

**Victoria Freeman: Keynote Speaker**  
**ACCESS 2014 Conference**

Victoria Freeman is a Canadian of British settler heritage and is the author of *Distant Relations: How My Ancestors Colonized North America*. As an activist, community organizer, writer/theatre artist, public speaker, academic historian and teacher, she seeks to educate herself and facilitate learning for others on decolonization and reconciliation in Canada. She currently teaches in the Canadian Studies Program at Glendon College and in the History Dept. at York University. Her 2010 PhD dissertation, “‘Toronto Has No History!’ Indigeneity, Settler Colonialism and Historical Memory in Canada’s Largest City,” focused on the changing historical memory of the Indigenous past of Toronto. She is a member of First Story Toronto, a community-based history project at the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto and has been involved in the development of the First Story smart phone app on the Indigenous history of Toronto and an intergenerational oral transmission project called “Indigenous Women, Memory, and Power in Toronto 1960-1990.” At the University of Toronto, she co-developed and co-taught a third-year Aboriginal Studies course called The Politics and Process of Reconciliation with Sto:lo writer and traditional teacher Lee Maracle, and was Coordinating Director of the University of Toronto Initiative on Indigenous Governance for two years. She was also a member of the organizing committee for The Meeting Place: Truth and Reconciliation Toronto 2012, a conference organized by Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre, in collaboration with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada and other organizations. Previously, she was the founder of Turning Point: Native Peoples and Newcomers On-Line ([www.turning-point.ca](http://www.turning-point.ca)). Her 17-minute interview for *8th Fire*, a 2011 CBC Television four-part documentary series on reconciliation in Canada, is posted on the CBC website at <http://www.cbc.ca/8thfire/2011/11/victoria-freeman.html>.

