

# INDIGENOUS EDUCATION GATHERING

FEBRUARY 8 & 9, 2024

VICTORIA INN HOTEL AND CONVENTION CENTRE

2024 EVENT PROGRAM



**MCIEB**

Manitoba Collaborative  
Indigenous Education  
Blueprint





## Hello, Boozhoo, Tansi, Aaniin, Wotziye, Ho/Han, Tawnshi, Asujutill, Bonjour,

Warm greetings from the Manitoba Collaborative Indigenous Education Blueprint (MCIEB)!

On Dec. 18, 2015, Manitoba's six universities, three colleges, and the Manitoba School Boards Association became partners in their commitment to make Manitoba a global center of excellence in Indigenous education and signed the Manitoba Collaborative Indigenous Education Blueprint.

Informed by the TRC's Calls to Action as they relate to education, the Blueprint Signatory Document is comprised of 10 commitments.

Since the signing in 2015, MCIEB has grown to include more educational and community partners who have joined the work of this ambitious and important initiative and on April 14, 2023 the partners re-affirmed their commitment to make Indigenous education a priority in Manitoba.

A Steering Committee of these partner representatives, Indigenous educational authorities, advocacy groups, and the Province of Manitoba are guided in their work by a council of Elders from diverse nations and communities.

Our goal is to ensure all Blueprint initiatives are community driven and focus on meeting the needs of Indigenous students. In this spirit, we are delighted to welcome you to our second annual Indigenous Education Gathering.

The Gathering is a confluence of educators, students, community patrons, and advocates, all committed to fostering important dialogue, exchanging knowledge, and cultivating partnerships centered on Indigenous education. Forging ahead, we will discuss critical issues, celebrate successes, and welcome innovation.

Your presence is integral to the event's success, and we are thrilled to have you gather with us.

Thank you, Miigwech, Eskosani, Marsi, Pidamaya, Marsee, Nakurmiik, Merci,

*Denise Tardiff*

Denise Tardiff  
General Manager  
MCIEB

# Ten Blueprint Commitments

Informed by the TRC's Calls to Action as they relate to education, the Blueprint Signatory Document is comprised of 10 commitments.

- 1** Engaging with Indigenous peoples in respectful and reciprocal relationships to realize the right to self-determination, and to advance reconciliation, language and culture through education, research and skill development;
- 2** Bringing Indigenous knowledge, languages and intellectual traditions, models and approaches into curriculum and pedagogy;
- 3** Promoting research and learning that reflects the history and contemporary context of the lives of Indigenous peoples;
- 4** Increasing access to services, programs, and supports to Indigenous students, to ensure a learning environment is established that fosters learner success;
- 5** Collaborating to increase student mobility to better serve the needs of Indigenous students;
- 6** Building school and campus communities that value diversity, foster cultural safety and are free of racism;
- 7** Increasing and measuring Indigenous school and post-secondary participation and success rates;
- 8** Showcasing successes of Indigenous students and educators;
- 9** Reflecting the diversity of First Nations, Inuit and Métis cultures in Manitoba through institutional governance and staffing policies and practices; and
- 10** Engaging governments and the private and public sectors to increase labour market opportunities for Indigenous graduates.



# AGENDA

**INDIGENOUS  
EDUCATION  
GATHERING**

**INDIGENOUS EDUCATION PATHWAYS:  
SHARING OUR WAY - OUR GIFTS**

For the full program please visit <https://www.mcieb.ca/event/indigenous-education-gathering/>

## Thursday, February 8, 2024

8 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.	Registration and Hot Breakfast
8:45 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.	Conference Opening Lighting the Qulliq: Elder Martha Peet Opening Prayer & Land Acknowledgement: Elder Susan McPherson-Derendy
9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.	Fireside Chat with Ashley Richard & Moderator Mihskakwan James Harper
10:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	Collective Reflection
10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.	Break
10:45 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Breakout Session 1
12 p.m. - 1 p.m.	Lunch
1 p.m. - 1:10 p.m.	Greetings from Premier Wab Kinew
1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.	Keynote: Sheila North
2:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Collective Reflection
2:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.	Break
2:45 p.m. - 4 p.m.	Breakout Session 2
4 p.m. - 5 p.m.	Reception featuring the Frontier Fiddlers



Scan for the full program

## Friday, February 9, 2024

8 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.	Hot Breakfast
8:45 a.m. - 9 a.m.	Daily Opening Dignitary Remarks: Minister Renée Cable
9 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.	Breakout Session 3
10:15 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.	Break
10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	Student Panel Plenary Session featuring: Annie Anguttitauruq, Sharon-Rose Bear, Josiah Parenteau, Ethen Laughher Moderator: Kelli Wiebe
11:45 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Conference Closing Closing Prayer: Elder Susan McPherson-Derendy
12 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Lunch

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2024

BREAKOUT SESSION 1	<b>1A. Bridging Indigenous Talent and Industry through Innovative Learning Partnerships</b> <i>Terry Brown, Jesse Steckley, Kendra Bouchie, Nikki Muswaggon, Natalie Cloud</i>
	<b>1B. Indigenous Education through Cree Traditions</b> <i>Demian Lawrenchuk, Gordon Walker, Myron Cook, Lawrence Saunders Jr.</i>
	<b>1C. Grow Our Own Specialists through Education (GOOSE)</b> <i>Marlene Head, Jennifer Bercier</i>
	<b>1D. Two Spirit History &amp; Perspectives: Analyzing Two Spiritedness and Policy Development</b> <i>Chance Paupanekis</i>
	<b>1E. Otēnāhk - Where the heart is</b> <i>Ron Cook, Shelley Cook</i>

BREAKOUT SESSION 2	<b>2A. Empowering Indigenous Workforce - local workforce for local construction employment</b> <i>Heather Paterson, Laurie Guimond, Loretta McGinnis, Ron Castel, Joelle McAuley</i>
	<b>2B. University College of the North- Integrating Indigenous Knowledges in Curriculum</b> <i>Dr. Ramona Neckoway, Perley Nelson Leaske</i>
	<b>2C. Empowering the next seven generations at home</b> <i>Kris Desjarlais, Brad Hack, Lorraine Johnson</i>
	<b>2D. Bridge to Opportunities—Canupawakpa Dakota Nation and Fort La Bosse School Division</b> <i>Jason Taylor, Keely Woods, Mike Thiessen, Elder Gloria Eastman</i>
	<b>2E. Mamàhtawisiwin: The Wonder We Are Born With – an Indigenous Education Policy Framework</b> <i>Wanda Spence, Lola Whonnock</i>

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2024

BREAKOUT SESSION 3	<b>3A. Indigenous CREATE; Mentoring and Training the Next Generation of Environmental Researchers Working in the Indigenous North</b> <i>Ashley Wolfe, Dr. Stéphane McLachlan, Robert Spence</i>
	<b>3B. Social Change through earning a Bachelor of Social Work at Inner City campus</b> <i>Dr. Eveline Milliken, Dr. Yvonne Pompana, Debra DiUbaldo, Faron Whitequill, Shauna Natrasony</i>
	<b>3C. The Teaching Indigenous Languages for Vitality Certificate: Building Capacity for the Present and Future</b> <i>Dr. Anke Al-Bataineh, Melanie Kennedy, Carmen Leeming, Heather Souter, Dr. Shelley Tulloch, Nicole Murdoch</i>
	<b>3D. Engaging and Retaining Students – A Story of Teaching and Learning in New Ways</b> <i>Tanya Redford, Ben Banman, Nettie Proulx, Audrey Ballantyne, Sharon Hart, Lyndon Bird</i>
	<b>3E. Two Spirit Identity</b> <i>Barbara Bruce, Sunday Queskekapow, John Peters, Carol Owens</i>

**INDIGENOUS  
EDUCATION  
GATHERING**

**FEBRUARY 6-7, 2025**



**SAVE THE  
DATE**



## MCIEB ELDERS COUNCIL BIOGRAPHIES



### **Paul Guimond**

Paul Guimond is part of the Turtle Clan and his Spirit Name is Okonace (Little Eagle Bone). He lives with his wife Kim in Sagkeeng First Nation and together they have three children, sixteen grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Elder Paul studied Counselling Skills at the University of Manitoba and is a certified coach in hockey, baseball and lacrosse.

In Sagkeeng, Elder Paul sat on Chief & Council for twenty years and served as the School Board Chairman for ten years. Elder Paul is a Sundance Bundle Carrier (Chief), Sweat Lodge Bundle Carrier (Water drum) and Dark Room Bundle Carrier. He is an active Elder with Addictions Foundation of Manitoba and Sagkeeng Child & Family Services, where he offers healing, guidance in spiritual growth and personal development through ceremony, programming and encouraging healthy relationships.



### **Myra Laramee**

Dr. Myra Laramee | Cree, ocêko-sîpiy (Fisher River Cree Nation) Since 1976, Myra Laramee, a member of Fisher River Cree Nation, has helped transform Manitoba's education system as a beloved teacher, co-founder of the Aboriginal Teaching Circle, administrator, counsellor, mentor, Traditional Indigenous Knowledge Keeper, and creator of no fewer than 12 guiding documents on how Manitoba can infuse Reconciliation, Indigenous languages, and Indigenous-centred content into curricula.

Her doctoral thesis, "Teaching and Learning as an Act of Love: An examination of the impact of seven traditional Indigenous teaching practices in teacher education and on teacher's classroom practices" has revolutionized the classroom and was groundbreaking in legitimizing the recognition and citation of Traditional Knowledge in academic works. Winner of the Distinguished UM Alumni Lifetime Achievement Award and the Canadian Teachers' Federation's Outstanding Aboriginal Educator Award, Myra has served her community tirelessly. She has shared her wisdom and guidance as an advisor and policy maker for innumerable initiatives and institutions; the Winnipeg school division, Manitoba Education and Training-Post-Secondary Partnership Group, the University of Manitoba-Dean's Aboriginal Education Task Force, the Manitoba Industry-Academia Partnership's Indigenous Pillar and MCIEB Elders Council are just a few.

Above all, Myra is a Capan (Chapan, Grandmother), Mother, Sister, Daughter and friend. These roles have been significant in shaping the person that she is today, as have the mentors in Myra's life who encouraged her to reach her potential. As a Traditional Knowledge Keeper, she imparts the importance of these relationships by teaching Ogichi Tibakonigaywin, Kihche Othasowewin, Tako Wakan: The Great Binding Law.

Myra's lifework embodies this law that connects us all. She gives endlessly of herself to empower all her relations to reach their potential and pay it forward to others.



**Ivy Chaske**

Ivy Chaske is a Dakota Grandmother, Elder, and Knowledge Keeper. She has been working with the NorWest Co-op Community Health Intervention and Outreach Team for over three years and provides teachings and support to the youth participants and their families. She has been instrumental in changing the way the Intervention and Outreach Team approaches wraparound supports and was invited to sit on the Wrap Canada board two years ago. She has dedicated her life to working on Indigenous issues through community activism and is

passionate about improving relationships and developing alliances with non-Indigenous people. Ivy believes that traditional teachings are a foundation for the work that IOT does with youth and families and that through reclaiming this knowledge youth will develop a sense of pride in their identity, strength of spirit and belonging, and a sense of place within their Indigenous Nation.



**Susan McPherson-Derendy**

Susan McPherson-Derendy is Nehiyaw (Cree) from northern Manitoba and resides in Anishinaabe territory in southwestern Manitoba, home now to many nations including the Dakota, Nehiyaw, Anish-Nehiyaw (Oji-Cree), Métis, Inuit, Dene, and settlers and immigrants. Susie is a family and community minded person first and has a passion for spiritual revival and cultural restoration and reconciliation through relationships and community development. She is a life-long learner and a strong advocate for empowerment and justice.



**Barbara Bruce**

Barbara Bruce (Flies High Thunderbird and Truth Talker) is a citizen of the Red River Métis Nation. Her beliefs of Métis and other Indigenous traditional teachings are reflected in her 40+ years of experience. Her dedication to advancing the rightful place of the Two Spirit community, Indigenous women and children are an integral part of her life.

She has an extensive network and working relationships with the Métis Nation and other Indigenous and non-Indigenous leaders, and organizations. Her portfolio includes board appointments with the National Aboriginal Economic Development Board, the Manitoba Communities Economic Development Fund, the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business, Top 40 Under 40, the University of Winnipeg Board of Regents and the Métis Child and Family Services Authority.



Barbara has received extensive recognition and honour for her work in cultural social justice and for her contribution to the wellbeing of Indigenous Peoples from many communities and organizations. Some of those are, the Human Rights Commission of Manitoba, Sagkeeng First Nation, Keeping the Fires Burning with Ka Ni Kanichihk as a Kookum, the Order of Manitoba, the Nellie McClung Foundation 150 Manitoba Women Trailblazers Award, and the Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Medal for Manitoba.



### **Ron Cook**

Ron Cook is a speaker of nēhinawēwin, the language of the ininiw. He was a fisherman on Lake Winnipeg before he made the decision to become a teacher in order to teach the language. He graduated with a B.Ed from Brandon University in 1996 with greatest distinction. An ability to converse in the language has allowed him to sit with nēhinawēwin speaking knowledge keepers and to learn about the language. He is now retired but is still a student of nēhinawēwin, following the instructions of the Elders to learn what the language is saying about the ininiw and their world view.



### **Martha Peet**

Martha Peet, Inuit Elder and Traditional Knowledge Keeper from Taloyaok, Nunavut, believes that coming from the Traditional Knowledge perspective telling stories is about sharing her own experiences and the traditional Inuit way of life.

Taloyaok was founded in 1948 when the HBC established a trading post. Five nomadic families moved in, including hers. Martha Peet was born in 1950.

“I was there from the beginning. I lived in an igloo in the winter and a tent in the summer. My job as a child was collecting cotton in the summer for the wick on the seal oil [soapstone] lamp, which was fueled by blubber. I always had chores. I carried water twice a day from the lake. I made bannock and tea. We boiled our meat—seal and caribou,” she says.

As a Traditional Knowledge Keeper and a storyteller for over 30 years, Peet enjoys sharing stories about her life, where she is from, and the Inuit way of life of years ago including the importance of animals and traditions.

The Inuit have the same sacred teachings, the animals are not use to send the messages but rather teachings the same messages.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

### Fireside Chat: The Gift of Kinship



#### **Ashley Richard**

Ashley Richard is a proud Ojibway, Métis, and Filipina woman residing in Treaty 1 Territory. Her family roots are from the Richard Family from Pine Creek First Nation, the McLeod Family in Camperville, MB.

Ashley has over 12 years' experience working with both Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities in both the private and not for profit sectors. She completed her Masters in Management, Innovation and Entrepreneurship at the Smith School of Business at Queen's University. Her background and passion lies in design thinking as well as the teachings from her grandmother, Mary Richard.

Ashley's current projects include leading 2 federally funded grant projects with the Asper School of Business (Women Entrepreneurship Knowledge Hub Indigenous Strategy and The 50 - 30 Challenge), the Indigenous Workforce Development Strategy with the Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters of Manitoba, and planning the 3rd Annual Reclaiming Our Future: Economic Development Youth Conference 2024 for Norway House Cree Nation.



#### **Mihsakwan James Harper**

Mihsakwan James Harper is a proud citizen of Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation in Treaty 8, Alberta. He is currently the Business Development Manager at NRStor Inc., where he champions developing large-scale energy storage and clean microgrid projects in a way that empowers communities and contributes to meaningful climate action. He holds a bachelor's in mechanical engineering from the University of Manitoba and has recently completed a Masters of Science in Renewable Energy from KTH Royal Institute of Technology and Ecole Polytechnique, with entrepreneurial training from ESADE Business School. He is a part of the SevenGen council, an organization that develops and leads programs

for Indigenous youth to lead in clean energy and climate action. He also is a co-host for the podcast, Decolonizing Power, a series that aims to amplify voices worldwide on how clean energy enables authentic community empowerment. This experience combined with the 20/20 Catalyst program, he is passionate about the carbon free future, particularly within the power and mobility sectors. He loves his family and his community now and generations ahead, which inspires him to work with youth to build a future that is sustainable and empowers all.



## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Sheila North

**My Privilege, My Responsibility -  
How Education Impacts the Victim,  
the Survivor and Thriver**

Sheila M. North, also known as Wikahsko Iskwek, is a Cree Leader, Policy Advocate, Activist, Journalist, and Author from the Bunibonibee Cree Nation in Treaty 5 Territory. She made history in 2015 by becoming the first woman to serve as the Grand Chief of the Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak, MKO. Throughout her life, Sheila has been a dedicated activist for the Treaty, Title, Inherent, and Human Rights of First Nations Peoples.

Under her leadership, MKO played a significant role in a Landmark Economic Impact Study that revealed Indigenous contributions of approximately \$9.3B to Manitoba's Economy and GDP in one year. Sheila has been a strong advocate for the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, and she continues to push for the implementation of the 231 Calls To Justice released in the final report of the Inquiry. She has also been instrumental in raising awareness about this issue through the creation of the hashtag #MMIW. Currently, Sheila serves as the Director at the International Commission on Missing Persons [ICMP], where she focuses on Missing Children, Residential Schools, and Engagement.

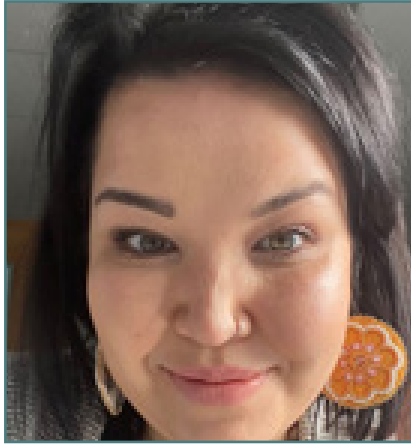
She is dedicated to achieving Accountability, Justice, and Restitution for Missing Children & Unmarked Graves both internationally and in Canada. Sheila is also an award-winning journalist and co-produced a documentary called 1200+, which sheds light on the systemic issues that make Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirited people more vulnerable to violence and exploitation. She recognizes that this issue affects all Relatives, which is why she uses the hashtag #MMIR.





# STUDENT PANEL

## Lifting Student Voices



### **Kelli Wiebe**

Moderator Kelli Wiebe is a member of the Peepeekisis Cree Nation in Treaty 4. She was raised and lives in Winnipeg with her partner and their two daughters. She has worked as an educator for 15 years in several different metro school divisions. Currently she works at the Manitoba Teachers' Society as a Staff Officer in Teacher Welfare providing support to membership across Manitoba.

## S T U D E N T P A N E L I S T S



### **Annie Anguttitauruq**

Annie Anguttitauruq was born in Yellowknife, North West Territories and raised in Fort McMurray, Alberta. I feel the most at home beside my husband and children. My Mom, Catherine, and biological father, Nick Kameemalik, are both from Gjoa Haven, Nunavut but I was raised by David Rogers, the man whom I call my father for the last 33 years. I am the first from my mom's side of the family to graduate high school and the very first in the history of my ancestors to attend university.

I became a young mother at the age of 18, delaying high school to take care of my son (I now have 7 children) and graduated from an adult learning centre in Winnipeg at the age of 33. A teacher at the learning centre helped me to get the confidence to apply to university. I was surprised to get accepted to university and am still surprised now – 2 years later. I am enrolled in Indigenous Studies. Since my passion and my motivation in life are my kids – and I love helping people and children – it would be good to make a career of that. I would love waking up to that every day.



### **Sharon Bear**

Sharon Bear is an Indigenous person from Winnipeg, Manitoba, where I grew up and identify as my community. I am a mother of two and am currently studying in my third year at Red River College Polytechnic in their Indigenous Social Entrepreneurship course. Both of my parents were born in Manitoba and went through the systems of assimilation that left generational impacts.

I left high school at age 15 and decided to work full-time instead. I got my high school diploma when I was 26 years old and then started college at 32. Now, I am 3 years into my studies and have gained a lot of academic knowledge and lived experience. I want to start my career at the grassroots level in community work and start a social enterprise or small business.

I am motivated to be a role model for my daughters – to show them that learning and pursuing a career can happen at any age. I am also motivated to support other Indigenous females in their choices of education - whatever that looks like to them.



**Josiah Parenteau**

My name is Josiah Parenteau. My Anishinaabe name is Ozhaawashko Giizhig, and most people know me as Zhaawashko. I received my Anishinaabe name when I was 6 days old from my Mishomis Charlie Nelson. My mother is Anna Parenteau from Roseau River Anishinaabe First Nation, and my father Jason Parenteau is from Delaware of the Thames in Ontario. Although I was raised in Winnipeg for most of my life I am strongly connected to my parents' communities and would consider my home community as Roseau River. I graduated High School in 2021 and I

am currently thinking of going into carpentry as a career. I consistently attend Midewiwin ceremonies in Roseau River to learn and share with others. I dream of the betterment of the Anishinaabe people and believe that is helping that dream.



**Ethen Laugher**

Ethen Laugher was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and was raised in Cross Lake Manitoba for the earlier part of my life, and in Norway House for my high school years. Home for me is Norway House, as that is where I lived and worked for my adult years and where my children are from.

My mother was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and was raised in Cross lake, Manitoba. My father was born and raised in Norway House, Manitoba. My mother completed high school and attended

Red River College to pursue a career in Child Care Services and she later instructed in the field, as well. My father was pursuing a Bachelor of Arts Degree at the University of Winnipeg before he passed away in 1995.

My schooling was interrupted in 2015, until being accepted into Brandon University in 2021. My children, mother, family and friends motivate me to finish my degree. I want to attain this degree to be able to provide for them financially, and so that they have the motivation themselves to pursue an education in the future. My hope for the future is to teach the children in Norway House.



## Frontier Fiddlers

In 1996, a group of students from a small two-room school at Sherridon, Manitoba, started doing fiddling performances at various schools elsewhere in the area. It was the result of a fiddling program introduced by their principal two years previously and was literally the revival of a music tradition, one that had evolved in Métis and Indigenous communities throughout Manitoba over the past 200 years. This was the beginning of the Frontier Fiddling Program in the school division.

Over the years the fiddle program has grown so that there are now 11 fiddle instructors who travel to schools and to many communities. On average, the travelling instructors put on over 175,000 km per year visiting schools, either by road, scheduled air, or charter air transport. Over 2,200 students are receiving fiddle instruction in 35 schools, as a result of this program.

There are 5 Areas in Frontier and each area puts on an Area Music Jamboree which bring together 125+ students. This event is a development camp for the division wide Frontier Music Jamboree every year which brings together 520+ fiddle students and 28 of the top fiddle instructors from across Canada. Another 8 instructors are also brought in to instruct in dance, drum and guitar, which provides a well rounded experience. Frontier has also invited students from other school divisions to participate.

Partnership is what sets Frontier apart. With internal partners, external partners and supportive communities we have proudly developed a program second to none in the fiddling world.

Students performing at the MCIEB Indigenous Education Gathering are from Area 3:

- Wanipigow School – Hollow Water First Nation
- Black River Anishnabe School – Black River First Nation
- Berens River – Berens River First Nation
- Falcon Beach School – Falcon Lake

Instructors:

- Marcel Hapel – Instructor – Past Student of the Frontier Fiddling Program
- Daria Watkin – Instructor
- Daniel Koulack – Instructor – Accompanying Fiddlers



## **BREAKOUT SESSION 1A - EMBASSY A/B**

**February 8, 10:45 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

### **Bridging Indigenous Talent and Industry through Innovative Learning Partnerships**

#### **Description:**

Discover innovative approaches to enhancing the Indigenous workforce at our breakout session during the Indigenous Education Gathering. We will highlight key initiatives including the Business Council of Manitoba's Work Integrated Learning (WIL) program, the Indigenous Education Award (IEA) program, Manitoba First Nations SchoolNet's programming for northern Manitoba, and insights from Terry Brown, Co-chair of Economic Reconciliation for the Business Council of Manitoba, and CEO of Okimaw. Our collective expertise and programs are dedicated to guiding Indigenous students toward diverse employment opportunities, contributing to a stronger workforce in Manitoba.

#### **Presenters:**

Terry Brown, Jesse Steckley, Kendra Bouchie, Nikki Muswaggon, Natalie Cloud

#### **Terry Brown**

Terry Brown - B. Comm (Hons), a proud member of Peguis First Nation, is the Cofounder & CEO of Okimaw Community and HR Solutions, a member of the EDIP Sovereign Wealth Solutions Group of Companies. His focus is on providing Indigenous communities with the tools to foster economic reconciliation and grow their sovereign wealth.

With extensive experience working with First Nation, Métis, Inuit, and Native American communities, Terry is a respected Indigenous businessperson. His expertise lies in capacity building and facilitating connections between mainstream and Indigenous businesses. Terry's dynamic understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing companies operating in traditional Indigenous territories and Indigenous communities entering mainstream markets drives his passion for business development.

An award-winning business leader, Terry excels in strategic problem-solving, envisioning innovative solutions, and executing with efficiency across all areas of an organization. He has had experience with Federal, Provincial, Municipal, and American Indian and First Nations governments, Fortune 100 and 500 corporations, including consumer goods, manufacturing, banking, transportation, hospitality, marketing, wholesale, energy, procurement, and healthcare. Terry has successfully closed hundreds of business deals on behalf of both Indigenous and Fortune 100 companies, contributing to over half a billion dollars in sales throughout his career.

Terry is a dedicated volunteer and serves as the co-chair of the Economic Reconciliation Committee at the Business Council of Manitoba, actively contributing to the advancement of economic reconciliation initiatives. He also holds a position as a board member at Building Urban Industries for Local Development (BUILD) and serves on the Peguis Governance Committee. Over the course of his career, Terry has served on numerous boards and committees including as a Commissioner with the Province of Manitoba Commission on Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education in 2019.



Outside of his professional achievements, Terry finds fulfillment in his role as a partner of 19 years and a proud father to a wonderful 10-year-old daughter. Bestowed with the name of “Red Star Turtle Man” by Elders, Terry carries the responsibility of sharing this knowledge throughout North America, a duty he embraces wholeheartedly.

### **Jesse Steckley**

Jesse Steckley, Anishinaabe from Wasauksing First Nation, and is based in Winnipeg Treaty 1. With a background in Indigenous Studies and business, he began at the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business. Now, at the Business Council of Manitoba, Jesse manages the Work-Integrated Learning (WIL) program, promoting Indigenous employment in alignment with Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Call to Action 92.

### **Kendra Bouchie**

Kendra Bouchie is a proud mother of four: Kayden, Marley, Hayden, and Colton. Kendra is originally from the Duck Bay community. She is a band member of Minegoziibe Anishinaabe (Pine Creek, Manitoba) Treaty 4 Territory. Kendra is pursuing her Juris Doctor Degree in Law at the University of Manitoba. Thanks to the BCM’s support, she received the Indigenous Education Award and participated in the WIL program twice. Now, Kendra serves as the IEA Manager at the BCM, exemplifying the resilience and determination of Indigenous students.

### **Nikki Muswaggon**

Tansi! My name is Nikki Muswaggon, a Cree Iskwew from Pimicikamak Cree Nation. Currently working as the Program Manager for Manitoba First Nations SchoolNet. We empower the youth by connecting the brightest minds in IT education and fostering innovation for a better tomorrow. Join us as we talk about shaping the future of technology in First Nation communities across Manitoba!

### **Natalie Cloud**

I’m Natalie Cloud, the Regional Coordinator for Manitoba First Nations SchoolNet from Waywayseecappo First Nation. Together with our dedicated team, we are committed to addressing and fulfilling the diverse needs of our communities. As we navigate the unique challenges and opportunities within our region, our focus remains on fostering positive change and creating a supportive environment for everyone.

## **BREAKOUT SESSION 1B - EMBASSY C/D**

**February 8, 10:45 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

### **Indigenous Education through Cree Traditions**

#### **Description:**

Food Matters Manitoba is working with communities in Northern Manitoba to restore wellbeing, health, and local food systems through traditional education and highly impactful mentorships on the land. Join us for this discussion with three harvesters/mentors, as we highlight the work happening in Norway House, Fox Lake and Brochet.

#### **Presenters:**

Demian Lawrenchuk, Gordon Walker, Myron Cook, Lawrence Saunders Jr.

#### **Demian Lawrenchuk**

Demian Lawrenchuk is a traditional harvester from Fox Lake Cree Nation, of both Cree and Mizrahi parents. Currently the Executive Director of Food Matters Manitoba, Demian works with a dedicated team across the province to empower youth, employ harvesters and help northern Indigenous communities build local food systems that provide healthy food in the most food insecure regions of the province.

#### **Gordon Walker**

Gordon Walker was raised on Miskway Sakahikan (Hairy Lake) with his grandparents, hunting, fishing, and trapping as a boy. During this time, he learned all about traditional medicine and the land. Married with 6 kids and plenty of grandkids, he spends his time teaching language and ceremony across the country, when he's not out harvesting for his community in the traditional homelands of the Norway House Cree Nation.

#### **Myron Cook**

Myron Cook is a Cree hunting and fishing guide from Barren Lands First Nation. He was raised in Brochet Manitoba and Reindeer Lake. Working in the drilling industry has taken him all over Canada. He's been harvesting off the land since a young age, spending his time camping, hunting and fishing. Myron enjoys helping others by providing traditional food and teachings. Proud to be a part of the harvester program with Food Matters Manitoba, providing for his community.

#### **Lawrence Saunders Jr.**

Lawrence Saunders Jr. is one of the pioneers of Food Matters Manitoba's harvester program. Up in Fox Lake Cree Nation, his goals are to help teach the community's youth along with his own kids to become hunters, fishermen, trappers, and outdoor people all around. While there may be few opportunities for youth in northern communities, all that changes out on the land, where Lawrence does his best to teach the youth and help them focus on a bright and successful future. His inspiration first came from the stories of the Elders', and now it is the future of the youth that keeps him going.





## **BREAKOUT SESSION 1C- EMBASSY E/F**

**February 8, 10:45 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

### **Grow Our Own Specialists through Education (GOOSE)**

**Description:**

In Manitoba, the statistics for students with exceptionalities is high and growing. Indigenous students are not being provided with adequate clinician services, which include occupational therapy, physiotherapy, school psychology, and speech language pathology. Although Indigenous communities are receiving some form of support for these resources, it is not enough. It became quite evident to promote more specialists. In addition, Opaskwayak Cree Nation tried to assist students to be admitted into these programs; however, there were too many barriers. It became evident, this was not just an OCN initiative but a MB Indigenous community initiative. According to the Truth & Reconciliation Commission, and specific Calls to Action, education and training opportunities have to be provided for all Indigenous people.

OCN started the Grow Our Specialists (GOOS) initiative. This initiative focuses on opportunities for those who are interested in the Master programs; however, moving to the city for 2 to 2 1/2 years was not feasible for many as they are well-established in their home communities (positions, mortgages, families, vehicle, etc). An initial meeting with a few First Nations to support the initiative was held in March 2023. There was an overwhelming agreement to support the initiative. From this meeting, more Indigenous communities were contacted including Indigenous organizations and to date, all have been supportive. Many discussions took place with the University of Manitoba (Rehabilitation Sciences and School of Psychology). The university is also in full support. To date, a plan of action by Indigenous communities was instituted, as this initiative must remain community-focused. The university is now planning with Indigenous communities to offer Indigenous cohorts, including a Speech/Language Pathology program which is not currently offered in Manitoba. The concept of "Grow Our Own" is now being used for any programs that can be offered through cohorts, including Kinesiology, Social Work, etc. The goal is to grow our own specialists by promoting from within Indigenous communities and to ensure many communities and organizations are aware. Working together for a common goal can be done. Our children/adults with exceptionalities should be receiving these services and resources on a regular basis in every Indigenous community.

**Presenters:**

Marlene Head, Jennifer Bercier

**Marlene Head**

Marlene Head is the Post-Secondary Supervisor for Opaskwayak Education, a branch of Opaskwayak Cree Nation. She has been with the organization since 1990 and responsible for Post-Secondary for the past 23 years. She is a graduate of Keewatin Community College (UCN) and the University of Manitoba. Marlene has been an advocate for Indigenous people for many years. She is an intergenerational residential school survivor which had a negative impact on her life, but today, she has overcome

many challenges toward her healing journey. Her life's experiences inspire her to reach out to others through advocacy, counselling, and support. She has done this in many ways including the Opaskwayak Cree Nation GOOSE initiative, Grow Our Own Specialists. Since February 2023, Marlene has been promoting GOOSE throughout Manitoba including First Nations and Métis communities. She is hoping her presentation will inspire First Nations to work together toward ensuring all Indigenous students with exceptionalities receive assessments and therapy. It is a dire need in Indigenous communities. We are seeking support to ensure all students with exceptionalities receive these specialized services to foster, achieve, and learn to their fullest potential. We are tasked in making these specialized services available for all!

### **Jennifer Bercier**

Jennifer Bercier is the Principal of Oscar Lathlin Collegiate and prior to September 2023, she was the Coordinator of Student Services. As the Coordinator, one aspect of her position is to ensure students with exceptionalities are provided with inclusivity. Jen has been instrumental in achieving an all-inclusive playground and an "Angel Room" for Opaskwayak Cree Nation. Her dedication and commitment toward inclusivity is personally dear to her heart. She will continue to work and dedicate her support and advocacy. Jen is a graduate of the Master in Educational Administration from University of Manitoba. She has been an advocate for healthy lifestyles including hockey, and other sports.

## **BREAKOUT SESSION 1D - CARLTON**

**February 8, 10:45 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

### **Two Spirit History & Perspectives: Analyzing Two Spiritedness and Policy Development**

**Description:** This presentation will deliver a brief overview of Two Spirit history, perspectives, and spiritual responsibilities in what's now called Canada. It will shed light on past and current realities facing Indigenous Two Spirit peoples in public, in the workplace and in academia.

### **Presenter:**

Chance Paupanekis

Chance comes from the Kinosew Sipi Cree Nation in Treaty 5 Territory and currently resides in Winnipeg, Manitoba. He is a proud Swampy Cree and 2Spirit person who embraces his Cree language and queer identity. Chance has western education in Political Studies and Indigenous Studies from the University of Manitoba. Chance focuses his advocacy around Indigenous language revitalization, youth empowerment, land & water protection, Indigenous student rights and 2SLGBTQIA+ empowerment. He began his healing journey five years ago and has been learning from many knowledgeable mentors from his home community and beyond. Chance currently works as a Consultant and Independent Contractor for numerous organizations throughout Manitoba.



## **BREAKOUT SESSION 1E - CENTENNIAL**

**February 8, 10:45 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

### **Otēnāhk - Where the heart is**

#### **Description:**

Knowledge keepers tell us we can get a better understanding of our identity when we understand what our language is telling us, rather than merely translating it into English. In this way, children know who they are and can stand strong in their culture. In this session, we will explore the world view of the ininiw through language to create a better understanding of identity. The central idea will be based on the word 'mitēh' (heart) and the how it shapes thinking and culture.

#### **Presenters:**

Ron Cook, Shelley Cook

#### **Ron Cook**

Ron Cook is a speaker of nēhinawēwin, the language of the ininiw. He was a fisherman on Lake Winnipeg before he made the decision to become a teacher in order to teach the language. He graduated with a B.Ed from Brandon University in 1996 with greatest distinction. An ability to converse in the language has allowed him to sit with nēhinawēwin speaking knowledge keepers and to learn about the language. He is now retired but is still a student of nēhinawēwin, following the instructions of the Elders to learn what the language is saying about the ininiw and their world view.

#### **Shelley Cook**

Shelley Cook is a non-indigenous woman who has had the opportunity to learn and walk the traditional path of the ininiw of northern Manitoba with her husband Ron. As a classroom teacher, she explored ways to connect students to experiences on the land; taking her high school students to a fasting camp for an immersion experience in language, culture, and ceremony, exploring the life of the ancestors through an archeology project for a group of Grades 4-6 students, and continuously looking for ways to connect students to their indigenous identity and the land.

Currently working in the kokom program at Burntwood School in Thompson, she is known as nokom (my grandmother) to the students at the school.



## **BREAKOUT SESSION 2A - EMBASSY A/B**

**February 8, 2:45 p.m. to 4 p.m.**

### **Empowering Indigenous Workforce - local workforce for local construction employment**

#### **Description:**

The Manitoba Building Trades Institute has developed a unique introduction to the construction trades program for Manitoba First Nations communities. The program is designed for cohorts of 12-16 participants. Following a candidate assessment period, participants will receive:

- Workforce Ready Training;
- Safety Essentials Training delivered by MBTI;
- Introduction to Construction Trades Training delivered through classroom and practical training;
- Practical construction learning;
- A complete set of Milwaukee Tools carpentry kit and all PPE requirements.

By participating in this program, First Nation's community members will benefit from intensive construction skills training, and the community will grow its skills inventory for future construction projects. This unique program meets several objectives by blending training, practical experience, and support for participants.

#### **Presenters:**

Heather Paterson, Laurie Guimond, Loretta McGinnis, Ron Castel, Joelle McAuley

#### **Heather Paterson**

Heather Paterson; PTP Adult Learning and Employment Programs in Toronto. Heather holds an MSc. in Education and has worked with adults delivering and designing programs for workplace re-entry for over 20 years. She works on the development of instructional, assessment, and training materials, designing Pathways to Work to promote workplace Skills for Success and training on the CAMERA assessment system. She has worked in close partnership with Manitoba Building Trades since 2018 on the Pathway to Work and Women's Employment Readiness Projects.

#### **Laurie Guimond**

Laurie Guimond has been working for Sagkeeng Employment for 21 years and have recently been promoted to the position of Interim Program Manager. In my position I work with institutes to bring training to the community.

#### **Loretta McGinnis**

Loretta McGinnis is currently facilitating the Work Readiness Program with Manitoba Building Trades Institute. She graduated from University College of the North with some joint programming with the University of Winnipeg. She has a diploma in Business Administration, a Master's Certificate in Project Management and a Management



Certificate with a number of professional development workshops and training. She has over twenty plus years of experience working with individuals and groups in northern Manitoba to develop, organize and manage education/training programs that are Learner focused. She has worked in her home community of Opaskwayak Cree Nation, as well as, with Workplace Education Manitoba and the University College of the North with many partnerships with Apprenticeship Manitoba and the formerly named Employment Manitoba. She has also been a Chair with the Manitoba Aboriginal Apprenticeship Provincial Advisory Committee (AAPAC) and a co-Chair with the Manitoba Advanced Education Training and Literacy Aboriginal Advisory Council (AETLAAC).

### **Ron Castel**

I have over 20 years' experience with Community Relations and Human Recourses background. I enjoy my work and empowering the future Indigenous workforce to meet the demands employers look for in the people they hire.

### **Joelle McAuley**

My name is Joelle McAuley, I'm 35 years old. I'm a single mom of 4. I went through a separation a year ago, from my partner of 20yrs. During that time, I was not in a good place. I was sad, depressed, sitting at home feeling sorry for myself. I dropped out of college, I was scrolling through Facebook, I seen the ad for Women in Trades, figured what's the worst that could happen. I messaged Ron because he was the contact on the ad and he messaged me back telling me to come to orientation. I came to orientation the next day. Signed up.

Took the information back and told my sisters. Made them contact him & we travelled together back and forth every day to the program. It was an hour and half drive for us. We even came during the blizzard. I learned so much about myself & about the trades, fell completely in love with it, during the program it lit a flame inside of me, wanting to learn more. During one of our presentations from a construction company called FWS, I handed them my resume thinking, what's the worst that could happen again. While we were building our sheds, I was feeling sad and down and I even went outside to cry and during that moment I got a call from FwS offering me a job straight out of my program. I accepted.

After the program. I went straight to work for them in Saskatchewan for 6 months. Leaving my kids was the hardest thing but it made us much stronger and the appreciated me and the sacrifices I make for them. Once I was laid off, I went to work for the union and BFI construction as a skilled labourer. I stayed with them for 3 months and felt I needed more. I applied at Pennecon and they hired me as their new "Safety supervisor" I start with them Nov 8,2023. Always take that leap, I did, and it opened up so many opportunities. The staff at MBTI were the most loving, kind, caring and supportive people I've ever met. They encouraged me to keep going and with that support I kept going. I love what I do. It fuels me to keep going further and deeper into the trades.

## **BREAKOUT SESSION 2B - EMBASSY C/D**

**February 8, 2:45 p.m. to 4 p.m.**

### **University College of the North- Integrating Indigenous Knowledges in Curriculum**

#### **Description:**

Integrating Indigenous knowledge into curriculum and policy in Higher Education represents an exciting opportunity. This session explores dual pathways for integrating Indigenous knowledge and content in higher education. It will include an overview of a course-based approach and a policy-based approach respectively. UCN's Waskawimakana Mecimwaci Isihtwawina (WMI) is shared as an example of one way that Indigenous knowledge content can be embedded and integrated into curriculum and in a classroom learning environment. An example of a policy-based approach, and mechanisms for implementing and supporting Indigenous knowledge Integration through academic policy, will also be discussed in this session.

#### **Presenters:**

Mr. Perley Nelson Leaske, Dr. Ramona Neckoway

#### **Mr. Perley Nelson Leaske**

Mr. Perley Nelson Leaske (Katitipistakochihk Musko) is from the Sapotaweyak Cree Nation in northern Manitoba. Mr. Leaske is an Instructor at University College of the North (The Pas Campus) and has taught to Waskawimakana Mecimwaci Isihtwawina (WMI) for many years. Mr. Leaske is a member of the Indigenous Initiatives & Reconciliation team at UCN.

#### **Dr. Ramona Neckoway**

Dr. Ramona Neckoway serves as the Associate Vice-President, Indigenous Initiatives & Reconciliation at University College of the North and is based out of the Thompson Campus. Prior to her new role, Ramona served as an Associate Professor and served as the Chair of the Aboriginal and Northern Studies program. She is a member of the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation and has been involved with a number of community-based research projects including language and language revitalization research.





## **BREAKOUT SESSION 2C - EMBASSY E/F**

**February 8, 2:45 p.m. to 4 p.m.**

### **Empowering the next seven generations at home**

#### **Description:**

Assiniboine Community College (ACC) has been providing Community-Based Training or in community educational programming for over 25 years. ACC averages 20 to 35 certificate or diploma programs delivered annually in First Nations across Manitoba or in partnership with Indigenous organizations. ACC recognizes and fully supports First Nation self-determination toward educational sovereignty- their inherent right to define and decide educational goals for their students, families, and community. We achieve this through the nature of our relationships and by working collaboratively with our nation partners to tailor programs to the needs of their communities. From academic readiness and upgrading, to post-secondary preparation, life-skill and essential skill training, we are preparing and empowering the next seven generations- at home. Our presentation will focus on the success of our Community based programs and collaboration with nations and industry.

#### **Presenters:**

Kris Desjarlais, Brad Hack, Lorraine Johnson, Member of Sandy Bay First Nation (TBD)

#### **Kris Desjarlais**

Kris Desjarlais, Nehiyaw and Red River Métis, is the Director of Indigenous Education at ACC. A long serving member of the MCIEB, Kris provides leadership and coordination of Assiniboine's Indigenization strategy. He supervises the cultural supports and services available to students and guides the college community in building stronger relationships with Indigenous partners, nations, and industry. In his free time Kris sings in 2 community choirs under the direction of his wife, Deanna, and is the proud father of 3 gifts from creation.

#### **Brad Hack**

Brad Hack is the Manager of Community Development at Assiniboine. Coming from a background in finance and economic development, he started with Assiniboine in 2018 as a Coordinator in the Continuing Studies department. As Manager of Community Development, his focus is on collaborating with external partners, including First Nation Communities, to establish partnerships facilitating the delivery of college programs to break down barriers and contribute to educational empowerment in these communities. In his personal time, Brad and his wife, an instructor at the Assiniboine School of Business, along with their two children and dog go on many adventures around Manitoba.

#### **Lorraine Johnson**

Lorraine Johnson is the Chair of Contract Training at Assiniboine. She started her career with Assiniboine in 1997 as an instructor, making the move to coordinating contracts about a decade later. In 2009 she became the Chair of Contract Training where she

has supported the development and delivery of projects across the spectrum of ACC's programming. In her personal life, Lorraine and her husband are busy with a mixed farming operation as well as their family of 3 children and 3 grandchildren.

## **BREAKOUT SESSION 2D - CARLTON**

**February 8, 2:45 p.m. to 4 p.m.**

### **Bridge to Opportunities—Canupawakpa Dakota Nation and Fort La Bosse School Division**

#### **Description:**

Providing balance in an undivided world. The community of Canupawakpa is situated 20 mins south of Virden on 83 highway. Between highway 1&2. Rich with history, the proud Dakota community is home to a wealth of knowledge and vibrancy for one's culture and its community members. In the community there is a daycare, Head Start and kindergarten program. Each day at the Wambdi Lyotake School it is started with a smudge in the presence of Elders. The community of Canupawakpa is fortunate to have a sense of kinship. So, what happens after kinder? The kids of Canupawakpa take the school bus to Virden/Reston for grades 1-12.

This presentation embarks on a journey of reconciliation. Creating a space unique to itself. Pushing boundaries and thinking outside the box to provide authentic lessons for not just indigenous students but all students. Our presentation will show you what we've learned through grace and humility. By working together as two communities wanting the same thing; to provide a safe, diverse learning environment for all students. Canupawakpa, alongside Fort La Bosse School Division is creating a partnership. We want to show students that by working together and listening to the keepers of knowledge, we can figure out a way to move forward together so our kids can do what they want without limitations. Because when a kid feels seen, great things happen. This is an example of two communities stepping up and learning how to start over and create our own educational journey.

#### **Presenters:**

Jason Taylor, Keely Woods, Mike Thiessen, Gloria Eastman

#### **Jason Taylor**

Jason Taylor has worked 5 years as a classroom teacher, 1 as a Physical Education Teacher and 4 as a high school classroom teacher. Currently, he is the principal at Wambdi Lyotake School & Director of the Family Nest program. While attending university, Jason has worked several years with/for various foster homes in Brandon Manitoba. He has a strong passion for helping others and understands the importance of having a trauma informed teaching background in order to help those students requiring additional support and service. As principal, Jason's passion for his students will guide them in figuring out and pursuing their own individual educational & personal goals.



**Keely Woods-**

Keely Woods- An educator. Keely spent 10 years in the classroom as a Grade 6 homeroom teacher. She has a zest for learning and encouraging others to find their passion. She is enthusiastic about the importance of self-esteem and a strong sense of self for her students. She wants students to advocate for their learning, develop problem solving and critical thinking skills. She currently works as the Education Director at Canupawakpa Dakota Nation. This has allowed her to put her work to practice, encouraging all students to be proud of who they are and where they come from.

**Mike Thiessen**

Mike Thiessen is a dedicated education professional with an extensive 20-year career spanning various roles in education, including teacher, school administrator, and divisional coordinator. Currently holding the position of Instruction, Curriculum, and Technology Coordinator at the Fort La Bosse School Division, Mike brings a wealth of experience in instructional practices, curriculum development, and educational technology.

His commitment to fostering inclusive education is exemplified by his work in both rural and Indigenous communities. Mike provides invaluable divisional leadership in the Elders and Knowledge Keepers program and also serves as a Catalyst Treaty Education Teacher for the Fort La Bosse School Division, aiming to create an inclusive and culturally responsive learning environment for all students.

**Gloria Eastman**

Gloria Eastman is a respected Elder in the community of Canupawakpa. She is actively involved in the preschool and kindergarten program at Wambdi lyotake School. Before being involved in Education she served several years working with Child and Family services. She is a Day school and Residential school survivor. Gloria continued her education at Virden Collegiate. She is a strong advocate for reconciliation and is a visionary when it comes to creating change for her community. She invests a lot of her time in the youth and understands the importance of quality education.

**BREAKOUT SESSION 2E - CENTENNIAL**

**February 8, 2:45 p.m. to 4 p.m.**

**MAMÀHTAWISIWIN: The Wonder We Are Born With****Description:**

Mamàhtawisiwin: The Wonder We Are Born With – An Indigenous Education Policy Framework outlines guiding principles, strategies, and actions for achieving the intended learning outcomes for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students, and for all students in Manitoba. Mamàhtawisiwin is a provincial policy directive and conceptual framework that supports the holistic achievements of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit learners by assisting Manitoba educators in incorporating Indigenous pedagogy, languages, and cultures into their teaching and practices. The provincial Indigenous education policy framework is



intended to support educators by helping them to deepen their understanding and to progress along a path of Truth and Reconciliation in their schools, adult learning centres, post-secondary institutions, classrooms, and communities.

It aims to empower Manitoba teachers to embed strategies and practices into their educational settings and classroom routines so that they reflect Indigenous languages, cultures, and identities. Ultimately, the core goal is to enhance the educational achievement and well-being of Indigenous students, setting them up for success in school and beyond.

### **Presenters:**

Wanda Spence, Lola Whonnock

### **Wanda Spence**

Wanda Spence is a member of Sagkeeng First Nation in Manitoba. She has been with the Indigenous Inclusion Directorate branch of Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning as Consultant since 2010. Wanda works with post-secondary education, advanced education, and adult literacy within the department.

### **Lola Whonnock**

Lola Whonnock is an educator who has worked in classrooms and educational institutions from kindergarten to adult levels. I develop educational programming. I support Educators in advancing their knowledge and abilities with Indigenous topics. I build up my work team with education and support for diversity and change. I support my neighborhood. I bring joy to my life with music and generosity.



## **BREAKOUT SESSION 3A - EMBASSY A/B**

**February 9, 9 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.**

### **Indigenous CREATE; Mentoring and Training the Next Generation of Environmental Researchers Working in the Indigenous North**

#### **Description:**

A substantial gap exists between the proportion of Indigenous and non-Indigenous students who have graduated from university and college. This gap is even greater in the natural sciences and engineering (NSE) fields. Our program is addressing this inequity through a wide diversity of experiential learning opportunities related to research and employability in the environmental sector (i.e., natural resources, energy, and the environment). We are mentoring skills related to research and employment that focuses on the needs and priorities of Indigenous trainees although many of our initiatives are of value to everyone interested in environmental research.

Our programme operates at the University of Manitoba, Lakehead University, and the University College of the North (UCN) and is composed of four central themes.

- Theme One provides full funding and cultural supports for Indigenous trainees wanting to conduct research in the environmental sector. These trainees also participate in workshops that introduce ideas of two-eyed seeing in ways that simultaneously promote NSE and Indigenous cultures.
- Theme Two provides partial funding support for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous trainees wanting to conduct research with Indigenous communities.
- Theme Three provides in-person education opportunities for all students engaged in environmental NSE and related disciplines interested in learning about Indigenous cultures in Canada, in developing skills in cross cultural understanding, and in learning how to conduct community-based and Indigenous-led research.
- Theme Four provides virtual cultural training and mentorship opportunities for anyone interested in pursuing research-related careers in environmental NSE and other relevant areas.

#### **Presenters:**

Ashley Wolfe, Dr. Stéphane McLachlan, Robert Spence

#### **Ashley Wolfe**

My name is Ashley Wolfe, and my traditional name is White Thunderbird Woman. My maternal line comes from Peguis First Nation, (modern day Selkirk and St. Peter's, Manitoba). I was born and raised in Winnipeg, and I currently reside in a community outside of Beausejour, MB, in the RM of Brokenhead, and I am Wolf Clan. I am also

German, my maternal Grandfather was born in Dittersbach, Germany and came to Canada by ship, through Montreal, before resettling in Winnipeg, Manitoba. I am also a German language speaker. My father's side is all Irish, briefly residing in Saint John, New Brunswick, from Belfast and County Cork, Ireland, before resettling in Winnipeg as well.

I am the acting Co-Ordinator for KisKinHaMaKiWin and have just graduated this year from the University of Manitoba with my Advanced Bachelor of Arts Degree, Majoring in Advanced Indigenous Studies, Minor in History. My focus with the program and my degree is working to decolonize education through Land-based learning, working with Youth and Elders, and bringing awareness of the importance of water through an Indigenous Knowledges perspective. Through the KisKinHaMaKiWin program, I am able to work with Indigenous communities, including many impacted by Hydro Development, showing how accessible water testing within the community is, and to encourage our next generation of land and water protectors through hands on experience.

### **Dr. Stéphane McLachlan**

Dr. Stéphane McLachlan is a Full Professor and coordinator of the Environmental Conservation Lab at the University of Manitoba. He joined the Department of Environment and Geography in 2003 and has been working at the University of Manitoba since 1999. Before that he completed a PhD at York University and did a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Northern British Columbia.

Stéphane's overall goal as an academic is to engage in research that at once makes contributions to the academic literature and benefits the livelihoods and environments of Aboriginal and rural communities and other stakeholders; to be an engaging, progressive, and responsible teacher; and to be of meaningful service to the university and society as a whole.

Currently his research interests include: risk and adaptation, alternative food systems, food justice, environmental justice, environmental health, participatory video, participatory research, conservation and restoration, and traditional knowledge.

### **Robert Spence**

Robert Spence is a community member of the Tataskweyak Cree Nation, located in Split Lake, MB. He is a former elected Council Member, trapper, fisherman, hunting guide, and Traditional Knowledge Keeper. He once provided for his family as a commercial fisherman and fur trapper but had to leave the profession after the fishery became unprofitable due to declining fish stock. He is an advocate for the dwindling sturgeon populations, and devastating effects of Northern Hydro Impacted Communities.





## **BREAKOUT SESSION 3B - EMBASSY C/D**

**February 9, 9 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.**

### **Social Change through earning a Bachelor of Social Work at Inner City campus**

#### **Description:**

Information about the program, including how this program has impacted their lives, will be shared. The presenters have been associated with University of Manitoba Faculty of Social Work Inner City Social Work Program (ICSWP) for many years and are passionate about supporting students. The program has existed for more than 40 years and has graduated nearly 1,000 practicing professionals who work in Manitoba and across Canada. Located in the heart of Winnipeg's inner city, the Inner-City Social Work program is an access program which offers an opportunity to earn a Bachelor of Social Work degree. The program welcomes folks over 21 years of age who have faced barriers and may need academic supports. Preference is given to Indigenous peoples, folks with accessibility needs, 2SLGBTQIA+ folks, and people who identify as immigrant/ refugees.

**Presenters:** Dr. Eveline Milliken, Dr. Yvonne Pompana, Debra DiUbaldo, Faron Whitequill, Shauna Natrasony

#### **Dr. Eveline Milliken**

Born and raised in Treaty 3 territory, Eveline has worked as a social worker in several provinces and territories. Eveline is an Associate Professor at UManitoba Faculty of Social Work, where she currently sits in the Director of the Inner-City Social Work program role. Eveline's research is in transforming child welfare, cultural safety and cultural humility in education and practice. She has been a passionate supporter of students for many years.

#### **Dr. Yvonne Pompana**

Dr. Yvonne Pompana is member of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation. Yvonne is a former Director of the Inner-City social work program, a longtime Associate Professor, and a current Senior Scholar. Yvonne is a tireless supporter of students and a longtime advocate for change within educational systems. Yvonne was one of the creators of the Master of Social Work in Indigenous Knowledges.

#### **Debra DiUbaldo**

Debra DiUbaldo works at Mt Carmel Clinic as an Elder/Auntie. For many years Debra was the Indigenous Student Advisor/counsellor/and Selection Co-ordinator for Inner City Social Work program. Debra is also connected to Clan Mothers Healing Village.

#### **Faron Whitequill**

A member of Peguis Cree Nation, Faron Whitequill works at West Region CFS as an Urban Services Supervisor.

#### **Shauna Natrasony**

Shauna Natrasony has status with Cumberland House Cree Nation. Shauna works at West Region CFS as an Urban Services Worker.

## **BREAKOUT SESSION 3C - EMBASSY E/F**

**February 9, 9 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.**

### **The Teaching Indigenous Languages for Vitality Certificate: Building Capacity for the Present and Future**

#### **Description:**

The University of Winnipeg, along with Community Partners Indigenous Languages of Manitoba and Prairies to Woodlands ILR Inc., came together in the summer of 2022 to create a pilot to improve the pedagogical skills of both fluent speakers and second-language learners of Indigenous languages. The project initially focused on community-based delivery of capacity-building courses that could be used for PLAR at the U of W but took a turn toward institutional delivery focusing on the needs of Frontier School Division. The 30-credit certificate program launched in September 2023 with the hopes that it would become accredited by the Ministry of Education to allow non-BEd holders to obtain permanent limited teaching licenses as Indigenous language educators and also to allow BEd-holders to obtain post-bachelor certificates. The two program architects and administrative lead (all now U of W faculty), two TILV students (one a mother-tongue speaker and the other an ancestral language learner), the assistant superintendent for Indigenous Way of Life in the Frontier School Division and representatives of two community partners will share their perspectives on their TILV journeys thus far and their hopes for the future.

#### **Presenters:**

Dr. Anke Al-Bataineh, Melanie Kennedy, Carmen Leeming, Heather Souter, Dr. Shelley Tulloch, Nicole Murdoch, Frontier School Division Representative TBA, Mother Tongue Speaker and TILV Student TBA

#### **Dr. Anke Al-Bataineh**

Dr. Anke Al-Bataineh is one of the developers of and the main Instructor in the Teaching Indigenous Languages for Vitality Program at the University of Winnipeg. She has been working in the area of language pedagogy and researching language teaching methods, specifically in play-based, land-based, and oral methods for creating new, proficient speakers of a language in a very short time. Her varied hands-on experience spans nearly 20 years, and this has been the basis of her collaboration with speakers of endangered and Indigenous languages--particularly of the Dakota language--in creating multiple immersion programs and teacher training programs in several countries. She holds a PhD in Endangered Language Pedagogy from the Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales (INALCO), Paris and an MA in Language Documentation from SOAS, University of London.

#### **Melanie Kennedy**

Melanie Kennedy is a Métis woman from Manitoba with roots in St. Ambroise. She is currently the Executive Director of Indigenous Languages of Manitoba; an organization who's solely dedicated to the revitalization, retention, promotion and protection of all Indigenous languages in Manitoba. Melanie holds a certificate in Business Analysis



with a background in project management and continues to pursue her own learning in linguistics at The University of Manitoba and a learner of the Michif and French languages. Melanie is devoted to the non-profit sector, for her experience in the last several years renews her faith in the dedication and kindness of its people and brings her satisfaction in the accomplishments made by the community as a whole. As a member of the Manitoba Aboriginal Languages Strategy committee, Melanie works collectively with many organizations dedicated to revitalizing, retaining and promoting Indigenous languages and education by working together. Melanie believes strongly that our day-to-day work contributes to a very significant goal for all Indigenous peoples, reclaiming our languages and identity one speaker at a time.

### **Carmen Leeming**

Carmen Leeming is a Michif (Métis) with family roots from Portage la Prairie, St. Francis Xavier, Whitewood, and Moose Jaw. Her family names are Sinclair, Swain, and Gibeau. She has a Master of Applied Science in Management of Technology from the University of Waterloo and a Bachelor of Engineering in Computer Engineering from the University of Victoria. Carmen volunteers her time to create language resources to support Southern Michif learners. She is pursuing a Teaching Indigenous Languages for Vitality certificate from the University of Winnipeg to create effective resources for future instructors of Southern Michif using evidence-based methods.

### **Dr. Shelley Tulloch**

Dr. Shelley Tulloch is a Professor and Chair of Anthropology at the University of Winnipeg. She has conducted community-partnered research with Inuit communities for twenty years, focusing on language revitalization, youth, leadership, and bilingual education. She holds a PhD in Linguistics from Université Laval. She is a co-coordinator of the TILV Program.

### **Heather Souter**

Heather Souter is a Michif (Métis) living in Camperville, Manitoba. She is a long-time Michif language activist and language revitalization practitioner with over 20 years of experience. She taught the Michif language at the University of Manitoba for five years before moving to the University of Winnipeg, where she is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology, teaching language revitalization, linguistics, and Southern Michif and a co-coordinator of and an instructor in the TILV program. She is an ancestral language learner--having been a Michif language apprentice to Elder Grace Zoldy of Camperville, MB--and an instructor of Michif with a professional background in language teaching and simultaneous interpretation and translation (Japanese-English). She holds a BA in Japanese language, Master of Education in Indigenous Language Revitalization from the University of Victoria and has training in both Michif linguistics and linguistic anthropology at the graduate level.

### **Nicole Murdoch**

Nicole Murdoch is a mature student at the University of Winnipeg, and a former TA in the TILV program.



## **BREAKOUT SESSION 3D - CARLTON**

**February 9, 9 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.**

### **Engaging and Retaining Students – A Story of Teaching and Learning in New Ways**

#### **Description:**

Are you looking for new ways to engage and retain students within your program? If so, please join us to hear a story that began last January when our small team of instructors embarked on a new learning journey with students living in First Nations communities across Manitoba.

By embracing “out of the box” ideas, actively collaborating with others, and implementing positive program strategies, a close-knit community of post-secondary online learners was built.

When these learners graduate next December with their Early Childhood Education diploma, they will apply their knowledge of play-based curriculums, guidance techniques, and child development in their Aboriginal Head Start programs to support the children and families in their communities. As a result, the story that began in January will continue, grow, and evolve as new stories are created.

#### **Presenters:**

Tanya Redford, Ben Banman, Nettie Proulx, Audrey Ballantyne, Sharon Hart, Lyndon Bird

#### **Tanya Redford**

Tanya Redford has been an instructor in the Early Childhood Education program at Red River College Polytechnic for over nine years. Tanya views education as a collaborative experience between students and instructors. She is dedicated to creating positive learning environments that welcome and encourage all students to share their perspectives and lived experiences.

#### **Ben Banman**

Ben Banman (he/him) is an Instructor in Early Childhood Education at Red River College Polytechnic. He is passionate about sharing his interest in child development and creating learning environments that appeal to diverse learners.

#### **Nettie Proulx**

Nettie Proulx (she/her) is an Instructor at Red River College Polytechnic in the Early Childhood Education program. She believes everyone has a right to education and strives to create a learning environment that is inclusive to everyone. Building community within the learning environment is one of her top goals.

#### **Audrey Ballantyne**

My name is Audrey Ballantyne, I live in Brokenhead Ojibway Nation. I have five children, I am married, I have 16 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. I have worked at the



Daycare, Headstart/Nursery for 23 years. I teach the children and my co-workers the Ojibway language at both programs. I am currently doing my ECEII and getting training from Red River College Polytech. In December 2024 I will complete my ECEII. I love what I do and teach.

## **Sharon Hart**

My name is Sharon Hart from Fisher River Cree Nation. I have been married for 32 years with 4 children and 6 grandchildren who mean the world to me, I have worked at Wee Care Daycare for over 9 years. I teach the children the Cree language and culture. I have been taking the workplace program with RRC Polytech for over a year now. I love that I can work and go to class right here in my community. I'm looking forward to finishing ECE II . I never thought I would be in college at the age of 50. I like how the instructors come together and make it a fun way of learning .

## **Lyndon Bird**

My name is Lyndon Bird, and I am a 33-year Ojibwe set in Black River working at the Head Start building. I was a teacher assistant for the longest time up until a couple of years ago. I am now the teacher of the classroom, in which my eldest (3) daughter is now attending. I love reading and pretty good at drawing. I used to climb a lot when I was a young spring chicken, not as much anymore and if I was going to go anywhere, I would be running not walking. That helps when I need to keep up with the energies of the classroom.

## **BREAKOUT SESSION 3E - CENTENNIAL**

**February 9, 9 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.**

### **Two Spirit Identity**

#### **Description:**

Join 2 Spirit Kookum, Barbara Bruce and 2 Spirit Manitoba Inc Staff Members, John Peters, Sunday Queskekapow and Carol Owens as we explore 2 Spirit Identity and Stories.

#### **Presenters**

Barbara Bruce, John Peters, Sunday Queskekapow, Carol Owens

#### **Barbara Bruce**

Barbara Bruce (Flies High Thunderbird and Truth Talker) is a citizen of the Red River Métis Nation. Her beliefs of Métis and other Indigenous traditional teachings are reflected in her 40+ years of experience. Her dedication to advancing the rightful place of the Two Spirit community, Indigenous women and children are an integral part of her life. She has an extensive network and working relationships with the Métis Nation and other Indigenous and non-Indigenous leaders, and organizations. Her portfolio includes board appointments with the National Aboriginal Economic Development Board, the Manitoba Communities Economic Development Fund, the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business, Top 40 Under 40, the University of Winnipeg Board of Regents and the Métis Child and Family Services Authority.

Barbara has received extensive recognition and honour for her work in cultural social justice and for her contribution to the wellbeing of Indigenous Peoples from many communities and organizations. Some of those are, the Human Rights Commission of Manitoba, Sagkeeng First Nation, Keeping the Fires Burning with Ka Ni Kanichik as a Kookum, the Order of Manitoba, the Nellie McClung Foundation 150 Manitoba Women Trailblazers Award, and the Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Medal for Manitoba.

**Sunday Qeskekapow - They/Them**

Sunday is 2 Spirit Manitoba Inc's Community and Youth Engagement Navigator, Sunday used They/ Them pronouns and is a 2 Spirit Swampy Cree Person. Originally from Opaskwayak Cree Nation/ The Pas and with roots in Kinasao Sipi (Norway House Cree Nation). Sunday is a passionate advocate for 2SLGBTQIA, harm reduction and community!

**John Peters - He/ Him**

John is a 2 Spirit person from Fox Lake Cree Nation and is passionate about Harm Reduction, Peer Support, Community and Volleyball.

**Carol Owens**

My name is Carol, and I walk with the Anishinaabe names Golden Thunderbird Child and One Who Flies With the Birds. I'm from the Wolf clan and I'm a two-spirit person from the Brokenhead Ojibway Nation in Treaty One territory. Presently, I am the Parks and Land Coordinator for 2 Spirit Manitoba. I'm also a parent to a two-spirit/non-binary child, as well as a private practice Doula/Birth Helper.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### MCIEB Elders Council

- **Barbara Bruce**
- **Ron Cook**
- **Ivy Chaske**
- **Paul Guimond**
- **Myra Laramée**
- **Susan McPherson-Derendy**
- **Martha Peet**

### Helpers

- **Elders Helpers** (Yellowquill University College students)
- **Breakout Session Moderators**
- **Breakout Session Notetakers**
- **Jeri Ducharme- Smudge**

### MCIEB Indigenous Education Gathering Planning Committee

- **Christina Courcelles** | Manitoba Collaborative Indigenous Education Blueprint
- **Sarah Deckert** | Manitoba Collaborative Indigenous Education Blueprint
- **Sarah Gazan** | Manitoba Teachers' Society
- **Rhonda Klippenstein** | Manitoba Institute of Trades and Technology
- **Kayla Larivière** | University of Manitoba
- **Nicole LeClair** | Manitoba Collaborative Indigenous Education Blueprint
- **Debra Radi** | Université de Saint-Boniface
- **Edith Sweetwater** | Indigenous Engagement and Reconciliation Unit, Manitoba Advanced Education and Training
- **Kelli Wiebe** | Manitoba Teachers' Society

### MCIEB Steering Committee

- **Kris Desjarlais** | Director, Indigenous Education, Assiniboine Community College
- **Julia Stoneman-Sinclair** | Director, Indigenous Peoples' Centre, Brandon University
- **Chris Lagimodiere** | Associate Vice-President, Indigenous Initiatives, Brandon University
- **Jonathan Dueck** | Vice-President Academic and Academic Dean, Canadian Mennonite University
- **Rhonda Klippenstein** | Manager, Indigenous Initiatives & Community Development, Manitoba Institute of Trades and Technology
- **Josh Watt** | Executive Director, Manitoba School Boards Association
- **Carla Kematch** | Director, Truth & Reconciliation and Community Engagement, Red River College Polytechnic
- **Jill Latschislaw** | MCIEB Steering Committee Co-Chair, Director, Business Development Corporate Solutions | Indigenous Strategy, Research and Business Development, Red River College Polytechnic
- **Debra Radi** | MCIEB Steering Committee Co-Chair, Secrétaire générale et Conseillère principale en matière de réconciliation et éducation autochtone, Université de Saint-Boniface
- **Ramona Neckoway** | Associate Vice-President Indigenous Initiatives and Reconciliation, University College of the North
- **Angie Bruce** | Vice-President Indigenous, University of Manitoba

- **Kayla Lariviere** | Engagement Lead, Indigenous Engagement and Communications, University of Manitoba
- **Chantal Fiola** | Interim Associate Vice-President – Indigenous Engagement, University of Winnipeg
- **Colin Russell** | Registrar, University of Winnipeg
- **Sarah Delaronde** | Project Manager, Indigenous Engagement, University of Winnipeg
- **Charles Cochrane** | Executive Director, Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre
- **Davin Dumas** | Director of Languages and Cultures, Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre
- **Helen Robinson-Settee** | Director, Indigenous Inclusion Directorate, Education and Early Childhood Learning
- **Wanda Spence** | Consultant, Indigenous Inclusion Directorate, Education and Early Childhood Learning
- **Daphne Titterton** | Director, Indigenous Engagement and Reconciliation Unit, Advanced Education and Training
- **Edith Sweetwater** | Senior Policy Analyst, Indigenous Engagement and Reconciliation Unit, Advanced Education and Training
- **Lin Howes-Barr** | Program Manager, Department of Provincial Education, Manitoba Métis Federation
- **Jesse Gair** | Director, Department of Provincial Education, Manitoba Métis Federation
- **Shirley Myran** | Manager of Program Development, Yellowquill University College
- **Manitoba Federation of Independent Schools**
- **Sarah Gazan** | Staff Officer, Manitoba Teachers' Society
- **Kelli Wiebe** | Staff Officer, Manitoba Teachers' Society

## **MCIEB Management Team**

- **Denise Tardiff** | Manager
- **Sarah Deckert** | Research and Special Projects Coordinator
- **Nicole LeClair** | Communications Coordinator
- **Christina Courcelles** | Administrative Assistant

## **Event Management**

- **Kelly Forgala Events Management**
- **AVentPro**
- **Victoria Inn Hotel & Convention Centre**

