

**Marlee Poole (they/them or she/her)** is a Two-Spirit Métis and mixed-European youth, a proud policy nerd, and an auntie-in-training, who first joined VAHS as a practicum student in 2020. Born in northern Manitoba near Athapa'puskow Saka'higan (“rock on both sides of the lake”), Marlee was later raised in their ancestral homeland, the Selkirk area of the Red River Métis community. Since 2013, they have lived as a guest on the unceded territories of the xʷməθkwəy̓əm, Skwxwú7mesh, and səlilwətaɬ Nations.

As Policy and Innovation Manager, Marlee provides subject matter expertise and guidance on issues impacting urban Indigenous health, healing, and wellness. With a culturally grounded and anti-oppressive lens, their areas of focus include harm reduction, policing, 2SLGBTQ+ wellness, inequities in health care, systemic poverty, and the ongoing relationship between colonialism, city planning, and community health.

While in grad school, Marlee developed the “VAHS Circle of Care,” a policy framework for revitalizing Indigenous health systems in urban primary care settings. Other highlights of Marlee’s journey so far include overseeing VAHS’s 2022–2025 Strategic Plan, authoring the 30 Days of Truth and Reconciliation online campaign in 2022, and securing nearly $700,000 in program funding within 12 months. As a writer and advocate, as well as the voice behind VAHS’s social media, Marlee strives to tell stories that educate, energize, and empower.

Marlee holds a B.A. in Gender, Race, Sexuality, and Social Justice (UBC, 2017), a Master of Public Policy and Administration (Adler University, 2021), and a Certificate in Indigenous Health Administration and Leadership (UBC, 2022). Outside of VAHS, Marlee is a member of Red River Echoes, a grassroots collective organizing for strong Métis governance and kinship, and a member of Women Transforming Cities, advocating for equity in city policies and services. They have previously sat on the City of Vancouver’s Urban Indigenous Peoples’ Advisory Committee, and they currently advise on urban and Métis UNDRIP implementation at local and regional levels. Marlee lives in East Vancouver with their husband, Josh, and two (cat) children, Cube and Luci.

For More Information

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