

## **Bio for Nicole Blackman**

**Presentation Title:** Indigenous Health Inequities – A Snapshot of Root Causes and Current Perpetuating Factors

Nicole is a member of Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation but was born and raised in Durham Region. She currently sits on the board of directors for Bawaajigewin Aboriginal Community Circle and is Chair of the CELHIN Indigenous Advisory Circle. Academically, Nicole has been studying Indigenous health since 2006, recently completing her Doctor of Nursing Practice with her capstone project focusing on Indigenous programming from a public health perspective. Professionally, Nicole has had the privilege of serving as Director of Professional Practice for Weeneebayko Area Health Authority, working together with First Nation communities in the James and Hudson Bay region to address various health needs. Currently, Nicole is a manager with the Durham Region Health Department, working in the Population Health Division while also providing Indigenous cultural training. Nicole has strived to use her education, experiences and knowledge to work towards building awareness of the history of the Indigenous population and how that history impacts the population's health today. She is a sessional instructor in the UOIT Health Sciences program and guest lectures at Trent University and Humber College, teaching future health care providers about Indigenous Peoples and health in Canada.