

GenOne Conference Keynote Speakers' Profiles

Honourable Anne Kang

Newly appointed Minister for Advanced Education and Skills Training B.C

Anne Kang was elected as the MLA for Burnaby-Deer Lake in 2017. Anne is the Minister of Citizens' Services. She immigrated to British Columbia as a child, and has lived in Burnaby for over 30 years. She has been an active community volunteer since the age of 8. Anne was a three-term Burnaby City Councilor before becoming an MLA, and has been a leader in many organizations that build community and support those who are vulnerable. Anne's commitment to community was recognized when she was awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012 for her contribution to Canada.



Anne has a passion for life-long learning. She completed her post-secondary education at UBC, receiving a Bachelor of Music, a Bachelor of Education – Elementary, a Diploma in Special Education – Learning Disability, and a Master degree in Special Education - Gifted and Creative Learner, and completed two levels of Montessori Certification. Before being elected MLA of Burnaby-Deer Lake, Anne was a music teacher in the Burnaby school system. Anne lives and works in Burnaby and has two young children, who attend school in Burnaby.

Ms. Carolyn Roberts

Indigenous Educator

Carolyn Roberts uses her voice to support Indigenous resurgence through education. She is a Coast Salish woman belonging to the Squamish Nation, her birth Mother is Janet Baker from the Thevarge family of the N'Quatqua Nation and her birth Father is Ed Kelly, Sto:lo from the Tzeachten Nation. Carolyn is an Indigenous academic who



holds two degrees from UBC, a Masters in Aboriginal Education and Leadership and a Bachelors of Education. She also holds a Bachelors of Jazz Studies from Capilano University. Currently she is a Doctoral Candidate at Simon Fraser University in the eTAP Program. She has been an educator and administrator for over 20 years and is currently a Faculty Member and Indigenous teaching Fellow in the Department of Education at Simon Fraser University.

Carolyn's work at SFU is grounded in educating new teachers and other faculty about the legacies of colonialism that can still be felt on this land today. These legacies that continue to affect the traditional caretakers of these territories is what motivates her to be an active participant of change in educating those around her about the true shared history of this land.

A pivotal moment in her educational journey was when Carolyn was working alongside the Squamish Nation towards revitalizing the Squamish language and culture by beginning the conversion process of their elementary school into a Squamish language immersion school. She believes it is a critical time for Indigenous people to remember who they are, and where they came from, using traditional indigenous ways of knowing as a foundation. Carolyn is a strong voice and leader for the resurgence of Indigenous people reclaiming their languages, their history, and their cultures.

Carolyn's work is about educating others around her in the importance of Indigenous culture and ancestral ways of knowing, to work towards a brighter future for all Indigenous people and the seven generations yet to come.

Ms. Jennifer Whiteside

Minister of Education for British Columbia since 2020

Jennifer Whiteside was elected as the MLA for New Westminister in October 2020. Jennifer was the chief spokesperson and lead negotiator for the Hospital Employees' Union, where she fought for strong public healthcare and healthcare workers' rights. She has dedicated her career to advocating for working people. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she worked tirelessly to protect seniors and workers in nursing homes across the province.



While leading B.C.'s first campaign for a living wage, she fought to ensure that work lifts people out of poverty and allows them to support their families and fully participate in their communities.

Jennifer has championed a wide range of social justice issues from accessible post-secondary education and affordable public childcare to Medicare and health equity. She has worked for community organizations and labor unions at the provincial and national levels.

Jennifer was born and raised in New Westminister, holds a degree in History from Simon Fraser University, and is passionate about making life better for people in her city and across B.C.