
AGENDA

Chiefs of Ontario Early Learning and Child Care Gathering

June 26 & 27, 2023

Location:
Toronto Airport Marriot Hotel
901 Dixon Rd.
Toronto, Ontario

Facilitator:

Dr. Ashley Sisco, Owner & CEO, Sisco & Associates Consulting Services Inc.
Corall McNickle, Research Associate, Sisco & Associates Consulting Services Inc.

Purpose:

The purpose of this meeting is to bring together Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) practitioners serving Chiefs of Ontario (COO) member First Nations in a Nation-to-Nation forum to look inward, share and learn from one another as a community of practice.

Objectives:

- ✓ Understand the history, legislative background, and current context of First Nations ELCC across Ontario, including Bill C-39;
- ✓ Imagine the future possibilities for the First Nations ELCC across Ontario, and what you would need to support this ideal future;
- ✓ Hear from First Nations ELCC practitioners, lawyers, and other professionals working in the field about success stories, best practices and lessons learned;
- ✓ Identify needs, concerns, challenges, and strategies for COO to advocate to support enhances ELCC for First Nation across Ontario, based on the discussions;
- ✓ Learn from other ELCC practitioners and other professionals about cultural, educational, healing and well-being in the field; and
- ✓ Discuss what you learned, and how you plan to implement it in your workplace, including any required supports.

— Day 1: Monday June 26th —

Schedule:

- 8:00 a.m. Catered Hot Breakfast**
- 9:00 a.m. Welcome & Elder Opening**
- Dr. Ashley Sisco, SISCO to briefly welcome participants and Elders
 - Vera Pawis Tabobondung, Elder, Wasauksing First Nation
 - Dave Root, Elder, Saugeen First Nation
- 9:15 a.m. Grand Chief Address**
- Grand Chief Joel Abram, COO
- 9:25 a.m. Meeting Purpose, Agenda & The Current State of First Nations ELCC in Ontario**
- Dr. Ashley Sisco, Founder & CEO & Corall McNickle, Research Associate, SISCO
- 9:45 a.m. The History of First Nations ELCC in Ontario**
- Chief Glen Hare, Ontario Regional Chief, COO
- 10:05 a.m. The Future of First Nations ELCC in Ontario**
- Ariel Strength, Ontario First Nations Young Peoples Council
- 10:15 a.m. Health & Networking Break / Gallery Wall**
- 10:30 a.m. Gallery Wall Discussion**
- 11:30 a.m. Bill C-35 An Act Respecting Early Learning and Child Care in Canada**
- Jessie Stirling, Associate Lawyer, Olthuis Kleer Townshend (OKT) LLP
- 12:00 p.m. Catered Hot Lunch**
- 1:00 p.m. Ontario Government First Nations Childcare Survey**
- Andrew Dehai Yang, Director, Financial Accountability and Data Analysis Branch, Early Years and Child Care Division, Ministry of Education
- 1:30 p.m. National Action Expert Working Group (NEWG) on First Nations Early Learning and Child Care**
- Jessica Quinn, Senior Policy Analyst, Assembly of First Nations
- 1:45 p.m. Health Break & Gallery Wall**

2:00 p.m. Moderated First Nations Leadership Circle Panel

- Wanda Gordon, Coordinators, FIREFLY
- Stephanie Michano, ECE Program Director, Biigtigong Nishnaabeg
- Catharine Davad, Child Care Manager, Six Nations
- Sarah Assiniwe, Program Manager, Wiikwemkoong Hub Centre
- Jamie Cornelius, Early Years Director, Chippewas of the Thames First Nation

3:45 p.m. Adjournment & Elder Closing

- Dr. Ashley Sisco, SISCO to adjourn participants and welcome Elders
- Vera Pawis Tabobondung, Elder, Wasauksing First Nation
- Dave Root, Elder, Saugeen First Nation

—Evening Event —

6:00 p.m. Dinner and Socializing

6:40 p.m. Stand-up Comedy

- Stephanie Pangowish: Anishinaabekwe from Wiikwemkoong and Sagamok

7:20 p.m. Adjournment

— Day 2: Tuesday June 27th —

Schedule:

8:00 a.m. Catered Hot Breakfast

9:00 a.m. Welcome & Elder Opening

- Dr. Ashley Sisco, SISCO to briefly welcome participants and Elders
- Vera Pawis Tabobondung, Elder, Wasauksing First Nation
- Dave Root, Elder, Saugeen First Nation

9:10 a.m. Meeting Purpose, Agenda & Day 1 Recap

- Dr. Ashley Sisco, Founder & CEO & Corall McNickle, Research Associate, SISCO

9:15 a.m. Culture & Lifelong Learning Concurrent Workshops 1

- Workshop 1: Indigenous Professional Learning Opportunities (IPLO) Program—Wanda Gordon, Coordinator; Michelle Taylor-Leonhardi, Coordinator; Sherry Lickers, Coordinator.

- Workshop 2: Outdoor Play spaces—Stephanie Michano-Drover, ECE Program Director; Esther Michano, WaaWaa Immersion Instructor; Biigtigong Nishnaabeg.
- Workshop 3: Languages Revitalization—Jaime Cornelius, Early Years Director; Gordon Paquette, Family Language Coordinator; Russell Peltier, Language Mentor; Nancy Peltier, Language Mentor; Cheri Fisher, EarlyON Coordinator; Chippewas of the Thames First Nation.

10:15 a.m. Health & Networking Break / Gallery Wall

10:30 a.m. Culture & Lifelong Learning Concurrent Workshops 1 Continued

- Workshop 1: Indigenous Professional Learning Opportunities (IPLO) Program—Wanda Gordon, Coordinator; Michelle Taylor-Leonhardi, Coordinator; Sherry Lickers, Coordinator.
- Workshop 2: Outdoor Play spaces—Stephanie Michano-Drover, ECE Program Director; Esther Michano, WaaWaa Immersion Instructor; Biigtigong Nishnaabeg.
- Workshop 3: Languages Revitalization—Jaime Cornelius, Early Years Director; Gordon Paquette, Family Language Coordinator; Russell Peltier, Language Mentor; Nancy Peltier, Language Mentor; Cheri Fisher, EarlyON Coordinator; Chippewas of the Thames First Nation.

11:30 a.m. Small Group Discussions

12:00 p.m. Catered Hot Lunch

1:00 p.m. Healing & Well-being Concurrent Workshops 2

- Workshop 1: First Nations Mental Health First Aid—Julie Donaldson, Director, Opening Minds Program Delivery & Mental Health First Aid Master Trainer, Mental Health Commission of Canada.
- Workshop 2: Finding Our Power Together: Cultivating Mental Wellness in Early Learning and Child Care (Mental Wellness Bundle Making)— Nicole Ineese-Nash, Oji-Cree Educator, Researcher, and Community Helper.
- Workshop 3: Collin Keye, Six Nations; Brandy Thomas, Six Nations
- Workshop 4: North American Indian Pouch Bag Making – John Ferris, Ed-Digenous Traditions

2:00 p.m. Health & Networking Break / Gallery Wall

2:15 p.m. Healing & Well-being Concurrent Workshops 2 Continued

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3:15 p.m. Small Group Discussions

3:45 p.m. Adjournment & Elder Closing

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