

Enrolment Team Qualifications – Summary

Joan Holmes, President and Founder of Joan Holmes and Associates (JHA)

Joan has an BA Hons in Anthropology from the University of Winnipeg (1981) and a Master's Degree in Northern and Native Issues from the Institute of Indigenous and Canadian Studies, Carleton University (1983).

Joan's reputation as an expert in the field of Indigenous land claims and litigation research is built on 40 years of experience in the field. She has appeared as an expert witness on behalf of the Kahkewistahaw First Nation (2018, 2020), Blood Tribe (2018), Missanabie Cree (2010, 2015, 2016), Micmac de Gespeg (2015), City of Brantford (2009), the Upperwash Commission of Inquiry (2004), the Province of Alberta (2002), J. Johnson of the Kawartha Nishnawbe, a non-Status Anishinaabe community (2001), Samson Cree (2000), and Grand Chief Michael Mitchell of Akwesasne (1996).

Joan has presented at a number of conferences and workshops on a wide range of topics, including best practices for conducting archival research and documenting historical grievances, current and future developments in membership, researching non-status communities, the impact of *Indian Act* legislation on Indigenous women, and sovereignty issues.

Joan has conducted research and written analytical reports on a number of Indigenous groups in Ontario including: the Missanabie Cree; Beaverhouse and Hornpayne Treaty 9 issues; Wahgoshig Resource harvesting rights under Treaty 9; assessment and analysis of a Métis research project in the Mattawa area; Establishment of reserves under 1851 legislation; reserve boundaries under the Robinson-Huron Treaty; Robinson-Superior treaty negotiations; Annuity Payments on Manitoulin Island; Paylist Verification Project; pre-Confederation Treaties and Surrenders; British-Indian Treaty Relationships in the Central and Maritime Regions, 1700 to 1830; as well as working intensely on the history and grievances of the Indigenous community at Kanesatake (formerly Oka) and Kahnawake. In the course of her work, she has conducted many oral history interviews and analyzed transcribed oral history and oral tradition accounts.

Joan has conducted extensive research on the history of the Algonquins in Ontario. She produced a major collection of materials and detailed report for the Ontario Government in response to the Algonquin Comprehensive Claim in 1991. Since 2004 she has served as Enrolment Officer for the Algonquins of Ontario (AOO). In her capacity as the AOO's historical research consultant, she has undertaken numerous more detailed studies of Algonquin history including three volumes entitled "The Nature of Algonquin Communities, Volumes 1 to 3" in 2017 and an additional study entitled "Historical

Communities: The Algonquin Experience” in 2022, as well as numerous historical background pieces for regional forestry units and development proposals.

Joanne Barton, Genealogist

Joanne holds a BA Hons in History from the University of Lancaster, England. She holds two Professional Learning Certificates in Genealogical Studies from the International Institute of Genealogical Studies, specializing in English and Canadian records, studying for over 11 years with the Institute. The team at the International Institute of Genealogical Studies is made up of professional genealogists, amongst whom are Certified/Accredited Genealogists and renowned authors and lecturers in the field of Genealogy.

Joanne has over 15 years of experience in working with genealogical records. Since joining the team at JHA she has had over 6 years of experience with the genealogical records of Algonquin and non-Algonquin families in the Ottawa Valley and adjacent areas. She has also worked on several treaty payroll analysis and genealogical studies for other Indigenous groups in Ontario.

Joanne’s work experience includes transcription of historical documents, collection and analysis of civil and church records, Hudson’s Bay Company records, and treaty paylists, as well as report writing on individual family genealogies. She also has experience working at local and national archives, in online genealogical databases, and in larger research libraries, such as the Family History Library in Salt Lake City and the Family History Center in Ottawa.

Vanessa Sevc, Senior Researcher and Project Supervisor

Vanessa holds a BA Hons in History from King’s College at the University of Western Ontario and an Archives Technician Diploma from Algonquin College and an Archival Practices Certificate from George Brown College. Prior to joining the firm in 2003, Vanessa worked at the National Archives of Canada (now Library and Archives Canada) arranging and describing labour and union records and was the first Archivist in King Township where she conducted a widespread records survey which resulted in the establishment of the King Township Archives.

Vanessa conducts archival and library research, historical and document analysis, report writing, genealogical research and database work. Through her more than 20 years with the firm, she has developed considerable experience in the areas of Treaties 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11; reserve establishment; treaty benefits; treaty land entitlement; band membership; payroll analysis; and Indigenous land use and occupation.

She has experience working with a variety of government records and has undertaken research in both public and private archives in Prince Edward Island, Ontario, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan, as well as at Yale University in the United States.

Vanessa has worked on a number of projects including the Paylist Verification Project, Robinson Treaty negotiations, Metis scrip, Mississaugas of Alderville, Akwesasne Traditional Hunting Rights, Walpole Island, Garden River First Nation, Southwestern Ontario Beneficiaries, Kettle and Stony Point, Mississaugas of the Credit, and the Algonquins of Ontario. Since 2004, she has amassed considerable experience in the identification and enrolment of rights-bearing Algonquins as potential beneficiaries to the Algonquins of Ontario treaty currently being negotiated.

Heather Wilson, Database and Administrative Coordinator

Heather holds a BA in English with a minor in History from Carleton University, and has worked at JHA since 2013.

Heather has been in charge of building and maintaining many databases of primary and secondary source materials and a genealogical database related to the history and genealogy of Algonquins in Ontario. She is responsible for IT and organizational duties associated with AOO genealogical and historical projects. She is key in helping to ensure the quality of the firm's products, has responsibilities for document images and collections, along with completing various research functions on claims relating to financial mismanagement, agricultural benefits, and Indigenous education. Heather was a key member of the team during the recent enrolment period and assessment of the Proposed Beneficiary Criteria.

Heather is experienced at compiling supporting document lists and digital collections with proper citations to the standard required for litigation proceedings.

Elizabeth Jay, Information Management Specialist

Elizabeth graduated from the University of Ottawa with a BA Hons with Majors in History and the History and Theory of Art in 2021 and a Master of Information Studies at Ottawa University in 2023. While pursuing her MIS, Elizabeth studied source criticism, information management, and how to assist others in finding reliable information.

Elizabeth has worked at JHA part time as a research assistant since 2019 and in 2023 began working full-time as the company's Information Management Specialist. She takes an active role in collecting and analyzing materials from archives and on-line sources related to the history and genealogy of Algonquins of Ontario. She is also very involved in records management and ensuring files are up to date.