

Linda Kongnetiman

Linda started her social work career in Suriname, South America in 1992 after earning her Bachelor of Social Work degree. She immigrated to the United States of America in 1993 and to Canada in 1997.

As the Managing Lead of the Anti-Racism Program at The City of Calgary, Linda leads a team that deliver research and quality improvement projects, on a local, provincial, and national setting. With a notable thirty four-year tenure in not-for-profit and human services and health care at Calgary Catholic Immigration Services (CCIS), Native Services, Alberta Health Services (AHS), and The City of Calgary, Linda's diverse experience positions her to collaborate with teams and organizations that require diverse experience.

Linda actioned the following in the past three decades:

- Co-founded Boston Bendt an organization for Maroon university students in Suriname.
- Started the first Child and women's Health Diversity Program at Alberta Health Services
- Created the first City of Calgary Anti-Racism Program with over 18 staff from diverse racial backgrounds.
- Advocated and spearheaded the roll out of the NameDrop App for staff to be empowered to use their preferred name at their place of employment.
- Led the creation of The City of Calgary Anti-Racism Strategic Plan – Dismantling Systemic racism, Transforming Lives.
- Amplified Indigenization by ensuring that community engagements are led by a diverse Indigenous Elders Circle.
- Advocated for grants to support Racialized-led initiatives in Calgary in partnership with City leadership.
- Developed and published Cultural Competency toolkit, research reports and other resources listed at the Resource center of the Alberta Children's Hospital.
- Under Linda's leadership The City in partnership with Interested Parties is hosting the first ever Racial Justice Conference.
- Speaker, Advocate, critical and strategic thinker as well as an individual on the journey to become an anti-racist leader.

Linda is an Adjunct Professor at the University of British Columbia (UBC) and a sessional instructor at the University of Calgary. She also lectured at Gonzaga University (Spokane, Washington), St. Mary's University, and Mount Royal University (MRU). Her teaching philosophy focuses on supporting students to develop critical understanding of theories of power, professional identity, critical knowledge, and analytic skills. She is a committed social justice, anti-racist practitioner, preparing professionals for working in global context and integrating research into practice and advancing anti-racist practice. As a co-founder and Vice President of YEEPI Education Foundation of Calgary Inc. she helps to increase access to health care, education, and general support to low-income citizens in Canada and Suriname.

Linda earned Ph.D. and a Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Calgary. She also graduated from the University of Suriname with a Bachelor's degree in Social Work and obtained her Pedagogical Teaching Certificate. Linda is a Registered Social Worker (RSW) with Alberta College of Social Workers (ACSW), the Social Workers Association of Alberta (SWAA), the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers (OCSWSSW), and the British Columbia College of Social Workers (BCCSW).

Linda is a wife, mother, grandmother and matriarch of 5 siblings over 30 grandchildren, 29 great grandchildren and 1 great great grandchild.