



Ask Me Anything: Celebrating Indigenous Voices in the Public Service Event Recap

By: Laura Blanchette, Junior Events Management Officer

Panellists



Beverly Foster



Maya Knott



Lacey McNally

Ask Me Anything

Celebrating Indigenous
Voices in the Public Service

Time: 1:00 pm EDT

Date: June 28, 2023

Hosts: Shawna Wolfe and Sebastian Bob

On June 28, we held our interdepartmental [Ask Me Anything event, Celebrating Indigenous Voices in the Public Service](#), in collaboration with the Department of National Defence.

June is [National Indigenous History Month](#), and it is a time to honour the stories, achievements, and resilience of First Nations, Inuit and Métis. Our speakers shared their stories, reflections, cultures, and experiences on the Ask Me Anything stage to celebrate Indigenous voices in the public service.

Colonel David Grebstab, CD, Director of Middle East and Africa Policy with the Department of National Defence, opened the event. Colonel Grebstab is a Red River Métis citizen. He shared how he learned about his ancestry later in life and how he is embracing it now.

The event was hosted by Shawna Wolfe, Senior Policy Advisor, Indigenous Relations and Partnerships Policy Division at the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and Sebastian Bob, Junior Internal Communications Officer at the Canadian Coast Guard. Shawna, who is a proud Red River Métis citizen, and Sebastian, whose ancestors were from Tahltan, Tlingit and Carrier nations, participated in the panel, sharing from their own lived experience.

Shawna and Sebastian were joined by 2 knowledgeable and passionate speakers:

- Beverly Ungungai-Foster, Indigenous Advisor, Governor General of Canada, Inuk from Bakers Lake

- Maya Knott, Senior Project Officer, Indigenous Programs, Department of National Defence, Anishinaabekwe from Curve Lake First Nation



The conversation between the speakers flowed from storytelling to discussing language revitalization, Reconciliation, and career growth. The speakers ended the event by encouraging everyone to keep the conversation going and to continue learning.

For those who didn't get a chance to tune in live, we invite you to watch the [event recording](#) and to share this event with members of your family, friends, and community.