

# IATSE 891 RECONCILIATION, EQUITY DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

## INTRODUCING Koren Lightning-Earle



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### An introduction to Koren Lightning-Earle: IATSE 891's External Lead Reconciliation Consultant

IATSE 891 has worked for nearly 60 years to create safe working conditions for artists and technicians in the motion picture industry. While recognizing how far we've come, we must also recognize how much farther we must still go.

We are pleased to introduce our External Lead Reconciliation Consultant Koren Lightning-Earle.

Koren Lightning-Earle is an Indigenous lawyer and teacher who has led numerous initiatives to advance reconciliation and help organizations meet their responsibilities to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Calls to Action. Koren has experience working with large member-based institutions to develop programs that advance cultural competency and learning at all levels. She is known for her dedicated efforts to improve access to justice for Indigenous peoples, which is an important theme of several TRC recommendations.



Koren Lightning-Earle. Photo Credit: Supplied

Koren is the CEO and sole proprietor of Thunderbird Law and a lawyer at Wahkohtowin Law and Governance Lodge based out of the Faculty of Law at the University of Alberta. She holds a Master of Law with a specialization in Alternative Dispute Resolution from York University's Osgoode Hall Law School. Since being called to the bar in February 2009, she's been recognized for her leadership in the legal field and beyond, receiving the Alumni Horizon Award from the University of Alberta in 2017 and a Women in Law Leadership Award in 2019.

As a lawyer and educator, Koren's expertise allows her to critically analyze and assess organizational structures against the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action. She has worked on cultural competency development for legal staff, lawyers and law students, organized conferences and training opportunities focused on reconciliation, and established an Indigenous Advisory committee to collect feedback on Indigenous-focused endeavours of the Law Society of Alberta.

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## Introducing Koren Lightning-Earle

In addition to her work as a lawyer and assisting institutions in transformational change, she has taught across Canada. She is a sessional instructor at Maskwacis Cultural College, a private post-secondary institution within the Four Nations of Maskwacis, Alberta. She's also taught a course at the University of Alberta Law School focused on the TRC's Final Report and its implications on reforming the Canadian justice system's relationship with Indigenous peoples.

As a Cree woman from Samson Cree Nation, Koren brings a wealth of expertise grounded in her lived experience as an Indigenous woman to her work advancing reconciliation. She's written about the bias and microaggressions she's had to navigate throughout her life and career in an essay you can read [here](#).

Koren's leadership extends beyond the fields of law and education. She currently serves as a Board Member of the Kasohkowew Child Wellness Society and the First Nations Child & Family Caring Society. She was president of the Indigenous Bar Association for 6 years, a National Association of Indigenous Lawyers. She was an elected council member for Samson Cree Nation from 2011-2014 and co-founded a program called Hub that brought together several community groups, police, and child welfare services to collaborate on ways to better support at risk-youth and reduce crime. Koren is also an alumnus of the Governor General's Canadian Leadership Conference and was co-chair of the First Nations Women's Economic Security Council.

We look forward to working with Koren in the months ahead to develop a thoughtful and meaningful approach to reconciliation within IATSE 891 and welcome her insights as our new External Lead Reconciliation Consultant.