

Melissa Desjarlais was born in Sidney, British Columbia; her mother originally from The Tsawout First Nation, and her Father from Saskatchewan. Melissa's parents migrated and married in Alberta, She was adopted and raised in Calgary, AB she has 5 biological siblings, 3 sisters and 2 brothers and a large blended family of siblings as well. Melissa Achieved her Business Administration Diploma at Mount Royal College in 2000. She went on to work for Calgary Co-operative Association Limited as a Front-End Cashier / Supervisor from 2000 – 2007. Melissa unfortunately suffered a stroke in 2007, returned to Mount Royal University, achieving a Bachelors of Arts & Science, enrolled in The Aboriginal Education Program.

Melissa later moved to Edmonton, AB in July of 2008 in order to continue her studies at Grant MacEwan University and pursue her new found talent as an actress. Melissa had then Co-Founded a home based business called Native Innovative Media, (N.I.M), This was founded in 2011, alongside her privately owned Music Label - YS MUIZIK. However, Native Innovative Media was a business that allowed her to explore all areas of expertise, which also include Promotions, Graphic Design, Advertising, and Public Relations.

While working in the Entertainment Industry as an actress for Serendipity Talent MGMT. Melissa was originally given the opportunity to sit in as an Extra on a Pilot show called "Blackstone" airing on APTN and then had continued with the extension to film for the now T.V series throughout Seasons 1-5, Melissa was then given an opportunity to work in front of the camera as well as working behind the scenes, volunteering her time through NAIT's DMIT Program.

Melissa joined Aboriginal Woman's Professional Association as a member back in 2012 attending their Leadership and Mentoring Program and was appointed as Secretary for a short period than elected for Director after graduating from their Essential Skills and Employment Training program fall of 2015. Melissa is currently Vice President of The Aboriginal Woman's Professional Association after being elected at Annual General Meeting, June of 2017. Melissa is also currently the Vice president of Brightveiw Elementary Parent Council Advisory Board, where her son attends, as of February 2018. Melissa has also joined the Committee of Okimaw Awards, as her passion has driven her to expand her horizons alongside long-time friends and family.