

**Podcast:** *From Ceremony Up* presented by *On Being III*

**Material Type:** Promotional Video

**Video Title:** Themes that flow across Lyana's work and this podcast - FCU Conversation with Lyana

**Release Date:** February 2026

**Website:** <https://creativeentanglementcollaboratory.ca/podcaster-in-residence/a-conversation-with-lyana-patrick/>

### Transcript

**Lyana Patrick:**

My work is really very interdisciplinary. So I do bring a lot of different concepts and themes together. So, you know, my PhD was in community and regional planning. So the whole idea of working with the Native Courtworkers came out of this notion that the particularly the health team, because what we have to realize with the Native Courtworkers, they have court workers and they have counselors. So there is a team that works, you know, in the justice system at the courts. And then you have a health team who also will be present in the courts. But they're the connectors to the health counselors and detox support workers. They're the connectors to community services, they themselves will do counseling. So, there, are these different types of supports that are offered and services. And so, when I was thinking about my research and I started working with the Native Courtworkers, I really started thinking of the work that they were doing as being community planners because their model of care is really a continuum of care model. Which means that you meet people wherever they're at and you provide a whole range of supports. Whether it's immediate crisis needs, which most people in the justice system are facing. Whether it's health needs, whether it's reunification. Sometimes it's transportation, sometimes people don't have housing, sometimes- there's just this huge range of things that are going on for folks. Sometimes it's just about stabilizing. Sometimes people are at a different place in their journey and need more community.

And this was what I very much witnessed in a lot of the programs that I...that I had documented and participated in over the years that I was working with them. Yeah, so I really brought that community planning lens to bear because honestly, that history of cities and the development and the expansion of towns and cities in Canada is- is the erasure and the dispossession of Indigenous peoples and ultimately being kind of written out- out of the history of municipalities and urban- urbanness. It's always been this sort of conflict that's been created by colonial policies that you can't be urban and indigenous, that they don't- modernity does not, you know, it collides with Indigenous identity. This is all a fabrication, a colonial fabrication. So, I- There's such a need to kind of to center Indigenous self-determination and sovereignty in these spaces.

And then the other piece that I bring in is public health, right? So is, I should say like community health and the health lens because I had my other previous life, I had worked to do my prereqs for medicine and I was thinking about pursuing a career in medicine. And I became really interested in social- what we call social determinants of health and understanding Indigenous determinants of health and I wanted to better understand that and I really did enjoy research. So I chose to do a PhD. And so I brought a lot of what I learned to bear on that as well. And this history of public health and city planning really co-evolved and co-developed and ultimately had huge impacts on Indigenous health and wellbeing in the city.

So, these were the themes that I was exploring and learning about and what I witnessed amongst the Native Courtworkers and other community and non-profit groups was this

commitment to creating spaces for Indigenous peoples in the city that were culturally relevant, culturally safe, really humanized people because there's a lot of very dehumanizing programs out there and connected people with the kinds of supports that they wanted.

And this all comes out of a long history of, honestly, of urban Indigenous activism. That was also, you know, what I was really interested in too, was the origins of Native Courtworkers comes out of the Prairies actually and out of the Friendship Centre movement. And this was a movement that was designed to support Indigenous people. Initially, it was designed to actually assimilate Indigenous people because it was supported by the federal government. But Indigenous people took it over and made it unique and specific to the Nations where they were, whether it was Metis, Cree, and the prairies or Coast Salish in these territories. I just think that so many of these kinds of ideas are just underexplored, under- little kind of known areas. So- And then really grounded in this notion of justice and health and what that actually means. I also talked about themes of resurgence, which is a really important concept for Indigenous communities who are reclaiming and restoring their, you know, their social and political and economic structures. And again, it's very complex and in an urban setting where you have people who are traveling in their own territories and homelands, but who might be disconnected or people who are from many other different nations. So that was, you know, these were the kinds of ideas that we looked at and what I hope that we could have a discussion about in this podcast.