

Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux

Chair on Truth and Reconciliation at Lakehead University

Orillia, ON, CA

Dr. Wesley-Esquimaux's research addresses unresolved intergenerational trauma and grief primarily within the Canadian Indigenous community.

Biography

Dr. Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux is the former Vice-Provost (Aboriginal Initiatives) at Lakehead University, Thunder Bay. She held the Nexen Chair in Indigenous Leadership at the Banff Centre in Alberta for four years, is a Status Only Asst. Professor at the Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto, and an Adjunct Asst. Professor at Lakehead in the Department of Anthropology. She is a former Advisory Member of the Mental Health Commission of Canada, and a member of the Board of Healthy Minds Canada and Teach for Canada. She is a Honourary Witness for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, and a member of the Governing Circle for the Centre For Truth and Reconciliation at the University of Winnipeg. She is a retired member of the Lake Simcoe Science Advisory Committee because of her move to Thunder Bay, a Lady of the Lake, and an active and engaging media representative. Cynthia is interested in environmental and humanitarian causes and is actively engaged in a variety of initiatives across Canada. Her teaching and academic writing is directed towards understanding Historic and Intergenerational Trauma and Grief within the Indigenous community. She is a member of the Chippewa of Georgina Island First Nation in Lake Simcoe. Cynthia has dedicated her life to building bridges of understanding, and sees endless merit in bringing people from diverse cultures, ages, and backgrounds together to engage in practical dialogue. She is deeply committed to public education and active youth engagement, and co-founded and Chairs the Canadian Roots Exchange out of the University of Toronto, Lakehead and the University of Saskatchewan.

Industry Expertise

Education/Learning, Research

Areas of Expertise

Indigenous Community, Intergenerational Trauma, Community Outreach, Community Development, Teaching, Government, Humanitarian, Leadership, Policy

Affiliations

Former Vice-Provost (Aboriginal Initiatives) at Lakehead University, Nexen Chair in Aboriginal Leadership at the Banff Centre in Alberta, Status Only Asst. Professor at the Faculty of Social Work University of Toronto, Adjunct Asst. Professor at Lakehead in the Department of Anthropology, Former Advisory Member of the Mental Health Commission of Canada, Member of the Board of Healthy Minds Canada, Member of the Board for Teach for Canada, Honourary Witness for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, Member of the Governing Circle for the Centre For Truth and Reconciliation at the University of Winnipeg, Ministers Special Representative on Child & Family Welfare

Event Appearances

Keynote Speaker

Icemen 2016: International conference on Community Engaged Medical Education in the North

Keynote Speaker

Wabano Aboriginal Health Symposiums, Spring 2014

Education

University of Toronto

PhD Anthropology

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