



## 2021 Coaches Symposium

Elk Ridge Resort – October 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>, 2021

### Speaker Bio - Anthony Johnson



Anthony Johnson is a Two-Spirit, LGBTQ2+ and Indigenous advocate originally from Navajo Nation located North of Phoenix, Arizona. He is currently project consultant and project coordinator at Kehewin Health Services, Northeast of Edmonton, where his partner Dr. James Makokis currently operates his medical practice. Both were crowned winners of the Amazing Race Canada Season 7 in 2019 and have become Internationally recognized for their advocacy for LGBTQ2+ and Indigenous peoples during their time on the show. After winning the Amazing Race Canada, Anthony Johnson continued his journey to bring awareness and advocate for racial and gender equality to all types of organizations through public speaking.

Before moving to Canada, Johnson worked as a consultant, contractor, and representative in

Navajo Nation, which is the largest land area retained by an Indigenous tribe in the United States. The Navajo people's tradition of governance is rooted in their clans and oral history. The clan system of the "Dine" is integral to their society, as the rules of behaviour found within the system extend to the manner of refined culture that the Navajo people call "to walk in Beauty", a term that Anthony holds dearly and lives out in his everyday life.

Anthony Johnson has a B.A. in Economics and Social Anthropology, from Harvard University. His education sparked a realization of the injustice done to his people, and all First Nation groups across the world due to colonialism. Anthony felt an urge to rediscover himself in recognizing systems of oppression so that he could reidentify with his purpose. It was here that Anthony decided that his greatest value was in giving back to others, to break the cycles of oppression and to make the world a better place.

#### Special Olympics Saskatchewan

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Anthony Johnson was the first person in United States history to do a live installation and performance piece at the National Archives in Washington DC. The area he occupied was literally steps away from the US Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. His art piece was a prayer for the Indigenous people of this continent, the veterans who died to support our country in Asia, Europe, and the Middle East, and people in prison who use books to find freedom, ceremonies, lodges, arts and crafts, and the power of creativity.

Anthony has a wide range of experience as a consultant, culture documentarian, artist, small film producer, poet, photographer, community leader, project manager, organizer, product developer, fundraiser, social justice advocate, philanthropist, messenger, and teacher. He is even fluent in Mandarin after studying at East China Normal University in Shanghai. Anthony is committed to the oath of adventurous transformation and believes that anyone can make a difference by aligning their mind, body, and soul.

His move to Treaty 6 Territory in Edmonton, Alberta marked the beginning of the newest chapter in his life when he wed his husband Dr. James Makokis while running the BMO Harris Vancouver Marathon in 2017. The married couple then represented the LGBTQ2+ community as the first Two-Spirit Team (Team Ahkameyimok) on and to win the AMAZING RACE CANADA. He is now working to revitalize traditional Cree/Nehiyaw traditional practices, medicines, and ceremonies while continuing to advocate for racial and gender equality.