

2017

TEACH FOR CANADA

2017 Presenters



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ENSEIGNER POUR LE
CANADA

Get Inspired.







Lyn Manitowabi

“Strategies to Address Mental Health”

July 15-16

I am a member of the Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve on Manitoulin Island. I am of the Bear Clan. I have been working for the Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority (SLFNHA) for 10 years. Prior to that, I worked in student services and liaison at the postsecondary level for 9 years. My lifetime experience comes as a descendent of residential schools, living both on-reserve and off-reserve. I have been exposed to a variety of experiences from highly urban settings to remote communities. I will share exercises and stories from my work experience and I will also give an overview of mental health disorders. I will share my experience working in trauma-based communities and share trauma-informed practices to draw from when working with children from remote communities. Please come

prepared to experience life through Indigenous eyes.

I have a Bachelor of Arts degree in Arts, with Geography and Native Studies as teachable subjects. I also graduated with a Bachelor of Education from Nipissing University. While in the mental health field, I earned a diploma in Indigenous Wellness and Addictions Prevention, a certificate in Trauma Counselling, and I am an Edu-Therapy Grief Specialist. I am an instructor for the Mental Health First Aid First Nations course, as well a facilitator-in-development for Returning to Spirit, a reconciliation process for residential schools in Canada. There are other courses I teach as well; too many to list. I am an advocate of lifelong learning and becoming Indigenous as I decolonize.



Gerry Martin

Lakehead Elder-in-Residence Opening and Commencement Ceremonies

July 16 and August 4

Gerry Martin is a former nurse and a student of traditional Aboriginal healing methods. He is from the Mattagami First Nation of Ojibways in northeastern Ontario near Timmins. Gerry feels very comfortable teaching, learning, and sharing

his knowledge of traditional Aboriginal healing methods and considers it a lifelong journey to learn more. He is a son, father, grandfather, and great-grandpa who follows his destiny and enjoys life to the fullest.



Angela Sterritt

Opening Ceremony

July 16

Angela Sterritt is an award-winning Gitksan journalist, visual artist, and writer, from British Columbia. Sterritt has worked as a journalist for close to twenty years and has been with the CBC since 2003. Her reports have appeared in the Globe and Mail, The National, CBC's The Current, and other various national and local news programs. She currently works with CBC Vancouver as a television, radio and online reporter, producer and host, and with CBC Indigenous.

Sterritt recently accepted the Investigative Award of the Year from Journalists for Freedom of Expression for her team at CBC Indigenous and their coverage of missing and murdered Indigenous women. She also won Best Audio Work of the Year (2016) at the prominent ImagineNative film festival in Toronto for her CBC documentary called

The Story She Carries. Sterritt was also nominated in 2016 for a Canadian Online Publishing Award for her writing on missing and murdered Indigenous women. Sterritt was nominated for a Canadian Association of Journalists award for a text feature she wrote on missing and murdered Indigenous, women, girls, and two-spirit people. That topic is the focus of a book she is now writing that digs into the cases of those missing or murdered along the Highway of Tears, at the Pickton farm, and in Manitoba.

In 2014, Sterritt was awarded a prestigious William Southam Journalism Fellowship at Massey College in Toronto and is the first known Indigenous person of Canada ever to receive the award in the school's 60-year history.



Randy Weekes

"Cultural Adjustment"

July 17

Once upon a time (a long, long time ago), Randy's first job was as a teacher in an isolated community. He didn't handle it well. He experienced what we would now call a "stress injury" and had to spend time away, recovering. He did recover, learned a lot, and returned to the community to complete his contract. He has spent

much of his career since then helping people prepare to work in new cultural environments and to build and maintain resilience in the face of major adjustments. Randy has an MSc in International Humanitarian Psychosocial Interventions. He lives in the countryside outside Ottawa.



Maria Montejo

“Exploring Perceptions and Worldviews”

July 18

Maria Montejo (Deer Clan) is a member of the Mam Jakalteq/Popti (Mayan) community of Indigenous people who reside in the Xajla territory of Guatemala. Twenty-five years ago, Maria and her family came to Canada as refugees and settled in Toronto. Maria holds a bachelor degree in History, Women’s Studies, and Indigenous Studies from McMaster University, as well as a Social Work diploma from First Nations Technical Institute. In addition to her formal schooling, Maria has been mentored from a young age by various Elders, Medicine people, and Traditional Teachers on Turtle Island and from Central and South America. Maria has had the privilege of being exposed

and participating in various ceremonies and traditional cultural practices that have fueled her passion to develop programming that will bridge the Newtonian/allopathic model of wellness and an Indigenous/multi-dimensional approach. Maria currently facilitates the R.E.A.L. School Youth Leadership and Native Wilderness Survival Skills Development program in various Indigenous communities throughout the world. Maria recently worked as a youth mental health and addictions treatment worker for Native Child and Family Services of Toronto and is currently the manager of Dodem Kanohhsa’ Aboriginal Cultural Facility in Toronto.



Laura Maracle

“Blanket Exercise”

July 19

I am a mixed-race woman who has made the conscious decision to live my life according to Haudenosaunee tradition. My biological father was an Anishinabe man and my mother is of French/Irish descent. The father who raised me is Mohawk and that is how I know Tyendinaga as my home today. I was born and raised in Toronto, where I spent the first twenty-two years of my life. Thereafter, I claimed my identity, language and culture (to the best of my ability) and have been sitting (with the Bear Clan) and learning in the longhouse with the traditional Haudenosaunee people of Tyendinaga.

My work experience is diverse and covers the fields of administration, legal secretary (corporate and criminal law), Aboriginal employment, and Aboriginal education. My passion, heart, and soul lies in the field of Aboriginal education. Having taught from early childhood right up to Adult Education, the biggest life lessons I have gained came from teaching at-risk youth at the high school level. Most recently, my path has taken me back to the world of Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education, while raising two beautiful daughters.



Tammy and Bernard Nelson

Cultural Support
July 18-25

Bernard Nelson is a long-time Men's Traditional Dancer, Staff Carrier, and Sundancer. He is a member of Fort Hope First Nation. He is of the Wolf Clan and his ancestry is Cree and Ojibwe. He is a survivor of Pelican Lake Indian Residential School and currently resides with his wife, Tammy, and family in Kingston, Ontario. Bernard is an Elder at the Royal Military College in the Aboriginal Leadership Opportunity Year (ALOY) program. He works with First Nation, Metis, and Inuit students throughout Canada. In 2012, Bernard received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for his leadership skills and the work he does in the community.

Tammy Nelson is a long-time Women's Traditional Dancer. She is an Ojibwe woman from N'bissing First Nation who married into the Wolf Clan. In 2013, Tammy received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for her leadership skills and the work she does with her husband Bernard in the community.

Bernard & Tammy Nelson walk the Red Road and follow the Seven Grandfather Teachings. They provide cultural

awareness, beading, crafts, singing, and drumming to various school boards at the elementary, secondary, and postsecondary levels with both Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

The Nelsons take pride in who they are and where they come from. They enjoy traveling near and far to powwows. Bernard and Tammy are long time powwow dancers who are often called upon as Head Dancers for various powwow gatherings. Their daughters, Keesha, Nakita, and Shemia, are as well. The family hosted a Native Traditional Wedding in June for their oldest daughter, Keesha, who married Burk Donio of Whitesand First Nation. The two have an 8-month-old son together named Ma'iingan, meaning Wolf. The Nelsons travel to the USA and various Canadian provinces to support the Sundance Ceremony. Bernard is a long-time sun dancer of 32 years, and daughters are Keesha and Nakita following in their father's footsteps. Their work comes from the heart!

Mii Gwech.



Darian “Wiiwakaa’ige” Baskatawang

“Inclusive Classrooms”
July 21

Born in Thunder Bay, Darian spent most of his life in the bush living with his Anishinaabe great-grandmother. Formerly fluent in the language, Darian grew up thinking, speaking, reading, and writing as an Anishinaabe person. For the past seven years Darian has advised different cabinet Ministers, the Premier of Ontario

and interned in the Prime Minister’s Office. He currently holds the elected position of Primary Advocate for Youth for the Independent First Nations Alliance and Chiefs of Ontario while studying towards the completion of his Bachelor of Arts (Hons.) in Political Studies at Queen’s University.



Lawson Bate

“Teacher Legacy in Communities”
July 21

Lawson Bate is a teacher with four years of experience on the First Nation reserve of Kashechewan in northern Ontario. He attended Trent University for his undergraduate degree in Psychology and traveled abroad to Queensland University of Technology in Australia for his teacher education. He is currently working as a supply teacher within the Kawartha Pine

Ridge District School Board. He has been invited to Teach For Canada’s Summer Enrichment Program to share his insights on the importance of leaving a positive legacy in a community, and to answer any unique questions you may have about living on a First Nation reserve in northern Ontario.



Nick Sherman

Musician

July 24

Singer-songwriter Nick Sherman gives new meaning to “the voice in the wilderness,” or rather, the voice from the wilderness. While he still calls his rural birthplace of Sioux Lookout home, Sherman spent much of his youth out on the land, moving between his hometown, the small First Nation community of Weagamow Lake, and his family’s trapline on North Caribou Lake. It was here in the depths of the Northern Ontario forest that his family members would play guitar as they tended their trapline, and Nick found himself soaking in songs and lyrics.

His songs are not only inspired by his memories of those early trapline sounds - the timeless hymns of celebration and lamentation on his reserve - but by great

songwriters including William Elliott Whitmore, Ray LaMontagne, Sam Cooke and Elvis Costello. His gentle voice is rich with honesty and the vitality of youth, but tempered with world-weariness, atop his strong, simple guitar. Nick’s deeply personal songs about “the best and worst days of the last four years,” are inspired by the lives of people in his community, his own upbringing and life experiences as he now raises his own family in Canada’s north. In this way, his Indigenous heritage resonates with soul-brushing candor as he sings the boreal forest blues.

Nick released his first full-length album, “Drag Your Words Through,” in January 2012. He released his second full-length record, “Knives and Wildrice,” in May 2015.



Shawn Conway

“Managing Conflict When People are Angry”

July 25

Shawn Conway is a mediator, facilitator, educator, and bridge-builder. For 20 plus years Shawn has worked as a front-line adult educator and community development facilitator with a variety

of marginalized people and as a senior manager and executive director. For over fifteen years Shawn has been a mediator and trainer with St. Stephen’s Conflict Resolution and Training.



David Noganosh

“Managing Conflict When People are Angry”

July 25

My english name is David Noganosh. My spirit name is (Spotted Hawk) and I am a Mediator, Negotiator and Trainer from the Anishinabek Nation, Wolf Clan. I am President and CEO of Red Wolf Mediation & ADR Services, a company I founded in 2012 and is the only First Nations owned and operated Mediation Firm in Ontario. Prior to this sole proprietorship I was actively facilitating violence prevention, conflict resolution and anger management programs in Aboriginal and African Canadian communities for many years. I joined St. Stephen's Conflict Resolution & Training in 2008 where I was an Associate Mediator and Trainer until

2013. St. Stephens Community House utilizes a Transformative Mediation model that stresses interest-based problem solving. This model helps people reach agreements, rebuilds relationships between people in conflict, and empowers them to solve their own problems in the future. Transforming the way they think about conflict and each other. I have been involved in local, regional and national politics for 20 years in various capacities and have recently been consulting with various stakeholders across the country in advancing the Treaty Rights and Land Claims of First Nations.



Lyn Blackburde

Big Grassy River First Nation

July 26-29

I am an enrolled member of the Manitou Rapids/Rainy River First Nation of Ontario and I have a Master of Science in Education from the University of North Dakota. The majority of my teaching experience has been on various First Nations/Native American communities. Most of my work experience has been in Manitoba, where I grew up; teaching on the Dakota Tipi, Sandy Bay, and Brokenhead reserves. My husband is an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Chippewa reservation in Belcourt, North Dakota, where I also worked as a reading intervention

teacher and special education transition specialist. Before I accepted a position in administration, I completed work for the Manitoba First Nation Education Resource Centre in Winnipeg, as an early childhood education consultant and a private home placement specialist. I am currently in a leadership role as the Education Director/Principal on Big Grassy River First Nation. I have been working in the field of education for over 25 years and am proud to serve the people and children of my Anishinabe culture.



Bruce Beardy

Language Lessons

July 31-August 2

Bruce K. Beardy is the Coordinator for the Native Language Instructors' Program at the Faculty of Education, Lakehead University. Bruce is a member of the Muskrat Dam First Nation in northern Ontario. He graduated from Lakehead University with a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Education. He has a strong interest in Aboriginal values, education,

and particularly the Algonquian language family. Bruce is bilingual in English and Anishiniimowin (Severn Ojibwe) with the ability to read and write in the syllabic and roman orthography of the Native language. He has studied linguistics at the University of Manitoba. He has taught the Native Languages in elementary, secondary, and postsecondary levels of education.



Eric Bortlis

"Best Practices for First Nations Students"

July 31

Eric Bortlis is currently the Education Director for Lac Seul First Nation. He oversees the success of three elementary schools, a daycare, and nearly 100 high school students.

He formerly worked as Teach For Canada's Director of Teacher Development. Prior to that, Eric and his wife Melissa worked for three years in a small, remote reserve called Cat Lake First Nation, where he was a teaching vice-principal. Eric is proud to be Metis and embraces both his European and Mohawk ancestry.

Eric dedicated three years during his master's degree, studying Educational Leadership, to focus on Indigenous knowledge, leadership, and education. He used his personal experiences, contacts, time teaching on the Six Nations Reserve, and research to compile a

thesis that explored a collaborative view of key components of both Aboriginal and Western education. His experiences presenting at conferences in such places as Sweden, New Orleans, and Penn State offered opportunities for input and fine tuning.

As he taught in Cat Lake First Nation, he took this knowledge into the class every day, aiding in the successes he has achieved.

Eric loves the outdoors and enjoys spending time fishing, canoeing, snowshoeing, playing hockey, and riding his Ski-Doo. While in Cat Lake, he took his love for the outdoors and tied it to the curriculum with programs like Trip-A-Day December and The Birch Syrup Summative. Eric and Melissa's blog is at emcatlake.blogspot.ca.



Melissa Bortlis

“Making Special Education Work”

July 31

After graduating from the Laurier and Nipissing concurrent education program, Melissa has worked in a variety of classroom settings for the Halton District School Board and Simcoe County District School Board. In 2012, she began working in northwestern Ontario as the Special Education Resource Teacher in Cat Lake First Nation. In 2015, she completed a special education contract with the Lac Seul First Nation. Melissa now works with Kwayaciiwin Education Resource Centre

(KERC) as their Student Assessment Resource Worker for the First Nation Student Success Program (FNSSP) and is a member of KERC’s Special Education Team. Her role is to administer district-wide achievement assessments and to collaborate with educators, administrators, and support staff to effectively use the data to drive their instruction, and to provide support to special education programming within district schools.



Amanda McLean

“Making Special Education Work”

July 31

Amanda graduated from the Nipissing University Faculty of Education in June 2007. She is a specialist in Special Education and completed her Advanced Degree in Education at Nipissing’s Schulich School of Education. Amanda was a teacher/principal in Bearskin Lake First Nation, Ontario, for five years before joining the Kwayaciiwin Education Resource Centre (KERC) staff as the First Nation Student Success Program (FNSSP) Assessment Lead in August 2012. She is currently the School Success Planning Lead for the FNSSP team as well as the Special Education Coordinator for the KERC Special Education Team.

As the School Success Planning Lead, she is responsible for coordinating the

development and management of the school success planning team portion of the FNSSP. This includes program and service development: planning, coordination and management of program, and service delivery: communications, community liaison, monitoring and reporting. She works with both the FNSSP team of educational consultants and the Special Education team to organize, coordinate, and facilitate support to schools and communities, establish proposals and work plans, and ensure that data and results collected from communities is collated and analyzed to determine impact on student success. Most specifically, Amanda is the direct line to remote First Nations in the Sioux Lookout District.



Desiree Phillips

“Classroom Management”

August 1

Desiree Phillips is a SNAP (Stop Now And Plan) Senior Trainer-Community Facilitator for the SNAP Implementation team at Child Development Institute (CDI), a multi-service, accredited children’s mental health organization in Toronto. The SNAP Implementation team is CDI’s national and international division that specializes in research, training and dissemination activities pertaining to young children under the age of 12 in conflict with the law or experiencing high levels of behavioural difficulties. In this position, Desiree works closely with SNAP Project Leader, Monique Verpoort, and Manager of SNAP Business Development and Affiliate Relations, Nicola Slater, to support affiliate sites with the implementation of CDI’s comprehensive model for high-risk children and their families through the Stop Now And Plan (SNAP) model. She also participates in the formation of community teams, conducts training, fidelity audits, evaluation, and

dissemination of SNAP information.

Prior to joining the SNAP Implementation team in 2011, Desiree has had extensive experience implementing SNAP with families involved in various services at CDI. She has facilitated numerous children’s and parent’s groups within the agency and the greater community, which has provided her with the necessary knowledge and skills required to be an effective SNAP trainer-consultant. In addition, Desiree has also had experience in the areas of counselling, advocacy and service coordination to further inform her expertise.

On a personal note, Desiree is very passionate about working to support at-risk children and their families in both direct and indirect ways to ensure these children find positive means to experience fulfillment, happiness, and success within their homes and their communities.



Louise Phende

“Vicarious Trauma”

August 2

Louise Phende is a clinical social worker and counselor in private practice in Thunder Bay. She obtained her master’s degree in Clinical Social Work from the University of Chicago, where she had a special interest in ethnopsychology (non-western, culturally-specific perspectives and practices concerning psychological wellness and wellbeing) as well as cross-cultural social work. She has had additional clinical training in DBT (Dialectical Behavioural Therapy), trauma therapy, and couples counseling, as well as a postgraduate certificate in counseling for LGBTQ individuals and their families.

Louise is a nomad who has lived and worked in remote Yu’pik and Innupiaq communities located along the Bering Sea Coast in Alaska, where she learned how to savour seal oil and participated in a whale

hunt. She has also worked in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction in rural Vietnam, and taught digital video as a means of empowerment and cultural advocacy to Tibetan refugee youth in India. While living in India, Louise was fortunate to study mindfulness with highly regarded Tibetan lamas such as H.H. the Dalai Lama and H.E. Garchen Rinpoche.

She returned to her birthplace, Thunder Bay, several years ago, and is passionate about working with First Nations clients, many of whom are residential school survivors or the descendants thereof. Survivors’ perseverance, wry humour, wisdom, and resiliency in the face of intergenerational trauma and institutionalized racism compel her to keep on keepin’ on.



Kevin Berube

“Mental Health and Wellness”

August 2

Born and raised in Nipigon, Ontario, Kevin is a proud band member of the Flying Post First Nation. Kevin lived in Sioux Lookout from 1994 to 2015 and worked with First Nations communities from the Sioux Lookout zone in health and social services for over 20 years. Kevin has held senior management positions with Tikinagan Child and Family Services, Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority, and Meno Ya Win Regional Health Centre.

Kevin is a member of Teach For Canada’s Board of Directors. Kevin is also a member

of the Advisory Committee for the Bell Let’s Talk Community Fund and the Constituency Committee for the Centre for Addictions and Mental Health.

Kevin holds an honours degree in social work from Carleton University and a diploma in addictions counselling from Sault College. Along with volunteering his time as a hockey coach, Kevin also contributes articles to The Globe and Mail as a member of their Health Advisory Team.



Walter Lyon

“Mental Health and Wellness”

August 2

I’m a supervisor for Aboriginal Mental Health and Addiction Workers at Nodin Child and Family Intervention Services (Nodin CFI). For the past 17 months, I’ve also been supervising Nodin’s Acute Care program. Nodin is the mental health program under the Sioux Lookout First Nation Health Authority (SLFNHA) located in Sioux Lookout, and provides mental health services for 28 of 31 remote communities. At the beginning of my career, as a front-line worker I traveled and provided mental health counselling to ten of these communities over five years. I am an adult learner that returned

to school at age 40. I completed a college diploma, followed by a Bachelor of Arts in Social Development Studies, followed by a Bachelor of Social Work and a Master of Social Work. During a ten year period, I also gained 7 years of work experience in the field. Over the past 7 years I have worked as a supervisor for children’s mental health for First Nations youth. I have also supervised numerous college placements and two university practicums. My life experience includes living with mental illness with my former spouse and two children. This affliction can be found throughout northern First Nations as well.



Kimberly Masson

“Safetalk and Student Mental Health”

August 3

Kim (B.A., A.D.Ed., M.Ed) is originally from Manitoba but has called Nunavut home since 2006. A former business manager, Kim became an educator in 1996 and began working with both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students in off-reserve schools. In 2006, she began teaching Inuit students, primarily from Iqaluit, but was also fortunate to coach Inuit athletes from across the territory at territorial, national, and international events for the following 10 years. Working as a Guidance Counselor at Inuksuk High School from 2012-2016 had an immense impact on Kim as both an educator and community member, and motivated her to pursue a

Master of Administration of Indigenous Schools (St. Francis Xavier University). She was also prompted to move out of the education field and directly into suicide prevention. Thus, she is now the Executive Director of the Embrace Life Council, a non-profit, non-governmental organization dedicated to both suicide prevention and health promotion in Nunavut. Kim is passionate about her organization’s work in encouraging Nunavummiut to value and embrace life. Kim and her husband Dennis have raised three spirited daughters and are enjoying being first time grandparents. They and their family are proud to call Iqaluit home.



Jonathan Maracle

Performance – August 3
“Spirituality in the North” – August 4

Jonathan is Mohawk from Tyendinaga First Nation, Ontario, where he resides with his wife Linda and 4 children, Tammy, David Akweks, Jesse Ower, and Noelle Otsishera.

Jonathan has been a musician all of his adult life and he currently travels full-time throughout the world with his First Nation band “Broken Walls,” playing Mohawk wind flute(s), guitar, native drum and doing lead vocals. Their mission is to bring healing and dignity to Indigenous people, and to help educate non-native people about the First Peoples of the land.

Jonathan also speaks at various events. He speaks with the heart of a father in delivering a message of hope and encouragement; he stresses the value of each individual’s unique gifts for the betterment of society as a whole, as well as the acceptance of self.

Jonathan’s debut solo CD “Christmas on Turtle Island” is an instrumental journey on the Mohawk Wind Flute. For this album, he was awarded “Instrumental Album of the Year” and “Flute Album of the Year” with the Aboriginal People’s Choice Music Awards. Last year, he released another solo album entitled “Another Man’s Son” for which he received a nomination for “Best Folk or Spoken Word” at the Native American Music Awards 2016.

Jonathan has also released a Mohawk language album entitled “Karonyakdadeh – Hymns of the Mohawk Elders”. On this album, he was joined by his brothers and members of his extended family to record songs from their childhood in Akwesasne. He just released his tenth album with his band, Broken Walls entitled “The Path” which is a blend of the traditional sounds of First Nations music and hard driving rock, reggae, R & B, Latin, and other world music.



Chief Robert Joseph

Commencement Ceremony
August 4

Chief Joseph is currently the Ambassador for Reconciliation Canada and a member of the National Assembly of First Nations Elders Council. He was formerly the Executive Director of the Indian Residential School Survivors Society and is an honorary witness to Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). As Chairman of the Native American

Leadership Alliance for Peace and Reconciliation and Ambassador for Peace and Reconciliation with the Interreligious and International Federation for World Peace (IFWP), Chief Joseph has sat with the leaders of South Africa, Israel, Japan, South Korea, Mongolia, and Washington, DC to learn from and share his understanding of faith, hope, healing, and reconciliation.



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