



Virtual Panel

Experiences of Native Americans and French Indians of Vermont April 24, 2024 - 5:00 pm



**Mercedes de
Guardiola
(she/her)**



**Don Stevens
(he/him)**



**Randy Kritkauský
(he/him)**

For more information visit: <https://vtrc.vermont.gov/>



VTRC Education Series: Narratives from History to Present Day

Native Americans and French Indians

April 24, 2024



Welcome

- Welcome Community to the VTRC Education Series!
- Accessibility
- Land Acknowledgment
- Pledge and Civility
- Goals of the Education Series
- Panelist Discussion
- Questions for the Panelists
- Ways to Stay Connected and Closing



Land Acknowledgment

We must acknowledge that Vermont is part of the homeland of the Mohican people and the Alnobak, the Western Abenaki people. We are all part of the circle of creation and the health of our human communities has an impact on all our relations, human and nonhuman. We want to take this moment to recognize the land itself, Mother Earth, and the many blessings that we are given. We hope you will take the time to think about your relationship to place and what land means to you.



Pledge (abbreviated)

- As we explore complex and challenging topics such as race, disability, oppression and discrimination, we collectively pledge to approach these discussions with a commitment to extend grace, humility, and empathy with each other.
- We recognize that we are all on both an individual and collective journey to dismantle oppression and discrimination from our culture and systems.
- We expect and accept non-closure and with that we engage in courageous conversations with curiosity and an open mind.
- We dedicate ourselves to refrain from judgement, embrace active listening, and use “I” statements to foster open communication.
- We commit to prioritizing Act 128 Communities and acknowledge that there is no such thing as a single-issue struggle, our lives are interconnected.
- We vow to treat each other, our stories, our dreams and struggles with sacred care. We honor vulnerability. We embrace the spirit of co-creation.



Goals

- To educate the broader community about the history and present-day realities of persons discriminated by the State.
- To outreach to communities to broaden VTRC's partnerships and expand community participation.
- To educate community and advocate for issues and evolve knowledge on complex issues involving human rights and social systems that impact them.



Ways to Stay Connected to Education Series!

- Visit the **VTRC website** (<https://vtrc.vermont.gov/>) to review the panelists' bios, to find each session's recording (YouTube) and to access the power-point for each session.
- Join us for the **next panel session**:
 - May 22nd – Experiences of People with Disabilities

To register, please visit the VTRC website (<https://vtrc.vermont.gov/>)
- Fill-out the **Education Series Survey** to provide feedback and recommendations.