

## Announcement from the Tatamagouche Centre Board of Directors

At this time of tragedy and the continuing challenge of COVID 19 Tatamagouche Centre continues to move forward in its pursuit of the key values which animate its vision and programs:

- Attending to Spirit
- Embracing Social Justice
- Building Inclusion
- Encouraging Transformation
- Honouring Interdependence
- Fostering Sustainability

To further the Centre's work the Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of the Centre's new Executive Director, Nanci Lee, and the new Indigenous and Youth Programs Coordinator, Amber Townsend. As the Centre faces the current situation with many cancelled programs caused by the COVID 19 lockdown it is very important that we have visionary and dynamic staff leadership. The Board of Directors feels with both Nanci and Amber we are adding to this capacity at this crucial time.

Nanci is a Chinese-Syrian poet and facilitator originally from Port Colborne, Ontario raised with her sister by her Dad and three brothers in a small family restaurant. Grants (now gone), loans and community bursaries made it possible to go on to further study so she cares a lot about equity and the community's role in it. In 2002, she came to Nova Scotia to work on community finance and adult education at the Coady Institute. She has supported non-profits, coops, and alliances around finance, food, gender justice, and land trusts - an economics small enough to focus on relationships and shared ownership, networked enough to take on structural issues like asset and inheritance rights, and gender-based violence. Nanci joined the Centre for its spiritual values, not only around learning and organizing but healing, finding ways to hold each other across the messiness. She is committed to her own Zen and narrative practices for playing, healing, seeing ourselves in one another. She is most at home in a canoe or chopping veggies.

Amber is passionate about community organizing and coordinating programs that focus on healing and self sovereignty for our Inuit, Métis, and First Nations communities, as well as alternative ways of learning for adults and youth. She is of Scottish and Mi'kmaw descent. She feels dedicated and inspired to work at the Tatamagouche Centre, because of the many ways the Centre strives to be inclusive and supportive of all people and communities across Turtle Island, and beyond. " Tatamagouche Centre embraces diversity and encourages us all to bloom, regardless of our backgrounds. "

Amber hopes to pay it forward through her work with the Centre, as her own educational successes have not been linear. She feels the Tatamagouche Centre embraces those

squiggly lines and says, “without spaces like this, I never would have made it this far. The Tata Centre is an opportunity for me to help support and serve the community.”

Please join us in welcoming them to the Centre’s staff team.

Peter Hough, Chair, Board of Directors