

ROLE MODEL BIO: Senator Patti LaBoucane-Benson is a Métis from Treaty 6 territory in Alberta. Her 30-year career has been dedicated to serving her community in Alberta, across Canada and around the world—as the director of a Boys and Girls Club in St. Paul in 1990, through 23 years of service at Native Counselling Services of Alberta (NCSA), and Conference Director and Lead Facilitator of the Nelson Mandela Dialogues in Canada, an international gathering of freedom fighters that took place on Enoch Cree Nation in 2017. Patti’s research for her PhD in Human Ecology (University of Alberta) focused on how Indigenous families and communities experience their own resilience in response to multiple forms of trauma. Her lifelong work has become an extended conversation about healing from historic trauma. Patti’s perspectives on this conversation are rooted in her transformative experiences of the Cree ceremony. The Elders’ teachings of kindness, respect, humility, and honesty have informed her life as well as her research into best practices for Indigenous offender healing, domestic violence, and historic trauma-informed service delivery. Her most recent research bridges neuroscience and Indigenous knowledge of child development, as well as finding common ground between Western and Indigenous water science.

LEARNING GOALS:

- I will make connections between a role model’s life experiences and my own

SUCCESS CRITERIA:

- I can identify 3 specific actions that helped Patti achieve their goals
- I can connect examples of these themes to my actions in my own life

IDENTIFY *Some of the themes below are discussed in the Fireside Chat with Patti LaBoucane-Benson*

ceremony

resilience

connection to elders

holistic learning

positive Indigenous identity

How have these themes have been present in Patti’s life?

- Listen to the interview
- Record notes of relevant themes and examples

CONNECT *Reflect on your own journey. Where do these themes appear in your own life?*

Discuss with a friend or family member. Record your connections in writing, drawing or with music.

“Identity is everything. I liken my identity formation as a process where I have called all parts of myself to me. That I have had come to terms with and understand who I am to understand what I am supposed to do in this world. I believe every indigenous child, every child across Canada, but Indigenous children in particular need to have a strong sense of who they are, where they come from, and what it is they’re meant to do in this world”

-Pattie LaBoucane-Benson

EXTEND *Senator LaBoucane-Benson expresses her gratitude for the quality of relationships in her life.*

How do you honour your relationship with others and the Earth around you?