

## BUILDING BRIDGES THROUGH UNDERSTANDING THE VILLAGE

This experiential workshop which has been inspired by Jann Derrick's teachings of 'The Circle and The Box' and by many Elders' teachings will help us to understand traditional Aboriginal ways and values. We will explore our personal role in supporting the revival of those values that worked so beautifully for thousands of years. We will also explore in-depth the affects of Residential Schools and Canada's Policy of Assimilation. This workshop is geared to solutions rather than recrimination and is a great forum in which to ask questions. Participants who participate in these often emotion provoking workshop experiences comment that while they understood a bit about the issue on a cognitive level, after participation in *Building Bridges Through Understanding the Village* they understand on a deep emotional level as well. The workshop is done from a non-blame and non-shame perspective and invites all participants to become a part of the healing that IS already happening.

**Kathi Camilleri** is an Aboriginal woman who has coordinated healing programs in the Aboriginal Community for 19 years. She has a Master's Degree in Leadership Studies. Kathi works with Aboriginal Mental Health and has her own consulting business. She facilitates strategic planning sessions and experiential workshops regarding Canada's Policy of Assimilation and Colonization with social workers, foster parents, health care workers, church groups, students and educators, frontline workers in communities across Canada. The healing power and personal impact of this work elicits rave reviews. One participant wrote: *"Kathi uses humour, kindness and wisdom to hold the space safely for us while we change how we see the world and how we forever interact with those who have Aboriginal Heritage. It is easy to learn because of her gentle ways, and her respect for all people."*



**Meredith Martin** is of Coast Salish ancestry. Her people are of the Sneymuxw Nation in Nanaimo. She has a Masters Degree in Counselling Psychology. Meredith works with Aboriginal Child and Youth Mental Health and has her own private practice. She has assisted Kathi Camilleri in her workshops for the past seven years. Meredith is passionate about increasing understanding of the impact of Residential School on Aboriginal Peoples.

### **Learning outcomes:**

- A cognitive and emotional understanding of traditional First Nations values,
- A deep and emotional insight into the depth and intergenerational effects of Colonization,
- Methods for creating supportive relationships in a positive way.