obstetrics and gynecology and a fellowship in reproductive infectious diseases at University of Manitoba.

Leslie Spillett is a Cree and Métis community kookum who has made vast contributions for more than three decades to Winnipeg's inner-city and Indigenous community as an organizer, activist, and advocate. She founded one of Manitoba's most visionary Indigenous organizations almost two decades ago, Ka Ni Kanichihk, to support women and their families.

Spillett served four years in an executive role on the Native Women's Association of Canada board of directors. During her tenure, she began the Sisters in Spirit campaign to raise awareness and action regarding missing and murdered Indigenous women in Canada and participated in the Amnesty International report, Stolen Sisters. Spillett represented missing women at a United Nations World Conference Against Racism in 2001 and at a UNESCO conference in 2005.

Spillett continues to work part time at Ka Ni Kanichihk's Mino Pimatisiwin Sexual Wellness Lodge and with Ongomiizwin Institute of Health and Healing, Rady Faculty of Health Sciences, and serves on the council of the Manitoba Harm Reduction Network.