

## INDIGENOUS GUEST



**Nicole Porter**

Nicole Porter is Mi'kmaq from Fort Folly First Nation, New Brunswick, located on the traditional unceded lands of her Mi'kmaq ancestors. She is a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), Holistic Nurse Coach, Knowledge Keeper, and the Mi'kmaq Cultural Coordinator for Mi'kmaq Child and Family Services NB. She also serves as Auntie in Residence at Mount Allison University and as a cultural advisor to Anglophone East School District, Mount Allison University, Beal University, and the CIINDE.

Nicole is a proud single mother of two boys and the owner of Mother Muin Artistry, a home-based business where she creates and sells Indigenous beadwork.

As an LPN and Holistic Nurse, Nicole works in areas of the community that continue to be impacted by oppressive and colonial systems — including addictions, mental health, and trauma. She recognizes these challenges as rooted in systemic racism and ongoing intergenerational trauma that continue to affect individuals and families in First Nations communities.

Nicole takes a Two-Eyed Seeing approach to healing, blending Indigenous knowledge systems with Western practices. She offers culturally specific prevention services grounded in the teachings passed down to her by Elders and Knowledge Keepers. Through the teachings of the Medicine Wheel and the Seven Sacred Teachings, she works to revitalize language, culture, and connection to land as pathways to healing.

She promotes holistic lifestyles by supporting balance across the four aspects of well-being: physical, spiritual, mental, and emotional. Nicole teaches classes in beadwork, porcupine quillwork, sewing, traditional medicine gathering, and food preparation. She emphasizes the importance of reconnecting with the land and using its natural resources and medicines. She also facilitates ceremonies, Sharing Circles, self-care workshops, an annual Holistic Wellness Month, and a Youth Powwow for her community.

Nicole is a recipient of the 2023 Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal, honoring New Brunswick residents who have demonstrated exemplary service to others. In 2025, she received the Braiding Knowledge Award for her work integrating Traditional Ecological and Cultural Knowledge into the Fort Folly Salmon Recovery Program in her community. She is also the 2025 recipient of the Molly Kool Award, which recognizes women in Southeastern New Brunswick for outstanding contributions in areas such as arts, culture, conservation, and the environment.