

Language and Education Forum

February 7-9, 2023

Chelsea Hotel, Toronto



Welcome Message

The Education Sector at the Chiefs of Ontario is thrilled to bring people together after a long pause in in-person gatherings due to the restrictions brought on by COVID-19. We are also offering the option of online participation for those still uneasy about or unable to travel. We have worked to provide you with a good variety of information sharing that we hope will fill you up and energize you to continue to improve the language and education opportunities in your communities and organizations.

Although the whole gathering broadly focuses on lifelong learning opportunities for First Nation learners, the first day and a half of the agenda is dedicated to language revitalization and the second day and a half is focused on education. We look forward to hearing from you about current and future initiatives that will support our learners achieve their full potential.

Lifelong learning is a holistic concept that respects education and learning equally for the full life journey of individuals. The concept embraces education and learning rooted in our language and culture that provides opportunities and supports based on individual need for development, learning and success.

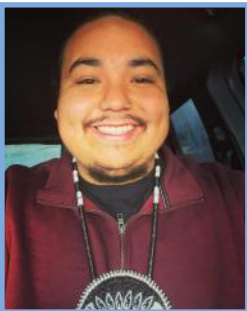
(Definition adopted by the COO Chiefs and Technical Committee on Language and Learning)

Wakahnetote Julia Candlish, COO Education Director

The Red Bear Singers



The **Red Bear Singers** started singing together in circle at Toronto Council Fire in 2018. This was done as a way to continue the personal healing journeys of each individual member in a group setting. The group wrote their first song in 2018, titled, “Away”. This song honours the children taken from their families and placed into foster care, orphanages, day schools, and Residential Schools. Since then, the group has worked on learning several community songs including the three songs which can be heard on the Soundways App.



Hyendegwas (Gathering Wood) **Tyrell King** is of the Bear clan from Mississaugas of the Credit. He is employed under the department of Lifelong Learning as the Cultural Coordinator, mostly working at Lloyd S. King elementary school but also at Ekwaamjigenaang Children’s Centre (ECC), Early ON, and MCCC children’s care centres

Master of Ceremonies

Host : Quinn Meawasige

Quinn Meawasige is Anishinaabe from Serpent River First Nation. He graduated from Algoma University with a Bachelor of Arts in Community Economic and Social Development and a Certificate in Anishinaabemowin from Shingwauk Kinooomaage Gamig. Upon graduation, Quinn became a founding member of the Nimkii Youth Collective, an Anishinaabe land-based language and culture revitalization initiative for young people. He currently lives at Nimkii Aazhibikoong, an off-grid, year-round, land-based language and culture camp where he is reconnecting with the lands and waterways of his family and community.



Evolution of the Indigenous Languages Act

Tuesday February 7 (9:30 AM)

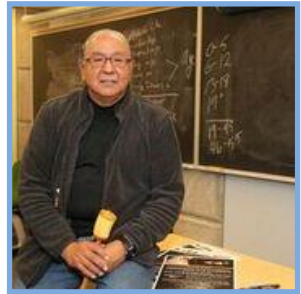
Presenter(s): Amos Key Jr. and Ian Martin

The TRC-inspired National Colloquium gave rise to the Glendon Declaration on Indigenous Language Policies in Canada, which was taken to Ottawa and presented to the Department of Indigenous Affairs in November 2016. Imagine what we thought when, three weeks later, the Prime Minister announced his intention to bring in Indigenous Language legislation during the life of his government. We kept active in the consultations leading up to 2019, when the Indigenous Languages Act was passed into law. Amos and Ian, with Stephanie Pile, prepared a policy paper during this process, which was – like many others – ignored. In December 2021, Glendon organized another national colloquium “Canada’s Language Policies in the Wake of Bill C-91” and he, Amos and Maya are co-editing a book of the papers of that conference, tentatively called *Indigenous Language Policy in Canada at the Turning Point*. Ian has a chapter in that book, analyzing how Bill C-



91 was developed, and finds that the ‘co-development’ claim by the government is largely unfounded, since the key demands by Indigenous and non-Indigenous witnesses appearing before the Standing Committees of Parliament were not incorporated into the Act; most seriously, the demand for rights to language in education are nowhere to be found in the text of the Act.

Dehaeho:węhs aka **Amos Key Jr.** was born into the Onkwehon:weh. He is a member of the Mohawk Nation, the Turtle Clan of his Mother, and conferred to the Sacred Circle of Faith Keepers and Knowledge Keepers of the Longhouse, at Six Nations of Grand River Territory, Ohsweken, Ontario. Amos is an educator and advocate for Indigenous Human, Civil and Linguistic Rights. He is a strong and proud social advocate and change maker for the Benefits of Indigenous Bilingualism; Indigenous Language Literacy, Balancing Indigenous IQ with Indigenous EQ-I, and Unpacking the Truths of Indigenous and Crown Relations in Canada. Currently Amos is Executive Director of SONICS / CKRZ 100.3 FM Wadřenota’ (radio) at Six Nations of Grand River Territory that he founded 34 years ago. He is an Education Program Developer with the First Nations Technical Institute, at the Tyendinega Mohawk First Nation Territory, Belleville, Ontario. Amos is also leading the development of the foundations for Ontario’s first, Bachelor of Education Degree (B.Ed) in Teaching Indigenous Languages and has recently been appointed Indigenous Advisor to the Danial’s School of Architecture, at the University of Toronto.



Ian Martin is an Anglo-settler ever-emergent ally who has been involved in Indigenous language policy for about 50 years, ever since he spent a year teaching in the community of Webequie in the 1970s. He met Amos around that time at the meetings of the Sweetgrass Language Council, and spoke on the need for Indigenous language legislation at conferences they organized. He teaches applied linguistics and language policy at Glendon College York University, and in 2016, just after the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Final Report came out, he was a co-convenor, with

Amos Key, Maya Chacaby and Jean Michel Montsion, of an important TRC-inspired National Colloquium on Canada’s Indigenous Language Policies.

Oneida Sign Language Demonstrations

Presenter: Marsha Ireland

My name is Teyuhuhtakweku (Marsha) I am from Oneida Nation and Turtle Clan. I am a Deaf Oneida, wife , mother , grandmother and great grandmother. My husband Max Ireland, is hearing and is a member of Bear Clan. I have five Oneida children and also fourteen grandchildren which includes one great granddaughter. I revitalized / developed Oneida Sign Language. I travel engaging and providing presentations and Land Acknowledgements in my language, OSL. I consider myself an advocate, and an educator. Some people called me their elder.



Yaw^ko
Teyuhuhtakweku Marsha

For Presentation Materials
please use the link below:

<https://www.chiefsmeeting.com/language-and-education-forum>



Save the Date

The Chiefs of Ontario and the Chiefs and Nations of Oneida are pleased to announce the Languages and Education Forum. It will be held at the Chelewa Hotel in Toronto, Ontario, Canada on February 7 - 9, 2023. For more information, please contact the Chiefs of Ontario at 416-963-1111 or visit our website at www.chiefsmeeting.com.

Save the Date

Language and Education Forum
Chelewa Hotel Toronto
February 7 - 9, 2023

Language Keynote Speaker

Tuesday February 7 (10:30 AM)

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Lorena Fontaine

FIRST NATION'S LANGUAGE RIGHTS IN EDUCATION

In June 2019, the Indigenous Languages Act was implemented, recognizing that Indigenous peoples have language rights under section 35 (1) of Canada's Constitution Act. The purpose of this legislation is to support the revitalization of Indigenous Languages. There are several challenges with the legislation that will be examined in this presentation as well as possible solutions with the recent adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act in 2021. This legislation commits the federal government to ensuring that the laws of Canada are consistent with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). Two areas of Article 14 of UNDRIP will be highlighted to demonstrate that First Nations have language rights in education and the federal government has a duty to provide effective measures to support language programs on and off reserve.



Lorena Sekwan Fontaine (BA, LLB, LLM, PhD) is Cree and Anishnaabe and member of the Sagkeeng First Nation in Manitoba. She is an Associate Professor in Human Rights and Co-Director of Indigenous Languages at the University of Winnipeg. Dr. Fontaine's research includes Indigenous language rights, the legacy of residential schools and comparative genocide. Recently, she was awarded a Canada Fulbright research chair at San Diego State University to explore the repatriation of Indigenous cultural memory and language. Her research on the legacy of the residential schools was presented in a CBC documentary entitled Undoing Linguicide. She was a task force member and contributor to the Assembly of First Nation's Report on Canada's Dispute Resolution Plan to compensate for abuses in Indian Residential Schools. Dr. Fontaine also acted as a legal consultant to the Toronto law firm Thomson, Rogers in a National Class Action on Residential schools. In 2019, she was invited as an expert witness to the Standing Senate Standing Committee on Aboriginal peoples regarding the Indigenous Languages Act.



Overview: Leadership Committee on Languages

Tuesday February 7 (11:30 AM)

Presenter: Loretta Assinewai, COO Language & Culture Strategist

Loretta Fox-Assinewai is a member from Wiikwemkoong located on Mnidoo Minising (Manitoulin Island). She is “gashi”/mother to three daughters and “nookomis”/grandmother to 11 grandchildren. She was raised in Wiikwemkoong by her “gitziimaag”/parents, the late Thomas and Angeline Fox ba. Fortunate to have been immersed in the Anishinaabe language since birth, Loretta certainly values the importance of eloquence and kindness within the language.

Her professional work experience includes 29 years of service within the realm of Indigenous programming and development. She has served as “Enaadmaaged”/Post-Secondary Counsellor and “Ekinomaage kwe”/Teacher at both the post-secondary and elementary school levels where she taught “Anishnaabemwin” and “Anishnaabe Aadziwin”. More recently, she has acquired knowledge and experience working in the provincial Mental Health and Addictions sector as an Implementation Specialist for Indigenous, Inuit and Metis Wellness.

Like many other language speakers, Loretta has a passion for teaching the first language of her people to help promote health and wellness and feels strongly about the spiritual element embedded within our Indigenous languages. As a lifelong learner, Loretta is working toward her Doctorate through the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto. She looks forward to sharing her findings in her desired research about the interconnectedness of Anishnaabemwin and Anishnaabe Aadziwin resulting in “Mino Bimaadziwin”/ Good Life.

Overview: National Activity on Languages

Presenter: Angel Maracle, COO Education Program Lead

Angel Maracle is Haudenosaunee, Turtle Clan from Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory. Angel has enjoyed a rewarding career to date working in the non-profit sector for organizations that support Indigenous people, families and communities. She has over twenty years’ experience developing, implementing, managing and evaluating outcome based community driven programs and services. As a Lead within the Chiefs of Ontario Education Sector, Angel oversees the federal files and works closely with communities and government to develop and implement policies and supports for First Nation learners.

Innino Origin Story

Tuesday February 7 (1:00 PM)

Presenter: Edmund Metatawabin

Edmund is Innino; A member of the Inninowuk. He is fluent in Innineemowin. Inninowuk came from the Upper World.; Ehip, with the help of Wisakejahk, brought them to the area known as Nawashi. This Innino has been labelled Cree, Indigeneous, Aboriginal, Native, First Nation, Mushkegowuk, Savage etc. He knows himself as Mathawabokimow. Born to Natural Environmentalists and socialized into the ways of the People of the Land, life was full of dreams. However, as a child, he was taken by the Catholic Church and placed into a Residential school setting to be confined, defined and refined into a Christian. He was incarcerated at St. Anne's Residential School for eight years. Five years in Kirkland Lake Collegiate and Vocational Institute (grade 9 – 13) continued to inflict character change, identity stripping and personality confusion. After high school, Edmund went home to take a two-year position teaching English as a second language. His adult students, as he is fond to say, taught him more about life than he gave them. From them, he learned his History, Stories, Events, Mythology and Cultural knowledge. Trent University introduced him to books about different cultures, different ways of life and beliefs, different ways of suffering and survival, and different ways of celebration. This psychological awakening was a jolt to a young man. Frankl's Man's Search for Meaning started his own search for his own inherent personality. In Alberta, he met Elders who introduced him to the Drum, Singing, Dancing, Ceremony, First Nation values and philosophy. The Alberta Elders told him everything he needs would be found at home. In 1982 he went home to Fort Albany. As Chief of Fort Albany First Nation (1992-1996) Edmund sponsored the first residential school conference and reunion in the region. He has written three books and continues to write. Edmund takes youth on a three-hundred mile rafting trip in response to the effects of nature deficit syndrome. For the last ten years, he has fought for justice in court for residential school survivors.

He presently lives in a log home constructed with the help of his family. He and his wife of 51 years have raised five children.



UNDRIP Implementation Panel

Tuesday February 7 (1:30 PM)

Panel participants will provide an overview of their objectives and activities associated with the implementation of UNDRIP Article 14 into the Indigenous Languages Act. Presenters will demonstrate how their work will involve First Nations in the process of ensuring First Nation language rights are defined and enforceable.

- ◇ UNDAIS, Elizabeth Logue
- ◇ AFN, Suzanne Patles
- ◇ COO, Julia Candlish

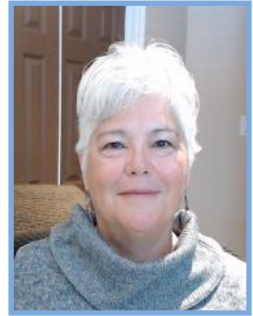
Panel Facilitator

Mick Staruck is the Associate Director of Education for the Chiefs of Ontario. His work is connected to the Chiefs and Technical Committee on Language and Learning (CTCLL), which in turn is connected to the work of the Leadership Committee on Languages (LCOL) and the First Nation Lifelong Learning Table (FNLLT). He is working with and learning from the Director of Education, Ms. Julia Candlish. Mick has over 20 years of experience working in leadership in First Nation education, in both Pikangikum First Nation and Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory, serving as a vice principal, principal, First Nation Student Success Program Lead, Systems Principal and Director of Education. In tandem with this professional journey, Mick also became a husband to an amazing Kindergarten teacher and father to six wonderful children. Mick's educational leadership background includes completing his Ontario Principals Qualifications, the Six Nations Polytechnic Principals Course, and he has taught multiple cohorts of the First Nation Schools Principals Course for OISE/University of Toronto.



Panelists

Julia Candlish is a Wolf Clan, Haudenosaunee mother of three and grandmother of six. Julia considers herself a lifelong learner and to date has attained a Master's degree in Public Policy and Administration from Toronto Metropolitan University and a Bachelor of Arts in International Development from the University of Guelph. Julia's cultural and educational background provides keen insight into the wide ranging implications of colonization on Indigenous peoples and the necessary skill set to work with First Nations, settler governments and related organizations to improve access to meaningful lifelong learning. Julia's passion for learning and life experience provide a source of perpetual enthusiasm and motivation in her position as Director of Education with the Chiefs of Ontario.



Suzanne Patles, a Mi'kmaq Woman, from the Eskasoni First Nation community, in Unama'ki, Mi'kma'ki. She is a Policy Analyst for the Assembly of First Nations Rights Sector. The sector's primary focus is on supporting First Nations in identifying priorities, and work related to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Suzanne, who is a Treaty Scholar, is also currently finishing up her Law Degree at Dalhousie University's: Schulich School of Law. She is a researcher, writer, and archivist, who values dedication and serving in excellence. Her L'nu lived experience and being fluent in the Mi'kmaq language (L'nuwisimk) has allowed her to bring unique perspectives that she gained from the Elders, L'nuwekati (community), territory, lands, waters, and ceremonial experiences.

Language Breakout Sessions

Tuesday February 7 (3:30-4:30 PM)

Presenter: Dr. Kevin Lewis



KĀNIYĀSIHK: SHARING TEACHINGS OF THE LAND-SUPPORTING NĒHIYAW KISKINWAHAMĀKĒWIN

The Session will focus on kaniyāsikh Culture Camps (kCC), a year-round Cree Immersion Land-Based Program. The presentation will cover curriculum development, assessment and revitalization efforts and provide participants with possible ideas and programs for their communities/organizations.

Dr. Kevin Lewis (wāsakâyāsiw) is from the Ministikwan Lake Cree Nation in Saskatchewan. He is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Curriculum Studies at the University of Saskatchewan. Kevin completed his iyiniw pitmātsiwin kiskēyihitamowin Doctorate Program (ipkDoc) from the University of Nuhelot'ine Thaiyots'I nistamēyimākanak Blue Quills in Alberta. Kevin was instrumental in developing, and is the lead instructor for the Indigenous Language Certificate program in the College of Education. His research interests have been in Indigenous Knowledge systems, Second Language Acquisition Methodologies, Cree Roles in traditional parenting practices. He is also an active oskāpēwis whenever called upon. Dr. Kevin Lewis has worked with language teaching programs for the University of Alberta, the University College of the North, First Nations University of Canada and the University of Saskatchewan. Kevin assists the government of Canada in an official capacity as Cree language interpreter and translator. His ongoing research project has been running for over 21 years and is based around Cree Immersion Programming and Land-based education through a non-profit called kaniyāsikh Culture Camps (www.kaniyasihkculturecamps.com).

Language Breakout Sessions (Zoom)

Tuesday February 7 (3:30-4:30 PM)

Presenter: Kenny Pheasant



HISTORY OF ANISHINAABEMDAA

Kenny Pheasant will share his experience in using technology as a teaching tool for language.

Kenny Neganigwane Pheasant was born and raised on Wiikwemikoong first nation unceded territory on Manitoulin Island Ontario Canada in 1954. A father of five, grandfather of eleven and great grandfather of four. Kenny moved to Michigan in 1979, made t his home, and started teaching Anishinaabemowin in 1988. He is now employed by the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians in Manistee Michigan.

Kenny taught a program called “Understand Anishinaabe Culture” at Kennedy Elementary School for nineteen years and visited many other schools in the Manistee area. He is a storyteller in a movie called “*the legend of the sleeping bear*”. Helped develop a CD ROM language project for the Grand Rapids Public Museum and produced an interactive language website called “Anishinaabemdaa.com along with two CD ROM’s.

We host an Anishinaabe Family Language/Culture Camp where we get an average of four hundred quests each year from Canada and the U.S.A. Kenny was awarded a Native American Excellence Award from a partnership of SBC Ameritech and CMU Public Television for arts and culture along with a Special Tribute Award from the state of Michigan and Outstanding Service Award from the Manistee Public Schools and a distinguishing award from the Michigan Indian Education Council.

Now he is currently employed with the Little River Band since 1999 with weekly classes live and on zoom and weekly language lessons and teachings on our Facebook page “Endaaying” which has over 8,000 followers. We just updated our website Anishinaabemdaa.com in October 2022 and we are receiving outstanding support.

Kenny is a carrier of a Golden Eagle staff “Anishinaabemowin Ginew Aatig” and he has gifted eagle staffs to other communities and people. He is also, a pipe carrier for our people and practices our spiritual ceremonies in our language.



Language Breakout Sessions

Tuesday February 7 (3:30-4:30 PM)

Presenter: Alice King



AMBE IMMERSION PROGRAMING

An overview of the Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education Mohawk Language program, highlighting the success stories of and some challenges of implementing an immersion program. There will be a presentation of the approach to teaching a second language, some best practices, supporting teachers and evaluating students' levels of fluency.

Alice King is the Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education Superintendent, Mohawk Language and Culture Mohawk, bear clan of Akwesasne and she is a Mohawk speaker. She has been employed by the AMBE for approximately 30 years in different capacities from classroom teacher, Early Years Facilitator, Head Start supervisor, as well as School Principal. In the present role of Superintendent of Mohawk Language and Culture responsibilities include overseeing the development of curriculum, implementation of curriculum, coaching of teachers and working closely with consultants involving the Neurolinguistic Approach to teaching a second language.

Language Breakout Sessions

Tuesday February 7 (3:30-4:30 PM)

Presenter: Jordan Brant

ONKWAWENNA KENTYOHKWA ADULT IMMERSION: CREATING PROFICIENT SPEAKERS OF KANYEN'KÉHA

A presentation of the structure, methodologies, and program goals of Onkwawenna Kentyohkwa - a full time adult Kanyen'kéha immersion program.



Rohahiyo Jordan Brant is Kanyen'kehá:ka from Kenhtè:ke (Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory). He is currently the Program Director of Onkwawenna Kentyohkwa Adult Mohawk Language Immersion Program in Ohsweken, Ontario. He served as the Lead Instructor of the program for 7 years.

He is also currently in the final stages of completing his Master's Degree at the University of Victoria in Indigenous Language Revitalization program.

Language Breakout Sessions

Tuesday February 7 (3:30-4:30 PM)

Presenter: Barb Nolan



NIWEWINAN EZHI-DEBNIGAADEGIN HOW LANGUAGES ARE ACQUIRED

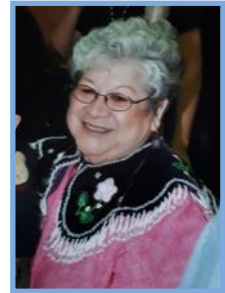
This presentation is designed for individuals who are interested in understanding first and second language acquisition. The presentation will provide an overview of how languages are acquired, as well as how second languages are acquired referring to what some theory suggests. Critical moments in language acquisition will also be discussed.

Barbara Nolan is grateful to have survived the attempts by Canada's Indian residential schools systems to take her Nishnaabe language from her. As a vibrant first-speaker of Nishnaabemwin, Barbara has spent several decades working with a variety of organizations to revitalize the Ojibway/Odawa language; her most passionate method is through storytelling. She delivers presentations on Community Wellness that address the impacts of the Indian Residential School System including Healing and Laughter Workshops. Barbara is a proud Nishnaabe-kwe, formerly from Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve, who now resides in Garden River First Nation.

Elders

Teiotsistaserathe ion kiats Kanienkehaka Anowara wakenitalot:en

Bright Star is from Mohawk Nation. She is from the Turtle Clan. Bright Star also goes by the name of **Norma General-Lickers**. She is a mother, grandmother and Great Grandmother. Bright Star's husband Len Lickers waits for her in the Spirit World. She is currently the Elder for Six Nations of the Grand River Elected Council, Elder Advisor for the Six Nations Police Commission, Board of Director for Nations Uniting, Retired Federal Justice of the Peace for Canada, Retired Justice of the Peace for the Province of Ontario, and currently Life Time Member for Disabled American Veterans and Life Time Member for Six Nations Veterans Association.



Patricia (Pat) Oakes

Mohawk name: Kanonkwashon means “Many kinds of Medicine”

Kanonkwashon is bear clan and lives in the Mohawk community of Akwesasne. For 36 years she lived around the Toronto area, and returned home to Akwesasne in 2018 after retiring. During her various career paths, she was Police Officer in Akwesasne and she did an ironworker apprenticeship at George Brown College becoming a journey person Ironworker & welder, like her father & grandfather. She worked around Turtle Island as an Ironworker and

Ironworker Foreperson, then later trained at Ontario Power Generation as a Radiation Protection Supervisor. She studied at Sheridan College and McMaster University, then secured positions for both Hydro One and OPG's Indigenous Relations departments as a Senior Advisor. Pat's primary role was negotiating past grievance settlements for 20+ Ontario First Nation flooding claims. Concurrently, she also secured an Executive Certificate in Conflict Management from the University of Windsor, and an Executive Development Program Certificate from the Banff School of Advance Management. She voluntarily served 2 terms as President of the Board on both Native Women's Resource Centre and Native Canadian Centre of Toronto. Pat currently serves as Trustee on Akwesasne's Settlement Trust; an Elder on Akwesasne's Elders Council; an Elder on Chiefs of Ontario Elders Advisory Council; and pensioner/Elder on Society's (union) Indigenous Relations Council.



Boozhoo. Bebibdekwedang dishnikaaz, **Donna Debassige**, Anishinaabe kwe, of the Fish Clan. Donna is from Mnidoo Mnissing, (Manitoulin Island), and she is a member of the Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory. Donna is a mother of three children, Cheryl, Lynda and Ray, and grandmother to four grandsons, Devin, Seth, Joel and Drake. She is a former Spanish Residential School student. Donna graduated in 2015 from Laurentian University with a Bachelor of Arts degree with a combined specialization in Gerontology/Indigenous Studies. She retired from the United Chiefs & Councils of Manitoulin Tribal Council after 35 years of employment, beginning in 1974 to 2009. Several seats Donna presently holds are; Elders Advisory Council, Indigenous Justice Division, MAG; Elders Council, Chiefs of Ontario; Getzjig Elders Advisory Council, Anishinabek Nation; Anishinabek Nation KweWuk Council, representing the Lake Huron Region; Chiefs of Ontario First Nations Womens' Council, representing Anishinabek Nation; Manitoulin Anishinabek Research Review Committee; Chiefs of Ontario Data Governance Committee; Elder, Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation.



Donna is a fluent speaker of her original language, Odawa, and she is a member of the Rain Dance Lodge.



Tetewaié:na tóhsa Enionkwawennón:ti ne
Onkwawén:na
“Working together to save our language”

Joe Lazore, former Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Tsi Snaihne District Chief. He is now an active participant in the Indigenous Language Act. He is assisting with negotiating funding with Heritage Canada to revive First Nation languages and help employ elders as Language Specialists to support teachers. In addition, Joe is involved with community language initiatives and is an active member of the Iroquois Caucus to protect First Nation historical rights, i.e. Hunting, Fishing and Taxation. He also has established a relationship with “Infrastructure Canada,” to which they have committed to assist with; roads, buildings, sewer, operations and maintenance costs, as First Nations were not previously included.



Don Jones was born and raised in the Nigigoonsiminikaaning territory and is a proud member of the Lynx clan near Fort Frances, Ontario. He was elected Chief at 25 years of age and served 5 terms. He was Tribal Chief for three terms for Grand Council Treaty #3. He served for 14 years as Research Director for the (TARR) Treaty and Aboriginal Rights Research program for Grand Council Treaty#3 and as an Executive Director at Pwi-Di-Goo-Zing Ne-Yaa-Zhing Advisory Services in Fort Frances, On. for 5 years. Mr. Jones also held the position as Policy and Implementation Officer with the National Centre for First Nations Governance for seven years, and he has developed, delivered and facilitated self-governance workshops/forums for many years.



Niigaanibines completed his second term as a Council member in 2016 for the Nigigoonsiminikaaning Anishinaabeg and held the Governance and Land Claims portfolio for his community. He is currently retired but still holds a trapline and is an active trapper. He delivers cultural/traditional teachings and is fluent in Anishinaabemowin. Don also provides Master of Ceremonies services for Tribal Agencies, First Nations and First Nation organizations throughout the Treaty #3 territory.



Senator Vera is a proud Anishinaabe woman from the Wasauksing First Nation - an Ojibway, Odawa and Pottawatomi First Nation located on Parry Island in Georgian Bay. She first began her life work as the Executive Director for the Parry Sound Indian Friendship Centre and has served in many prominent roles within the Friendship Centre Movement (FCM). Senator Vera is a past President of the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC), past President of the NAFC, has served her First Nation community as a Councillor and has participated on numerous boards and committees locally, provincially, and nationally.

Not only is Senator Vera one of our Matriarchs in the Friendship Centre Movement (FCM), but she has been involved with the FCM for over forty years and remains one of the FCM's most vocal and passionate advocates. She is a beloved and cherished member of the NAFC Senate, a loving sister, Mother, Kokomis and Great Grandmother.

Youth

Ariel Berwick is an Indigenous woman from Wahta Mohawk Territory. She has strong ties to her Indigenous roots and is always looking for ways to give back to her people and her community. Ms. Berwick holds Honours BAs in Criminology/Criminal Justice and Law. She currently holds an indeterminate position with Indigenous Services Canada as a policy analyst. In addition, she works part-time, within her community, as the Wahta Mohawks Community Trust Coordinator. She is passionate about leading youth as she holds volunteer positions on the Wahta Mohawks Youth Council as well as the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians Youth Council. Ms. Berwick also works part-time for the Laurier Autism Research Consortium.



Winter Dawn Lipscombe is a proud member of Wauzhushk Onigum Nation in Treaty #3 territory, where she is an advocate for the inclusion of youth voices within her region. While away for post-secondary education, Winter Dawn developed a strong passion for her culture, community, and economic development. After completing her degree in international relations and economics in 2019, Winter Dawn returned home to her traditional territory to work in the areas of policy development and governance.

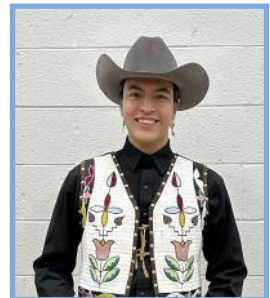
Winter Dawn's journey of reconnecting to culture inspired her to begin engaging within her territory and across the province about the historical and contemporary challenges that youth experience. She was traditionally selected in 2019 to serve on the Treaty #3 Oshkiniigiig Youth Executive Council, as well as the Ontario First Nations Young People's Council where she is Ontario's co-chair and youth representative for the Assembly of First Nations National Youth Council. Winter Dawn brings her professional and life experiences, as well as her passion for a self-determined and youth-driven future, to each of her roles.

Koolamalsi, **Katelyn Peters** is one of Anishinabek Nations South West Region's Youth Representatives from the Munsee-Delaware Nation. She is a recent graduate from Western University with an Honors Specialization degree in Indigenous Studies. Aside from keeping up with her duties on the Youth Council, she currently works full time for her community as the Post-Secondary Education Coordinator. Katelyn plans on returning to attend professional school in the near future to further her educational journey. She looks forward to attending this year's Language & Education Forum!



Kieran Davis is a two-spirit transgender Anishinaabe advocate and speaker, working with Indigenous youth and organizations to amplify two-spirit voices across the nation. Kieran's background as a firefighter and in emergency management with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Lac Seul Fire and Emergency Services and Independent First Nations Alliance ties in with his work supporting youth to reconnect to the land and their culture. Kieran lives in Sioux Lookout and is from Lac Seul First Nation, located in Treaty #3 territory. Kieran holds a seat on the 2SLGBTQ+ Council for Grand Council Treaty #3 and on the Ontario First Nations Young Peoples Council.

Pierre Debassige is from M'Chigeeng First Nation on Manitoulin Island. He is 21 years old and currently works in the trades as a Apprentice Mechanic, and General Labourer. He is also working on getting into the Royal Military College in Kingston and joining the Armed Forces. He loves working with youth and listening to elders as he believes they are our Knowledge Keepers of today.



Tuesday Night



Stephanie Pangowish is a sassy, bad assy, yet classy Anishinaabekwe from Wiikwemkoong on Manitoulin Island. She is an active community member, stand-up comedian, Northern Style Women's Traditional dancer, educator, backup singer & avid beader.

Stephanie obtained her western education at Trent University, in Indigenous Studies where she barely passed a degree of NDNs studying NDNs. She continues to learn from her children, family and community.



Don Burnstick is Cree from the Alexander First Nation located outside of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Being the youngest of 15 children, and growing up on the reserve taught Don a variety of coping mechanisms, not the least of which became his use of humour. Don has established himself as one of Canada's most sought after comedians of all times and he is releasing an all new comedy special in 2023 after signing recently with The Darren Ross Agency.

Dinner & Entertainment

Language Keynote Speaker

Tuesday February 7 (9:15 AM)

Keynote Speaker: Pat Ningewance

LOOKING FAR AHEAD FOR ANISHINAABEMOWIN: WE CAN DO IT

Pat Ningewance has been working in Ojibwe language development for almost 50 years. To keep our language alive indefinitely, we must have a strong and clear vision of what we want to see happen in 50 years. Ningewance takes on this path by describing her past work in teaching, television production, publishing, and translation, before recounting her vision of the exciting 50-year plan.



Pat Ningewance, CM, Waabibizhikiikwe, Bear Clan is from Obizhigokaang (Lac Seul First Nation in northwestern Ontario) and lives in Winnipeg, where she is Assistant Professor at the University of Manitoba. She has taught Ojibwe all her adult life, worked with Ojibwe language media in Sioux Lookout many years and has her own publishing company called Mazinaate. Mazinaate has 14 books out. She has written one Ojibwe dictionary and is working on one for Manitoba and western Ontario. She recently was made a Member of the Order of Canada. She is happy doing her work

Language Breakout Sessions

Wednesday February 8 (11:00-12:00 PM)

Presenter: Monty McGahey II



GTIGAADANG MIINKAANENSAN - PLANTING SEEDS

This presentation will share some information on resources and techniques for learning and teaching adults. It will also talk about how to use online programs, Quizlet and Kahoot for learners.

Ozaawaa Giizhgo Ginew (Monty McGahey II) is from Deshkan Ziibiing (Chippewas of the Thames First Nation) located in southwestern, Ontario and he is of Anishinaabe and Oneida descent. He is currently teaching Anishinaabemowin (Ojibwe language) at the Antler River Elementary School in his community. A second-language learner of Anishinaabemowin, Monty has been teaching community language classes since 2008. He holds a B.A. in First Nations Studies ('07); a Master of Professional Education – Leadership in Indigenous Education ('19), from Western University in London, Ontario; and a Bachelor of Education from the University of Ottawa, ('15). He has over nine years of experience learning and teaching Anishinaabemowin at the post-secondary level. Monty completed the Anishinaabemowin Immersion Program at Sault College in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario in 2008, the Maatookiidaa Anishinaabewin Adult Immersion program in Bkejwanong (Walpole Island, Ontario) in 2015, and attended three summers of adult immersion in the Ojibwemotaadidaa Omaa Gidakiiminaang Ojibwe Language Academy in Cloquet, Minnesota from 2015-2018. Monty has also taught in the Anishinaabemowin Programmer Program at Georgian College in Barrie, Ontario in 2015-16. Monty is a co-founder of Eshki-nishnaabemjig, a two-week adult immersion program that has been held in Central Ontario every July from 2016-2019 and 2022.

Language Breakout Sessions

Wednesday February 8 (11:00-12:00 PM)

Presenter(s): Beverly Naokweijig, Liz Osawamick and Nicole Van Stone



OSAWAMICK G'TIGAANING IMMERSION LANGUAGE RANCH

Osawamick G'Tigaaning, Anishnaabe Enji-Teg is a year-round immersion language, land-based learning camp situated in Wiikwemkoong that aims to connect people to the language and traditional culture.

Beverly, (Bine Kwe) is of the Anishinaabe and Odawa Nation and is from Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory in Manitoulin Island. She is of the Beaver Clan. Bev is well known on the Pow Wow trail for her award-winning scone and tacos. She has catered many cultural community events. She conducts medicine walks, traditional craft making instruction and provides language translation. Bev is also a language mentor at Nawewin-Gamik, a language house in Wiikwemkoong. Anishinaabemowin is Bev's first language. She is the founder of Osawamick G'Tigaaning, a language, land-based ranch providing 4-day retreats offering an immersion language setting.

Liz Osawamick (Giniw Miigwan) is of the Anishinaabe and Odawa Nation. She is of the Beaver Clan. She is currently teaching Anishinaabemowin as an Assistant Professor at Trent University. Liz is a jingle dress dancer, water walker and knowledge keeper. She is in her Seventh year as President for Anishinaabemowin-Teg Inc. which is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting, teaching and developing Anishinaabe language and cultural pride. Liz has dedicated her life to her people, her language, the lands, and the waters. She is the Cultural and Language Director at Osawamick G'Tigaaning

Nicole's spirit name is Warrior Woman with the Grandmothers behind Her and she is Turtle Clan, with Omushkego-Cree heritage, Nicole is from Attawapiskat First Nation. Nicole works with Beverly Naokwegijig as Program Director at Osawamick G'Tigaaning, an Immersion Anishinaabemowin Language Ranch. G'Tigaaning is a place where people can come and learn Ojibwe, reconnect to traditional teachings, and hear and speak Anishinaabemowin in an Immersion setting.



Language Breakout Sessions

Wednesday February 8 (11:00-12:00 PM)

Presenter(s): *Matthew Angees and Nelson Makoop*

SHIBOGAMA FIRST NATIONS COUNCIL LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION INITIATIVES

This workshop provides an opportunity for participants to learn about how Shibogama First Nations Council is working with their member communities to build on the foundations of culture and traditions, geared towards language preservation, acquisition and retention.

Matthew Angees is from Wunnumin Lake First Nation, Ontario. He is proud to be a First Nation and language geek. He has been the executive director for Shibogama First Nations Council since 2014. He has been in the First Nations education field for over 40 years as a para-professional, teacher, principal, and education director. It has been his passion and destiny to protect, preserve and revitalize the language.



Nelson Makoop is from Bearskin Lake First Nation. He has been working in the education field for over 20 years. He has been a teacher and a principal for various northern schools and in BC. Over the years, he has learned about the language decline and how fast it was going down. Recently he has been working with language teachers from the Shibogama schools and communities and is working on programs and curriculum to address the oral fluency acquisition, ensuring that we do not lose our languages. He hopes to continue with this language rejuvenation to keep our languages for our future generations.

Language Breakout Sessions

Wednesday February 8 (11:00-12:00 PM)

Presenter: Rhonda Hopkins



LANGUAGE ASSESSMENT

Dr. Rhonda Hopkins' presentation describes the proprietary development of Kenjgewin Teg's Anishinaabemowin (Ojibwe language) land-based language proficiency assessment tool titled 'Dibishgaademgak Anishinaabemowin (Measuring the Anishinaabe language).' Dibishgaademgak Anishinaabemowin uses a culturally based rating approach where a fluent master rater assigns a proficiency rating to a language learner.

Dr. Rhonda Hopkins is a fluent pan-dialectical speaker of Anishinaabemowin and traditional Knowledge Keeper, devoting her career to education with a focus on Anishinaabemowin (the voice of the first peoples of Turtle Island). She has spent over 40 years specializing in language acquisition, curriculum, immersion education, teacher training and master-apprentice programming in Canada and the United States. In 2019, Rhonda received an Honorary Doctorate degree in Education - Indigenous Education from The World Indigenous Nations University (WINU) in recognition of her exemplary contribution to the field of education, and promotion and preservation of Indigenous language and knowledge systems. Dr. Rhonda Hopkins was instrumental in the creation of a land-based language assessment tool titled 'Dibishgaademgak Anishinaabemowin (Measuring the Anishinaabe language),' for Kenjgewin-Teg. Rhonda continuously and passionately stands by her commitment that our language is sacred and she competently demonstrates the relationship between the language and our culture. Rhonda is from the Wikwemikoong Unceded Indian Reserve and resides on Manitoulin Island in Ontario, Canada and is currently a Teaching & Learning Professor at Kenjgewin Teg (Indigenous Institute) located on M'Chigeeng First Nation.

Language Breakout Sessions

Wednesday February 8 (11:00-12:00 PM)

Presenter: Mike Parkhill



LANGUAGE LEARNING PLATFORM ANISHNAABEMODAA.APP

Seven Generations Education Institute, the Rainy River District School Boards and SayITFirst, in conjunction with a project team of second language speakers and developers, have created an integrated learning platform - Anishinaabemodaa.app - for Border Lakes Ojibwe to bring Indigenous learners from beginner concepts to comfort in using the language. This learning platform is currently being used by 1500 students in 68 classrooms, as well as by 1500 community members learning on their own.

Mike Parkhill left his executive career at Microsoft Canada to start a company dedicated to helping Indigenous communities develop more speakers today than existed yesterday. Mike adds diversity to each program in the sense that in a support role, he is able to help communities try new solutions to address language loss. For his results and impact with Indigenous communities, Mike has received the Order of Ontario, the Governor General's Meritorious Service Medal, Creator of the NYX international Video Best Canadian Cultural video and Best Canadian Educational video for the Koko Jones show and he is a 5-time Canadian Best-Selling author.

Federal Funding K-12 Keynote Speaker

Wednesday February 8 (1:00 PM)

Keynote Speaker: Jesse Wente



KEEPING THE FIRE; HOW TO MAKE CHANGE AND STAY THE SAME

In this exclusive talk, award winning writer and speaker Jesse Wente will use his own story to discuss how to make systemic changes while maintaining core values, central goals and wellbeing. Jesse will illuminate his strategies around change making, priority setting, decision making and communications in order to help attendees in their own work. Jesse will offer attendees a chance to laugh and level set in their lives and work.

Well known as a film critic and broadcaster in Toronto and across Canada, **Jesse Wente** was the first nationally syndicated Indigenous columnist for the CBC. He has also been a regular guest on CBC Newsworld's News Morning and Weekend Edition, as well as Q.

Jesse is Ojibwe, and his family comes from Chicago and the Serpent River First Nation in Ontario. Jesse is Chair of the board of directors for the Canada Council for the Arts. His first book was published Sept 2021, titled *Unreconciled: Family, Truth, and Indigenous Resistance*, and he's co-produced the award-winning screen adaptation of Thomas King's best-selling book, *The Inconvenient Indian*. His experience also includes being named the first Executive Director of the Indigenous Screen Office. He is an advocate for Aboriginal Arts, most notably on screen. He draws attention to the imagery used by Hollywood in portrayals of Indigenous peoples and stresses the need for a culture to have influence on their own depiction. His pieces on *The Revenant*, Beyonce and sports mascots were among the most shared on CBC.ca.

Jesse is an outspoken advocate for Indigenous rights and First Nations, Metis and Inuit art. He has spoken at the International Forum of Indigenous Peoples, Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, the Canadian Arts Summit, the Cultural Summit of the Americas, and numerous Universities and Colleges.

In 2017, Jesse was named the inaugural recipient of the Reelworld Film Festival's Reel Activist Award, and in 2018 he received the Association of Ontario Health Centre's Media Award.



Federal Education Agreement Panel

Wednesday February 8 (3:00 PM)

Panel participants will present on the type and key elements of the agreement they have concluded or are working towards with the federal government. Presenters will speak of the most profound changes that were achieved through their agreement and how gains will be maintained over time for their learners.

- ◇ Anishinabek Education System, Tracey Odonnell
- ◇ First Nations with Schools Collective, Leslee Whiteeye
- ◇ KTCEA, Dr. Daphne Mai'Stoina and Carmen Parent
- ◇ Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke, Chief Jessica Teiotsistohkwathe Lazare

Panel Facilitator

Jarrett Laughlin comes from a family of educators and has been engaged in education research and policy development for nearly 20 years. He has worked for the Assembly of First Nations, Canadian Council on Learning, Ontario Ministry of Education, and most recently as the CEO and Co-Founder of Sprig Learning. Jarrett has worked with educational organizations across the world developing holistic and innovative approaches to measuring success in learning. His recent passion involves developing socially innovative and community-based programs through his educational technology company Sprig Learning.



Panelists

Over the past 25 years, **Carmen Parent** has worked to enhance policies and practices to improve outcomes for Indigenous children and families in Education, Justice and Human Services sectors. This path has taken her to her current role as Strategic Project Specialist with the Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Council Education Authority in Northern Alberta. Carmen holds a Masters in Social Work in Leadership, and is incredibly grateful for the learning opportunities that have been shared working alongside Indigenous professionals, mentors and elders.



Chief Jessica Teiotsistohkwathe Lazare is from Council of Chiefs, Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke.

First Nations Lifelong Learning Keynote Speaker

Thursday February 9 (9:15 AM)

Keynote: Riley Yesno



REVOLUTIONIZING CANADIAN EDUCATION FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

Education in Ontario and across Canada has been neglected by government for several years as leaders too often appear more concerned with profit than progress. What impact has this neglect had on Indigenous students and communities? What can we all do about it? In this presentation, Anishinaabe educator Riley Yesno will highlight struggles and solutions related to these questions and try to help guide us toward a revolutionized future for education.

Riley Yesno is a queer Anishinaabe scholar, writer, and public intellectual from Eabametoong First Nation. She is highly sought after for her words and analysis— called a 'rising powerhouse' by the Toronto Star— she has been a contributor and commentator for some of the largest media outlets in Canada and the world, including the New York Times, BBC World News, The Globe and Mail, and CBC National News. Riley has also travelled the globe speaking at internationally renowned institutions and events, including the UN climate negotiations, the Stockholm Forum on Gender Equality, TEDx stages, and many others. Her major project right now is to finish her Ph.D. at the University of Toronto, where she studies Indigenous/Canadian politics and is a Vanier Scholar.

Vendors and Exhibitors

Cutting Edge Impressions is a First Nation owned and operated Custom Embroidery and Screen Printing Business. Jennifer Bissaillon, a Member of the Serpent River First Nation and sole owner and operator does all her embroidery and printing from her home based shop located in London, Ontario. Jennifer does custom promotional work with many First Nations in Canada as well as her own designs on Ladies Boots, purses and a variety of garments.



Bebamikwe Studios, owned and operated by Georgina Bebamikawe-Toulouse, from Wiikwemikoong Unceded Territory.

Georgian College – Anishnaabemowin and Program Development - Gain a strong foundation in speaking, reading and writing – become a language champion!



Indigenous Institutes Consortium (IIC)

Swirling Wind – Tracy Toulouse, from Sagamok



First Nation Lifelong Learning Breakout Sessions

Thursday February 9 (11:15-12:00 PM)

Presenter(s): Daphne Mai'Stoina and Emma Anso

JOURNEY OF THE KTCEA COMMON, CONSISTENT CURRICULUM

This presentation will cover the pathways of the KTCEA curriculum, including how it continues to be guided by the KTCEA Land-based Learning Advisory which is comprised of Elders and representatives from each of our member Nations. Grounded in Four Pillars: Leadership, Storytelling, Land-based learning, and Healing Lessons, curricular activities are developed for each season of the school year: Fall, Winter and Spring. The curriculum enhances provincial programs to ensure our students know and take pride in who they are as First Nations people.

Dr. Daphne Mai'Stoina is the Superintendent of Education for Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Council Education Authority and has been in the education system for 30 years serving in various capacities such as a special education teacher, vice principal, acting principal and assistant superintendent, superintendent and province-wide Special Education Director. She is originally from the Siksika Nation and has strong cultural ties with Siksika traditions. Daphne has a Masters Degree in Educational Leadership Administration (University of San Diego) and a Doctorate of Education (University of Calgary). She has served on various regional, provincial and national education bodies representing First Nations over the years. Daphne has presented at local, provincial, national and international conferences on topics that include special education, Indian Control of Indian Education and inequities in First Nation Education. She has received numerous awards & recognitions for her achievements, including the Dr. Olive Dickason Award. She has been blessed with three beautiful children and seven grandchildren that make her life complete.





Emma Anso the University of Guelph, and Canterbury University in New Zealand. She has taught in New Zealand, Ontario, and Nunavut and she is currently the Literacy Specialist for KTCEA in Northern Alberta. She was a classroom teacher, literacy coordinator and inclusive education teacher. She is a single mother to a 6 year old and has a passion for literacy and Indigenous education. She enjoys working with teachers on engaging students in effective and stimulating learning opportunities through Land Based Learning and tying into the classroom through literacy.





First Nation Lifelong Learning Breakout Sessions

Thursday February 9 (11:15-12:00 PM)

Presenter: Patrik Lowen and Nikina Bear-Lowen

PROVINCIAL EDUCATION AGREEMENTS

This session will focus on Education Agreements between First Nations and school boards. Chiefs of Ontario will share the various resources they have developed to assist First Nations in developing an education agreement under the new reciprocal education agreement approach. Through dialogue, participants will look at the various support services that can be included in an Education Agreement.

Patrik Lowen works as an education Program Lead for the Chiefs of Ontario. This work involves K-12 provincial educational matters and close collaboration with the First Nation Lifelong Learning Table. Patrik has over 16 years of experience working in First Nation education as a teacher, special education lead, student success leader, guidance counsellor, and principal. Patrik's educational background includes a Bachelor of Education, and a specialist in Special Education and Career and Guidance, as well as a Master of Arts in Counselling Psychology.



Nikina Bear-Lowen is from Constance Lake First Nation. She is currently attending the University of Waterloo where she is in the Health Science program. Nikina's career goal is to become an optometrist and provide First Nation communities better access to eye care services. Outside of school, Nikina plays volleyball and enjoys beading, music, and travel.



First Nation Lifelong Learning Breakout Sessions

Thursday February 9 (11:15-12:00 PM)

Presenter(s): Karleigh Palmer and Zachariah General

JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE IN THE PROVINCIAL SCHOOL SYSTEM

This session will focus on how Jordan's Principle is currently applied at the school board level. Chiefs of Ontario will share some of the findings from a Jordan's Principle rollup report. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and seek solutions to common issues.

Karleigh Palmer has worked as an Education Policy Analyst with the Chiefs of Ontario since 2020. She works primarily with the First Nations Lifelong Learning Table, engaging with the REA and Education Agreements, Student Wellbeing, Languages and Culture, Data, Curriculum, and School Reclassification. Karleigh lives in Ottawa and is a super aunt to Isabel, Harrison, Ashton, Dorion, Daniel, and newborn baby Jack. She is looking forward to sharing Jordan's Principle research in her breakout session on day three.



Zachariah General, Associate Health Director, Chiefs of Ontario has worked with the Chiefs of Ontario's Health Sector since August 2020. He actively monitors the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal Proceeds and their orders on Jordan's Principle. As well, he actively participates in national level tables on Jordan's Principle such as the Jordan's Principle Operations Committee and the AFN's Jordan's Principle Action Table. Zachariah loves potato chips, and hates canned tuna.



First Nation Lifelong Learning Breakout Sessions

Thursday February 9 (11:15-12:00 PM)

Presenter(s): Debbie Terrance and Mia Francis

RELATIONSHIPS WITH PROVINCIAL SCHOOL BOARDS

Relationships between First Nations and school boards are important and should be reciprocal in nature. In this interactive session participants will hear and share successful strategies to build stronger relationships with school boards.

Deborah Terrance, Federal Education Senior Education Policy Analyst. Deborah has the lead on educational issues at the federal level. After teaching at the local adolescent group home, she was the Associate Director of Education for the Ahkwasasne Mohawk Board of Education until her retirement. Deborah is also a member of the Mohawks of Akwesasne.

Mia Francis McDonald, Provincial Education Senior Education Policy Analyst. Mia has the lead on educational issues at the provincial level. She has taught in an on-reserve school in the US and worked in the After School Program and Post-Secondary education when she returned home to Akwesasne. Mia is a member of the Mohawks of Akwesasne.



Education Breakout Sessions

Thursday February 9 (1:45-2:45 PM)

Presenter: Joseph Phillips



POLICY DEVELOPMENT

This presentation looks at how to determine a need for policy and/or policy change and how to begin the development of a policy specific to your school or organization's administration. The presentation will also provide information on the process of developing a policy with essential input and criteria, as well as how to begin implementing the policy and follow-up on its use and effectiveness.

Joe (Karakowanen) is the Director of Public Relations and Services with First Nations Education Administrators Association (FNEAA). Joe is a part of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, a Mohawk of Akwesasne and he is a member of the Turtle Clan. He lived most of his life in Akwesasne and in the past few years lived in Toronto (Tkaronto) and now Ottawa. In order to remain close to family and the community, Joe makes regular visits back home. All of Joe's lived and work experiences have been with Indigenous communities along with Indigenous and ally organizations. These experiences have been in education, business and governance/politics and Joe has been able to make long-lasting connections and friendships throughout Canada and the United States.

Education Breakout Sessions

Thursday February 9 (1:45-2:45 PM)

Presenter: Dr Pamela Rose Toulouse



STRATEGIC PLANNING – WHY TAKING THE TIME TO PLAN IS MORE MEANINGFUL

This highly engaging workshop focuses in on strategic planning as a process where staff and community need to be included always. The facilitator will share a level of phases for a meaningful plan to be developed and implemented in a good way. Participants will leave this session with a renewed sense of the HOW in utilizing this inclusive approach

Dr. Pamela Rose Toulouse is a Visiting Scholar in the Faculty of Education at York University. She is a proud Anishinaabe-Kwe and member of Sagamok First Nation in Northern Ontario. Dr. Pam (as she is more fondly known) is the recipient of the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance Teaching Excellence Award (2021); Inspiring Indigenous Women of Northeastern Ontario Award (2019); 3M National Teaching Excellence Fellow Award (2015); Laurentian University Full Time Faculty Teaching Excellence Award (2014) and the Laurentian University Professional Schools Teaching Excellence Award (2013).

She is the author, researcher and developer of over 55 resources in Indigenous Education (e.g. books, chapters, articles, curriculum, webinars, others). Dr. Pam has 29+ years of experience across the education continuum from K to 12, Post-Secondary and Administration.

Education Breakout Sessions

Thursday February 9 (1:45-2:45 PM)

Presenter: Dr. Cathy Martin



DEVELOPING WORK PLANS AND BUDGETS

This presentation will outline the elements of a good work plan and how to develop a custom workplan for your school or organization based on priorities, responsibilities, and direction from stakeholders. The presentation also illustrates how to develop your work plan with an accompanying budget for planning and reporting purposes.

Dr. Cathy Martin, Ed.D. is a Listuguj Mi'gmaq First Nation mother of 5 and grandmother of 5. She has a Doctorate Degree in Educational Leadership and Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Phoenix. These academic skills and experience in health, education, and governance, compliment her position as Senior Director of Certification and Professional Development for First Nations Education Administrators Association. She is an elected member of council for her community of Listuguj, with over 20 years of experience in First Nations politics at the community, regional, and National levels.

She is also a published author with her most recent publication in 2019: "*Strengthening Canadian Relationships and Decision-Making Processes*".

Education Breakout Sessions

Thursday February 9 (1:45-2:45 PM)

Presenter(s): Kelly Gallagher-Mackay, Maria Y.M. Yau & Neil Debassige



REVIEW & ANALYSIS OF SYSTEMIC GAPS IN K-12 EDUCATION

This session will provide a comprehensive overview of the research underway to develop an evidence-based framework for monitoring educational inequities facing First Nation learners, in both provincially funded and on-reserve educational settings. The objective is to identify and/or collect key data required to establish baselines of important educational inequities and make recommendations on mitigation.

Neil Debassige is a retired First Nation educator and lead consultant with LEARNfirst Education Consulting located on the M'Chigeeng First Nation on Manitoulin Island. First Nation born and raised, Neil has held teaching and administrative roles in First Nation and Provincial schools at both the elementary and secondary level. Neil's experience as a First Nation Principal and Education Director have helped develop a deep understanding of how First Nation education systems work. This, combined with conducting comprehensive school evaluations, interim funding formula consultation, and funding formula development/community outreach has given insight into how communities are dealing with their education funding shortfalls.



Kelly Gallagher-Mackay is an Associate Professor of Law and Society at Wilfrid Laurier University where her research focuses on educational inequality. A settler with the goal of working in solidarity with Indigenous peoples and communities, she is a lawyer with a PhD in Educational Policy from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. Past roles include Director of Research and Evaluation at the Future Skills Centre; Director of Research for People for Education; Northern Director for the Akitsiraq Law School in Iqaluit, Nunavut (of which she was a co-founder); and Policy Counsel for the Government of Nunavut. She has a strong track record of system level research on unequal educational opportunities and outcomes that is linked to policy change, including work on First Nations Métis and Inuit education in provincially funded schools in Ontario, research on academic streaming, and research on unequal impacts of educational disruption associated with COVID-19 and strategies for educational recovery and reimagining.



Maria Y.M. Yau, founder of EquiFair Research Consulting, was a senior researcher with the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) for over 30 years. Among her many projects, she helped pioneer and conduct three rounds of TDSB's Student and Parent Census, collecting population-based data on student demographics, in- and out-of-school experiences, and well-being. This periodic system data collection was instrumental in supporting the board's equity agenda. Maria was also responsible for designing and implementing the annual school review process for TDSB's Model Schools for Inner Cities (MSIC) program. With the use of multiple outcome indicators and measures, MSIC schools and the system were informed of the needs and strengths of their students, as well as their academic and well-being progress over time. Maria's other research at the TDSB included the Early Development Instrument (EDI), multi-year evaluations of such equity programs as Parenting and Family Literacy Centres, Beyond 3:30 After-school Program, and Model Schools Paediatric Health Initiative. After her tenure with the TDSB, Maria has been commissioned to support other school boards and independent schools in their identity-based data work toward the advancement of equity in education.



Post-Secondary Keynote Speaker

Thursday February 9 (3:15 PM)

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Pamela Rose Toulouse

TWO EYED SEEING AND THE GIFTS OF OUR PEOPLE

This highly engaging keynote celebrates the ‘gifts of our people’ and the importance of adopting a ‘two-eyed seeing’ approach in education. Concepts of wholism, humour, land and critical reflection will be explored in a respectful way. Participants will leave with an enhanced understanding of why culture and language are foundational for First Nations education.



Dr. Pamela Rose Toulouse is a Visiting Scholar in the Faculty of Education at York University. She is a proud Anishinaabe-Kwe and member of Sagamok First Nation in Northern Ontario. Dr. Pam (as she is more fondly known) is the recipient of the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance Teaching Excellence Award (2021); Inspiring Indigenous Women of Northeastern Ontario Award (2019); 3M National Teaching Excellence Fellow Award (2015); Laurentian University Full Time Faculty Teaching Excellence Award (2014) and the Laurentian University Professional Schools Teaching Excellence Award (2013).

She is the author, researcher and developer of over 55 resources in Indigenous Education (e.g. books, chapters, articles, curriculum, webinars, others). Dr. Pam has 29+ years of experience across the education continuum from K to 12, Post-Secondary and Administration.

Wela'lin | Miigwech | Niá:wen | Mikwec

For attending our forum!

