



Key Note Speaker - Andrea Currie, Knowledge Keeper, Counselling Therapist (NSCCT), Certified Canadian Counsellor (CCPA).

Workshop Title: Medicine Stories: Travels Through the Landscape of Grief.

Andrea Currie, Green Turtle Woman, is a citizen of the Red River Métis Nation. She spent her early years living in Winnipeg, the historical homeland of her people. Andrea is also a mother, storyteller, psychotherapist and musician who believes that stories are medicine, and that healing – for ourselves, our relationships with each other and all creatures, and with the lands and waters that sustain us - has never been more important than it is now. She draws on the wise teachings of her Elders and ancestors to guide her on the path Creator has put her on, which is to help with healing, in many contexts and in many ways.



Paulina Meader, LPN - Health Director/Primary Care LPN -
Wije'winen Health Centre.

Panelist.

Topic: Compassion in Action - Insights into Grief Across the
Province.

Paulina is a proud Mi'kmaw woman from the traditional lands of Unama'ki and is a member of Membertou First Nation. She draws from her experiences as an Indigenous woman, a nurse, a birth-worker, a knowledge keeper, and a person who lives with a chronic disease. She is a fierce and effective advocate against systemic racism in healthcare - especially when it comes to end of life, pediatrics, and care of birthing parents.



Lindsay Sutherland - Director, Policy & Planning (Grief & Bereavement)
Palliative Care Network.

Panelist.

Topic: Compassion in Action - Insights into Grief Across the Province.

Lindsay Sutherland is a former clinician and nursing educator turned health care leader with over 26 years of experience across provincial, national, and international settings, focusing on primary health care transformation and community health.

As Director of Policy and Planning with the Palliative Care Network at Nova Scotia Health, she leads strategic partnerships and initiatives to implement an innovative, community-based model of grief support in Nova Scotia. Lindsay holds a Bachelor of Science and Master's in Nursing and has been recognized with awards for her contributions to healthcare innovation and quality improvement in the province.



Mary Ellen Macdonald, PhD – Co-director GriefMatters.ca.

Panelist.

Topic: Compassion in Action - Insights into Grief Across the Province.

Mary Ellen Macdonald, PhD, is a social scientist (medical anthropologist) with an active research program focused on death and grief literacy. She holds the J & W Murphy Foundation Endowed Chair in Palliative Care with the mandate of contributing to palliative and end-of-life care research and practice across Nova Scotia. She has been researching death, dying, and grief for over two decades, and is particularly passionate about supporting death and grief literacy across diverse communities. She writes about this work in academic publications and at GriefMatters.



Paul Adams – Canadian Grief Alliance/Canadian Virtual Hospice

Paul Adams is co-chair of the Canadian Grief Alliance. He is a retired journalist, academic and author who has worked at the CBC, the Globe and Mail, EKOS Research and Carleton University.

Panelist.

Topic: Compassion in Action - Insights into Grief Across the Province.



Sarah Scott – Spiritual Health Clinician – Valley Hospice.

Panelist.

Topic: Compassion in Action - Insights into Grief Across the Province.



Colleen Belle, Immigrant Services
Association of Nova Scotia.

Workshop Title: Focus on the newcomer/immigrant lens; intercultural, anti-racist and anti-oppressive frameworks.

Colleen Belle is the Coordinator of the Welcoming Communities program at the Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia (ISANS), where she has worked since 2019. She has a Master of Arts (with merit) in Cross-Cultural Communication and International Relations from the UK. As a member of the Communities Integration Services (CIS) team at ISANS, her work relates to Intercultural, Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion (I-EDI) training. Colleen designs, develops, and delivers a variety of I-EDI workshops that empower various audiences. She also participates in working groups and advises on Steering Committees and panels to dismantle systemic racism and provide equitable opportunities for immigrants and marginalized communities.

Colleen utilizes her knowledge and expertise in six fields, her diverse background, and her experiences from managing, marketing, consulting, and tutoring at a university, to provide practical and engaging learning opportunities for various audiences, and to strengthen community capacity and engagement. She is looking forward to engaging with you.



Emilie Smith, MSW, RSW, SchoolsPlus Facilitator

Workshop Title: Strategies for Community-Based
Helpers to Support Teens Experiencing Grief.



Paul O'Hara & Ann DeCoste

Workshop Title: Reflections on a Community Framework; Approach to Grief Support Initiatives.

Paul O'Hara MSW, SWC, Paul O'Hara MSW, SWC has over 30 years' experience as a community social worker at the North End CHC in Halifax. He is a board member of the Pictou County CHC and a volunteer facilitator of a grief support program for men with the Pictou County Palliative Care Society.

Ann DeCoste RN,BN, is a registered nurse and has experience in Acute Care, Long Term Care, and has worked as a nurse Educator. She is a past chairperson of the Pictou County Palliative Care Society and has been active in palliative care throughout her employment. Ann is a volunteer with a new program of the Society co-facilitating the Culinary Workshop for men who are grieving.