



Sarah Burke (she/her)
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Professional Summary

A dynamic leader with a strong background in engagement and relationship development within Indigenous communities, focusing on mobilization and community ownership. Known for advanced skills in emergency response, social issues and government relations, with extensive experience in non-profit leadership and operational management at the senior director level. Expertise includes project management, knowledge mobilization and facilitation, social determinants of health, and violence prevention, particularly in preventing sexual abuse and addressing the impacts of colonization.

Key Professional Experience

Sarah Burke Consulting Collective

Founder and Principal Consultant

October 2023 – Present

- Established a consulting firm specializing in social change initiatives.
- Managed projects for clients such as the Canadian Red Cross and the Government of Nunavut.
- Led feasibility studies, building and program design, stakeholder engagement, and public awareness campaigns.

TrimTabs Consulting Inc.

Managing Director and Senior Consultant

February 2022 – October 2023

- Directed significant consulting contracts in Northern Canada.
- Project manager for the building and program design of Nunavut's first addictions and trauma centre - \$70 million budget.
- Developed and implemented land-based training programs for Inuit communities.

Canadian Red Cross

Director – Indigenous Programs, National Office

2019 – 2022

- Oversaw holistic community risk reduction programming across Canada.
- Managed a budget of over \$5 million.
- Led the development of a national Indigenous-led resource and coaching desk started in COVID-19.

Senior Manager, Community Integrated Programming, National Office

2015 – 2019

- Recruited and led an Indigenous response team for the Alberta Fires.
- Built and led an Indigenous team to support community program mobilization.
- Pioneered a community-owned social crisis approach to address suicide clusters.
- Project manager of national child safety curriculum and training.

Director, Respect Education: Violence and Abuse Prevention, Western Canada

1990 – 2015

- Designed and implemented an education focussed violence prevention training program.
- Managed a \$2.4 million budget, achieving consistent program growth and budget surpluses.
- Led change management processes to improve operational effectiveness and volunteer engagement.
- Worked with partners such as Department of National Defence, Hockey Canada, Western Hockey League, Universities, Departments of Education, Research Institutes and Foundations.

Special Projects Contractor, VIHA

1999 – 2003

- Coordinated public education campaigns to prevent the sexual exploitation of minors.
- Implemented social marketing campaigns, garnering significant attention and support from political leaders.

Previous Roles

- Blood Donor Recruitment Manager, Canadian Blood Services, Vancouver Island
- Coordinator of Development, John Howard Society of the Lower Mainland
- Reporter and Editor, Vancouver Province, Peninsula News Review, Monday Magazine

Skills Profile

- Project Management: Led the \$75 million building design phase for Nunavut's Recovery Centre.
- Communications: Experienced writer and editor, full-service communications and issues manager.
- Training and Content Development: Developed and delivered training programs both online and in the classroom.

Publications

- Environmental Scan and Gap Analysis of Disaster Risk Management, Canadian Red Cross, 2024.
- Project Manager and Editor: Nunavut's Addictions and Trauma Treatment Centre Program Guide, 2024.
- Authored and edited over six program manuals and workbooks for the Canadian Red Cross.

Recent Conferences and Speaking Engagements

- Healing our Spirit Worldwide, Vancouver 2023: Workshop on land-based programming in Nunavut.
- Canadian Coalition for Global Health, 2020: International Panel on Innovation in COVID-19.
- First Nations Health Managers Association
- WOMEN DELIVER 2019: Evening International Panel on Social Determinants of Health in Indigenous Communities.
- Public Health Agency of BC, 2018: Keynote on Social Emergency Response.

Awards

- 2022 Letter of Commendation from Minister of Education, Nunavut
- 2014 Western Canada Humanitarian Programming National Award for work in Nunavut

Education

- Master of Arts (Business – Leading Innovation and Change), York, UK
- Bachelor of Arts (English), University of Victoria, BC
- Certificate of Journalism, Vancouver Community College

Certificates

- Certified Master Trainer
- Aboriginal Disaster Resilience Program facilitator
- Reality Therapy Basic and Advanced, Reality Therapy Institute
- Psychosocial Support in Emergencies, International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC)
- Child Protection, IFRC
- Stay Safe, IFRC
- Volunteer Management
- Collective Impact: Evaluation
- Safe Spaces, Elaine Alec

I gratefully acknowledge living uninvited as a first-generation settler visitor on the unceded Lekwungen territory as part of Coast Salish traditional lands. I work as an ally and am committed to relating with integrity and respect.