

AMY QUINTAL - Curriculum Vitae

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Dynamic, energetic and influential professional with a deep-rooted passion and commitment to advocacy for Indigenous and other communities based on first hand knowledge and lived experience. Versatile and well-respected builder of trust and relationships, with a history of success partnering with government and community organizations toward meaningful solutions. Strong legal acumen from a career as a Paralegal, combined with a genuine compassion expressed through leadership of a growing non-profit organization, and restorative justice work in the Courts. Determined to drive meaningful change as a leader, collaborator and strategic solutions provider.

MAJOR STRENGTHS

- Executive Decision Making
- Leadership & Coordination
- Verbal & Written Communication
- Indigenous & Community Relations
- Cultural Competency
- Project Management
- Fund Development

FORMAL EDUCATION

- 2014 Bachelor of Arts in Native Studies, University of Alberta
Minors in English and Anthropology
- 2002 Paralegal Studies Diploma, MacEwan University
- 1999 High School Diploma, Memorial Composite High School, Stony Plain, AB

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Independent Contractor

[Bluebell Paralegal Services](#) | Sep 2015 - Present

- ***Gladue Report Writer:*** Interview Indigenous offenders to gain an in-depth knowledge of their challenges and social history. Gain knowledge of complex issues through the individual and his/her personal network, documents, and other sources, in order to prepare a Gladue pre-sentence report for the Court. Contracts held with JSG for four different Court Districts in Alberta.
- Advocate for, and assist clients to gain entry to culturally relevant treatment and or access to other community resources and programs to address root issues identified in the Gladue Report process.

- Contract with the [Métis Nation of Alberta](#) to carry out duties identified under previous Harvesting Manager Position on a contractual basis, while working in collaboration with their Harvesting Coordinator and Director of Rights and Accommodation (see position immediately to follow for existing contractual duties).

Manager, Métis Harvesting

[Métis Nation of Alberta](#) | Métis Rights and Accommodation Unit | **April 2017 - August 2018**

- Civil service for the Métis government in Alberta.
- Field high volume of inquiries with Métis citizens regarding harvesting rights.
- Briefings and key messaging for political leadership.
- Fund development.
- Technical lead for harvesting negotiations between the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) and the Government of Alberta (GoA).
- Advocate for and assist citizens in navigating the existing GoA Métis Harvesting Policy.
- Liaise between harvesters, Métis Nation of Alberta political leadership and Métis Nation of Alberta executive staff.
- Policy development, process development, position papers.
- Implementation of new Harvesting Policy coming into effect September 1, 2019.

Indigenous Education Project Manager

Paul First Nation & Parkland School Division | **August 2016 - April 2017** (contract position)

- Shared project manager between 2 education communities, which includes 23 public schools and 1 reserve school.
- Liaise between and formally present recommendations to the School Board Trustees and Chief & Council
- Recruitment of and oversight of a regional advisory committee to address systemic barriers faced by Indigenous youth.
- Project evaluation, development of data tools and reporting.
- Briefing notes, policy recommendations.
- Balancing multiple lenses and priorities of stakeholders.
- Program development and implementation: Stoney Language classes, Indigenous Professional Development for Educators and Community Stakeholders, Indigenous Youth Mentorship Program.
- Proven success in funds development for both the School Board and the First Nation.

Indigenous Liaison & Senior Paralegal

[Field Law](#) | Feb 2009 - August 2016

- Develop relationships with hundreds of Indigenous clients while providing support, guidance and referral to appropriate community resources and government departments as required.
- Providing plain language explanations of the Settlement Agreement in the form of large-scale presentations and one-to-one settings.
- Identifying, locating and meeting with potential claimants to assess claim eligibility.
- Interviewing Residential School Survivors regarding abuse, psychological harms and loss of work and education opportunity. Interviews have required travel to survivors' home communities, inner city agencies, prisons, hospitals, and homes.
- Travelling to First Nations and Métis communities in Alberta to present information about the Residential Schools Settlement Agreement.
- Developing and maintaining relationships with staff at inner city agencies, band leadership, health and community support workers.
- Attending Truth and Reconciliation Commission events.
- Requesting documents, assessments, medical, and other reports to review and analyze for impacts of residential school experience.

Notable Initiatives & Influence:

- **10-File Project:** Instituted a modernized and progressive approach to file management and re-establishment of contact with underserved and hard to reach clients. Successfully connected with most un-contacted clients. Spearheaded the establishment of a standardized and focused approach to client management and relations.
- **Legal Expertise:** Completed independent pro bono support to provide proof and affidavits necessary for the CEP (Common Experience Payment) component of the class action suit.

EARLIER CAREER

2004 - 2008 Parlee McLaws LLP | Residential Real Estate Paralegal

2003 - 2004 Kobewka Stadnyk | Residential Real Estate Paralegal

2001 - 2002 Kobewka Stadnyk | Legal Assistant

VOLUNTEER HISTORY

September 2015 - Present

President and Founder | | [Foundation for Cohesive Communities](#), Stony Plain, AB

Overview: Formally founded this organization alongside four other executives, with a prevailing mission of creating accessible and inclusive environments for children living with disability. Continuously aspire to drive changes to service in the Spruce Grove, Stony Plain and Parkland County areas through raising awareness and hands on service to families of children with disabilities.

- ***New Programs & Strategic Projects:*** Connect regularly with community organizations including, formally establishing a sensory and lending library program featuring a sign-out service for resource-filled backpacks and financially out of reach items geared toward the disabled community. Parent and family support programs and outreach.
- ***Exploration of Funding Opportunities:*** Actively involved in the pursuit of operational and project-based grant funding to develop and deliver workshop and community engagement services. Manage the foundation's existing budget, strategically directing resources in line with various requirements.
- ***Organizational & Government Partnerships:*** Partner with similar organizations throughout Alberta, to collaboratively grow and improve each other's services. Connect with Parks and Recreation Services within multiple municipalities.
- ***Leadership & Coordination:*** Prospect, train and motivate diverse and uniquely skilled volunteers toward multiple community initiatives, encouraging volunteer teams to meet goals. Carefully assessed the skills, characters and ambitions of each individual.

September 2018 - Present

Committee Member of Achieving Community Together (ACT), Spruce Grove, Stony Plain and Parkland County, AB

Overview: Committee comprised of cross sectors of health, education, non profits, service providers, and community members with the mandate to open conversations amongst diverse people, to foster understanding, community, and strategic partnerships.

June 2019- Present

Board Member of Pay Forward Kindness Society, Spruce Grove, AB

Overview: Non Profit Society aimed at supporting individuals experiencing poverty and homelessness in the Tri-Region of Stony Plain, Spruce Grove, and Parkland County, Alberta.

AWARDS

Family Strength Award, Gateway Association, 2019

Integrity Award, Rotary Club of Spruce Grove, 2019

EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

Major Research Papers/Projects

2012 Healing from Colonialism: A look at healing within the Canadian Correctional System and Aboriginal Gang Reduction

2011 Métis Harvesting Rights: To Whom do they belong, Individual Communities, Regions, or the Nation?

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

Current Issues in Indigenous Relations:
Nehiyaw Teachings - Critical Thinking (2017,
U of A Faculty of Extension)

Risk Management for Non-Profits Certificate
(2016)

Leadership and Management for Non-Profits
Certificate (2016)

Vicarious Trauma Workshop Training (2010,
Dr. Ann Marie Dewhurst)