

Courage AND Resilience: A Pathway Forward

Zoongide'enh,
Achi Zagoochtooyin
Azhi Bimoseyin

ᑭᑭᑭᑭ ᑭᑭ ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ
ᑭᑭ ᑭᑭᑭᑭ



Matawa
EDUCATION

ANNUAL
Education
Conference 2024



Staff Recognition

We are so pleased to recognize the following staff members of the Matawa Community Schools. Your dedication and hard work do not go unnoticed, and you make a difference in the lives of students and families!

We will be recognizing staff in the following recognition areas: 5-9 Years of Service, 10-14 years of Service and 15+ years of Service.

Matawa Education has a small token of appreciation for you, which will be received as a special breakfast or lunch for school staff being acknowledged in the Fireside Room during the conference. Please come by to enjoy a meal and celebrate your accomplishments! We also hope to get a picture of each group.

A schedule of recognition events:

Tues March 5 2024

Breakfast 8:00^{AM} - 8:45^{AM}
for Henry Coaster Memorial School

Lunch 12:00^{PM} - 12:45^{PM}
for John C. Yesno Education Centre

Wed March 6 2024

Breakfast 8:00^{AM} - 8:45^{AM}
for Nibinamik Education Centre

Lunch 12:00^{PM} - 12:45^{PM}
for Simon Jacob Memorial Education Centre

Thurs March 7 2024

Breakfast 8:00^{AM} - 8:45^{AM}
for Neskantaga Education Centre

Lunch 12:00^{PM} - 12:45^{PM}
for Johnny Therriault School

Staff Being Acknowledged

Henry Coaster Memorial School

STAFF WITH 5-9 YEARS OF SERVICE (STARTED IN 2019)

- Veronica Coaster

STAFF WITH 15+ YEARS OF SERVICE (STARTED IN 2009 OR EARLIER)

- Andy Coaster
- Joe Moonias
- Janet Coaster
- Annie Jacob
- Annie Wenjack

John C Yesno Education Centre

STAFF WITH 5-9 YEARS OF SERVICE (STARTED IN 2019)

- Michele Hakimian
- Dinah Meeseetawageesic
- Andrew Misewace
- Hannabel Moonias
- Destiny Okeese
- Jaya Sharma
- Erik Streufert
- Bob Rabbit
- Alvin Yellowhead
- Sophia Yellowhead
- Brendan Nate-Chickekoo
- Karen Slipperjack
- Nina Slipperjack

STAFF WITH 10-14 YEARS OF SERVICE (STARTED IN 2014)

- Nanajean Atlookan
- Elaine Boyce
- Eileen Wabano
- Ivan Waboose
- Donna Meeseetawageesic
- Jocelyn Shawinimash

STAFF WITH 15+ YEARS OF SERVICE (STARTED IN 2009 OR EARLIER)

- Mary Okeese
- Romeo Okeese
- Victoria Ooshag
- Lydia Shawinimash
- Zelda Shawinimash
- Bella Shawinimash
- Amelia Geesic
- Caroline Yesno

Nibinamik Education Centre

STAFF WITH 5-9 YEARS OF SERVICE (STARTED IN 2019)

- Dave Mossman
- Victoria Neshinapaise
- Fanny Beaver
- Megan Wabasse

STAFF WITH 10-14 YEARS OF SERVICE (STARTED IN 2014)

- Kevin Booth
- Julie Gailbrath
- Bertha Oskineegish
- Peggy Wabasse
- Elizabeth Neshinapaise
- Gregg Neshinapaise
- Stephen Gliddy

STAFF WITH 15+ YEARS OF SERVICE (STARTED IN 2009 OR EARLIER)

- Martha Wabasse
- Mary Oskineegish
- Melinda Wabasse
- Sidney Oskineegish
- Robina Neshinapaise
- Shirley Oskineegish

Simon Jacob Memorial Education Centre

STAFF WITH 5-9 YEARS OF SERVICE (STARTED IN 2019)

- Emily Jacob
- Randy Sofea
- Gloria Wendy Brown
- Jeongmin Yu
- Tamara Suganaqueb
- Shania Shewaybick
- Sandra Spence
- Melissa Wabasse
- Laurie Troutlake
- Julia Troutlake
- Catherine Jacob
- Jessie Mekanak
- Evan Troutlake
- Jared Jacob
- Audrey Jacob
- Jessica Wabasse
- Virginia Sofea

STAFF WITH 10-14 YEARS OF SERVICE (STARTED IN 2014)

- Marilyn Braunberger
- Sherine Bryan
- Kenneth Wabasse

STAFF WITH 15+ YEARS OF SERVICE (STARTED IN 2009 OR EARLIER)

- Mary Gardiner
- Carol Spence
- Angela Jacob
- Cecilia Jacob
- Victoria Suganaqueb
- Derek Jacob
- Douglas Shewaybick
- Ennis Jacob
- Paul Quisses
- Morris Shewaybick
- Morris Troutlake

Neskantaga Education Centre

STAFF WITH 5-9 YEARS OF SERVICE (STARTED IN 2019)

- Hilda Moonias
- Liz Moonias

STAFF WITH 10-14 YEARS OF SERVICE (STARTED IN 2014)

- Emmanuel Ogor

STAFF WITH 15+ YEARS OF SERVICE (STARTED IN 2009 OR EARLIER)

- Joseph Yellowhead
- Tony Sakanee

Johnny Therriault School

STAFF WITH 5-9 YEARS OF SERVICE (STARTED IN 2019)

- Aleysha Williams
- Nicole Bouchard
- Destiny Gagnon
- Cynthia Masakeyash
- Angel Kashkesh
- Don Mcleod
- Darren Matasawagon
- Val Mendowegan
- Angela Towedo

STAFF WITH 10-14 YEARS OF SERVICE (STARTED IN 2014)

- Pendora Jacob
- Myrna Megan
- Rolland Towedo
- Maurice Atlookan
- Bella Gagnon

STAFF WITH 15+ YEARS OF SERVICE (STARTED IN 2009 OR EARLIER)

- Nora Atlookan
- Sharon Bouchard
- Pauline Gagnon
- Linda Kashkesh
- Marilyn Kashkesh
- Melissa Megan
- Bella Gagnon
- Maurice Atlookan

Photo Contest Winner

Hope Bunting

My name is Hope Bunting. I am a 23-year-old Anishinabe Kwe from Constance Lake First Nation but currently reside in Sudbury, Ontario. I am a 2022 Child and Youth Care graduate. As of now, I am an Indigenous Support Worker for the Rainbow District School Board. I learned the value of supporting Indigenous children and youth through my Teaching Assistant roles within my community. I want to continue supporting our children and youth to ensure they are heard, seen, and supported to reach their full potential. Photography has piqued my interest since I was 13 years old. Throughout the years, I gained interest in taking photos of nature, sunsets, cityscapes, and my friends and family with the wish to capture and keep the beauty and memories of it all.



TABLE OF *Contents*

2	STAFF RECOGNITION
8	WELCOME
9	THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS
10	AGENDA
16	PRESENTERS
36	OUR SESSIONS
48	MATAWA STAFF
56	VENUE MAP
57	EXHIBITORS

WELCOME

TO THE 2024 15TH ANNUAL MATAWA EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Matawa Education respectfully acknowledges that the lands on which we live, work and visit are the traditional lands of the Anishinabe Nation and the Traditional Territory of (Anemki Wajiw) Fort William First Nation, signatory to the Robinson-Superior Treaty of 1850.

THIS YEAR'S THEME IS:

Courage and Resilience: A Pathway Forward
Zoongide'enh Achi Zagoochooyin Azhi Bimoseyin
ᓵᓵᓵᓵᓵ ᓵᓵ ᓵᓵᓵᓵᓵᓵ ᓵᓵ ᓵᓵᓵᓵᓵᓵ

We Would Like to

Hear From You!
matawa.live/PostEventSurvey



THANK YOU

TO OUR

SPONSORS

We are proud to announce Mallon's Promotional Clothing and Products as the conference Regional Sponsor, Oshki-Wenjack as the Community Sponsor, and Ojibway and Cree Cultural Centre as the Classroom Sponsor.

REGIONAL SPONSOR



PROMOTIONAL
CLOTHING &
PRODUCTS

PROUDLY OWNED & PRODUCED IN NW ONTARIO
THUNDER BAY & DRYDEN SINCE 1981

COMMUNITY SPONSOR



OSHKI-WENJACK

OSHKI-PIMACHE-O-WIN
THE WENJACK EDUCATION INSTITUTE

CLASSROOM SPONSOR



Agenda

DAY 1 Tuesday March 5

8:00AM **Breakfast** BALLROOM

HCMS Staff Appreciation Breakfast FIRESIDE ROOM

9:00AM **Opening Ceremonies** BALLROOM

Opening Elder Blessing & Message BALLROOM

Opening Drum BALLROOM

Welcoming Remarks BALLROOM
AnnaMarie Magiskan & Sharon Nate

10:15AM **Nutrition Break**

10:30AM **Building Community of Practice: Sharing and Learning with Intermediate/Senior Educators and TAs** SCANDIA 2/3 Courtney Strutt

Building Community of Practice: Sharing and Learning with Junior Educators and TAs VIKING
Katie Hughdie

Building Community of Practice: Sharing and Learning with Primary Educators and TAs ODIN
Rita Mannella

Building Community of Practice: Sharing and Learning with Language and Cultural Staff ICELANDIC
Doug Gagnon

Building Community of Practice: Sharing and Learning with Secretaries EXECUTIVE BOARDROOM
Shelby Ch'ng and Nathaniel Salguero

The Power of Story: Understanding Ourselves and Empowering our Spirit for Mental Health Staff BOARDROOM 1
Emily Post and Mary Ann Nawagesic * Starts at 9am

Building Community of Practice: Sharing and Learning with Principals, Executive Directors and Education Directors BOARDROOM 2
Marlee Poulin

Building Community of Practice: Sharing and Learning with O&M Workers BOARDROOM 3
Carly Perras

Building Community of Practice: Sharing and Learning with Kitchen Staff ARTISAN ROOM
Olivia Merko, Kirstin Berrington, and Alicia Diaz-Pappas

12:00PM **Lunch** BALLROOM

JCY Staff Appreciation Lunch FIRESIDE ROOM

1:00PM **Adolescent Mental Health Literacy: Understanding the Real Remedy** SCANDIA 2/3
Dr. Md Abdus Salam and Tasfia Anjum Salam

Supporting Students with ASD VIKING
Katrena Brindley and Karen Noga

Pathways into Lakehead University ODIN
Lisa Primavesi

NAN Legal Presentation ICELANDIC
Cheryl Suggashie and Ashley Richards

Special Education Programming at MECC EXECUTIVE BOARDROOM
Cheryl Ugray

Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care BOARDROOM 1
Kristy Hankila

"Our Flower": A Group Activity BOARDROOM 2
Christina van Barneveld

Training and Troubleshooting of Fire Alarms, Emergency Lighting, Extinguishers and Smoke Alarms BOARDROOM 3
Jacob Treichler

Making a Miniature Drum ARTISAN ROOM
John Ferris

2:30PM **Nutrition Break**

2:45PM **Entertainment** BALLROOM
Sean Morriseau "Native Pool Boy" and Draws

DAY 2 Wednesday March 6

8:00AM **Breakfast** BALLROOM

Nibinamik EC Staff Appreciation Breakfast FIRESIDE ROOM

9:00AM **Opening Ceremonies** BALLROOM

MC Overview BALLROOM

Opening Elder Blessing & Message BALLROOM

Keynote Address BALLROOM
Adrianna Douglas-Bear

10:15AM **Nutrition Break**

10:30AM **Aligning Assessments with Indigenous Pedagogies** SCANDIA 2/3
Eliana Elkhoury

Creativity as an all Ages Wellness Exercise VIKING
Angela Jason

Jump Math ODIN
Liz Barrett

An Introduction to Stop Now and Plan (SNAP) ICELANDIC
Tina Dal Bianco

Learning Enhanced Outcomes Features EXECUTIVE BOARDROOM
Kim Meisner

Connecting Classrooms and Cultures: The Connected North Experience BOARDROOM 1
Katie Burch and Sara Hando

The Matawa 'Train the Trainer' Fish Net Making Workshop BOARDROOM 2
John Walmark and Kris Fedick

Perimeter Institute Breakout Activity BOARDROOM 3
Dave Fish

Making Every Child Matters Tikinagans ARTISAN ROOM
John Ferris

12:00PM **Lunch** BALLROOM

SJMEC Staff Appreciation Lunch FIRESIDE ROOM

Education Counsellor Lunch EXECUTIVE BOARDROOM

1:00PM **Literacy: Bridging the Student Success Gap Between Grade 7-9 for the Fundamental Writing within the Ontario Curriculum** SCANDIA 2/3
Rita Mannella

High Impact Teaching Strategies VIKING
Wayne Mercer and Rapid Response School Support Team

Micro:replacement ODIN
Dave Bates

SNAP in the Classroom – an Introduction for Teachers ICELANDIC
Eli McBean

Learning Outcomes Through the Year (Secretaries) EXECUTIVE BOARDROOM
Kim Meisner

Connecting Classrooms and Cultures: The Connected North Experience BOARDROOM 1
Katie Burch and Sara Hando

The Matawa 'Train the Trainer' Fish Net Making Workshop BOARDROOM 2
John Walmark and Kris Fedick

Disconnecting from Devices: Guiding Our Students in the Digital Age BOARDROOM 3
Dr. Sonia Mastrangelo

Making Every Child Matters Tikinagans ARTISAN ROOM
John Ferris

2:30PM **Nutrition Break**

2:45PM **Entertainment** BALLROOM
MacKinley the Magician and Draws

DAY 3 Thursday March 7

8:00AM **Breakfast** BALLROOM

Neskantaga EC Staff Appreciation Breakfast FIRESIDE ROOM

9:00AM **Opening Ceremonies** BALLROOM

MC Overview BALLROOM

Opening Elder Blessing & Message BALLROOM

Keynote Address BALLROOM
Ellen Gabriel

10:15AM **Nutrition Break**

10:30AM **Putting Knowledge into Practice: Community Through Kinship and Allyship** SCANDIA 2/3
Dr. Keri Cheechoo

Building Resiliency and Strength in Students' Love for Anishinaabemowin VIKING
Corine Bannon, Charlotte Neckoway and Yvonne DeBruyne with Special Guests Amilia, Forever and Alayna

Empowering Education: Exploring Free Teacher Resources for Indigenous Engagement ODIN
Katie Burch and Sara Hando

Incorporating Music into the Classroom for the Amateur/ Non-Musician ICELANDIC
Ryan Carr and Felipe Pereira

Matawa Education and Care Centre Transitional Support Program: Highlighting Student Success and Supports MECC BOARDROOM 1
Keshia Teddy and Joseph Willis

A Journey in Rainbow Moccasins BOARDROOM 2
Theodore Syrette (Ozhawa Anung Kwe)

Transforming Spaces with Children Using Art and Nature Based Approaches BOARDROOM 3
Paula Gallo and Annie Vandenberg

Making a Pouch Bag ARTISAN ROOM
John Ferris

12:00PM **Lunch** BALLROOM

JTS Staff Appreciation Lunch FIRESIDE ROOM

1:00PM **Putting Knowledge into Practice: Community Through Kinship and Allyship** SCANDIA 2/3
Dr. Keri Cheechoo

Building Resiliency and Strength in Students' Love for Anishinaabemowin VIKING
Corine Bannon, Charlotte Neckoway and Yvonne DeBruyne with Special Guests Amilia, Forever and Alayna

Empowering Education: Exploring Free Teacher Resources for Indigenous Engagement ODIN
Katie Burch and Sara Hando

Incorporating Music into the Classroom for the Amateur/ Non-Musician ICELANDIC
Ryan Carr and Felipe Pereira

Coding in Mathematics at the Secondary Level EXECUTIVE BOARDROOM
David Peddle

Cleaning Best Practices for Operations and Maintenance Workers BOARDROOM 1
Keri Carson and Anita Weller

A Journey in Rainbow Moccasins BOARDROOM 2
Theodore Syrette (Ozhawa Anung Kwe)

Sparking Creativity: Funding the Arts in your Communities and Schools BOARDROOM 3
Alana Forslund

Making a Pouch Bag ARTISAN ROOM
John Ferris

2:30PM **Nutrition Break**

2:45PM **Entertainment** BALLROOM
Jigging Contest, Draws and Survey

3:30PM **Closing Ceremonies** BALLROOM
David Paul Achneepineskum and MFNEA Representative

Closing Remarks BALLROOM
Sharon Nate, Executive Director Matawa Education

Closing Elder Blessing & Message BALLROOM

Closing Drum BALLROOM

Presenters



Adrianna Douglas-Bear

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Hello, my name is Adrianna but most know me as AJ. I come from Six Nations Ontario Canada but I also reside in Big River First Nation, Saskatchewan with my husband. I am from the mohawk nation and my clan is Turtle. I am a Jingle dress dancer & business owner that advocates for the youth in multiple areas but mainly in bullying and infertility awareness. I have many areas of study, but my most recent was health sciences at Mohawk College in Hamilton Ontario. I currently work as a support worker for disability children of all case levels. The message I share is to never be afraid of being different, and I express that through my dancing. I hope to help those become more comfortable in their own skin.



Alana Forslund

Northern Arts Representative, Ontario Arts Council

Alana Forslund brings 10+ years of experience in the non-profit arts and culture sector to her work at the Ontario Arts Council (OAC) as their Northern Arts Representative, rooted in Thunder Bay. In her role at the OAC, Alana supports artists and communities across northern Ontario. She has a background in visual arts, community-engaged arts, and arts education. In her work at OAC and beyond, Alana is passionate about using the arts to share stories and nurture more inclusive communities.



Alicia Diaz-Pappas

Programs Coordinator, Breakfast Club of Canada

Alicia Diaz-Pappas is the Programs Coordinator supporting schools in Manitoba, Nunavut, and Saskatchewan. She applies knowledge from her degree in agriculture and food security, and from her certificate in Indigenous Knowledges and Culture to her everyday work at the Breakfast Club of Canada. Grounded in the non-profit sector, she has worked in food security, food justice, and school food, and brings these learnings to the schools she works with. Beyond her professional role, she finds joy in gardening and cooking, seamlessly connecting personal interests with her work.



Angela Jason

Arts Educator, Sheshegwaning First Nation

Angela Jason is an Anishinaabe artist from Sheshegwaning First Nation currently residing in Thunder Bay. She is a self-taught artist working in various mediums but mainly focuses on acrylic painting, stained glass, and digital art. Her professional background as an Ontario College of Teachers certified educator involved outdoor education, science, business, and geography. While being an artistic, non-arts educated teacher she often explored integrating art into her lessons regardless the subject. As an independent arts educator, Angela strives to help others discover their creativity and practice creativity as a wellness exercise. Her philosophy is everyone, at any age, can create.



Anita Weiler

Sales Representative, Lowery's Basics

I am born and raised in Thunder Bay and have worked in sales and marketing in numerous different sectors. I have spent many years in the hospitality industry as a Marketing and Sales Manager. I have been with Lowerys since 2001, beginning my career with Lowerys selling for the Print Shop. After many years of experience in the Print industry I shortly after joined the office supplies division of Lowerys where I have spent most of my time providing solutions for offices supplies, janitorial supplies and furniture. I love my role at Lowerys and am very passionate about providing the best possible products and service for each of my client's needs. Myself and everyone at Lowerys believes in building strong relationships in our community. This is most important to me. My spare time I love to spend time with my family and friends especially in the outdoors of every season.



Annie Vandenberg

Co-Founder Recreate Place, Recreate Place

Annie Vandenberg, B.Ed has over 15 years' experience developing and creating immersive and experiential programs that respond to community needs and wants. She has built inclusive spaces managing Evergreen's Public Art Program, Children's Educational programs, and Ravine programs. She played a lead role transforming Evergreen Brick Works into a climate-resilient public space.



Ashley Richards

Legal Assistant, Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation

Providing legal, paralegal, public legal education, and law reform services for members of Nishnawbe Aski Nation. Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation was created to address the shortcomings in the administration of justice within Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN); and to improve access to justice for members of NAN.



Barbara Wapoose

Elder, Neskantaga First Nation

Barbara Wapoose, born in Ashawawagang, known as Landsdowne House, originates from Neskantaga First Nation. Throughout her childhood, she immersed herself in the land's teaching alongside her parents, who taught her land-based survival skills. Fond memories include dog sled rides and her father's treks between the trapline and community for trading necessities and furs. As an infant, she recalls being in a tikinagan by the beach, feeling the security of her parents' presence and the natural work around her.



Carly Perras

Student Support Worker, Matawa Education

Carly Perras has been the Student Support Worker with the Matawa Post-Secondary Program for over 5 years. She is originally from Nipigon, ON and is a member of Flying Post First Nation. Carly holds a Bachelor of Education, an Honours Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Psychology, and is currently working towards a Master of Education in Indigenous Education. Carly and her husband have two sons and they reside in Thunder Bay, ON.



Charlotte Neckoway

Chair of Native Languages, First Nation Métis Inuit Education Association of Ontario

Charlotte Neckoway is from Fort Hope, known as Eabametoong First Nation. She resides in Thunder Bay with her husband Raymond and family. Charlotte holds a Masters of Education degree from Lakehead University, and for over 33 years she worked in Education at different capacities. This year, Charlotte retired from full time teaching, and continues to supply teach. She is a mentor for two teacher programs with the Elementary Teacher Federation of Ontario (ETFO) and is a committee member on ETFO's Indigenous Education Standing Committee (ETFO) and is Chair of Native Languages with the First Nation Métis Inuit Education Association of Ontario (FNMIEAO). She keeps busy volunteering for two local organizations and spending time with her family. Charlotte's mission is to develop resources for new Native Language teachers and has a keen interest in languages nests and immersion programming. Miiwe gaye Miigwech



Cheryl Suggashie

Author, Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation

Providing legal, paralegal, public legal education, and law reform services for members of Nishnawbe Aski Nation. Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation was created to address the shortcomings in the administration of justice within Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN); and to improve access to justice for members of NAN.



Cheryl Ugray

Special Education Coordinator, Matawa Education

Cheryl Ugray is from Bearskin Lake First Nation, located within the Treaty Nine territory. She completed her B.A. and Master of Education from Lakehead University, focusing on Indigenous Education. She has been an educator for 21 years and has worked in various capacities within Indigenous Education in Ontario and Alberta. Since 2020, she has been the Special Education Coordinator for the Matawa Education and Care Centre with a staff of four Special Education Resource Teachers (SERT) and four Educational Assistants (EA).



Corine Bannon

Native Language Teacher, Lakehead Public School Board

Corine Bannon is a Native Language Teacher with the Lakehead Public School Board with over 10 years experience and teaches several courses through the Keewatinase Program, Department of Indigenous Education at Lakehead University. She is dedicated to teaching the Ojibwe Language using many teaching strategies for language retention and Anishinaabemowin revitalization. Corine has a passion for building community relationships to build cultural and traditional hands-on learning experiences that enforce resiliency and empowerment in her students. Corine continues to mentor students from the Onajigawin Indigenous Services from Confederation College, she supports student teachers from Lakehead University's Education Program in her classroom, and teaches Native Language in her community of Fort William First Nation. Mii'ih miigwech bizindiweyag



Courtney Strutt

Post-Secondary Transition Coach, Matawa Education

Courtney Strutt is a settler woman of English, Irish, and Portuguese heritage born and raised on Algonquin territory. She has been living, working, and connecting on Anishinaabe land since 2009, and now calls Thunder Bay home. She began her education career in Eabametoong First Nation as a teacher in 2011 and has since developed her professional background in education, youth work, and community development and facilitation across Northern Ontario through a variety of organizations. She now works as the post-secondary transition coach at Matawa Education putting to use her personal experiences with post-secondary education – from her Bachelor of Arts in International Development and Bachelor of Education to her Masters of Education for Change – in supporting Matawa students as they make their own transitions in lifelong learning.



Dave Fish

Teacher in Residence, Perimeter Institute

Dave has been a high school Physics teacher for over 30 years. His involvement with Perimeter Institute dates right back to the beginning with the initial development of ISSYP, EinsteinPlus and several other outreach activities. He has played a leading role in the production of most of the Perimeter classroom resources. He has given workshops on modern physics at local, provincial, national and international levels. Dave is currently a Teacher in Residence at Perimeter Institute



David Bates

Molecular Biologist, Science North

David Bates is a Métis former voyageur and molecular biologist who decided to hang up his paddle and micropipette to teach about the fascinating world of everyday science. When he's not demonstrating the wonderful world of science to people across Northern Ontario, Dave can be found tapping maple trees and occasionally playing with powerful artificial intelligence models. His favourite part about working with Science North is the lightbulb moment when a student of any age realizes the connection between a science demonstration and something they do every day... and how it might not actually be working the way they thought!



David Peddie

Educator, John C. Yesno School

David Peddie is a dedicated educator at the John C. Yesno School since October 2020. He has contributed to the educational field by teaching at various institutions ranging from primary, high school and undergraduate level. David has worked in various sectors such as Accounting, Technology, Research and Business. David's commitment to community involvement is evident through his extensive volunteer work as Social Coordinators for his local cadet unit, and PTA President. David's academic achievements: MBA in Management of Technology and Innovation, a bachelor's degree in computer science. David's professional journey is marked by excellence, and dedication to education, is commendable.



Doug Gagnon

Cultural Education Coordinator, Matawa Education

Booshoo, my name is Douglas Gagnon. I am from the Aroland First Nation (Ongonigaming Anishinabeg) which is one of the Matawa Communities. I am the Cultural Education Coordinator for Matawa Education. I have 5 Children (3 girls and 2 Boys) and 9 biological grandchildren (5 boys and 4 girls).



Dr. Christina van Barneveld

Associate Professor, Lakehead University

With over 20 years of experience, Dr. Christina van Barneveld has dedicated her career to fostering positive change for learners of all ages. Christina's journey in education began in Montreal where her multicultural family sparked her interest in understanding the complexity of linking values with behaviours, learning, and assessment.



Dr. Keri Cheechoo

Assistant Professor of Indigenous Studies, Wilfred Laurier University

Dr. Keri Cheechoo (she/her) is an Iskwew from the community of Long Lake #58 First Nation, which is in Northwestern Ontario, Canada. She is a mom, a Kookum (grandmother), and scholar who works to both resist and subvert systemic, structural and institutional racisms. Dr. Cheechoo is a Cree scholar who uses poetic inquiry (an arts-based methodology) in a good way that connects her spiritual aptitude for writing with educational research.



Dr. Sonia Mastrangelo

Associate Professor, Lakehead University

Sonia Mastrangelo is an Associate Professor at Lakehead University Orillia in the Faculty of Education and Assistant Dean, Director of Research at the Applied Self-Regulation Knowledge Network (ASK); She is also a certified Miller Method therapist, a cognitive developmental approach to working with students on the autism spectrum. Sonia travels nationally and internationally, speaking with parents and educators about autism spectrum disorder, self-regulation, the importance of play and developmentally appropriate practice and provides direct consultative support to schools and clinics. She is the recipient of multiple federally funded research grants and is currently collaborating with the MEHRIT Center on a research study on self-regulation and literacy in Mishkeegogamang, Ontario. Further information about her teaching, research and publications can be found at: www.lakeheadu.ca/about/orillia-campus.



Sharon Nate

Executive Director of Education, Matawa

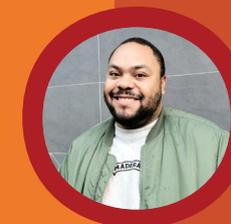
Sharon Nate is the Executive Director of Education for Matawa First Nations Management in Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada. An Ojibwe member of Eabametoong First Nation, Sharon's personal and professional mission aligns with Indigenous advocacy by working to sanction equal access to opportunity, education, and mental health services. With an Honours Bachelor of Education and Early Childhood Education, Sharon continues her work in consultation with her First Nation and Matawa membership in efforts to change and reform Federal and Provincial Indigenous policies, regulations, and improvements within education.



Dr. Md Abdus Salam

Principal, Neskantaga Education Centre

Dr. Md Abdus Salam is a highly accomplished and versatile professional with over 30 years of experience in school administration, teaching, research, planning, programming, and evaluating educational programs within various schools in Nunavut and Ontario. In addition, he has nine years of experience working as a principal at Inuujaq School, Nunavut. His vital leadership insight and making Inuujaq School a culturally relevant school made him receive Canada's Outstanding Principal award in 2016. Dr. Salam worked as a Teacher and Principal at Inuujaq School from 2007 to 2019. In addition, he was the principal at Kattawapiskak Elementary School and is now the principal at Neskantaga Education Centre, a federally funded First Nation School in Northern Ontario.



Eli McBean

Trainer-Consultant, SNAP

Eli McBean is a skilled SNAP Trainer-Consultant providing training and consultation to Clinical and School-based SNAP Affiliate Sites, supporting them in their SNAP program delivery and helping to monitor and support program fidelity. Having worked for many years as a frontline Child and Youth Worker and a SNAP Clinician, Eli brings a wealth of experience and clinical knowledge to his work with SNAP Affiliates, always in consideration of cultural competencies and inclusive practices.



Eliana Elkhoury

Learning Bird

Eliana has dedicated the past two decades to the field of education, beginning her career as a classroom teacher for five years before transitioning into roles as a teacher trainer, university professor, and curriculum specialist. Her work is focused on designing and implementing alternative, equitable, and culturally responsive assessments. Eliana holds a PhD from the University of Calgary and actively teaches in both Bachelor's and Masters of Education programs, working passionately on the integration of indigenous perspectives in educational assessment.



Ellen Gabriel

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Activist/Artist

Ellen Gabriel, a graduate of Concordia University in 1990 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts, Major Studio Art, rose to prominence as a spokesperson for the Kanehsatà:ke community during the 1990 “Oka” Crisis, defending their land from appropriation for a golf course. Since then, she has been a dedicated human rights and environmental advocate for Indigenous peoples, sensitizing the public to colonization’s impacts, Canada’s colonial history, and Indigenous culture. She served as president of the Quebec Native Women’s Association from 2004 to 2010 and has presented at parliamentary committees, the Quebec national assembly, and international forums like the United Nations on Indigenous issues. Ellen Gabriel remains a vigilant advocate for gender equity, justice for murdered and missing Indigenous women, language and culture revitalization, self-determination rights, and climate change.



Emily Post

Instructional Designer, Dorset Pier Mental Health

Emily joined the Dorset Pier Mental Health (DPMH) team as the Instructional Designer after completing her Masters of Social Work at Lakehead University. She is a warm and welcoming individual who has a passion for mental health knowledge and creating broader community change. Emily uses her role within DPMH to pass on knowledge about counselling principles and practices to individuals who may not otherwise be able to access counselling or services. Her favourite part about her role is how she gets to use creativity to make learning about mental health fun and exciting!



Felipe Pereira

Music Teacher, Barn Owl Music

Felipe has over two decades of teaching experience in both the UK and Canada. In his youth he studied classical guitar and bossa nova in his home country Brazil, and performed professionally in Rio de Janeiro until moving to London, England where he continued to take private lessons, perform and teach music. Felipe moved to Canada to complete his BFA in music at York University. Felipe has played professionally in Brazil, the UK, and Canada. Highlights of his career include performances being covered in the national Brazilian Newspaper ‘O Globo,’ and appearing on an album featured on JazzFM’s Jazzology program. He has worked as a side man in numerous projects. Felipe has studied many styles of music, but is especially fond of the music of his youth – rock, blues, pop, bossa nova, samba and latin jazz. Lessons are available in English and Portuguese.



Jacob Treichler

Technician, Superior Fire Alarm

Jacob has accumulated 5-6 years of experience working at Superior Fire Alarm. He is a certified Canadian Fire Alarm Association technician with a specialization in Notifier/Honeywell systems, contributing to top-tier fire safety solutions.



Janine Desmoulin

MC

Cultural Resource Coordinator, Ontario Native Women’s Association

Janine Desmoulin is a proud Ojibwe from Biigtigong Nishnaabeg (Pic River First Nation), who resides in Thunder Bay and works as a Cultural Resource Coordinator for Ontario Native Women’s Association. It is her goal to create impactful connections with others and inspire those who come in her path to embrace and create new opportunities to step into. Janine is passionate about working with young people in areas of wellness and has learned to use her voice, while on a journey of healing, to share messages of hope. She is honoured to have had many opportunities to share healing and humour as a speaker, workshop facilitator, comedian, and Master of Ceremony; since 2015. She is a mother, auntie to many, and a self proclaimed “Animated Storyteller” who promotes laughter as one of the greatest forms of medicine.



John Ferris

Owner, Ed-Digenous

My name is John Ferris. I’m a member of Constance Lake First Nation, and I have been artistically active most of my life. I began developing my portfolio in 1985 and in the summer of 1986, I received a letter of acceptance to the Ontario College of Art and Design. Afterwards, I continued to study Graphic Design at George Brown College. I was introduced to Michael John Angel, a Master Portrait painter who taught in the Classical Methods of Drawing and Painting of the Old Masters. My goal is to establish an Aboriginal Arts Organization that will utilize AAGNO and by practicing our traditional art forms, incorporate them into educational systems. I have recently started the business, Ed-Digenous Traditions, where I create and develop Indigenous Learning Kits for schools, communities, workshops, conferences and post-secondary. These align with the new curriculum guidelines being introduced by Ontario and other provincial governments across Canada and will be connecting with international education institutions in the future.



John Walmark

Founder, Northern Sons Consulting

Mino Giizhigad! Kaa Kaa Kee n'diiz ni'kas. Mukwa dodem n'iin daw. Gakjiwanong Anishinaabe Nation n'doon jibaa. It's a beautiful day! My Anishinaabe name is Raven. My clan is Bear. My Ancestral Home is 'Where the Water Flows Over' Lac La Croix First Nation. John Walmark is a retired police officer residing in the City of Thunder Bay. John has partnered with his friends Kris Fedick and Douglas Gagnon to form Northern Sons Consulting in a vision to share Anishinaabe culture and ancestral knowledge with Indigenous and non Indigenous peoples.



Joseph Willis

Curriculum Development Officer, Matawa Education

Joe Willis, is the Curriculum Development Officer for the Matawa Education and Care Centre (MECC) and has been working with the school since 2019. He entered this position in 2020 and ever since, has been working to make meaningful community connections. Joe is constantly facilitating with our school staff, Knowledge Keepers and Elder's to create reflective curriculum to be available to our students and educators. After completing his Master's of Education (MEd) in Social Justice Education in 2023, he is continuously striving to put his efforts into decolonizing education, and provide opportunities of success for Indigenous students.



Karen Noga

Early Childhood Educator

My name is Karen Noga and I am an Early Childhood Educator. Early in my career, I discovered my passion for working with children with exceptionalities. This passion really led me to zero in on the autism field as there was not a lot of information yet available and I was desperate to learn more. I have 18 years of hands-on experience working in a variety of Autism settings with children and youth on the Autism Spectrum. Throughout these years, my passion has continued to grow along with my knowledge and experience.



Katie Burch

Education Coordinator, Taking IT Global

Katie Burch, an educator with two decades of teaching experience, specializes in instructional technology coaching and holds a Master of Education in Leadership. Her career is defined by a deep commitment to First Nations education, with over half her journey spent collaborating closely with First Nations school boards, championing inclusive and culturally sensitive teaching methods. As the Education Coordinator at Taking IT Global, she utilizes her expertise to empower educators and advance innovative learning strategies.



Katie Hughdie

School Success Lead, Matawa Education

Katie is an Ontario Certified Teacher with Specialist Qualifications in Special Education and Guidance. These qualifications, as well as her varied teaching experience throughout Northwestern Ontario, have sparked her interest and passion for helping students achieve academic success. When she is not teaching and learning, Katie spends a lot of time outside walking, running, cross country skiing and camping. She also enjoys creating using fabric and textiles.



Katrena Brindley

School Based Intensive Treatment Clinical Lead, Wesway

Always enjoying being in the outdoors, I began my journey leading canoe trips and teaching leadership skills to children and youth. I have a mix of outdoor leadership and education training, in addition to graduating from Lakehead University with a BA in Indigenous Learning. I have always had a natural enthusiasm to help others grow their skills, but the true passion has been helping others increase their independence and life skills in their day to day lives. In the career setting, this has been through coaching, volunteer work and respite work with Wesway, and as an ABA Facilitator and School Based Intensive Treatment Clinical Lead.



Keri Carson

Market Manager, Diversey Canada

Born and raised in the Prairies and have lived in Regina, SK for all my adult life. My career has predominantly been in a sales role, and for the last 7 years it has been in the professional cleaning products industry. I am passionate about the impact on our environmental footprint. So, providing sustainable solutions to protect the future lives, earth and help transform and educate the industry is my goal. I'm proud to partner with companies that are interested in creating a cleaner, healthier and safer environment by improving the quality of indoor environments. I love a good cleaning challenge!! I believe working together as a team to solve a problem is rewarding and has helped me build many great relationships over the years. I look forward to many more! When I'm not at work, I can be found in the kitchen whipping up a new recipe for my family and listening to music, both which are my passions.



Keshia Teddy

Transition Coordinator, Matawa Education

Keshia Teddy has been working as the Matawa Education & Care Centre's Transition Coordinator for three years. Keshia has worked to establish an effective transition model and routine for students enrolling into our program, and ensure student success after graduation.



Kim Meisner

Training and Support Manager, Dadavan

Kim has been the training and support manager at Dadavan for over two years. She has a special ability to make sure that no one ever feels alone. Whether she's problem solving or standing up in front of a group, Kim will help all Dadavan clients feel confident using our programs.



Kirstin Berrington

Program Coordinator, Breakfast Club of Canada

Kirstin Berrington is a program coordinator for the Breakfast Club of Canada primarily working with regions in Northern B.C. and A.B. With a background in Nutritional Sciences, she has over 10 years experience working in childhood nutrition. She is passionate about all things food and nutrition and is happy to now focus her time on supporting healthy food environments in schools across Canada. Originally from Winnipeg, a city she largely credits for shaping her desire to live an active and healthy lifestyle, she now calls Vancouver home. When not at work, she spends her time in the yoga studio and creating vegetarian recipes in her kitchen.



Kris Fedick

Scientist/Educator, Fort William Historical Park

Kris Fedick is a scientist/educator with experience designing and running educational programming and workshops for Fort William Historical Park as well as tutorials, labs and courses at Lakehead University. Kris has a strong STEM background from his PHD in Electrical and Computer Engineering, with knowledge and interests in a variety of topics from science and technology to history and crafting skills.



Kristy Hankila

Manager of Early Learning and Child Care, Nishnawbe Aski Nation

Kristy Hankila is the Manager of Early Learning and Child Care at Nishnawbe Aski Nation. She is honoured to advocate for the resources needed to support communities in the development of Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) systems and programs rooted in culture and tradition with the overall goal of First Nation ownership and control of ELCC. Kristy is a Registered Early Childhood Educator with a background in journalism and communications.



Lisa Primavesi

Indigenous Access Programs Coordinator, Lakehead University

Lisa Primavesi has been the Indigenous Access Programs Coordinator at Lakehead University since 2020. She coordinates all the access programs and teaches the Academic Study Skills course for all programs. Lisa has been working with Indigenous youth and adults for the past decade, as a teacher, education advisor and program coordinator. Lisa's favourite part of her job is helping students connect with their education pathways and realize their dreams.



Liz Barrett

Teacher, JUMP Math

Liz Barrett was awarded the 2016 award for Partner in Indigenous Education from INDSPiRE for her work in Indigenous communities in Canada. Liz, a teacher, emigrated from South Africa to Canada. Liz joined JUMP Math 20 years ago as a volunteer and now works and travels full time to support Math teaching across Canada. Immersion education and supporting teachers reclaim Native languages has been an important part of her outreach to communities. "None of the work I do would be possible without the communities' trust, the support of the teachers, and the wonderful Elders who have guided my journey in Canada."



Mackinley the Magician

ENTERTAINMENT

Freelance Magician

Mackinley has been doing magic since he was 5 years old. He wasted the first four years of his life. His journey into magic began with a few books from the local library. When he was 17, his interest developed into a passion, and he never looked back. His interest in magic developed from basic tricks and sleight of hand, to a more intricate art form known as mentalism. He has been performing his "delusions," as he likes to call them, around Thunder Bay for over 15 years. Being not only a performer, but also a mental health advocate, he brings to his audiences an incredibly unique view on magic of the mind.



Marlee Poulin

Community Education Navigator, MECC

My name is Marlee Poulin, I was born and raised in Thunder Bay. My role at the MECC is working alongside with the PASS team as Community Education Navigator. I graduated from Confederation College in 2008 receiving my diplomas in both Dental Hygiene and Dental Assisting and have been working in various roles within the healthcare field. I completed my B.Ed in Adult Education from Brock University and in 2014 began teaching at Confederation College in the School of Health within the Oral Health Programs. After completing my Master of Education degree from Lakehead University, I began working at Nishnawbe Aski Nation as a Health Policy Analyst which sparked my interest and passion for supporting Indigenous communities in health and education. I am excited to begin working with the communities and look forward to meeting the rest of the Matawa Team.



Mary Ann Nawagesic

Mental Health Lead, Matawa Education

Boozhoo, my name is Mary Ann Nawagesic, and I am Bear Clan. I am from the Ojibway community of Kiashe Zaaging First Nation. My Anishinaabe name is 'Heart Drum Woman.' Since 2018, I have had the privilege of serving as the Mental Health Lead at the Matawa Education and Care Center, specifically serving Matawa community schools. As a devoted mother of three wonderful children and a grandmother to seven lovely granddaughters, family has always been at the center of my life. My educational and professional journey has been deeply rooted in Indigenous-focused fields. In 2014, I achieved a significant milestone by completing my Masters in Indigenous Social Work at Wilfrid Laurier University. I am deeply committed to the well-being and empowerment of our Indigenous communities, and I am honored to share my journey and knowledge at this conference.



Olivia Merko

Student Nutrition Program Coordinator, Matawa Education PASS

Olivia currently holds the position of Student Nutrition Program Coordinator, within the Matawa Education PASS team. Olivia's deep interest in the ability of food to have profound, lasting effects on our minds, bodies and souls was strengthened and put into practice while obtaining her undergraduate degree at Lakehead University in the field of biology. She strongly believes in a holistic, sustainable approach to food and nutrition practices to support learning, growth, and healthy development for all ages. Olivia has also gained ample knowledge through various nutrition courses which has helped her immensely during her journey to become a nationally qualified fitness competitor. When not at work or in the gym, Olivia can be found spending time outside in nature with her dogs, cooking up meals and baking for family and friends, working at one of her many craft endeavours or enjoying a nice cup of tea with a good book.



Paula Gallo

Child-Friendly Engagement Specialist, Recreate Place

Paula Gallo B.Ed., M.Sc.PI. and Annie Vandenberg, B.Ed. are the team at Recreate Place, providing strategic planning, facilitation, design services and activation support for communities to engage children and youth in the creation of more equitable and inclusive places. We facilitate arts-based, child-friendly processes where children imagine, and share ideas about meaningful decisions in their communities. We work with many different project partners including The Toronto Region Conservation Authority, City of Brampton, City of Toronto, Toronto District School Board, The Learning Enrichment Foundation, OSSTF and Koffler Center of the Arts.



Rapid Response School Support Team

The purpose of the Rapid Response School Support Team (RRNST) is to provide interim support to schools in First Nations communities during times of crisis so that schools remain open as a safe, caring environment for students. When requested, the team will provide support for staff to continue to deliver education and wellness for students on a short-term basis. We also provide educational support, transition support, and resources, when requested. Team members are Sheri Blake and Kelly McDougall from Kenora and Colby Sadler and Holly Szumowski from Sioux Lookout. The RRNST was created by the Ministry of Indigenous Education and Well-Being Division in partnership with Nishnawbe Aski Nation, Treaty 3 and Keewatin Patricia District School Board. It is fully funded by the Ministry of Indigenous Education.



Rita Mannella

Student Academic Lead, Matawa Education

My name is Rita Mannella and I have been a teacher for grades SK-12, Adult Education at the College level, a Modern Languages Chairperson, and Literacy Consultant for over 30 years. My background has been shaped by the amazing task of teaching so many students and sharing experiences and knowledge with so many education professionals, from varied backgrounds of culture, language, traditions, communities and skills. As an educator I have written curriculum, reviewed and revised assessment and evaluation policy documents, participated in numerous projects related to literacy, student assessment and evaluation, curriculum design, and the development of Professional Learning Communities at the local, regional and provincial level. Education still remains my passion. I continue to see the value in finding new ways to help students learn, while realizing that during that journey, students continue to teach me how to teach. I look forward to embracing my role as the Matawa Education & Care Centre Student Success Lead, as a member of the PASS team.



Ryan Carr

Music Performer/Teacher, Barn Owl Music

Ryan has been teaching and performing professionally for nearly 25 years. Since his introduction to music in guitar class as a teenager, he has studied jazz performance and composition at York University, bluegrass mandolin at Sore Fingers Summer School, sung with the Orpheus Choir of Toronto and taken lessons with many blues harmonica greats. As a performer he has toured across Canada, the US and Europe and has appeared on BBC Radio, RBB (Germany) and co-written an album that reached #16 on Norwegian iTunes charts. Ryan is an accomplished songwriter, who draws inspiration from all types of music, particularly rock, jazz, blues, bluegrass, folk and country. He teaches all levels of students and has worked with at-risk youth, those with special needs and has taught at shelters throughout his career.



Sara Hando

School Lead, Connected North

Sara Hando, a dedicated educator living in Ear Falls, Ontario, brings a wealth of experience and unwavering passion to her role as a School Lead for Connected North. Her commitment to leveraging technology to bridge educational gaps and provide quality learning opportunities to remote and Indigenous communities is at the heart of her work, making her a true advocate for equitable education.



Sean Morriveau

ENTERTAINMENT

Comedian

Sean Morriveau also known as Native Pool Boy is a content creator, influencer and comedic storyteller from Fort William First Nation Ontario. He focuses on healing through laughter and bringing light to topics that are sometimes hard to discuss. He is a hard working father who puts his family, community and mental health first. Creating engaging videos, Sean has built a platform for himself to have his voice heard and plans to share that space for collaborative artists just like him. He also uses his platform to spread positive energy, awareness, humour and share stories about his life and experiences growing up on a reservation.



Shelby Ch'ng

Partnerships Program Liaison, Matawa Education

Shelby Ch'ng has been the Matawa Education Partnerships Program Liaison since February 2022. She is currently in her third term on Thunder Bay City Council and is a Master's student at the University of Mount Saint Vincent in Halifax, Nova Scotia. She was previously a business owner for 9 years and holds a HBA in Political Science from Lakehead University. In her spare time, Shelby writes short plays for Magnus Theatre 10x10 production, paints landscapes, and hangs out with her cat. She is also a proud member and of the 2SLGBTQ+ community.



Tasfia Salam

Teacher, Neskantaga Education Centre

Tasfia Salam is a young dedicated teacher at Neskantaga Education Centre (NEC), Lansdowne House, Ontario. As a new teacher, she has enthusiasm and a positive attitude who genuinely wants to help students' education. Prior to joining NEC, she taught at Kattawapiskak Elementary School as a Senior Kindergarten Teacher.



Theodore Syrette / Ozhawa Anung Kwe

Two-Spirit Advocate, Baawaating/Batchewana First Nation - Rankin Reserve

Teddy Syrette (Ozhawa Anung/Ozhawa Anung Kwe) is a brown, 2Spirit, Anishinabek person of Baawaating/Batchewana First Nation - Rankin Reserve. Teddy uses they/them as their pronouns, and has been a 2spirit/Queer-Trans Indigenous advocate for 20 years. While studying social work at Sault College, Teddy began to learn more about the history, experiences and people who are 2Spirit and/or Queer/Trans and Indigenous or Queer Trans Indigenous People (QTIP). Which is now their primary focus with art and advocacy. Teddy has been recognized for their work including the 2018 Sault Ste. Marie YMCA Peace Medal, the 2018 Planned Parenthood Toronto LGBTQ+ Person of the Year Award and also the Bonham Centre Award in 2017 and recently Teddy was acclaimed as one of the title holders of International 2Spirit Warrior by the International 2Spirit Planning Committee of 2021. They also won Indigenous Business Person of the year by the Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce in 2023. Teddy's work in Indigenous, gender and sexuality diversity and inclusion, has brought them to many parts of Turtle Island to share their story of survival and revival. In 2022, with the help of their friend Bebe Lala, they created the first 2Spirit/Indigenous drag troupe called the House of Ever Sick. Their drag name is Bette U. Wanna of Batchewana.



Tina Dal Bianco

Community Facilitator Pre-Implementation Specialist, SNAP

Tina Dal Bianco is a registered Social Worker and registered Social Service Worker. In her role as Community Facilitator Pre-Implementation Specialist, Tina facilitates relationships with communities to expand the implementation of SNAP nationally and internationally. Tina has many years of practice as a SNAP Trainer Consultant, Community Facilitator, Clinical Supervisor, and Family and Child worker, and has gained immense understanding and experience in bringing programming to communities experiencing high need and systemic barriers.



Tony Deperry

Elder

Good day my name is Tony Deperry, I am originally from Ginoogaming First Nation. I have worked in the Education, Social Services Field and Justice field for many years assisting people. I have worked in healing and teaching people to heal themselves both in Canada and the United States of America. I am also a Father, and a grandfather, and a great-grandfather.



Wayne Mercer

Educator, Sioux North High School

Educator with 34 years of experience in Northwestern Ontario. Have been a curriculum coordinator, Vice Principal, and Principal of both Elementary and Secondary schools in the public and First Nation School sector.



Yvonne DeBruyne

Student Achievement Officer and Assessment Lead, Lakehead Public School Board

Yvonne DeBruyne has been an educator for over 20 years holding positions as an Education Assistant, teacher, Student Achievement Officer and Assessment Lead. She has also taught at the post-secondary level for various colleges in Indigenous Studies. Having worked in both public and private education sectors she has extensive knowledge of provincial curriculum, special education as well as working with Indigenous students. Her language acquisition journey began as she was on her journey to reclaiming her identity and has led her to teaching Anishinabemowin with the Lakehead Public School Board. Being a lifelong learner, she challenges herself daily and is continually adding to her bundle.

Our Sessions

Building Community of Practice

A community of practice is a group of professionals who build relationships and share knowledge from their experience in the field. In this session, all conference attendees will be placed in a group with others who do a similar job to them. During the session, participants will guide the learning taking place through their sharing of experiences, ideas, questions, and needs in such a way that it promotes learning, the creation of networks and future change.

Sharing and Learning with Intermediate/Senior Educators and TAs

Courtney Strutt | MATAWA EDUCATION

The breakout community of practice for this session will be for Intermediate/Senior Educators and EAs. Participants will leave with an enhanced perspective and vision for the work that they do.

Sharing and Learning with Junior Educators and TAs

Katie Hughdie | MATAWA EDUCATION

The breakout community of practice for this session will be for Junior Educators and EAs. Participants will leave with an enhanced perspective and vision for the work that they do.

Sharing and Learning with Kitchen Staff

Olivia Merko
MATAWA EDUCATION PASS

Kirstin Berrington & Alicia Diaz-Pappas
BREAKFAST CLUB OF CANADA

The breakout community of practice for this session will be for Kitchen Staff. Participants will leave with an enhanced perspective and vision for the work that they do.

Sharing and Learning with Language and Cultural Staff

Doug Gagnon | MATAWA EDUCATION

The breakout community of practice for this session will be for Language and Culture Staff. Participants will leave with an enhanced perspective and vision for the work that they do.

The Power of Story

Understanding Ourselves and Empowering our Spirit for Mental Health Staff

Emily Post
DORSET PIER MENTAL HEALTH

Mary Ann Nawagesic
MATAWA EDUCATION

** Starts at 9am.* This group uses practices from Indigenous Culture, Narrative Therapy, CBT, and DBT to foster a more objective and tender understanding of ourself, where we come from, and where we are going. Within Indigenous culture, storytelling is used as a way to impart culture, traditions, values, knowledge, and language. As educators, it is our job to help facilitate that knowledge. That is the skill of a storyteller' to both impart and facilitate knowledge within oneself, and within the community at large. Thomas King once said in his Massey Lecture Series 'The truth about stories, is that is all we are. King's central theme within his book is about how fabricated stories of Indigenous Peoples has shaped how the world perceives them and how these stories continue to cause damage. However, what if we used story to look in the mirror instead of through the lens of someone else; used story to help us reshape and reclaim our identity, and to empower our spirit forward on this journey. We can forever hide in the shadows, and stay in the shade of our story, or, we can use it to help us become more visible and to let the light in.

Sharing and Learning with O&M Workers

Carly Perras | MATAWA EDUCATION

The breakout community of practice for this session will be for O&M Workers. Participants will leave with an enhanced perspective and vision for the work that they do.

Sharing and Learning with Primary Educators and TAs

Rita Mannella | MATAWA EDUCATION

The breakout community of practice for this session will be for Primary Educators and EAs. Participants will leave with an enhanced perspective and vision for the work that they do.

Sharing and Learning with Principals, Executive Directors, Community Education Navigator and Education Directors

Marlee Poulin | MATAWA EDUCATION

The breakout community of practice for this session will be for Principals, Executive Directors and Education Directors. Participants will leave with an enhanced perspective and vision for the work that they do.

Sharing and Learning with Secretaries

Shelby Ch'ng & Nathaniel Salguero | MATAWA EDUCATION

The breakout community of practice for this session will be for Secretaries. Participants will leave with an enhanced perspective and vision for the work that they do.



“Our Flower”: A Group Activity

Christina van Barneveld | LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY

In this workshop, we will do a group activity called “Our Flower” that you can use with groups of children or adults. The group activity involves constructing an art object that reflects the values of the people in the group and how those values may be visible in a given context (e.g., in a classroom, outside). After the activity, we will debrief and discuss how the activity could be adapted for various educational purposes. The workshop participants will leave with their own “Our Flower” group activity kit that they can take home and try in their own schools.

Adolescent Mental Health Literacy

Understanding the Real Remedy

Dr. Md Abdus Salam & Tasfia Anjum Salam | NESKANTAGA EDUCATION CENTRE

In this presentation we will go over what mental health means, what is our perception of mental disorder/illness, mental problem, mental distress and or no distress or disorder will be discussed. There are confusions and misconceptions about adolescent stress and how to deal with the same. A different perspective of how to cope with stress as presented by Dr. Stan Kutcher in the Academy of Canada’s Outstanding Principals Conference at Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto (February 2017) will be presented to the audience. Approaches to develop mental health literacy in schools and possible development of high school mental health curriculum will also be discussed.

Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care

Kristy Hankila | NISHNAWBE ASKI NATION

It is an exciting time in the Early Years with the implementation of the Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Framework. In this presentation we will explore the Framework and the funding opportunities in communities as well as the barriers and challenges communities face. Participants will also look at the work being done at Nishnawbe Aski Nation to support communities in the design and development of meaningful high quality, inclusive programming, designed by community for community. NAN Early Years asked educators and community members from across NAN territory what they envision high quality ELCC programs to look like. Most agreed that the way to move forward with programming is to look back at tradition as our foundation.

Making a Miniature Drum

John Ferris | ED-DIGENOUS TRADITIONS

Join John from Ed-Digenous Traditions to make a Miniature Drum. The Miniature Drum kits come pre-cut complete with drum ring, Birch Bark strip, sinew as lacing at approx. 32in long, 2 Rawhide skins 2Indiameter., beans, and step by step instructions also included a History of the drum and incorporation and benefits to the Ontario Curriculum and learners. Our most common sizes are 2 ¼ inches. This would be essential for grades JK through to grade 8 as well as any secondary school students.

NAN Legal Presentation

Cheryl Suggashie & Ashley Richards | NAN LEGAL

We will present NAN Legal Programs and Services with a focus on Anti-Bullying and Youth Prevention Services.

Pathways into Lakehead University

Lisa Primavesi | LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY

Many teachers, guidance counsellors and student advisors are not aware of the transition pathways into Lakehead University for students who wish to attend university but don’t have the required U or M level credits. Students are often advised that they need to go to college first, but this is not necessary. This presentation will highlight the three Indigenous Access Programs offered at Lakehead. The application process and funding options will also be explained.

Special Education Programming at MECC

Cheryl Ugray | MATAWA

This workshop will give participants an overview of the Matawa Education and Care Centre (MECC) Special Education program. Through a collaborative process, MECC provides support and services to students with various skills and abilities, enhancing their learning potential and equipping them with tools to navigate the transition to high school. Through the joint effort of other agencies and community partners, MECC’s mission focuses on the circle of care of students by aiming to support students holistically. Combined mainstream approaches and learning alongside Elders for their guidance and teachings are critical foundations in building cultural identity and enhancing the student’s overall well-being, academically or otherwise.

Supporting Students with ASD

Katrena Brindley
WESWAY

Karen Noga

Join us as we discuss ABA evidence-based strategies and their application within the school setting for those with an Autism diagnosis. Strategies to be discussed include; pairing, visuals, prompting & prompt fading, reinforcement, exercise, setting events, task analysis, scripting, and video modelling.

Training and Troubleshooting of Fire Alarms, Emergency Lighting, Extinguishers & Smoke Alarms

Jacob Treichler | SUPERIOR FIRE ALARM

Basic Training on fire alarm and how to troubleshoot faults in the field. Extinguisher training and how to complete a monthly inspection. Emergency Light training, monthly test and common faults to repair. Smoke alarm awareness and training on how to fix/replace batteries. Hands-on training with extinguishers, detectors, smoke alarms and/or batteries people may see in the field. Will bring in some examples of extinguishers/smoke alarms/batteries/fire alarm devices to familiarize people working in the field what they should be looking for and how to complete basic testing listed above.

Aligning Assessments with Indigenous Pedagogies

Eliana Elkhoury | LEARNING BIRD

Assessment is a critical part of teaching, but which approaches resonate with the cultural makeup of today's classrooms? This session approaches assessment from the perspective of Indigenous pedagogies. During this session, we will revisit both formative and summative assessments and consider how they can be leveraged holistically to reflect learners cognitive, physical, emotional, and spiritual development. The session focuses on approaches for bringing multiple perspectives (including students, community members and Elders) into assessment practices and fostering self-reflection. Educators can apply their learning and receive feedback on incorporating Indigenous pedagogical approaches to assessment. During this session, educators will:

- Identify assessments that align with Indigenous pedagogical approaches
- Develop strategies for facilitating self-reflection as a form of assessment
- Develop strategies for including multiple perspectives in assessments
- Practice incorporating Indigenous pedagogical approaches to create holistic assessments

An Introduction to Stop Now and Plan (SNAP)

Tina Dal Bianco | SNAP

SNAP is an award-winning evidence-based children's mental health and crime prevention model that teaches middle years children (ages 6 to 11) and youth (ages 12-18) and their families and/or caregivers how to stop and think before they act - to ultimately make better choices 'in the moment' and throughout their lives. This workshop will introduce the SNAP Program - the need, the evidence and our approach, as well as the spectrum of SNAP Programming: our Clinical and Universal models for children under 12 and their families, the Early Risk Assessment List (EARL V3) risk assessment tool, and our SNAP for Youth model.

Connecting Classrooms and Cultures

The Connected North Experience

Katie Burch
TAKING IT GLOBAL

Sara Hando
CONNECTED NORTH

We extend a special invitation to you to join us for an immersive session that provides an overview of the transformative Connected North program and its profound impact on classroom learning. Discover firsthand how this innovative initiative bridges geographical and cultural gaps through interactive virtual experiences. As a special highlight, participants will have the unique opportunity to engage in a live, interactive soapstone carving session led by the talented Inuit artist, Priscilla Boulay. Moreover, we will provide insights on how to co-fund your school's participation in Connected North, ensuring that this enriching educational opportunity is accessible to your students. Please note that space is limited to 32 participants, so secure your spot now for this hands-on, enlightening experience.

Creativity as an All Ages Wellness Exercise

Angela Jason | SHESHEGWANING FIRST NATION

Creativity as an All Ages Wellness exercise is an interactive workshop for educators created and presented by Angela Jason. Entire PhDs are done on this subject so this workshop will be a crash course on equipping educators with strategies to incorporate creativity into their classes regardless of their own perceived level of creativity and provide understanding as to how creativity can improve the mental wellness of all ages. The first half of the workshop will focus on practical strategies for bringing creativity into schools and the classroom. Sample lessons will be provided for primary, intermediate, and senior classrooms as well as various subjects from visual arts to business to physics. Handouts will be provided with prompt questions and an opportunity for participants to brainstorm together their own ideas and share with the larger group to maximize examples that participants can take home with them. Next, participants will be guided through various interactive arts exercises to not only encourage creativity in themselves but in their students. The workshop will finish with a presentation on the various theories and research regarding creativity and wellness. Come with an open mind, get ready to laugh, learn, and discover your creativity with this interactive workshop.

Jump Math

Liz Barrett | JUMP MATH

How to Use the Materials to Support Outstanding Math Teaching.

Learning Enhanced Outcomes Features

Kim Meisner | DADAVAN

Learn about enhanced features like, aggregate reporting, behaviour module, Parentpage, Teacher Planner, Comment Bank, Homework, Reports, Student Services and more.

Making Every Child Matters Tikinagans

John Ferris | ED-DIGENOUS TRADITIONS

Join John from Ed-Digenous Traditions to make an Every Child Matters Tikinagan. Our Every Child Matters Tikinagans convey the following message to all residential school survivors and the Indigenous people of North America. Every Child Matters is a slogan and message used to honour the innocent lives lost. It symbolises that every child is important, including the ones who lost their lives and the adults who are still healing from their difficult time at the residential schools.

Perimeter Institute Breakout Activity

Dave Fish | PERIMETER INSTITUTE

Breakout activities are tabletop escape rooms where students solve a series of challenges in the context of an exciting scenario. In this workshop, we'll discuss why breakout activities are great for the classroom, then you will collaborate with other teachers to complete Perimeter's breakout activity Exploring Exoplanets, created with de-streamed grade nine science as the target audience.

The Matawa "Train the Trainer" Fish Net Making Workshop

John Walmark
NORTHERN SONS CONSULTING

Kris Fedick
FORT WILLIAM HISTORICAL PARK

A workshop created for Matawa youth workers to share with their youth ancestral teachings, technology, language, literacy and numeracy. The Net Making is an opportunity for the youth to provide, with those nets a way to provide food for their community and a skill to support and increase their self confidence, personal and team life skills and support their mental health.

Disconnecting from Devices

Guiding Our Students in the Digital Age

Dr. Sonia Mastrangelo | LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY

In this session, I will uncover the powerful impacts of the hormone oxytocin which functions as a neurotransmitter, is activated during social contact and gaze, and enhances our feelings of well-being. We will delve into the seminal research studies that reveal how oxytocin dampens the stress response and will apply the findings to classroom practice. Lastly, I will share practical strategies that support a return to face-to-face social connectivity (for us and our students) in this age of screen dependency. Video clips of student experiences with technology dependency will be shared.

High Impact Teaching Strategies

Wayne Mercer & Rapid Response School Support Team | SIOUX NORTH HIGH SCHOOL

This workshop will walk through a number of research-based high-impact strategies for use in the classroom for excellent teaching and learning experiences. We will outline each strategy, as well as provide different practical examples of how each may look in the classroom. We will also share different resources that educators may find beneficial in helping put these high-impact strategies into practice. There will also be the opportunity to share, discuss, and ask questions.

Learning Outcomes Through the Year (Secretaries)

Kim Meisner | DADAVAN

Secretaries can learn time saving features and tips to make organizing a school easier - like, administrative reporting, attendance features, teacher attendance, and more.

Literacy

Bridging the Student Success Gap Between Grade 7, 8 and 9 for the Fundamental Writing Tasks Identified within the Ontario English Curriculum

Rita Mannella | MATAWA EDUCATION

The focus of this presentation is the learning gap that is evident when our students enter grade nine. The key question is why do they come to us with such a diverse package of literacy skills, specifically writing skills? One key objective will be to facilitate a professional learning community format that will encourage best practices. Participants will have opportunities to collaborate, share, network and engage in dialogue together about this topic while looking at fundamental writing tasks, with student exemplars. With the permission of local and regional educators, and literacy leads, videos of their discussion of this gap will be part of this session. Additionally, this presentation will encourage the sharing of best practices, challenges, and viewpoints from each participant in order to help guide, and support planning and implementation of strategies within their own school community, and consequently will assist with the closing of this student success gap.

Micro:replacement

Dave Bates | SCIENCE NORTH

Join Dave the Bluecoat Scientist in a hands-on, interactive professional development session for all educators! This beginner-friendly program will show you how to replace expensive scientific instruments with simple Micro:bit robots. Don't have a Micro:bit? That's okay! All the materials that you need for this session will be provided by Dave the Bluecoat Scientist. From energy sensors and temperature probes to flashing lights and whirling motors, we want to show you how to automate your classroom science experiments! Participants will leave with their own micro:bits kits.

SNAP in the Classroom

An Introduction for Teachers

Eli McBean | SNAP

SNAP in the Classroom - an introduction for teachers (Clinical and School models) This workshop will introduce teachers to the SNAP for Schools program, including introduction to the new SNAP Digitized Program. We will introduce the program, language, tools and strategies behind SNAP for Schools and how your whole school can work together to promote emotion regulation, self control and problem solving, fostering positive relationships between students, educators and administrators.

Transforming Spaces with Children Using Art and Nature Based Approaches

Paula Gallo & Annie Vandenberg | RECREATE PLACE

Join us for an experiential session where we will explore how you can bring participatory, child friendly, art + nature based approaches into your practice. We will share our experiences integrating arts-based and inclusive approaches into the design of outdoor public spaces, including parks, ravines, school grounds, and childcare centres. We'll focus on ideas that are inexpensive, scalable, replicable, and temporary. In the spirit of building relationships and learning from each other, we'll ask participants to share their own experiences of projects where children or young people have played integral roles in community projects. Participants will have the opportunity to work together on an art project which they can adapt for their classrooms and students. Participants will leave with an artistic creation representative of their school community, and tools and approaches to help students transform their outdoor spaces. Child participation lies at the heart of creating more connected communities and climate resilient public spaces, and is an essential part of ensuring a truly equitable and inclusive stakeholder approach. Let's come together to reimagine our spaces and support building inclusive, vibrant and climate resilient places for children.

Cleaning Best Practices for Operations and Maintenance Workers

Keri Carson
DIVERSEY CANADA

Anita Weiler
LOWERY'S BASICS

Join Diversy, a Solenis Company to learn about cleaning best practices, basic cleaning procedures, safety in the workplace, infection prevention, floor care protection and maintenance and much more!

Coding in Mathematics at the Secondary Level

David Peddie | JOHN C. YESNO SCHOOL

Welcome to the fascinating world of equation solving! In this presentation, we will explore a step-by-step algorithm to tackle mathematical puzzles with accuracy. Discover the benefits of integrating coding into math education and how it can enhance problem-solving skills. Learner Objectives: The following are the objectives, the participants can expect to receive from the session. In this session attendees will get hands on practice of writing simple mathematics equations and how to write algorithm(s) before coding. The list of objectives shown above will allow participants to code in mathematics, to be better able to improve students coding skills. Participants can implement these concepts in their classrooms and personal life. Each participant must bring a laptop computer for the session.

Empowering Education

Exploring Free Teacher Resources for Indigenous Engagement

Katie Burch
TAKING IT GLOBAL

Sara Hando
CONNECTED NORTH

Join us for an engaging session where we'll explore various free teacher resources offered through Connected North and Taking IT Global. Discover Fireside Chats, a treasure trove of over 300 interviews featuring First Nations, Métis, and Inuit role models, categorized by career or community focus. Many of these interviews come complete with Discussion Guides, making them ideal for sparking classroom-based conversations. Delve into Create to Learn, a dynamic online learning resource developed in collaboration with imagineNATIVE, featuring video tutorials on digital skills and traditional knowledge presented by First Nations, Métis, and Inuit artists and media creators. Additionally, explore the innovative Whose Land app, designed to help you learn about the territory in which your home or business is located, facilitate land acknowledgments, and provide insights into the treaties and agreements that shape Canada's history. Don't miss this opportunity to enrich your teaching toolkit and deepen your understanding of Indigenous perspectives and cultures.

Incorporating Music into the Classroom for the Amateur/Non-Musical

Ryan Carr & Felipe Pereira | BARN OWL MUSIC

A workshop for any educator who has little or no experience with music to show them that everyone has the ability to make and share music with their students. Throughout the workshop we will demonstrate straightforward yet effective teaching methods that include playing an instrument or singing with students as well as how music can be used to teach a variety of subjects. There will be interactive demonstrations of methods we have found particularly effective for different age groups of students. We will show how different instruments can be incorporated into the curriculum and how powerful singing can be as an educational tool. For educators who have some experience with music we can demonstrate how to structure music programming in a manner that is progressive, effective and fun. Central to our philosophy is making music together and how it enriches our connection to music and each other. We hope that this workshop will excite any educator who has the interest to start singing and playing with their students daily!

Sparking Creativity

Funding the Arts in your Communities and Schools

Alana Forslund | ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL

Does your community or school want to expand their arts programming and need more funding for costs like artist fees and materials? Do you want to invite artists into your community to work with your youth? Interested in learning more about the kinds of arts activities supported through the Ontario Arts Council? This session, facilitated by the Ontario Arts Council (OAC) will cover information about funding programs that can support artists in your classroom and community spaces. During the session you will also hear about artists and projects that have been funded by the OAC. The arts are an important tool used in classrooms and communities to spark self-expression, weave community together, transmit traditional Indigenous knowledge, and inspire people of all ages. Learn how to spark creativity in your community! OAC funding programs that can support artists and arts activities include: Northern Arts Projects, Indigenous Arts Projects, Indigenous Artists in Communities and Schools Projects, and Indigenous Visual Artists' Materials.

Matawa Education and Care Centre Transitional Support Program

Highlighting Student Success & Supports at the MECC

Keshia Teddy & Joseph Willis | MATAWA

Does your community or school want to expand their arts programming and need more funding for costs like artist fees and materials? Do you want to invite artists into your community to work with your youth? Interested in learning more about the kinds of arts activities supported through the Ontario Arts Council? This session, facilitated by the Ontario Arts Council (OAC) will cover information about funding programs that can support artists in your classroom and community spaces. During the session you will also hear about artists and projects that have been funded by the OAC. The arts are an important tool used in classrooms and communities to spark self-expression, weave community together, transmit traditional Indigenous knowledge, and inspire people of all ages. Learn how to spark creativity in your community! OAC funding programs that can support artists and arts activities include: Northern Arts Projects, Indigenous Arts Projects, Indigenous Artists in Communities and Schools Projects, and Indigenous Visual Artists' Materials.

Putting Knowledge into Practice

Community Through Kinship and Allyship

Dr Keri Cheechoo | WILFRED LAURIER UNIVERSITY

The presentation "Putting Knowledge into Practice: Community Through Kinship and Allyship" will contribute to engaging Indigenous knowledge systems, oral histories, protocols, and connections to the land in a good way. This will be embodied through both a kinship and an allyship lens to engage best practices that have shaped by both Indigenous and non-Indigenous educators, administrators, policy makers, and parents. This presentation will provide an interactive opportunity for participants to engage with direct knowledges and will provide a framework to recognize the connections and histories of all our relations. I am an Assistant Professor who specializes in Indigenous Education, Curriculum, and Policy. I am also a certified teacher (good standing) with the Ontario College of Teachers (OCT). The target audience includes educators, administrators, policy makers, and parents. As an educator and scholar, I recognize how critical it is that we work collectively to dismantle oppressive anti-Indigenous curriculum and instead work collaboratively to forge a better future for students on their personalized academic journeys.

A Journey in Rainbow Moccassins

Theodore Syrette (Ozhawa Anung Kwe) | BAAWAATING/BATCHEWANA FIRST NATION - RANKIN RESERVE

This interactive workshop allows participants to share what they know and what they think they know about 2Spirit and LGBTQ-Indigenous communities and topics. Folks will walk through the history of gender and sexual diversity that has existed on Turtle Island prior to contact and learn about the different roles of 2Spirit people prior to contact. Participants will also learn how colonialism and oppression has impacted 2Spirit people and how both have added to their erasure of roles, terminology and teachings. Participants will walk with tools and resources on how to become stronger allies and supports for 2Spirit and LGBTQ-Indigenous youth, people and communities.

Making a Pouch Bag

John Ferris | ED-DIGENOUS

Join John from Ed-Digenous Traditions to make a Pouch Bag. Natives of Northeastern North America use bags and pouches to contain many of life's necessities around the home site and for travel. As Native American clothing did not incorporate European-like pockets, pouches of all shapes, sized and materials served this purpose. European explorers of North America in the early 1600's observed that Natives "Always carry with them all their goods, as well as their food and green tobacco." (de Laet: 1967) Pouches and bags were commonly fastened to a belt around the waist. Smaller pouches may have been worn around the neck or on the wrist. Bags that were not woven were traditionally made from tanned leather, animal bladders, and all types of furred animal hides from the mole to the bear. Pouches could contain food-stuff, smoking supplies, medicine, fire-starting equipment, ammunition, and other small tools and supplies used by men and women.

Building Resiliency and Strength in Students Love for Anishinaabemowin

Corine Bannon & Yvonne DeBruyne
LAKEHEAD PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD

Charlotte Neckoway
ETFO/ FNMIEAO

Alanya, Amelia and Forever
SPECIAL GUESTS

Part 1: Participants will take part in the "Long Remembering" exercise, that walks through a timeline of government impact on our Indigenous peoples of Canada. While participating, we will analyze how we have been resilient and place courage at the core of who we are as Anishinaabe people.

Part 2: : We will share strategies that create resiliency in students through land-based learning in an urban setting, and what does it look like. We will look at Comprehensive Input as a pathway in revitalizing Anishinaabemowin. How do we incorporate traditional knowledge in our schools that builds resiliency and courage while navigating in an urban setting. We will also share what it means to Anishinaabe students in calling back our spirits to land, language, and traditions



Matawa Staff



Matawa
EDUCATION & CARE CENTRE



200 Lillie Street North Thunder Bay, Ontario P7C 5Y2
Phone (807) 768-3300 Fax (807) 768-3301 Toll Free 1-888-283-9747

Advisory Services & Administration

Sharon Nate	Executive Director	snate@matawaeducation.ca	3303
Stephanie Hogan	Education Coordinator	shogan@matawaeducation.ca	3401
Angela Wapoose	Education Executive Assistant	awapoose@matawaeducation.ca	3307
Jeffrey Yellowhead	Education Receptionist/ Budget Officer	jyellowhead@matawaeducation.ca	3300
Tracy Ostamus	Education Receptionist	tostamus@matawaeducation.ca	3300
Rachel Wabano	P/T Education Receptionist	rwabano@matawaeducation.ca	3300

Pathways to Achieve Student Success (PASS)

Skylene Metatawabin	PASS Program Manager	smetatawabin@matawaeducation.ca	3322
Aroha Watene	Indigenous Language Revitalization Specialist	awatene@matawaeducation.ca	3342
Caitlyn Balcombe	MWT Student Support Officer	cbalcombe@matawaeducation.ca	3437
Douglas Gagnon	Cultural Education Coordinator	dgagnon@matawaeducation.ca	3326
Joanna Wabano	Procurement Support Officer	jwabano@matawaeducation.ca	No Ext.
Katherine Hughdie	School Success Lead	khughdie@matawaeducation.ca	No Ext.
Lawrence Therriault	Indigenous Language Specialist	ltherriault@matawaeducation.ca	3346
Lois Whitehead	Indigenous Language Specialist	lwhitehead@matawaeducation.ca	3342
Marlee Poulin	Community Education Navigator	mpoulin@matawaeducation.ca	No Ext.
Mary Ann Nawagesic	Mental Health Lead	mnawagesic@matawaeducation.ca	3302
Michael Graham	Indigenous Language Revitalization Specialist	mgraham@matawaeducation.ca	3343
Nancy Ritch	Indigenous Language Specialist	nritch@matawaeducation.ca	3357
Olivia Merko	Student Nutrition Program Coordinator	omerko@matawaeducation.ca	No Ext.
Rita Mannella	Student Academic Lead	rmannella@matawaeducation.ca	No Ext.
Shelby Ch'ng	EPP Liaison Officer	schng@matawaeducation.ca	No Ext.
Syndyn Baxter	MWT Project Officer	sbaxter@matawaeducation.ca	3437
Tai Watene	Budget Officer	twatene@matawaeducation.ca	No Ext.
Tracy Spence	Indigenous Language Coordinator	trspence@matawaeducation.ca	3342

Education IT Department

Rafal Zgolak	System Administrator	rzgolak@matawaeducation.ca	3309
Andrew Sedesky	IT Technician	asedesky@matawaeducation.ca	
Kyle Rozic	MECC IT Technician	krozic@matawaeducation.ca	
Nathaniel Salgueiro	Database Helpdesk	nsalgueiro@matawaeducation.ca	3315



Indigenous Language Team

Andrea O’Nabigon MWT Tutor Instructor – LL#58 FN
 Bentley Cheechoo MWT Assistant Tutor
 Brittany Mendowagen MWT Tutor Instructor – Ginoogaming FN
 Carla Kowtiash MWT Assistant Tutor – LL#58 FN
 Cathy McGuire MWT Assistant Tutor
 Cathy Therriault MWT Assistant Tutor
 Cheyanne Patabon MWT Assistant Tutor – LL#58 FN
 Connie Anderson MWT Assistant Tutor – Nibinamik FN
 Eileen Wabano MWT Assistant Tutor – Eabametoong FN
 Elizabeth Achneepineskum MWT Tutor Instructor – Marten Falls FN
 Elizabeth Sugarhead MWT Tutor Instructor – Neskantaga FN
 Florie Sutherland MWT Tutor Instructor – Constance Lake FN
 Gloria Champagne Indigenous Language Specialist Assistant- CLFN
 Gordon Yellowhead MWT Tutor Instructor – Eabametoong FN
 Janelle Bear MWT Assistant Instructor – Ginoogaming FN
 Joe Baxter MWT Tutor Instructor – Aroland FN
 Judy Sakanee MWT Assistant Instructor – Neskantaga FN
 Kerina Wabasse MWT Tutor Instructor – Webequie FN
 Krystal Suganaqueb MWT Assistant Instructor
 Loretta Wabasse MWT Tutor Instructor
 Michelle Smith MWT Assistant Tutor-Marten Falls FN
 Nancy Wesley MWT Assistant Instructor – Constance Lake FN
 Noreen Misewace MWT Tutor Instructor – Eabametoong FN
 Queenie Earle MWT Assistant Instructor
 Rebecca Yesno MWT Tutor Instructor
 Sandra Spence MWT Assistant Tutor – Webequie FN
 Sariane Fiddler MWT Tutor Instructor
 Shannon Slipperjack MWT Tutor Instructor
 Sharon Mandowegan MWT Tutor Instructor – Ginoogaming FN
 Shelley Meeseetawageesic MWT Assistant Instructor
 Sophie Yellowhead MWT Assistant Instructor – Eabametoong FN
 Tamara Suganaqueb MWT Assistant Instructor – Webequie FN
 Wanda Baxter MWT Tutor Instructor
 Wilma Goodwin MWT Tutor Instructor

aonabigon@matawaeducation.ca No ext.
bentley.cheechoo@matawaeducation.ca
bmendowagen@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
ckowtiash@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
cmguire@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
ctherriault@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
cpatabon@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
canderson@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
ewabano@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
eachneepineskum@matawaeducation.ca
esugarhead@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
fsutherland@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
gchampagne@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
gyellowhead@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
jbear@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
joe.baxter@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
jsakanee@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
kwabasse@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
ksuganaqueb@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
lwabasse@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
msmith@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
nwesley@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
nmisewace@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
gearle@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
ryesno@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
sspence@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
sfiddler@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
sslipperjack@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
smendowegan@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
smeeseetawageesic@matawaeducation.ca
syellowhead@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
tsuganaqueb@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
wbaxter@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
wgoodwin@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.

Post-Secondary Program

Georgette O’Nabigon Post-Secondary Coordinator
 Carly Perras Post-Secondary Student Support Worker
 Courtney Strutt Post Secondary Transition Coach

gonabigon@matawaeducation.ca 3304
cperras@matawaeducation.ca 3319
cstrutt@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.

Matawa Education & Care Centre (High School)

Brad Battiston Principal
 Jacqueline Carrier Vice Principal
 Aaron Beardy Outdoor Education Coordinator
 Allan Wemigwans Cultural Lead
 Allyson Gilmour Guidance Counsellor
 Aly Wood Mental Health Land Based Coordinator
 Ashley Nate Land Based Support Worker
 Brandon MacLeod English Teacher
 Brett Desimone PLAR Teacher
 Brittany Kennedy MECC Programs Administrator
 Caitlin McKeich Social Sciences Teacher
 Chancy Atwood MECC -Mental Health Worker
 Cheryl Ugray Special Education Coordinator
 Chianti Brown Supply Teacher
 Chris Palmer Trades Development Officer
 Debbie McDougall PLAR Teacher
 Destiny Edwards Classroom Assistant
 Eddie Baxter Mental Health Land Based Coordinator
 Emily Jacob Elder
 Eva Sutherland Classroom Assistant
 Faith Jacob Classroom Assistant
 Heather Alanen Special Education Resource Teacher
 James Cole MECC Teacher
 Jamie Bosma Science Teacher
 Jennessa DaRosa Mental Health Worker
 Jeremy Oxford Teacher
 Joanne Fox Cultural Mental Health Worker
 John Colledanchise Classroom Assistant
 Joseph Misewace Land Based Support Worker
 Joseph Willis Curriculum Development Officer

bbattiston@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
icARRIER@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
abeardy@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
awemigwans@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
agilmour@matawaeducation.ca 3339
awood@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
anate@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
bmacleod@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
bdesimone@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
bkennedy@matawaeducation.ca 3344
cmckeich@matawaeducation.ca 3418
catwood@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
cugray@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
cpalmer@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
dmcdougall@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
dedwards@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
robaxter@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
ejacob@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
esutherland@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
fjacob@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
halanen@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
jbosma@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
jdarosa@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
joxford@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
jfox@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
jcolledanchise@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
jmisewace@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
jwillis@matawaeducation.ca 3354



Kaleigh Caputo Distance Education Coordinator
 Karen Desroiser Special Education Resource Teacher
 Katie Di Biagio Special Education Resource Teacher
 Katy McGuigan Mental Health Worker
 Keshia Teddy Student Transition Coordinator
 Levi Yellowhead Student Safety Support Liaison
 Lindsay Johnson Special Education Resource Teacher
 Lisa Hill Student Safety Support Coordinator
 Lisa Wingert Mental Health Development Assistant
 Luke Pretto Teacher
 Melinda Rody Education System Navigator
 Nicholas Nault Special Education Resource Teacher
 Nick Shaver Student Program Officer
 Paul Ochnicki Math Teacher
 Phyllis Goodwin Teacher
 Rachel Hillock Life Skills Teacher
 Rebecca Wheeler Wellness System Navigator
 Robert Elliott Choose Life Assistant
 Samantha Bachynski Teacher
 Samantha Renaud Head Teacher
 Sarah Moonias Elder
 Shilpa Dhankhar Math Teacher
 Sid Okees Student Support Worker
 Steve Achneepineskum Cultural Lead
 Steve Lipson Cooperative Education Teacher
 Steve St. Jean Student Achievement Officer
 Tim Sofea Student Support Worker
 Cynthia Rose Edwards MECC Receptionist

kcaputo@matawaeducation.ca 3417
kderoiser@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
kdibiagio@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
kmcguigan@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
kteddy@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
lyellowhead@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
ljohnson@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
lhill@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
lwingert@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
lpretto@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
mrody@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
mnault@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
nshaver@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
pochnicki@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
pgoodwin@matawaeducation.ca 3422
rhillock@matawaeducation.ca
rwheeler@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
relliott@matawaeducation.ca 3432
sbachynski@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
srenaud@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
smoonias@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
sdhankhar@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
sid.okees@matawaeducation.ca 3334
sachneepineskum@matawaeducation.ca 3316
slipson@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
sstjean@matawaeducation.ca 3352
tsofea@matawaeducation.ca 3334
cedwards@matawaeducation.ca 3330

Matawa Student Care Centre

Malinda Staal MSCC Manager
 Agnes Kwandibens Security
 Akansha Kaur Tutor
 Alexandra Robertson Youth Care Lead Supervisor
 Amberzina Sutherland Cultural Activities Worker
 Ankush Mahajan P/T Youth Care Leader
 Antoine Moonias P/T Cultural Activities Worker
 Brandon Morriseau Youth Care Leader

mstaal@matawaeducation.ca 3338
akwandibens@matawaeducation.ca
akaur@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
arobertson@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
asutherland@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
amahajan@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
amoonias@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
bmorriseay@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.



Brianna Jacob Youth Care Leader
 Brooklyn Ballentine Youth Care Leader
 Cedar Kwandibens Youth Care Leader
 Cressida, Yapput Youth Care Leader
 Chaseon Fiddler Youth Care Leader
 Cindy Jacob Youth Care Leader
 Crissy Hamlin Youth Care Leader
 Dakota-colt Meshake Cultural Activities Worker
 Dallas Lidemark Youth Care Leader
 Danica Logan Mental Health Worker
 Dylan Neshinapaise Youth Care Leader
 Emily Tornquist P/T Youth Care Leader
 Emmalee Goudie P/T Youth Care Leader
 Evona Kondakow Mental Health Worker
 Faith Bruyere Cultural Activities Worker
 Honey West Youth Care Leader
 Jennifer Kamande Cultural Activities Worker
 Johnathon Echum Youth Care Leader
 Joshua McCart Mental Health Worker
 Keith Debassigne Security
 Kelly Soulias Youth Care Lead Supervisor
 Kyra Metatawabin P/T Youth Care Leader
 Laurie DePerry Mental Health Worker
 Matilda Suganaqueb Youth Care Leader
 Marissa Mancuso Youth Care Leader
 Mary Ann Lachnette Youth Care Leader
 Mary Kakegamic Security
 Micah Beardy Security
 Michelle McConnell P/T Youth Care Leader
 Milad Berenjkar Youth Care Leader
 Natalie Ferris P/T Youth Care Leader
 Natasha Wabano Youth Care Leader
 Nicole Beardy Mental Health Worker
 Noah Okiror P/T Youth Care Leader
 Paul Nawagesic Youth Care Leader
 Peter Nawagesic Youth Care Leader
 Raven Echum Youth Care Leader

bjacob@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
bballentine@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
ckwandibens@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
cyapput@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
cfiddler@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
cjacob@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
chamlin@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
dmeshake@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
dlidemark@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
dlogan@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
dneshinapaise@matawaeducation.ca
etornquist@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
egoudie@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
ekondakow@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
fbruyere@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
hwest@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
jkamande@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
jechum@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
jmccart@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
kdebassigne@matawaeducation.ca
ksoulias@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
kmetatawabin@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
ldeperry@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
msuganaqueb@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
mmancuso@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
mlachnette@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
mkegamic@matawaeducation.ca
mbeardy@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
mmcconnell@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
mberenjkar@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
nferris@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
nwabano@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
nbeardy@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.

pnawagesic@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
rechum@matawaeducation.ca No ext.



Renee Lavoie Cultural Activities Worker
Rhonda Moonias P/T Youth Care Leader
Richard Jourdain Cultural & Activities Lead
Sunshine Moonias Youth Care Leader
Tammy Moonias Youth Care Leader
Tracy Dore Youth Care Leader
Tyarra Goodman Youth Care Leader
Ziigwan Moses Youth Care Leader

rlavoie@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
rmoonias@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
rjourdain@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
smoonias@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
tmoonias@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
tdore@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
tgoodman@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
zmoses@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.

Matawa Student Care Centre Kitchen Staff

Alexandra Missewace General Cook
April Baxter General Cook
Blanche Swalwell General Cook
Charles Wesley General Cook
Charlotte Baxter Student Nutrition Support Worker
Connie Pugliese-Kellar General Cook
Landy Moose P/T Dietary Aide
Mary Lou Baxter Dietary Aide
Remy Cote Kitchen Lead Cook

amissewace@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
abaxter@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
bswalwell@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
cwesley@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
charlotte.baxter@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
cpugliesekellar@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
lmoose@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
mbaxter@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
rcote@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.

Ext 3351 for all After Hours Staff

After Hours Student Support

Stephanie Ritch Youth Inquest Manager
Sabrina MacLaurin Youth Inquest Assistant
Timothy Fox After Hours Supervisor
Ardelle Sagutcheway Indigenous Cultural Reintegration Youth Worker
Chad Samuelson Youth Crisis Intervention Worker
Cheyanne Meekis On Call Worker
Cheyanne Moonias After Hours Support Worker
Danielle Legacy P/T Youth Residential Worker
Derek Gagnon P/T Outreach Worker
Elaina Anderson Youth Residential Worker
Elkanah Wesley Outreach Worker
Esther Semple Addictions Crisis Worker
Harold Meeseetawageesic On Call Worker
Jacob Moore Addictions Crisis Worker
Jada Sofea On Call Worker
Jared Yellowhead After Hours Support Worker

sritch@matawaeducation.ca
smaclaurin@matawaeducation.ca
timothy.fox@matawaeducation.ca
asagutcheway@matawaeducation.ca
csameulson@matawaeducation.ca
cmeekis@matawaeducation.ca

dlegacy@matawaeducation.ca

eanderson@matawaeducation.ca

esemple@matawaeducation.ca
hmeeseetawageesic@matawaeducation.ca

jsofea@matawaeducation.ca
jayellowhead@matawaeducation.ca

Joseph Baxter After Hours Support Worker
Joseph Meeseetawageesic Addictions Crisis Worker
Klarissa Sakanee On Call Worker
Leslie Spence Outreach Worker
Marcia Jacob After Hours Support Worker
Mya Dixon After Hours Support Worker
Rebecca Sutherland After Hours Support Worker
Robyn Kakegamic Outreach Worker
Tanya Towner P/T On Call Worker
Owen Atlookan On Call Worker

jmeeseetawageesic@matawaeducation.ca
ksakanee@matawaeducation.ca
lspence@matawaeducation.ca
mjacob@matawaeducation.ca
mdixon@matawaeducation.ca
rsutherland@matawaeducation.ca
rkakegamic@matawaeducation.ca
ttowner@matawaeducation.ca
oatlookan@matawaeducation.ca

Building Maintenance & Janitors

Scott Russell Operations & Maintenance Facility Manager
Gerald Suganaqueb Facilities Manager Assistant
Michael McNaul Fleet Coordinator
Ashanti Benson MSCC Custodian
Beatrice Mamakwa Custodian
Charlie Martin Maintenance Lead Hand
Colin Sobey Maintenance Lead Hand
Conrad Moonias Lead Custodian
Felix Quisses Custodian
Mitchell Sutherland Custodian
Ophelia Moonias P/T Custodian
Rebecca Missewace P/T Custodian
Theresa Moonias P/T Custodian

srussell@matawaeducation.ca 3345
gsuganaqueb@matawaeducation.ca 3345
mmcnaul@matawaeducation.ca
abenson@matawaeducation.ca
bmamakwa@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
bmartin@matawaeducation.ca 3345
csobey@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
conmoonias@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
fquisses@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
msutherland@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
omoonias@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.
rmissewace@matawaeducation.ca No Ext.

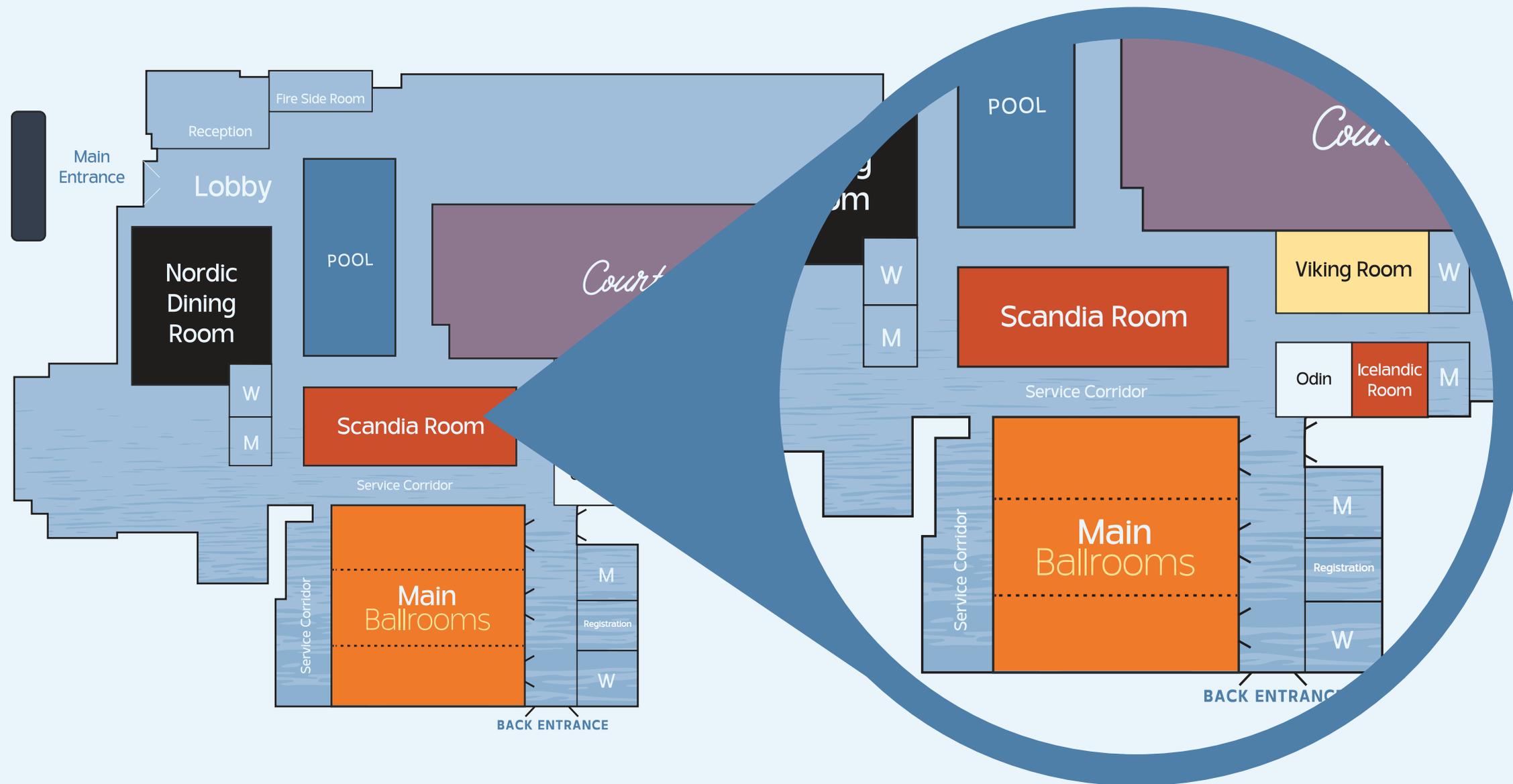


Venue Map

VALHALLA HOTEL, THUNDER BAY

Our Vendors

- Mallons
- Oshki
- Barb
- Queenie
- OCCC
- Little Bear Trading
- Dene Cree
- Scholastic
- Indigenous Reflections
- ONECA
- KPDSB – Rapid Response
- Purple Camel
- Learning Bird
- Kokums Corner (Nancy Coaster)
- RapidLynx





200 Lillie St N,
Thunder Bay, ON
P7C 5Y2

matawaeducation.com