

# Southwest Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre



## **LONDON SITE**

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## **CHIPPEWA SITE**

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# Traditional Healing Program Update

## ***Our Visiting Traditional Healers & Elders***

### **Elva Jamieson:**

SOAHAC is pleased to have Elva Jamieson join us for occasional visits at our London Site. Elva is an Onkwehonwe woman from the Cayuga Nations and resides in Six Nations. Elva is part of the Wolf Clan family in the Longhouse where she has been a faithkeeper since a teenager. Elva strongly believes in ceremony and its' ability to help us adapt to different changes we experience in the our different stages of life. Although Elva has the ability to conduct a range of traditional healing services on a holistic/spiritual level, she considers herself a "plant person." She works closely with medicines and has been learning about them since she was four years old. Her spirit name means "She Carries the Flowers."

### **Bruce Elijah:**

Bruce comes from the Oneida of the Thames First Nation (Onyota'a:ka) and is a member of the Wolf Clan. A very active participant, advocate, and teacher of the traditions, language and spirituality of the People of the Longhouse (Haudenosaunee), he is a valuable member of our Traditional Healing Program. Bruce has much life experience to share. He has travelled throughout the world, addressed high-ranking political leaders including the United Nations at Geneva, and has intervened in many times of crisis for Aboriginal people including the people of Kahnasetake during the Oka crisis and the people of Kettle Point & Stony Point during the Ipperwash Crisis. Bruce was also the recipient of the prestigious Martin DelaCruz award (after Dr. Martin DelaCruz) which he received through the University of New Mexico in 1997. This award, recognizing excellence in traditional and alternative healing, allows Bruce to work within many health care facilities across South America and the U.S.

### **Richard Assinewai**

Animkii-Aankwod (Thunder Cloud) is Ojibway from Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve. Currently residing in North Bay, Ontario with his wife and children. Richard is actively involved in his culture and traditions and Richard's gifts he shares with all the people his knowledge and understanding across Canada and United States of who we are as Anishnabe people. He is a father of four beautiful children and a proud grandfather of three.



With Richard's past experience facilitating in language conferences (he speaks the language fluently), workshops and gatherings. He is more than willing to share the beauty within. Richard is currently involved in working with first nation communities, organizations from speaking engagements to aftercare programming.

At SOAHAC, Richard is usually asked to perform Naming Ceremonies for our people seeking their spiritual connection. Occasionally we will also ask Richard to conduct traditional Sweatlodge Ceremonies for our clientele.

### **Ernestine McLeod:**

Ernestine McLeod is an Ojibway woman from Mississauga First Nation; she is a mother, grandmother and wife. She has studied and facilitated the healing benefits of medicinal plants, incorporating and promoting

Aboriginal Healing methods for the past 20 years. Time spent with Ojibway elders has encouraged her to pursue her spiritual beliefs by developing and creating an awareness related to Anishnaabeg alternative healing methods. She has developed her life philosophy; "Within the Circle of life Anishnaabeg healing leads to empowerment. Her accomplishments include her Honors Degree (Laurentian University), Child and Youth Worker Diploma (Sault College) and community workshops within First Nations communities in Northern Ontario.



### **Joanne Cheechoo:**

Joanne is a Cree Woman from the community of Moose Factory, Ontario. Over the past number of years her work experience has been centered around the healing arts - specifically with aboriginal people.



Joanne has worked with many youth and adults from across Canada in aboriginal specific healing facilities. A sensitive, caring leader in life, she completed training in the technique of "Aromatherapy and Massage." Many "stressed out" men and women have succumbed to a state of peace and relaxation with the scent of natural fragrances filling the air combined with a tranquil massage ridding the body of pent up stress and emotions.

### **Christine Skye:**

Christine Skye is Mohawk but is adopted into the Onondaga Longhouse where she sits as Faithkeeper. Christine lives in Six Nations with her partner; she is the mother of five children and a number of grandchildren. Christine has been a foster parent/mother for a number of years, she has taken children in from her own community to give them stability while their parents work toward putting their family back together. Christine has been doing Healing work for over 20 years. Her spiritual gifts as a Seer enables her to assist people to look at today and to deal with sickness and loss. Christine feels that our traditional ceremonies are key ingredients in healing ourselves as First Nations people.