



2024 National Gathering Presentations

VIRTUAL

November 21-22, 2024
Winnipeg, MB

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**Wiichihew (Michif for Support) - Supportive Student Services for
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Presented by Makayla LeSann & Lisa Savill10



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Connecting Students to Indigenous Learning in Minecraft Education

Presented by: [Mike Washburn](#) | [Logics Academy](#)

Over the last four years we've seen a huge amount of interest in using modern STEM and game-based learning tools to teach Indigenous history and traditions. Manito Ahbee Aki, the Pacific NW Coast Experience, and the more recent Pimachiowin Aki and Michif Minecraft worlds are just a few of the incredible ways students around the world are learning in Minecraft. Join Mike Washburn from Logics Academy for an exploration and discussion on the value of these worlds, and the impact they're having on students.

Connecting With and Supporting Students Through Intersecting Identities

Presented by: [Lindsey Keenan](#) | [Greenfield Learning](#)

All individuals have experience with intersecting identities. It is through these varying, and sometimes conflicting, identities that we view and interact with the world around us. In this workshop, we will explore what intersecting identities are, why they are important, and the impact they have on well-being and approaches to learning. Participants will explore their own intersecting identities and considerations for supporting their learners through an asset-based approach.

Cultivating Critical Hope through Equity Action Projects

Presented by: [Natalie Gibb & Jessica Langston](#) | [CÉGEP Heritage College](#)

This interactive presentation offers tips and tools for engaging students in equity action projects, where students work in teams to design a strategy to dismantle oppressive systems, spaces, and



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practices at their school. What supports do students need to evaluate their school through an equity lens? How can you help students work more effectively with their teammates? And how can you help students replace feelings of self-doubt, hopelessness and disengagement with a sense that change is both needed and possible? Come for the workshop and leave with a toolbox of 30+ lesson plans you can use or adapt for your classes.

How to Support Indigenous Educators from a Leadership Perspective

Presented by Tina Savea & Rebecca Beauchamp | School District 63 & UWC Pearson College

"How to support Indigenous educators from a leadership perspective" is a workshop that weaves together relationship, intentionality and understanding. Many Indigenous educators are hired as educators yet not given the autonomy to be educators. Why is this?? Over the hour we explore together power dynamics, strategic planning and ask BIG questions on ego, privilege and biases. This workshop is to explore and find growth in how leaders lead in a good way that moves passed checking a box.

Indigenous Relations at Simon Fraser University

Presented by: Tim Michel | Simon Fraser University

The work of developing strategies to work with Indigenous people and communities is very important in our post-secondary institutes. This presentation will focus, in broad strokes, on the approach being taken in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at Simon Fraser University:

1. We focus on our students and their communities.
2. We are developing concrete relationships with local First Nations and urban Indigenous communities.
3. We are focusing on promoting the inclusion of Indigenous perspectives in our curriculum.



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4. We fully support language revitalization and support for multiple pathways for Indigenous students desiring to come to our university.

We have a variety of internal resources that help us with maintaining an archive of our Equity and Reconciliation activities and we are planning to share this information on a website sometime in the 2024/25 calendar year.

Learning Through Play: A Guide for Educators

Presented by: Leigh Ann Asare & Denise Baxter | [Right to Play](#)

We're thrilled to present "Learning through Play: A Guide for Educators," a fresh educational tool aimed at focusing on integrating play-based learning, culturally responsive teaching, and building inclusive classroom environments post-COVID-19. During our presentation, we'll delve into our resources, covering:

1. Delving into building Social-Emotional Skills, Relationship Building Skills, Connectivity, Healthy Coping Mechanisms, and Resilience through activities.
2. A template for educator reflection and a tool for self-care planning to help educators prioritize themselves.

Play-based exercises organized by age group (6-21 years of age), along with guidance on adapting our resources to suit specific classroom settings.

Legacy Schools Program and the Concept of ReconciliACTION

Presented by: [Christopher Britt](#) | [Downie Wenjack Fund](#)

In this session, we will share the work of the Legacy Schools Program within the Gord Downie and Chanie Wenjack Fund (DWF). We will introduce the concept of ReconciliACTION and provide examples of Legacy Schools deeply involved in this work. We will then zoom in to several lessons designed by DWF in



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partnerships with a variety of schools in BC and Ontario. Real lessons with direct curriculum connections will be shared and examined for teachers K-12. Join us to learn more about the Legacy Schools Program and walk away with some ideas to make ReconciliACTION come to life in your classroom!

Resilience: 50 Indigenous Art Cards & Teaching Guide

Presented by: Yvette Cenerini & Adriana Alarcón | Mentoring Artists for Women's Art

Get acquainted with the Resilience: 50 Indigenous Art Cards & Teaching Guide, featuring the artwork of 50 Indigenous women artists alongside one of the toolkit's developers. A quick overview of its content and some how-to tips will leave you motivated and equipped to use visual art to inspire multidisciplinary lesson plans that spark awareness, discussion, critical thinking, and self-reflection.

This FREE online, easy-to-use, bilingual (French/English) toolkit is designed to support K-12 teachers in integrating Indigenous themes, perspectives, and knowledge into the classroom through art. The resource includes contemporary works by Indigenous women, writings in their own words and a teaching guide. A boxed set of this classroom resource, including 50 full-colour 8.5 x 11" art cards, is also available for purchase. For more information, visit resilienceproject.ca.

Te Manutaki (The Leader of the Flock)

Presented by: Dr. Curtis Bristowe | Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti Porou (Tribal Entity)

My presentation will focus upon one of the most fundamental and underpinning cultural principals of Māori, that of collective vision. It will speak to the importance of collective vision through various Pūrākau and Pakiwaitara (Māori Histories) and in doing so reiterate its importance in collectivising and mobilising people for



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a common goal and purpose. Therefore, this presentation will speak at length to Mātauranga Māori (Māori Knowledge), a unique worldview providing a continual source of both inspiration and aspiration.

Teaching with the Witness Blanket

Presented by: [Lola Whonnock & Graham Lowes](#) | Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning

The Witness Blanket centres on the experiences of Survivors and allows users to understand their experiences directly. Many Survivors do not share their experiences, even with their families. The history of Indigenous peoples is not a part of provincial or territorial curricula outside of chapters on explorers and treaties. We cannot expect that everyone already knows about residential schools, including students of Indigenous ancestry.

The nature of the topic makes it essential for students to have space to listen, reflect and share.

To achieve this, teachers must take the necessary time to build a culture where students feel safe. Let us share a Human Rights Classroom approach using Indigenous pedagogies to teach about Residential School Experiences shared on witnessblanket.ca.

The Ground Under Our Feet, The Roof Over Our Heads

Presented by: [Heather Bretz & Chester Auger](#) | Stantec Architecture

This presentation will tell the story of the Bigstone Cree Nation, a journey of reclaiming education and embedding Sakaw Cree culture in both design and curriculum. Designers must build trust with First Nations and take time to understand our narrative and our ways of knowing, seeing, and doing. This presentation will show how designers can work best with Indigenous communities by building trust and listening first. We will impart insight from our



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experiences as an Indigenous community and how we are on a journey to redefine holistic, lifelong learning for our children.

From brainstorming to dreams, a sense of place must be rooted in the entire design process. Vital to the planning and design process, all parties must seek to achieve meaningful engagement. Audience members will be led through a Sakaw Cree-led design process that incorporates teachings of our Elders, dreams of our members, and hopes of our youth as well as how to effectively bring an Indigenous worldview into your process.

Finally, once we understand the culture, how do we weave modern education design and make complementary connections between best practices and customized curriculums specific to Indigenous traditions? We will share how continuing the conversation throughout design is essential to achieve educational visions.

The Moose Hide Campaign: How to Integrate It Into Your Classroom

Presented by: [Willie Poll](#) | [Moose Hide Campaign](#)

Join us for an inspiring workshop as we explore the transformative power of integrating the Moose Hide Campaign into K-12 classrooms. In this session, we'll delve into the importance of addressing gender-based violence and promoting healthy relationships from an early age. Together, we'll discover practical strategies for introducing Moose Hide Campaign principles to young learners and fostering a culture of respect, responsibility, and reconciliation in our schools. Workshop Highlights: Understanding the Moose Hide Campaign: Learn about the origins and mission of the Moose Hide Campaign, a grassroots movement dedicated to ending violence against Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirit people.

Why Start Early? Explore the critical role that schools play in shaping attitudes and behaviors related to violence and relationships. Understand why it is never too early to introduce concepts of respect, responsibility, and reconciliation to young learners and plant seeds of change for a brighter future.



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Practical Strategies for Implementation: Gain practical insights and resources for incorporating Moose Hide Campaign principles into your K-12 classroom. Discover age-appropriate activities, discussions, and lessons that engage students in meaningful conversations about gender-based violence and promote empathy, understanding, and allyship.

Empowering Young Advocates: Explore ways to empower students as agents of change within their schools and communities. Learn how to create opportunities for students to take action, raise awareness, and advocate for positive social change in support of the Moose Hide Campaign's mission.

The Truth in Truth and Reconciliation Board Game

Presented by: [James Corbiere](#) | [Truth Game](#)

Introducing an exciting gamified educational resource developed and created by an Indigenous teacher. This great analog board game can be used effectively to help your students, colleagues, parents and communities learn the true history of Canada and Turtle Island's Indigenous peoples.

Voting Rights Through Time

Presented by [Ashley Nurmela & Rachel Collishaw](#) | [Elections Canada](#)

Dive into the evolving history of voting rights in Canada with a focus on First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples. This Elections Canada presentation explores the journey toward inclusive democracy, examining key milestones, challenges, and triumphs in the fight for voting rights. Designed for educators, this session will provide historical context, personal stories, and classroom-ready resources to engage students in meaningful conversations about civic responsibility, equity, and reconciliation. Discover how to bring these lessons to life, empowering students to reflect on the past and build a more inclusive future.



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Wiichihew (Michif for Support) - Supportive Student Services for Métis Post-Secondary Learners in Alberta

Presented by: Makayla LeSann & Lisa Savill | Rupertsland Institute

In this workshop, Rupertsland Institute focuses on how Métis Student Services is building a strong community of prospective, current, and past students to engage, connect with, and support the community of Métis post-secondary learners in Alberta. We will explore various strategies we use to support and engage students, faculty, and staff to develop a strong community and supportive environment. Together, we will discuss the benefits of community building and how it can positively impact student success. Additionally, we will examine the challenges Métis students may face in accessing and succeeding in post-secondary and how Métis Student Services is working to bridge the gap.