

Session Name: Warrior Women - Indigenous Women and Leadership

Instructor Biography

Dr. Robyn Bourgeois is a mixed-race nêhiyaw iskwew (Cree woman) whose Cree family comes from Treaty 8 territory (Lesser Slave Lake) but was born and raised in Syilx and Splets'in territories in the southern interior of British Columbia. She is connected through marriage and her children to the Six Nations of the Grand River. Dr. Bourgeois is an associate professor in the Centre for Women's and Gender Studies at Brock University but is currently serving as the institution's acting Vice-Provost, Indigenous Engagement. As a survivor of multiple forms of violence including sexual exploitation and human trafficking, Dr. Bourgeois' work focuses on violence against Indigenous women and girls in Canada and, particularly, Indigenous women's anti-violence leadership. Prior to coming to Brock, Robyn served as coordinator and lead teaching faculty of the Indigenous Women in Community Leadership program offered by the Coady International Institute at St. Francis Xavier University (Antigonish, NS). She has also spent the last twenty years involved in activism and community organizing around violence against Indigenous women and girls and gender-based violence generally.

Seminar Description

Indigenous (First Nations, Inuit and Métis) women have always played essential leadership roles in their communities and beyond. This seminar will provide participants with an introduction to Indigenous women's leadership in Canada.

Topics Covered

- The critical role of Indigenous women's leadership in Indigenous and Canadian colonial history
- Indigenous understandings of women's leadership and Indigenous women's understanding of leadership
- Indigenous women's approaches to leadership

Learning Outcomes

After completing this seminar, participants will have a better understanding of:

- The leadership roles that Indigenous women have played in their communities and beyond
- The leadership styles of Indigenous women
- How Indigenous women understand leadership