



ANNUAL

Education

Conference

2025






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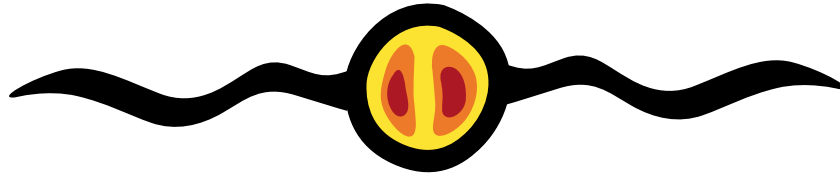
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Welcome

TO THE 2025 16TH ANNUAL
MATAWA EDUCATION CONFERENCE





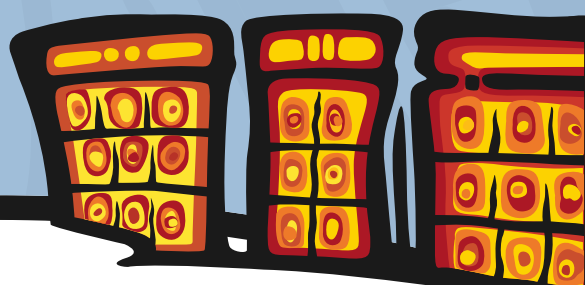
Matawa Education respectfully acknowledges that the lands on which we live, work and visit are the traditional lands of the Anishinaabe Nation and the Traditional Territory of (Anemki Wajiw) Fort William First Nation, signatory to the Robinson-Superior Treaty of 1850.

THIS YEAR'S THEME IS
Walking the Indigenous Path:
Anishinaabe Bimosewin

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Walking The Indigenous Path



Rufus Moonias

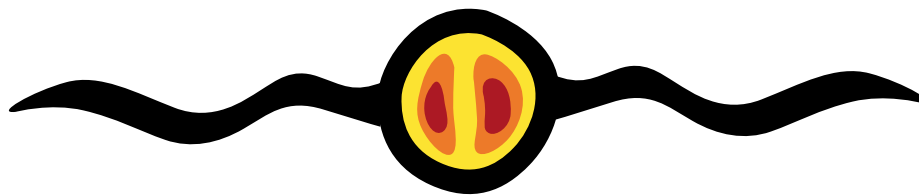
a proud member of the Anishinaabe community, draws his creative inspiration from the rich tapestry of his Indigenous heritage. Born and raised in Neskantaga First Nation, Rufus's artistic journey is deeply intertwined with his cultural roots and personal experiences.

Named after a revered medicine man who was his grandfather's mentor, Rufus embraces his Anishinaabe identity with reverence and gratitude. His ancestral name, Stand-alone Bear, reflects the spiritual connection he shares with his dodem and the natural world that surrounds him.



To Live in Both Worlds

This vibrant and dynamic piece, titled to Live in Both Worlds, is a stunning contemporary Woodland painting. The piece features intricate, bold shapes and bright, contrasting colours that capture a deep connection to nature, spirituality, and tradition. Depicting Thunderbird at its centre and surrounded by a distant, abstract community, Moonias balances between two different but interconnected worlds that shape life and the themes of harmony, duality, and transformation.



Dear Educators, Administrators and Guests

On behalf of the Matawa First Nation Education Board of Directors, it is my honour and privilege to welcome you to the 16th Annual Education Conference. This gathering stands as a testament to the unwavering commitment we share in strengthening education for our Matawa First Nations schools.

This year, we focus on creating meaningful opportunities for professional growth, offering a wide range of transformative sessions dedicated to Cultural and Land-Based Curriculum, Autism Awareness, Mental Health and Wellness, Language Revitalization, and so much more. These sessions are not just workshops—they are stepping stones toward a brighter future for our students, schools, and communities.

Together, we will explore innovative teaching practices, celebrate our unique cultures, and embrace the challenges and possibilities that lie ahead. This is your time to engage, share, and connect with colleagues from across the region. Let us use this conference as an opportunity to walk together on a path of learning, growth, and unity.

Thank you for your dedication to shaping the future of education in our communities. Your work inspires hope, resilience, and possibility for generations to come.

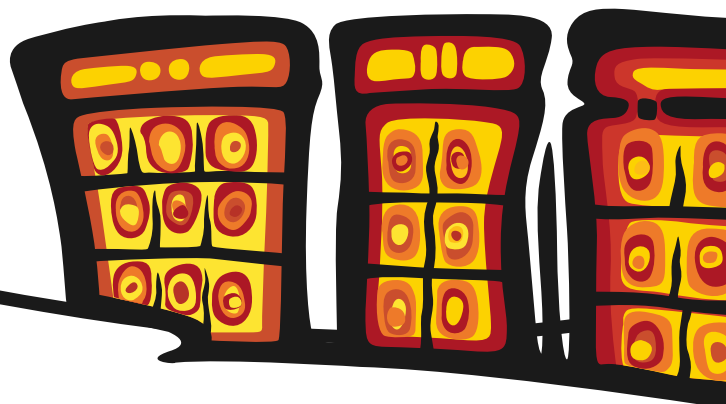


Miigwetch, and enjoy the conference!

Sincerely,

Annamarie Majiskon

President | Matawa First Nation Education Authority



Matawa
EDUCATION



Learn more at...
matawa.live/portal





Boozhoo Wachiye and Welcome Everyone!

This year, we mark the 16th year of this incredible gathering, and our theme, **“Walking the Indigenous Path: Anishinaabe Bimosewin,”** is a powerful reflection of the journey we share as educators, leaders, and community members. Anishinaabe Bimosewin reminds us of the importance of walking in balance, guided by our cultural teachings and values, as we strive to create meaningful learning environments for our students.

Over the next three days, this conference will serve as a space for professional growth, knowledge-sharing, and connection. It has been designed to address the unique challenges and opportunities we face in Matawa’s remote First Nations schools. Together, we will explore practical tools and strategies to strengthen our classrooms and schools while ensuring our students remain deeply connected to their culture and heritage.

To our educators, administrators, and staff: Miigwech for your unwavering dedication to the students and families of Matawa First Nations. Your hard work ensures that every child has the opportunity to succeed in ways that honour their identity and traditions.

To our sponsors, organizers, and presenters: Thank you for your commitment and collaboration in making this conference possible.

A special thank you to Lowerys for your platinum sponsorship. Matawa Education cherishes our wonderful working relationship. We are very thankful for your continued support.

As we embark on these three days together, I encourage each of you to:

- Share your experiences and ideas.
- Embrace the learning opportunities provided.
- Carry the teachings and connections made here back to your communities.

Let us walk this Indigenous path together, inspired by our shared commitment to education, culture, and the well-being of our youth.

Enjoy the conference, and miigwech for all that you do for our students and communities. I look forward to connecting with many of you over the coming days.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sharon L. Nate

Executive Director Matawa Education Department



Conference Elders



Ronnie Beaver

Many Eagles Man/ Fire Thunderbird

Caribou Clan

Webequie First Nation

Evelyn Beaver

White Ice Woman

White Eagle Clan

Webequie First Nation

Evelyn, originally from Fort Hope with the maiden name Oskineegish, and Ronnie, who is from Webequie, have been married for 50 years. They have three children, ten grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. As members of Webequie First Nation, they currently reside in Sioux Lookout, Ontario.

Both Ronnie and Evelyn are survivors of the Indian Residential School system. Their healing journey began in October 1987, when they started reconnecting with their Anishinaabe identity, culture, and traditional way of life.

They are both certified social workers, sacred bundle carriers, pipe carriers, sweat lodge keepers, sacred fire keepers, and traditional teachers. Well-respected as traditional healers, they also carry and work with herbal medicines.

Their knowledge and skills have been shaped by a lifetime of teachings from Ojibway and Oji-Cree traditional healers. Committed to living as the Creator intended for Anishinaabe people, they have dedicated many years to working with youth and First Nation communities. Fluent in Ojibway and Oji-Cree, they actively teach and share their cultural knowledge. Their commitment to serving their people and preserving traditional ways remains unwavering.

Ronnie and Evelyn Beaver

Elders

Janine Desmoulin

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.

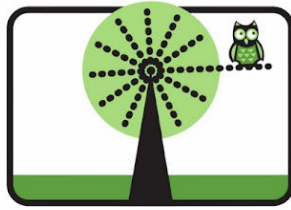


At Bay Village Coffee we're more than just great coffee and baking, as a family-owned spot, community comes first! Enjoy a fun, welcoming vibe, locally sourced brews, great food, and a place to relax and feel at home.

Come for the coffee, stay for the connections.

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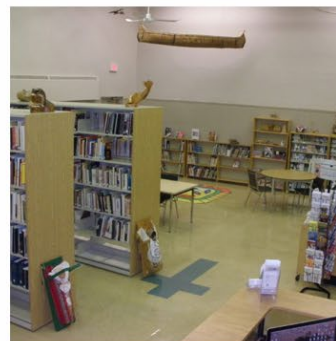
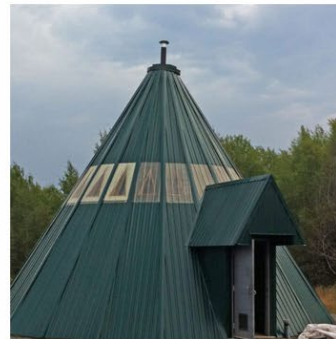


Ojibway & Cree Cultural Centre

The Ojibway and Cree Cultural Centre is a non-profit organization that was established in 1975 under the direction of Grand Council Treaty #9, now known as the Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN). The Centre is funded through Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) Cultural Education Centres program. The Centre is managed by a board of directors who represent each Tribal Council area of the NAN territory.



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Tobacco Teachings

Anishinaabe people were given instructions if/ when they want to communicate with their creator, they are to use tobacco and to offer it to the creator for anything they need from the land.

Tobacco is even provided on the land for this exact purpose, also a pipe was given to be used as a tool for communication purposes and tobacco is placed in pipe in 4 to 7 pinches enough to fill pipe.

- Please use 4 to 7 pinches when making tobacco ties
- When offering use 4 to 7 ties for offering to fire
- You could use your own tobacco (highly recommended)
- Food can also be placed in the fire in lieu of tobacco
- You could also sing in lieu of tobacco

If you give someone tobacco to do something for you, make sure it's enough to fill their pipe. They may be speaking or acting on your behalf, so we must be generous.





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Keynote



Wednesday,
March 5, 2025
9:00 AM

James Vukelich Kaagegaabaw

◦ The Seven Generations and the Seven Grandfather Teachings

James Vukelich Kaagegaabaw, a descendant of Turtle Mountain, is a renowned international speaker, author and digital creator. He is known on Instagram and Facebook for his series of short videos on indigenous language and culture and is the author of *The Seven Generations* and *the Seven Grandfather Teachings*.

His keen insights were developed through speaking with and recording Elders and Native language speakers across North America as part of the Ojibwe Language Dictionary Project.

Autograph



Entertainment



Tuesday,
March 4, 2025
2:45 PM

Ivan Flett Memorial Dancers

Ashley Sinclair
Shelly Harris
Michael Settee

Jacob Harris-Settee
Cienna Harris-Settee
Liam Sinclair

Formally known as the Slick and Lil J Show, back in 2012 they lost one of their biggest fans and proud supporter, Grandpa Ivan Flett passed away, it was with great sadness but an honour to rename themselves the Ivan Flett Memorial Dancers. Every dance they do is in honour of him.

Their main focus is to attract youth through the rhythm and style of the hip hop jig. They hope to motivate and inspire people of all ages, and bring awareness that their culture is going strong and continues to be ambitious with this dance and music.

Autograph

Entertainment



Wednesday,
March 5, 2025
2:45 PM

Natasha Fisher

o Entertainment

Born and raised in Northwestern Ontario, Canada, vocalist and songwriter Natasha Fisher crafts songs that take influence from both traditional pop and alternative genres carried out by edgy melodies and heartfelt storytelling. Her songs capture the intensity of heartbreak, healing, and self-discovery, while incorporating Indigenous (Anishinaabe) elements that add depth and authenticity. Natasha's music carries a raw, emotional energy that's both nostalgic and fresh, inviting listeners into a journey of independence, recovery, and resilience. Deeply inspired by her Indigenous culture and community, she has dedicated a significant portion of her music career to touring First Nations communities, where she performs and addresses issues related to addictions and mental health.

Autograph





Wednesday,
March 5, 2025
2:45 PM

Noah Mendowegan

o Entertainment

From a very young age Noah was interested in piano. As young as five or six years old he remembers discovering the show One Piece on YouTube and being completely fascinated with the music from the show.

Binks No Sale, the rag-time influenced piano theme of the show, soon became a favourite of his and captured his imagination. That was only the beginning. From there he continued to discover more and more music online. His parents took notice and saw his developing interest and purchased him a keyboard in 2019. In 2020, Noah started playing a bit here and there, teaching himself what he could using YouTube. When Johnny Therriault Memorial School started the music program in 2023 that Matawa initiated, Noah was excited and ready to study piano with an instructor. To this day he continues to study piano

and has expanded his interests to artists such as Tony Ann as well as Ryu Nagamatsu and Asuka Ohta, the composers for the Mario Kart video games. Noah hopes to pursue his music studies through high school and at the post-secondary level.

Autograph

Entertainment



Wednesday,
March 5, 2025
2:45 PM

Meegwun Sakanee

◦ Entertainment

Meegwun has always demonstrated an aptitude for art. She is a natural visual artist who loves to draw and music is a big part of her life. She grew up in Neskantaga First Nation and from a young age she displayed an interest in music by singing songs while out on the land with her father. In the summer of 2023, Henry Coaster Memorial School hosted a summer music camp where she learned the first few notes of Beethoven's Ode to Joy and the intro to Lukas Graham's 7 Years Old.

Meegwun rushed home and asked her mother for a piano. Her mother was surprised but Meegwun was insistent. They purchased a keyboard in Thunder Bay and ever since she has been an active participant in the HCMS Music Program. She has expanded her repertoire with songs by Yiruma, Ludovico Einaudi, and Jamie Duffy and has performed numerous times in the school's concerts, one of which featured a solo piano version of The Scientist by Coldplay. She is graduating Grade 8 in 2025 and wants to continue her music studies during and after high school.

Autograph



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Speakers



Ali Maunula

o *Planning for your future in post-secondary education*

My name is Ali Maunula and I began working with Matawa Education in September 2024. My academic background is an Honours Bachelor of Outdoor Recreation, Education, and I will graduate in April with a Master of Education with specialization in Indigenous Education. I spent the last 4 years working as a high school teacher and then vice principal in Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation in northern Manitoba.



Ashley Nurmela

o *Mapping Electoral Districts: Fairness, Identity, and elections*

Ashley Nurmela is the Indigenous education coordinator for Elections Canada in Northwestern Ontario. She delivers learning services in the region. Based in Nipigon, Ontario, she is a member of the Red Rock Indian Band. Actively engaged in her community, she has experience working with local First Nations communities, federal and provincial schools, organizations, students, and families.



Annick Brewster

o *Supporting student literacy through Structured Literacy*

Annick Brewster is the Assistant Superintendent of School Effectiveness at Superior-Greenstone District School Board. A proud daughter, wife and mother to three boys, she is a passionate leader in literacy, special education, and student achievement. Annick supports inclusive practices and inspires educators and leaders to use data-informed strategies to meet the diverse needs of students.



Ashley Palmer

- o *Putting on Your Own Oxygen Mask: Navigating Stress and Cultivating Resilience*

Ashley is the supervisor of the Oshkibiimaates Wiidoogakewin: Matawa Partnership Program at St. Joseph's Care Group, a unique integrative mental health program within the Matawa Education and Care Centre (MECC). Ashley is a social worker and has worked in the mental health field for almost 20 years, specializing in youth mental health and addictions, trauma and critical incident response.



Katherine Boyes

- o *Mapping Electoral Districts*

Bruno Bilotta

- o *Back To Basics: Empowering Autism Classroom Management Through Innovative Technology Integration*

Bruno Bilotta is a PhD student and Faculty Advisor at Lakehead University, as well as an educator with the Toronto Catholic District School Board in the Treatment Research and Education for Autism and Developmental Disorders (TRE-ADD) program. With over 20 years of experience supporting exceptional students across various age groups, Bruno has developed a strong commitment to inclusive education.



Cheryl Ugray

- o *Special Education: Implementing a Holistic Approach in Individual Education Plans (IEP)*

My name is Cheryl Ugray, and I am from Michikan Lake First Nation. I completed both my undergraduate and graduate education at Lakehead University, focusing on Indigenous Education. I have been an educator for 22 years and have worked in various capacities in Ontario and Alberta. Currently, I serve as the Special Education Coordinator for the Matawa Education and Care Centre in Thunder Bay.



Chloe Eward

- *Stop Now And Plan (SNAP) Universal School-Based Model*

Chloé is Manager, Program Implementation & Training at the Child Development Institute (CDI). Chloé supports the team of SNAP Trainer/Consultants to ensure SNAP affiliates are supported when implementing SNAP. Chloé holds a Master of Public Health and is passionate about developing inclusive, accessible, and sustainable programs that support community mental health.

Dadavan: Dale MacMullin

- *Top 10 features to make your school life easier (for secretaries and administrators)*
- *Top 10 features to make your school life easier (for teachers)*

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Danielle Mior

- *Learning Resources for Language and Tradition*

Danielle Mior is a proud member of the Red Rock Indian Band. Through her work, she advocates for Indigenous education and fosters cultural inclusion and holistic well-being. She collaborates with communities to develop curricula and resources that honour Indigenous knowledge, storytelling, and traditions.

Mary Ann Nawagesic

- *Learning Resources for Language and Tradition*

Mary Ann Nawagesic is Ojibway from Gull Bay First Nations. Mary Ann has dedicated her life goal to working with First Nations communities and promoting 'Minobimaatisiwin'. She is the Mental Health Lead at Matawa Education and Care Center. This role has given her many opportunities to promote Mental Health and Life Promotion Initiatives for the Matawa community schools. Proud highlights of programs she carries range from The Moccasin Curriculum Program, The Power of Story: Understanding Ourselves & Empowering Our Spirit Program, and the "SNAP" in Schools Program" in our Matawa Schools. Mary Ann is also a co-facilitator with the Mental Health Champion Program that Nishnawbe Aski Nation and Kenora Patricia District School Board fund to train and support Mental Health workers for all our northern schools. Mary Ann received her education from Confederation College in Native Child and Family Services, Laurentian University in Native Human Services and completed her Master's Degree in Indigenous Studies and Social Work with Wilfrid Laurier.



Dave Fish

○ *Tools for Teaching Science*

Dave has been a high school Physics teacher for over 30 years. He has played a leading role in the production of most of the classroom resources and programs developed by Perimeter. He has given workshops on teaching science at local, provincial, national and international levels. Dave is currently a Teacher in Residence at Perimeter Institute.



David Peddie

○ *Learning with Microsoft Excel: Using Macros, Formulas, and Functions to Increase Teaching and Learning*

David Peddie has been teaching at John C. Yesno Education Centre since October 2020, with experience in intermediate, and high school. His expertise spans teaching, accounting, technology, research, and business. Holding an MBA in Management of Technology and Innovation and a bachelor's in computer science, David is also active in his community, enjoying dancing, singing, and cooking.

Deb McDougall

○ *Reflecting Indigenous Ways of Knowing in the Provincial Curriculum*

Deb McDougall, is the Curriculum Development Officer for the Matawa Education and Care Centre. Deb is constantly working with school staff, the Land-based & , Cultural Teams and the Elder's to create reflective curriculum to support our students and educators.

Deb has been an educator on the North Shore for 28 years with equity and student success as the primary focus in all she does.



Warren Woytuck

○ *Reflecting Indigenous Ways of Knowing in the Provincial Curriculum*

As well as his roles as a facilitator, senior editor and writer, Warren contributes to TC² as a director. He has been a K-12 teacher and elementary principal for more than 20 years. Warren has leadership experience in government and not-for-profit organizations and co-led the development of a provincial secondary social studies curriculum. He has authored and edited several teaching and learning resources, bringing the practical experience of working with thousands of teachers to his project consultation.



Deborah McCallum

o *Structured Writing through Self-Regulated Strategy Development (SRSD)*

With over 20 years of experience in education, I specialize in fostering evidence-based, equitable, and inclusive learning environments. As a literacy specialist, lecturer, psychometrist, and doctoral student in School Psychology at OISE, my expertise lies in literacy development, neurodiversity, and intervention.

Elizabeth Barrett

o *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 is a teacher, who emigrated from South Africa to Canada. Liz joined JUMP Math many years ago works and travels full time to support Math teaching across many communities in Canada. Her passion is supporting teachers and math education.



Elliott Cromarty

o *Living History: Live Science*

Elliott Cromarty is the Indigenous Heritage Program Coordinator at Fort William Historical Park. He began learning about Anishinaabe culture, history and traditional skills as a student. He works with the community to develop and host education programs, events and workshops. Elliott teaches staff about Indigenous culture, encouraging them to share it with visitors from many walks of life.

David Bates

o *Living History: Live Science*

David Bates is a Canoe Builder & scientist of Métis and Ojibwa heritage from Fort William Historical Park. In a past life, he travelled across Northern Ontario teaching science and tech to students and adults of all ages. He now uses storytelling, traditional techniques, and the occasional explosion to do the same thing, but a few hundred years in the past.



Emily Kerton

o *Pathways to Medicine*

Emily Kerton is a Senior Manager leading the Outreach & Indigenous Initiatives portfolios. She has spent the last 15 years working with schools & communities to ensure Science North's programming is culturally relevant and curriculum focused.



Monica Prodanyk

o *Pathways to Medicine*

Monica Prodanyk is a STEM Specialist with Science North and has been working with the Outreach team to ensure programming is hands-on and fun!

Emily Shandruk

o *Cultivating Safe Spaces for Difficult Conversations*

Emily's career spans across Canada, working in both non-profit and for-profit sectors, with a focus on philanthropy, conflict management, and employee relations. She founded Emily Shandruk Solutions in 2019, and then partnered to create Sociable Solutions in 2023. Emily specializes in non-profit consulting and employee relations.



Flora Asp

o *Localizing Curriculum: Integrating Indigenous Knowledge and Perspectives in Education*

Flora Asp was raised in the isolated Ojibway First Nations community of Eabametoong, Ontario. Her path to higher education began with her enrolment in the Yukon Native Teacher Education Program at Yukon College, where she earned a Bachelor of Education Degree in 2002. Flora went on to earn a Master's in Education from Simon Fraser University in 2007.

Gloria Ranger

○ *Pow-Wow dancing; more than just dance; it's a lifestyle*

Gloria Ranger is a proud member of Neskantaga First Nation. With over 20 years of experience in cultural resource coordination, she has worked at the Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre, currently works at St. Josephs Care Group and actively contributes to local community organizations. Gloria also teaches dance and fitness classes and enjoys music and coffee in her free time.



Jennifer Logan

○ *All About Autism Spectrum Disorder*

Born in Thunder Bay, I graduated with a BA and BEd from Lakehead University. Following graduation, I moved to Winnipeg and began teaching in the Winnipeg School Division. Teaching soon led to entering the field of Applied Behaviour Analysis. There, I discovered my passion for helping children and youth feel empowered to develop meaningful skills that enrich their lives.

John Ferris

○ *Birch bark canoes*

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 have created a business Ed-Digenous Traditions that serves educational institutions with our Indigenous Learning kits which collaborates with curriculum and other programs learning Indigenous Culture.



Katie Burch

○ *Connected North feather carving*

Katie Burch is an educator with over 20 years of experience, dedicated to supporting remote and Indigenous communities. As a leader with Connected North, she helps bridge cultural knowledge and education through virtual learning. Katie works closely with teachers and students, fostering meaningful connections and creating engaging, impactful learning opportunities tailored to diverse needs.



Priscilla Boulay

o *Connected North feather carving*

Born and raised in Tuktoyaktuk, Northwest Territories, Priscilla is the firstborn of Maryanne Taylor-Reid. Her journey into Inuvialuit art began at age 3 when her Uncle Derrald gave her a carving to sand and polish. Her unique carving style reflects Inuvialuit traditions like hunting, fishing, and Arctic wildlife. She balances urban life while passing her culture to her daughters.

Kristen Stansell

o *Land-Based Learning at MECC*

Kristen Stansell, an OCT with 20 years of experience, recently joined the Land-Based team. Throughout her career, she has specialized in alternative, experiential, and outdoor education. Passionate about learning with students in natural settings, Kristen is dedicated to fostering growth and connection through hands-on, land-based experiences.



Eddy Baxter

o *Land-Based Learning at MECC*

Eddy Baxter, a land-based guide from Eabametoong First Nation, has a lifetime of experience in hunting, trapping, fishing, and harvesting. With four years at Matawa's Land-Based Program, he shares his deep knowledge and skills with students, offering valuable insights rooted in his connection to the land. Eddy's expertise and dedication are greatly appreciated by all.

Kristi Stano

o *Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Blind/Low Vision and Deafblind Outreach Services -Ministry of Education*

Kristi Stano is a Specialist Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.



Amy King

o *Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Blind/Low Vision and Deafblind Outreach Services -Ministry of Education*

Amy King is a Specialist Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Beth Conly-Edwards

- o *Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Blind/Low Vision and Deafblind Outreach Services -Ministry of Education*

Beth Conly-Edwards is a Specialist Teacher of the Blind-BLV Coordinator.



Kristy Hankila

- o *Wise Practices for the transition to Kindergarten*

Kristy is a R.E.C.E. with experience in various Early Learning and Child Care settings including licensed care and Kindergarten and has five years of experience writing curriculum and facilitating training for RECEs across the province. Kristy has a background in journalism and corporate communications for Indigenous Political Territorial Organizations and mental health non-profits.



Lindsey Jupp

- o *O&M with Tech Services*

Lindsey Jupp has been the Environmental Technologist with Matawa Technical Services since 2009. Daily work activities include helping with O&M, funding applications, project management, help coordinating repairs/upgrades, sourcing contractors, etc.



Mayrose Salvador

- o *Engaging Students in Robotics*

Mayrose Salvador, a scientist, innovator, and educator, earned her PhD in Physical Chemistry from University of Toronto. She has developed advanced solar materials, pioneered laser techniques for nanomaterials, and studied their environmental impact. Co-founder of Pueblo Science, she has empowered over 5,600 teachers and 500,000 students and is passionate about technology for community solutions.



Vienna Fu

○ *Engaging Students in Robotics*

Vienna Fu is a second-year master's student at the Institute of Medical Science at the University of Toronto. She conducts research at SickKids Hospital, focusing on the role of specific immune pathways in chronic kidney disease progression. Since 2023, she has been an instructor for Pueblo Science, helping to inspire young minds through hands-on STEM education.



Md Abdus Salam

○ *Culturally Responsive Long-Range Plans*

Dr. Md Abdus Salam is a highly accomplished professional with over 30 years of experience in school administration and teaching. He is now the principal at Neskantaga Education Centre. He received his M.Sc. in Mech. Eng. from Moscow, Master and Ph.D. in Applied Sciences from Belgium. In 2004, he received a B.Ed. from UOIT, Ontario. He received Canada's Outstanding Principal award in 2016.



Tasfia Salam

○ *Culturally Responsive Long-Range Plans*

Tasfia Salam was a JK/SK teacher at Kattawapiskak Elementary School, Attawapiskat in 2020-2021 and JK/SK teacher at Neskantaga Education Centre in 2023-2024 school year. She is a Honors Bachelor of Science from University of Toronto. She also received a Certificate in Human Resource Management from York University.



Morris Douglas

○ *Fire Safety*

Matawa Fire Marshall



Monica Budiselic

○ *Fire Safety*

Matawa Emergency Management Coordinator & Fire Marshall



Nancy Ritch

- *Anishinaabemowin Kikinomaagewin*

My name is Nancy Ritch. I belong to Marten Falls First Nation. I am fluent in my Ojibwe Language and I was raised in a hunting, fishing, trapping environment. I grew up in a little log cabin up north where my family and I enjoyed the summer months and survived the cold winter months. We enjoyed some of the winter months as well when it wasn't too cold.



Rebecca Chambers

- *Re-engaging the Disengaged - Meet Them Where They Are At*

Rebecca Chambers is an experienced educator and founder of the R.I.S.E. Academy, a non-profit organization dedicated to re-engaging marginalized youth through personalized, hands-on learning. With a focus on equity, relationships, and real-world connections, she creates inclusive spaces that empower students to succeed and build pathways to their future.

Rita Mannella

- *Effective Classroom Management: Strategies to address typical challenging behaviour scenarios*
- *Differentiated Instruction: Program planning and effective instruction*

As a teacher for SK-12, Adult Education, Language Lead and Literacy Consultant for over 30 years, my background is shaped by teaching and sharing experiences and knowledge with diverse education professionals. I've written curriculum, revised assessment policy documents, and presented workshops about literacy, student assessment, and curriculum design at the local, regional and provincial level.



Shai Loyie

- *Fostering Indigenous Student Wellness in schools*

Shai Loyie is Anishinaabe Kwe from the shores of Rainy Lake on Couchiching First Nation located in Treaty 3 Territory. Shai's spirit name is Shabawa Ikwe Indigo meaning, "Women who sings with the Drum". Shai is passionate about connecting students from all walks of life to the Indigenous culture through building a relationship with her hand drum.



Anika Guthrie

o *Fostering Indigenous Student Wellness in schools*

Anika is Anishinaabe kwe, Amik dodem and a proud member of the Anishinaabek Nation. She has many roles she values including daughter, auntie, wife, mother, and educator. Anika is in her 17th school year as a teacher. For the last 10 years, she has been working centrally to support Indigenous Education programming at LPS. Anika is truly honoured to work for and with Indigenous children and youth.

Sheri Hopkins, Shannon Jessiman, Miranda Beare, Kelly McDougall

- o *High Impact Teaching Strategy: Explicit and Direct Instruction*
- o *Reducing Aggression & Bullying in Schools - A Self-Reg Approach to De-escalating and Managing Behaviour*

The Rapid Response Northern Schools Team is a small team of experienced educators and administrators who provides interim support to schools in First Nations communities during times of crisis so schools remain open as a safe, caring environment for students. When requested, the RRNST also offers educational support services to school staff to help foster student success and well-being.



Theodore Syrette

o *2Spirit and LGBTQIA+ Histories and Experiences*

O-zha-wa A-nung Kwe/Yellow Star Woman (Teddy Syrette). Is from Rankin Reserve of Bat-che-wana First Nation of the Anishnabek. In 2021, they were honoured with the title of 2Spirit International Warrior. In 2023, Teddy's business 2Spirit Anishnabe Storytelling & Advocacy was awarded the Indigenous Professional of the Year Award by the Sault Ste Marie Chamber of Commerce.

Tracy Spence

o *Navigating Google Drive - Anishinaabe-Biwabik Bimibizoon: N'digi-naabe*

Tracy Spence is from Webequie First Nation and Oji-Cree is her first language. She currently works in the Matawa Education Department as an Indigenous Language Specialist for Oji-Cree. Tracy's role is to guide curriculum and resource development and currently leads the Google Drive merge for MWT language staff. Tracy is proud to be part of the Matawa Indigenous Language Revitalization project.



Dr. Aroha Watene

o *Navigating Google Drive - Anishinaabe-Biwabik Bimibizoon: N'digi-naabe*

Dr Aroha Watene (Hon EdD, MA, BA) is Ng i Tuhoe, NZ. She has been an Indigenous Language Revitalization Specialist for the past 8 years at Matawa Education and was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the World Indigenous Nations University, in Education, further emphasizing her contribution to Indigenous education. Aroha's years of experience is in curriculum and digital instructional design.



Tyler Armstrong

o *The role of Anishinaabe cultural practices, protocols, and teachings: An exploration of community-led teaching and learning practices in education.*

Tyler Armstrong is a Shkaabe (helper) to his people and is a member of Michikan Lake First Nation within NAN. Tyler has completed his MEd and MSW focusing on Indigenous education and wholistic healing. At Lakehead University, Tyler has been vital in the creation of a new Indigenous Ancestry pathway for P/J teachers and is a PhD student with a focus on Indigenous education program development.

Roberta Ogemah

o *The role of Anishinaabe cultural practices, protocols, and teachings: An exploration of community-led teaching and learning practices in education.*

Roberta Ogemah is a student in the Indigenous Education program. Roberta was raised in Lac Seul First Nation. Prior to pursuing her education, she worked under the Lac Seul Education Authority for six years as a Teacher's Assistant, working with grades from grades k-7. This is where she fell in love with the youth and felt a pull to become a teacher herself and give back to her community.



Melissa Oskineegish

o *The role of Anishinaabe cultural practices, protocols, and teachings: An exploration of community-led teaching and learning practices in education.*

Melissa Oskineegish is a staff member at Keewatinase Indigenous Education. Melissa's research interests on culturally responsive practices stems from her own experience as a non-Indigenous teacher and learner in northern Ontario.

Wayne Mercer

○ *New Teacher Induction Program*

35 years in education, 26 in school administration. Experience in First Nation and public schools. Member of the Ontario Principals Council, served on the provincial council and is currently the local district OPC president. Qualified Principal, Mentor coach and holds specialist in Special Education. Currently working with KPDSB and NAN to facilitate the New Teacher Induction Program.



Heather Napash

○ *Talking Together Program*

Hello to all, my name is Heather Napash and I reside in the city of Thunder Bay ON. I am also a: TALKING TOGETHER FACILITATOR/JOURNEY BACK HOME for clients living on and off reserve from NAN Communities services by NALSC. I have been employed with NALSC for about 13 years, got involved with NALSC as a placement student from Confederation College.

William Shawanamash

○ *Talking Together Program*

Boozhoo, my name is William Shawanamash and I reside in the city of Thunder Bay ON. I am part of such a great organization; NALSC and have honorably accepted the position for: TALKING TOGETHER FACILITATOR/JOURNEY BACK HOME working the remote NAN First Nation communities. I have been employed with Tikinagan Child and Family Services 10+ years, KOSSS, Thunderbird Friendship Centre of Geraldton.



Salt & Pepper

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L O C A L . F R E S H . F L A V O U R

Corine Bannon

- *Strengthening Anishinaabemowin in Grades 6-9*

Corine Bannon is an Anishinaabemowin educator at Lakehead University and Lakehead Public Schools in Thunder Bay. With 20+ years of experience, she works to embed Anishinaabemowin in schools and daycare centers. Passionate about language revitalization, she promotes its use in public learning spaces, fostering confidence in students. She supports NSL programs in multiple schools.



Charlotte Neckoway

- *Strengthening Anishinaabemowin in Grades 6-9*

Katie Hughdie

- *Strategic Planning Session*

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.



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Stephanie Hogan

o Strategic Planning Session

Stephanie was born and raised in Thunder Bay and has a passion for Education. She is a registered Early Childhood Educator with a degree in English and certification in Resource Teaching. These avenues led to her work with Matawa Education as the Education Coordinator. Over the past 5 years Stephanie has worked closely with the Executive Director of Education assisting in advising Matawa First Nations Management, Matawa First Nations political leadership, and Matawa First Nations Education Authorities on matters related to education, early learning, elementary, secondary and post-secondary levels. Outside of work Stephanie enjoys all seasons of our beautiful city through hiking, downhill skiing, fishing and camping with family.

Shelby Ch'ng

o Strategic Planning Session

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 of the 2SLGBTQ+ community.



Lakehead University's Faculty of Education offers innovative undergraduate, graduate, and ongoing learning opportunities that are grounded in research and a commitment to social and environmental well-being.

Keewatinase Department of Indigenous Education privileges Indigenous ways of knowing, doing, being, and seeing for students interested in teaching Primary/Junior, Intermediate/Senior, or Indigenous languages in Ontario. Our programs combine in-class learning with experiential community-based learning opportunities. Keewatinase works closely with each student on their educational journey to become a professional teacher certified by the Ontario College of Teachers (OCT).

Learn more at www.lakeheadu.ca/education
or visit us at: 955 Oliver Rd, Thunder Bay, ON, P7B 5E1



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Ontario Native Education
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Rapid Response
Northern Schools Team



R.I.S.E. (Reach Inspire Soar
Empower) Academy Inc.



KENJGEWIN TEG

Kenjgewin Teg



Pueblo Science



Little Bear Trading



Matawa
Waka Tere MWT



JODINA

Learning Bird

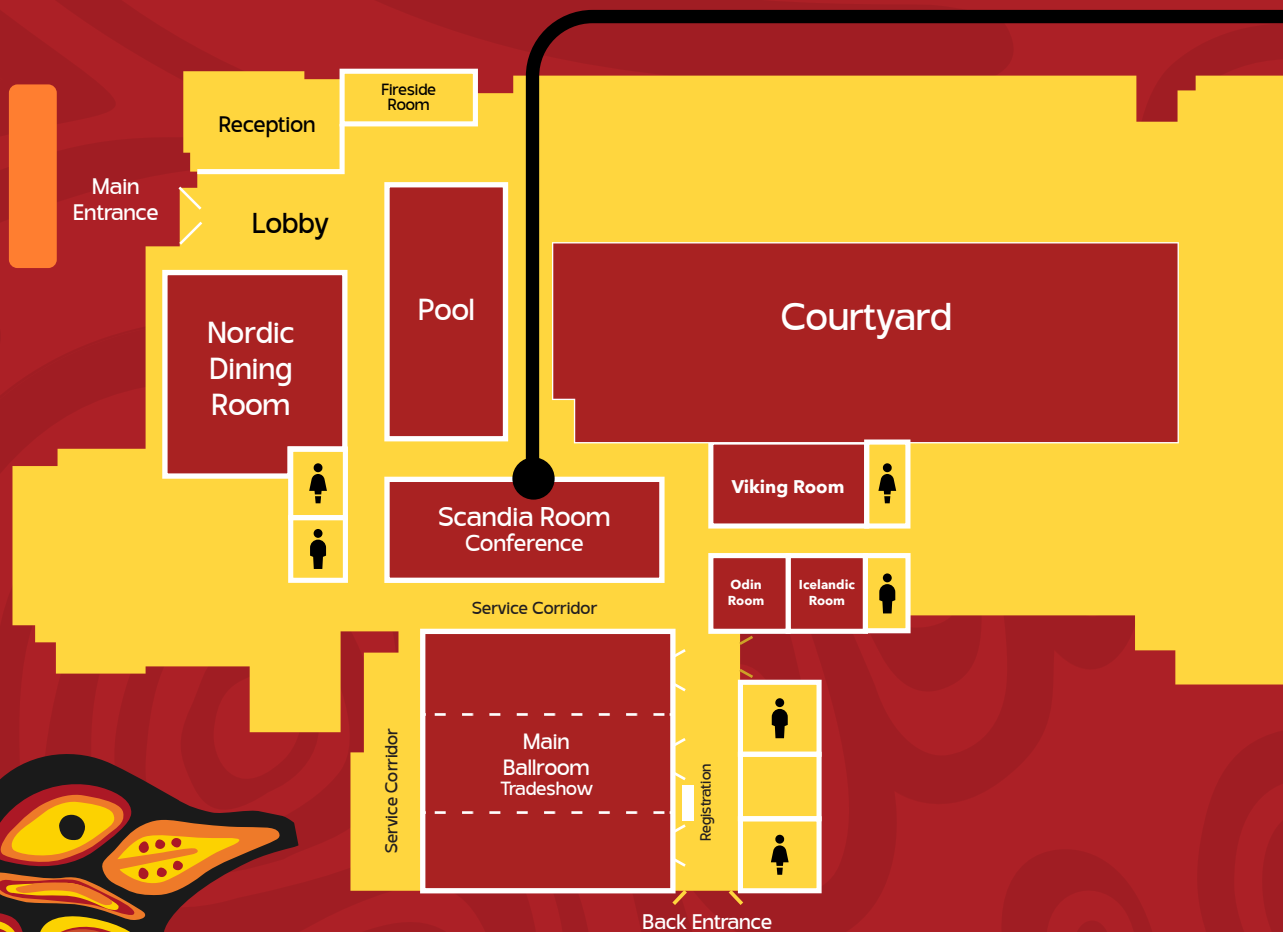
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Teachers - OCT



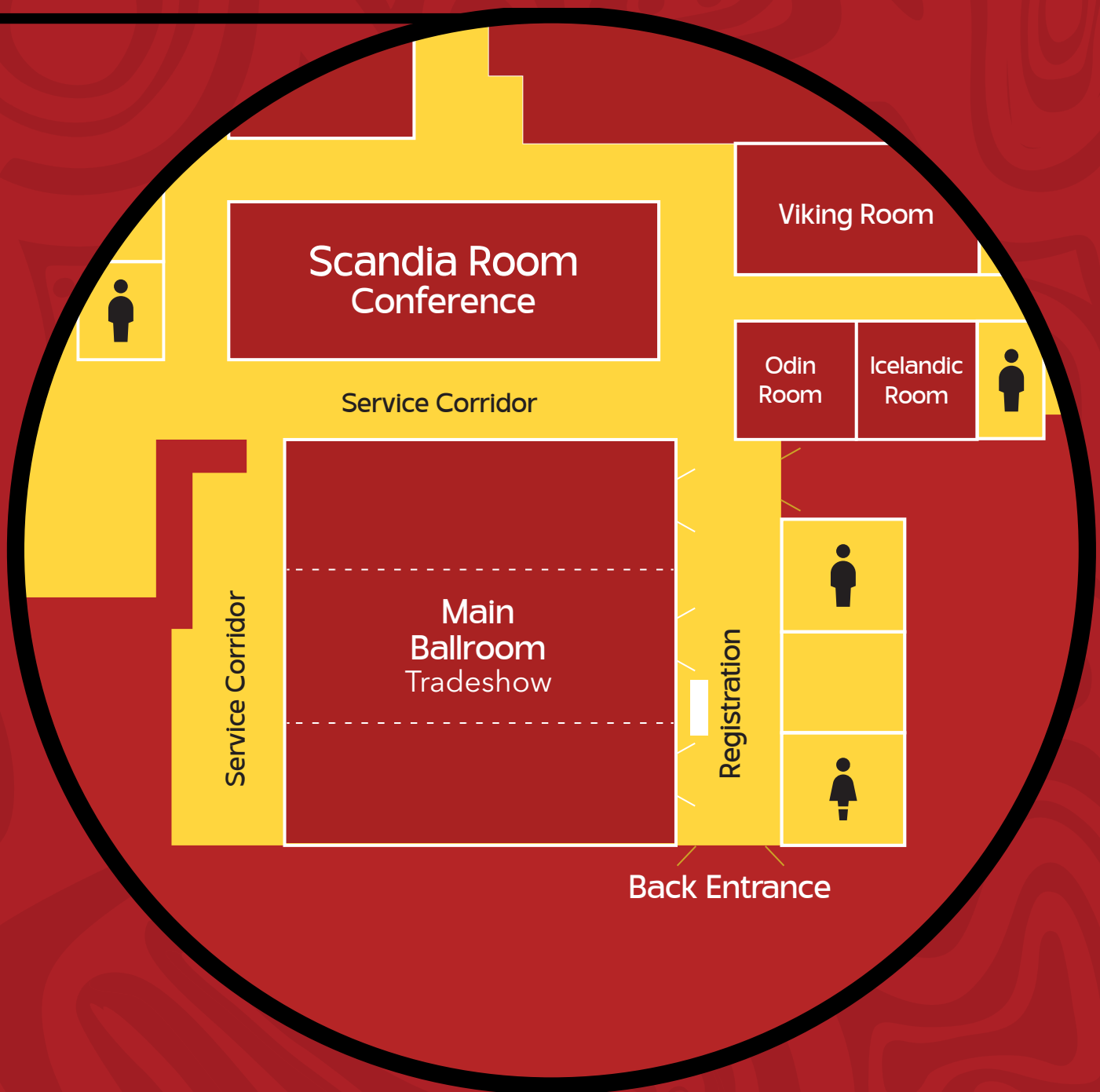
Diane Nawagesic Davis
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Venue Maps



Valhalla Inn Hotel, Thunder Bay, Ontario





Our Sessions

○ Planning for your future in post-secondary education

Ali Maunula | Rob Elliott

The Matawa Post-Secondary presentation will focus on the steps to success in post-secondary programs. What do you or your students need to know when applying to college and university? How do you apply for sponsorship? What are the requirements of a sponsored student? What types of programs are current Matawa post-secondary students taking? and What support services are there to support you through this process? This presentation will be interactive and allow for questions throughout.

Thursday, March 6, 2025 | 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM | Executive Boardroom

○ Supporting student literacy through Structured Literacy

Annick Brewster

Discover the transformative power of Structured Literacy! This session explores its evidence-based approach to improving reading outcomes, especially for struggling learners. Learn how to identify skill gaps, use targeted strategies, and access resources to close those gaps. Gain actionable tools to enhance literacy instruction and help every student succeed on their reading journey.

Thursday, March 6, 2025 | 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM | Icelandic

○ Mapping Electoral Districts: Fairness, identity, and elections

Ashley Nurmela | Katherine Boyes

Numeracy comes alive in this real-world, problem-solving activity. In Mapping Electoral Districts, students develop their geographic thinking, numeracy skills and map literacy. They consider factors like language, cultural identity, and population to help determine fair electoral boundaries. Explore how federal boundaries are drawn in this hands on activity.

Tuesday, March 4, 2025 | 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM | Boardroom 1

○ Putting on Your Own Oxygen Mask: Navigating Stress and Cultivating Resilience

Ashley Palmer

Work can have a profound effect on our emotional health, shaping how we think, feel, and interact both inside and outside the workplace. This presentation dives into common challenges such as stress, burnout, and compassion fatigue, while also giving attendees practical strategies to manage these challenges and foster a healthier, more balanced relationship with their work.

Tuesday, March 4, 2025 | 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM | Viking

Wednesday, March 5, 2025 | 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM | Viking

○ Back To Basics: Empowering Autism Classroom Management Through Innovative Technology Integration

Bruno Bilotta

This presentation will address critical issues related to education that encompasses autism training, classroom management, 21st-century pedagogies, self-regulation, and the integration of technology. We are creating an inclusive classroom environment that supports exceptional students with an emphasis on mental health approaches that are practical and easy to implement both in school and at home.

Tuesday, March 4, 2025 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM | Viking



○ **Special Education: Implementing a Holistic Approach in Individual Education Plans (IEP)**

Cheryl Ugray

This presentation will provide an overview of the components of an Individual Education Plan (IEP). We will focus on integrating cultural, land-based teachings and approaches as part of the Cultural and Special Education program. By incorporating a cultural lens, it holistically supports students by building cultural identity and enhancing overall well-being, academically and otherwise.

Wednesday, March 5, 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM, Boardroom 1

○ **Stop Now And Plan (SNAP) Universal School-Based Model**

Chloé Eward

SNAP, developed by the Child Development Institute (CDI), is an evidence- and CBT-based model helping children (grades 2-5) regulate their emotions & make better choices in the moment. Delivered via 12 manualized or digitized sessions, SNAP increases student's pro-social peer interactions & decreases disruptions in learning. SNAP is in two Matawa schools, improving relationships & school culture.

Tuesday, March 4, 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM, Icelandic

○ **Strengthening Anishinaabemowin in Grades 6-9**

Corine Bannon | Charlotte Neckoway

This workshop will share Anishinaabe songs and games that have strengthened and supported learning for students in Grade 6 – 8. The teaching strategies used can be transferred to Grade 9 High School students to support Anishinaabe learning. We will look at grammatical patterns, pronoun patterns, tense markers, demonstratives to support students understand Anishinaabemowin.

Wednesday, March 5, 2025 | 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM | Boardroom 3

○ **Top 10 features to make your school life easier (for secretaries and administrators/for teachers)**

Dadavan: Dale MacMullin

Dadavan will go through the top 10 features of Outcomes that help make life easier for both Administration as well as Teachers. There will be lots of time left for discussion/questions.

Tuesday, March 4, 2025 | 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM | Boardroom 2

Tuesday, March 4, 2025 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM | Boardroom 2

○ **Learning Resources for Language and Tradition**

Danielle Mior | Mary Ann Nawagesic

This presentation will showcase resources designed for Matawa Education in collaboration with Learning Bird. These resources explore moccasins' historical and cultural significance and Anishinaabe vocabulary development. We will look at the introduction and purpose behind these resources and how to best implement them.

Thursday, March 6, 2025 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM | Viking

○ Tools for Teaching Science

Dave Fish

Interested in creative ways to make your classroom more active and effective? In this workshop, we will explore a variety of tools that will enhance student learning, based on Perimeter Institute's resource Tools for Teaching Science. Come be a student and learn some Science while picking up some new strategies for your classroom.

Thursday, March 6, 2025 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM | Odin

○ Learning with Microsoft Excel: Using Macros, Formulas, and Functions to Increase Teaching and Learning

David Peddie

Transform teaching with Microsoft Excel! Learn to automate tasks with macros, analyze data using PivotTables, and boost engagement with dynamic tools. Create progress dashboards, lesson plans, and real-time grading systems. Master formulas and best practices to tackle classroom challenges. Attendees get a digital guide, certificate, and bonus resources to elevate their skills in education! Participants must bring their own laptops with Excel to participate.

Thursday, March 6, 2025 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM | Boardroom 1

○ Reflecting Indigenous Ways of Knowing in the Provincial Curriculum

Deb McDougall | Warren Woytuck

Join us as we provide an overview of the Matawa Education and Care Centre's work with the Critical Thinking Consortium (Tc2). Using collaboration and consultation, themes that are important to identify within a course that celebrate and strengthen Indigenous knowledge and culture are determined and integrated into course curriculum.

Thursday, March 6, 2025 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM | Boardroom 3

○ Structured Writing through Self-Regulated Strategy Development (SRSD)

Deborah McCallum

This presentation showcases Self-Regulated Strategy Development (SRSD), a structured yet flexible, evidence-based approach designed to make writing accessible and effective for all students. Key features include personalized instruction tailored to individual needs, mnemonics for scaffolding learning, and strategies that build motivation and ensure long-term skill retention - and supports reading.

Wednesday, March 5, 2025 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM | Icelandic

○ JUMP Math: Sharing new resources just for Ontario

Elizabeth Barrett

JUMP Math is an award-winning non-profit organization that supports outstanding Math Teaching. Our carefully planned lessons develop understanding and a love of math in students and educators. In this workshop learn how to access Ontario teacher materials at www.jumpmath.org. Build your confidence as a teacher with our easy to use lesson plans.

Thursday, March 6, 2025 | 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM | Boardroom 3

○ Living History: Live Science

Elliott Cromarty | David Bates

Get a big reaction by taking science out of the lab and into the past. Fire cold cannons, launch fireballs and stay dry underwater. Get the chemistry of fire lighting, cozy up in thermal furs, shock your students with the original electrical demonstration, and colour their chemistry knowledge with maple and blueberry indicators. Have a time-travelling good time with science interpretation.



○ Pathways to Medicine

Emily Kerton | Monica Prodanyk

This session is a hands-on, experiential session where teachers will be given a kit of materials to get their students excited about the science and technology involved in medicine. These kits were developed in partnership with the Northern Ontario School of Medicine and include activities like micropipetting, surgery fundamentals, learn CPR, and how to recognize a concussion.

Tuesday, March 4, 2025 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM | Executive Boardroom

○ Cultivating Safe Spaces for Difficult Conversations

Emily Shandruk

We will explore how to create safe, inclusive spaces for feedback in educational and administrative settings. The goal is to learn how to integrate four perspectives—wellbeing, inclusion, validation, and freedom; by addressing diverse needs and promoting respect, trust, and flexibility, attendees will enhance outcomes and foster a supportive environment for all.

Thursday, March 6, 2025 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM | Icelandic

○ Localizing Curriculum: Integrating Indigenous Knowledge and Perspectives in Education

Flora Asp

This professional development session will embed Indigenous knowledge, language, and relationships with place and community into the curriculum. The goal is to help participants understand how to weave Indigenous perspectives into their teaching practices, who are committed to walking the reconciliation path with respect, understanding, and action.

Tuesday, March 4, 2025 | 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM | Icelandic

Wednesday, March 5, 2025 | 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM | Icelandic

○ Pow-Wow dancing; more than just dance; it's a lifestyle

Gloria Ranger

Join this workshop for a fun a fusion of fitness, dance, and lifestyle motivation! Experience pow-wow dancing, learn strategies for mindset, nutrition, and daily habits through medicine wheel teachings. Whether you're aiming to boost your energy, get fit, build confidence, or stay motivated, this session empowers you to live your best life. All abilities welcome, no gym attire is needed!

Tuesday, March 4, 2025 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM | Scandia 2/3

Wednesday, March 5, 2025 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM | Scandia 2/3

○ All About Autism Spectrum Disorder

Jennifer Logan

This session will cover what ASD is, how individuals may be impacted, strengths, challenges such as Theory of Mind, Central Coherence, and what Autism could look like with the school and community. This presentation will include interactive centres to support with insight into challenges experienced.

Tuesday, March 4, 2025 | 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM | Odin

Wednesday, March 5, 2025 | 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM | Odin

○ Birch bark canoes

John Ferris

Our Birchbark Canoe is a tribute to the intricate craft of Indigenous canoe-making, a skill that is becoming increasingly rare. This authentic replica, once a vital part of Indigenous life, serves as a poignant reminder of traditional methods overshadowed by modern manufacturing. It's an excellent educational piece for teaching about Indigenous innovation and sustainability.

Tuesday, March 4, 2025 | 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM | Artisan Room
Tuesday, March 4, 2025 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM | Artisan Room
Wednesday, March 5, 2025 | 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM | Artisan Room
Wednesday, March 5, 2025 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM | Artisan Room
Thursday, March 6, 2025 | 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM | Artisan Room
Thursday, March 6, 2025 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM | Artisan Room

○ Connected North feather carving

Katie Burch | Priscilla Boulay

Discover the possibilities of Connected North with Katie Burch and explore the art of feather carving with Inuit carver Priscilla Boulay. Learn how Connected North connects communities with virtual learning opportunities, then create your own carved feather while Priscilla shares carving techniques and the cultural significance of this beautiful Indigenous art form.

Wednesday, March 5, 2025 | 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM | Scandia Room
Thursday, March 6, 2025 | 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM | Scandia Room

○ Land-Based Learning at MECC

Kristen Stansell | Eddy Baxter

This workshop provides an overview of the Matawa Education and Care Centre (MECC) Land-Based Program, which offers land-based learning through single and multi-day trips on Matawa territories. We'll highlight harvesting and backcountry trips, discuss planning and logistics, and explore how to connect land-based experiences with the Ontario curriculum.

Thursday, March 6, 2025 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM | Boardroom 2

○ Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Blind/Low Vision and Deafblind Outreach Services -Ministry of Education

Kristi Stano | Amy King | Beth Conly-Edwards

Multiple ear infections in childhood, difficulty accessing curriculum due to a vision problem, or a dual sensory loss put children's academic success at risk. Join us to discover how we can partner with you to support your learners in the following ways:

- Assessments to Determine Needs
- Programming Recommendations and Support
- Overview of Educational Opportunities
- Professional Development

Wednesday, March 5, 2025 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM | Executive Boardroom

○ Wise Practices for the transition to Kindergarten

Kristy Hankila

In this presentation we will look at the work happening across the Nishnawbe Aski Nation territory. Participants will discuss how educators, programs and communities can best support children and families in the transition from Early Learning and Child Care programs to the Kindergarten classroom.

Tuesday, March 4, 2025 | 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM | Executive Boardroom



○ O&M with Tech Services

Lindsey Jupp

Chance to talk about infrastructure needs, repairs/upgrades, networking/contacts, future planning, issues & concerns, or anything else.

Tuesday, March 4, 2025 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM | Boardroom 1

○ Engaging Students in Robotics

Mayrose Salvador | Vienna Fu

Robotics is a fun and practical way to teach technology and programming, making it ideal for modern education. In this workshop, participants will build a simple robotic car and program it using block-based tools via smartphones. Aligned with the Grade 4-8 curriculum, it includes lesson plans integrating robotics into science, math, and technology, offering practical strategies for classroom use.

Tuesday, March 4, 2025 | 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM | Boardroom 3

○ Culturally Responsive Long-Range Plans

Md Abdus Salam | Tasfia Salam

Every teacher must submit their Long-Range Plan (LRP) to the principal at the beginning of the school year. Every school or principal has its design, requirements, and templates to help teachers prepare an LRP. In this presentation, I will discuss how, at NEC, we developed an LRP template and how we can tailor it more to suit the First Nation culture, heritage, norms, and societal values.

Wednesday, March 5, 2025 | 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM | Boardroom 2

○ Fire Safety

Morris Douglas | Monica Budiselic

Fire safety presentation outlining the responsibilities for Operations and Maintenance staff: keeping students, staff and visitors safe.

Thursday, March 6, 2025 | 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM | Boardroom 2

○ Anishinaabemowin Kikinomaagewin

Nancy Ritch

I am going to present how to teach our language the Matawa Waka Tere Way.

This session is for current MWT tutors and assistants, and those with the language who are interested in becoming a MWT tutor or assistant.

Wednesday, March 5, 2025 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM | Boardroom 1

○ Re-engaging the Disengaged - Meet Them Where They Are At

Rebecca Chambers

This session provides tools and strategies for educators to re-engage youth who have struggled in traditional settings. Through impactful stories and practical methods, we'll explore how relationships, flexibility, and culturally responsive approaches can help disconnected learners reconnect with their education and future.

Wednesday, March 5, 2025 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM | Boardroom 2

o **Effective Classroom Management: Strategies to address typical challenging behaviour scenarios**

Rita Mannella

This workshop examines research set on the premise that an area that improves teaching methods, and student engagement, is effective classroom management. It examines behaviour scenarios from each division: Kindergarten, Primary, Junior and Intermediate. Participants will engage in the analysis of each scenario commonly observed in each division; with open discussion to facilitate best practices.

Wednesday, March 5, 2025 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM | Odin

o **Differentiated Instruction: Program planning and effective instruction**

Rita Mannella

It presents research to understand learning preferences that students use to receive and process information, and includes discussion of three common learning styles: visual, auditory, kinesthetic. Participants recognizing and understanding a student's cognitive capacity as a factor in the design and implementation of instruction, to meet student learning needs, is a key part of the workshop.

Thursday, March 6, 2025 | 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM | Odin

o **Fostering Indigenous Student Wellness in schools**

Shai Loyie | Anika Guthrie

Participants will engage in aspects of cultural programming being implemented by the Indigenous Student Wellness Coordinator at LPS. Will share how the program provides a foundation for cultural identity/representation for FNMI students within LPS. The model starts in kindergarten & continues onto secondary, supporting Indigenous youth leaders through Mino Bimaadiziwin: Youth Leadership program.

Wednesday, March 5, 2025 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM | Boardroom 3

o **High Impact Teaching Strategy: Explicit and Direct Instruction**

Sheri Hopkins | Shannon Jessiman | Miranda Beare | Kelly McDougall

Explicit Direct Instruction is a highly effective, high impact teaching strategy that is based on the premise that all students can learn. EDI helps teachers deliver well-designed, well-taught lessons that improve achievement for all learners. This session would offer concrete strategies and scenarios that illustrate what EDI strategies look like in the classroom.

Wednesday, March 5, 2025 | 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM | Viking

o **Reducing Aggression & Bullying in Schools - A Self-Reg Approach to De-escalating and Managing Behaviour**

Sheri Hopkins | Shannon Jessiman | Miranda Beare | Kelly McDougall

Participants will learn the five steps to understanding and managing stress, including identifying hidden stressors that can cause disruptive and maladaptive behaviour in schools. Based on the work of Dr. Stuart Shanker and the Mehrit Centre, as well as the research behind Behaviour Management Systems, this session will offer school staff practical tools to help set all students up for success.

Thursday, March 6, 2025 | 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM | Viking



○ 2Spirit and LGBTQIA+ Histories and Experiences

Theodore Syrette

2Spirit and LGBTQIA+ Histories and Experiences is a reflective exercise for allies and members of the community. Participants will review historical moments that have impacted the lives and generational experiences of Indigenous | 2Spirit and LGBTQIA+ people. Information on how to build more awareness about the movement and how to be a more aware ally, will be shared within this presentation.

Thursday, March 6, 2025 | 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM | Boardroom 1

○ Navigating Google Drive - Anishinaabe-Biwabik Bimibizoon: N'digi-naabe

Tracy Spence | Dr. Aroha Watene

This hands-on Anishinaabewowin presentation is for those who want to merge to Google-Drive to save time on administrative planning and improve communication lines between supervisors and co-workers.

This workshop will include uploading and downloading, creating and sharing documents, proofing and editing. Participants must bring their own laptop and have an active Google drive account to participate.

Wednesday, March 5, 2025 | 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM | Executive Boardroom

○ The role of Anishinaabe cultural practices, protocols, and teachings: An exploration of community-led teaching and learning practices in education.

Tyler Armstrong | Roberta Ogemah | Melissa Oskineegish

This workshop will provide an interactive discussion on fostering Anishinaabe ways of knowing, seeing, doing, and being in education. The workshop will share examples from three teacher education courses rooted in the seasonal practices and teachings of Dagwaagin, Biboon, and Ziigwan/Niibin. And direct students to learn with/from Elders, Knowledge Keepers, Family, and Community members.

Tuesday, March 4, 2025 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM | Odin

○ New Teacher Induction Program

Wayne Mercer

This presentation will provide an overview of the NTIP program that is provided to new teachers in Ontario. Participants will explore the technical elements of the program as well as the associated teacher performance review process.

The KPDSB in partnership with NAN, provides NTIP opportunities to teachers in First Nation Communities.

Thursday, March 6, 2025 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM | Executive Boardroom

○ Talking Together Program

William Shawanamash | Heather Napash

The Talking Together Program is an innovative method of Alternative Dispute Resolution based on Traditional Talking Circles. By bringing people together in a non-judgmental way, a plan will emerge which has the support of the family and community. This provides an alternative to the court process and returns control to First Nations concerning the planning and protection of their children.

Thursday, March 6, 2025 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM | Scandia 2/3

Tuesday

MARCH 04TH. 2025

8:00 AM **BREAKFAST**
Ballroom

9:00 AM **Opening Ceremonies**
Opening Elder Blessing and Message,
Opening Drum Welcoming Remarks

10:15 AM **MOVEMENT & NUTRITION BREAK**

10:30 AM **Ivan Flett Memorial Dancers**
Learn to Jig
(Scandia Room)

Ashley Palmer
Putting on Your Own Oxygen Mask:
Navigating Stress and Cultivating Resilience
(Viking Room)

Jennifer Logan
All About Autism Spectrum Disorder
(Odin Room)

Flora Asp
Localizing Curriculum: Integrating
Indigenous Knowledge and Perspectives
in Education
(Icelandic Room)

Kristy Hankila
Wise Practices for the transition
to Kindergarten
(Executive Boardroom)

Ashley Nurmela & Katherine Boyes
Mapping Electoral Districts: Fairness,
identity, and elections
(Boardroom 1)

Dadavan: Dale MacMullin
Top 10 features to make your school life
easier (for secretaries and administrators)
(Boardroom 2)

Mayrose Salvador & Vienna Fu
Engaging Students in Robotics
(Boardroom 3)

John Ferris
Birch bark canoes
(Artisan Room)

12:00 PM **LUNCH**
Ballroom

1:00 PM **Gloria Ranger**
Pow-Wow dancing; more than just dance;
it's a lifestyle
(Scandia Room)

Bruno Bilotta
Back To Basics: Empowering Autism
Classroom Management Through
Innovative
Technology Integration
(Viking Room)

**Tyler Armstrong, Roberta Ogemah
& Melissa Oskineegish**
The role of Anishinaabe cultural practices,
protocols, and teachings: An exploration
of community-led teaching and learning
practices in education
(Odin Room)

Chloe Eward
Stop Now And Plan (SNAP) Universal
School-Based Model
(Icelandic Room)

Emily Kerton & Monica Prodanyk
Pathways to Medicine
(Executive Boardroom)

Lindsey Jupp
O&M with Tech Services
(Boardroom 1)

Dadavan: Dale MacMullin
Top 10 features to make your school life
easier (for teachers)
(Boardroom 2)

Elliott Cromarty & David Bates
Living History: Live Science
(Boardroom 3)

John Ferris
Birch bark canoes
(Artisan Room)

2:30 PM **MOVEMENT & NUTRITION BREAK**

2:45 PM **Entertainment**
Ivan Flett Memorial Dancers



Wednesday

MARCH 05TH. 2025

8:00 AM **BREAKFAST**
Ballroom

9:00 AM **Keynote Address**
Overview with Master of Ceremonies,
Elder Blessing Keynote Address:
James Vukelich Kaagegaabaw

10:15 AM **MOVEMENT & NUTRITION BREAK**

10:30 AM **Katie Burch & Priscilla Boulay**
Connected North feather carving
(Scandia Room)

Rapid Response Northern Schools Team
High Impact Teaching Strategy: Explicit and Direct Instruction
(Viking Room)

Jennifer Logan
All About Autism Spectrum Disorder
(Odin Room)

Flora Asp
Localizing Curriculum: Integrating Indigenous Knowledge and Perspectives in Education
(Icelandic Room)

Tracy Spence & Dr. Aroha Watene
Navigating Google Drive - Anishinaabe-Biwabik Bimibizoon: N'digi-naabe
(Executive Boardroom)

Cheryl Ugray
Special Education: Implementing a Holistic Approach in Individual Education Plans (IEP)
(Boardroom 1)

Md Abdus Salam & Tasfia Salam
Culturally Responsive Long-Range Plans
(Boardroom 2)

Corine Bannon & Charlotte Neckoway
Strengthening Anishinaabemowin in Grades 6-9
(Boardroom 3)

John Ferris
Birch bark canoes
(Artisan Room)

12:00 PM **LUNCH**
Ballroom

1:00 PM **Gloria Ranger**
Pow-Wow dancing; more than just dance; it's a lifestyle
(Scandia Room)

Ashley Palmer
Putting on Your Own Oxygen Mask: Navigating Stress and Cultivating Resilience
(Viking Room)

Rita Mannella
Effective Classroom Management: Strategies to address typical challenging behaviour scenarios
(Odin Room)

Deborah McCallum
Structured Writing through Self-Regulated Strategy Development (SRSD)
(Icelandic Room)

Kristi Stano, Amy King & Beth Conly-Edwards
Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Blind/Low Vision and Deafblind Outreach Services - Ministry of Education
(Executive Boardroom)

Nancy Ritch
Anishinaabemowin Kikinomaagewin
(Boardroom 1)

Rebecca Chambers
Re-engaging the Disengaged - Meet Them Where They Are At
(Boardroom 2)

Shai Loyie & Anika Guthrie
Fostering Indigenous Student Wellness in Schools
(Boardroom 3)

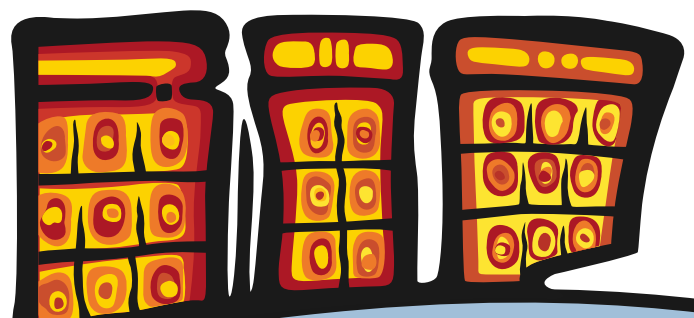
John Ferris
Birch bark canoes
(Artisan Room)

2:30 PM **MOVEMENT & NUTRITION BREAK**

2:45 PM **Entertainment**
Grade 8 performers: Noah Mendowegan & Meegwun Sakanee. Natasha Fisher

SESSION TWO

SESSION ONE



Thursday

MARCH 06TH. 2025

8:00 AM BREAKFAST Ballroom

8:45 AM Overview with Master of Ceremonies
Elder Blessing

9:00 AM **Strategic Planning**

10:15 AM MOVEMENT & NUTRITION BREAK

10:30 AM **Katie Burch & Priscilla Boulay**
Connected North feather carving
(Scandia Room)

**Rapid Response
Northern Schools Team**
Reducing Aggression & Bullying in Schools
- A Self-Reg Approach to De-escalating and
Managing Behaviour
(Viking Room)

Rita Mannella
Differentiated Instruction: Program
planning and effective instruction
(Odin Room)

Annick Brewster
Supporting student literacy through
Structured Literacy
(Icelandic Room)

Ali Maunula & Rob Elliott
Planning for your future in
post-secondary education
(Executive Boardroom)

Theodore Syrette
2Spirit and LGBTQIA+ Histories and
Experiences
(Boardroom 1)

Morris Douglas & Monica Budiselic
Fire Safety
(Boardroom 2)

Elizabeth Barrett
JUMP Math: Sharing new resources
just for Ontario
(Boardroom 3)

John Ferris
Birch bark canoes
(Artisan Room)

12:00 PM LUNCH Ballroom

1:00 PM **William Shawanamash &
Heather Napash**
Talking Together Program
(Scandia Room)

**Danielle Mior &
Mary Ann Nawagesic**
Learning Resources for Language
and Tradition
(Viking Room)

Dave Fish
Tools for Teaching Science
(Odin Room)

Emily Shandruk
Cultivating Safe Spaces for
Difficult Conversations
(Icelandic Room)

Wayne Mercer
New Teacher Induction Program
(Executive Boardroom)

David Peddie
Learning with Microsoft Excel: Using
Macros, Formulas, and Functions to
Increase Teaching and Learning
(Boardroom 1)

Kristen Stansell & Eddy Baxter
Land-Based Learning at MECC
(Boardroom 2)

Deb McDougall & Warren Woytuck
Reflecting Indigenous Ways of Knowing in
the Provincial Curriculum
(Boardroom 3)

John Ferris
Birch bark canoes
(Artisan Room)

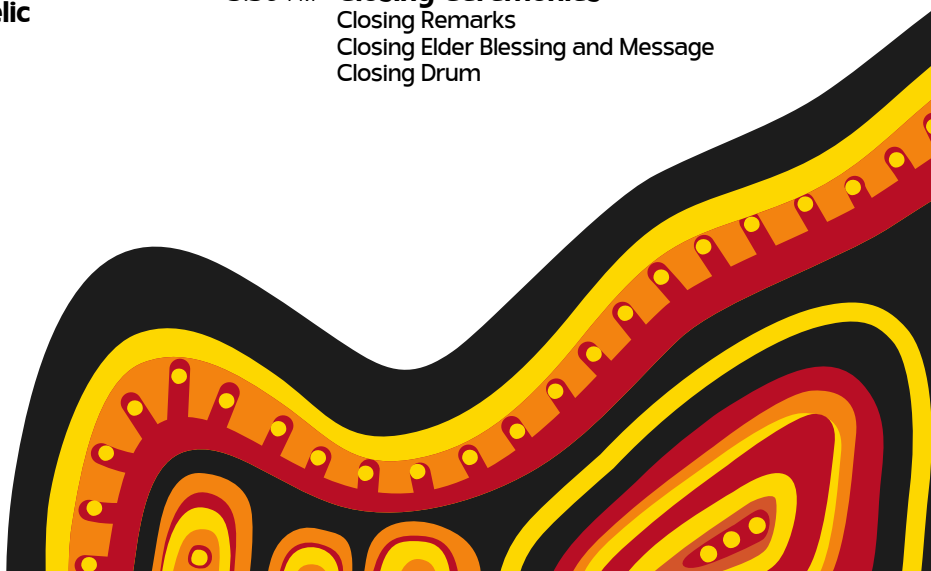
2:30 PM MOVEMENT & NUTRITION BREAK

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

3:30 PM **Closing Ceremonies**
Closing Remarks
Closing Elder Blessing and Message
Closing Drum

SESSION TWO

SESSION ONE



Notes

[illegible]

