

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

The Importance of Place



Neal Kewistep

Executive-in-Residence

Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy

Neal Kewistep holds a Master of Public Administration degree from the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School and a bachelor's degree in Indigenous Studies from First Nations University of Canada.

He has spent most of his career fostering relationships with government, community-based organizations, Indigenous organizations and educators. Neal was the Interim Director of the Population Public Health unit of the Saskatchewan Health Authority, where he was responsible for 13 departments ranging from Sexual/Street Health, to Healthy

Families, to Immunization and Inner-city Health Services. He was also the unit's strategic lead for cultural competency and Truth and Reconciliation Commission activities.

Neal has also served as the Director of Operations for the Native Counselling Services of Alberta, and as a Community Development Advisor with Yellow Quill First Nation.

In 2017, CBC awarded Neal Kewistep as one of its "Future 40 under 40" for his work in leading change within the health care system. In addition to his formal education, Neal counts his traditional training from Elders as highly important in learning the role of a servant leader.

The Importance of Place

Through a sharing of reflections and stories, Neal will speak to the importance of place. What are the impacts of seeing ourselves reflected in the spaces we live work and play in? What happens when we do not see ourselves reflected in these spaces? Drawing from professional and personal experiences, Neal will share his understandings to these questions and how he got there.

In order to build the tomorrow we want to live in, we need to understand how we got to where we are. What lessons have we learned and how can we chart a collective course forward. Neal is an Indigenous person from the Fishing Lake and Yellowquill First Nations in Saskatchewan. It is through this worldview and lens that the stories are shared.