

2021

SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

Presenter Profiles



TEACH FOR
ENSEIGNER POUR LE
CANADA





**Our 2021
Summer
Enrichment
Program
Presenters**



Tammy & Bernard Nelson

WELCOME CIRCLE

July 12

ELDERS-IN-RESIDENCE

Bernard Nelson, also known as Gizhii Manitou Gaamik, “Spirit of the Earth,” is an Indigenous Ojibway-Cree from Eabametoong First Nation (Fort Hope, ON). He is a survivor of the Pelican Lake Indian Residential School and is currently residing in Kingston, ON with his wife Tammy.

Bernard is a long-time Men’s Traditional Dancer, Eagle Staff Carrier, and Sundancer. He and his wife work with a lot of Indigenous students from all over Canada and are associated with the military, school boards, cultural camps, and various Youth groups.

Tammy Nelson, also known as Mem mem a ze waa bik kwe, “Keeper of the Water,” is an Ojibway woman from Nipissing First Nation. She is a long-time Women’s Traditional Dancer. Bernard and Tammy are blessed with a blended family of 9 children altogether and several grandchildren.

Both have been awarded the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal for their leadership roles within the community. Their lifestyle includes “Walking the Red Road” and following the Seven Grandfather Teachings. Much of their time is spent with the community, in ceremony, at powwow, teaching, and crafting. They enjoy working with both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

Bernard and Tammy have served as Elders-in-Residence every year since the first Teach for Canada Summer Enrichment Program in 2015.



Randy Weekes

CULTURAL ADJUSTMENT

July 13

DIRECTOR, DUTY OF CARE PROGRAMS - CANADEM

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. This will be Randy's fourth year presenting at the Summer Enrichment Program.



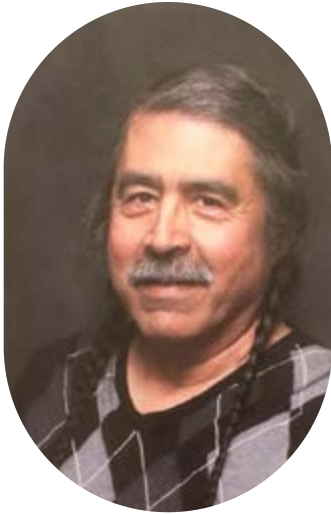
Laura Maracle

INDIGENOUS HISTORIES
OF TURTLE ISLAND

July 14

I am a mixed-race woman who has made the conscious decision to live according to Haudenosaunee tradition. My biological father was an Anishinaabe 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 22 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 led me to the field of education and social work.



Dan Thomas

INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS & INTERGENERATIONAL TRAUMA

July 15

ELDER/INSTRUCTOR, UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG & ELDER-IN-RESIDENCE, ABORIGINAL STUDENT CENTRE - University of Winnipeg

Dan Thomas is a father, grandfather, and great grandfather. He retired after 41 years of working as an educator. He is an Elder/Instructor at the University of Winnipeg and also an Elder-in-Residence at the Aboriginal Student Centre at the University of Winnipeg and for the Seven Oaks School Division. Dan has authored many documents for Manitoba Education and Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre.

He also created Ojibwe values posters and narrated numerous educational videos. Dan is a fifth degree Midewiwin man. He conducts an Ojibwe Sundance, Midewiwin lodge, and Sweatlodge. Dan is a member of Sagkeeng Anishinaabe Nation and was born at Matheson Island 68 years ago. This is Dan's fourth year presenting at Teach For Canada's Summer Enrichment Program.



Dr. Niigaan Sinclair

HOW INDIGENOUS EDUCATION WILL CHANGE THE WORLD

July 16

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR - University of Manitoba

Niigaanwewidam James Sinclair is Anishinaabe (St. Peter's/Little Peguis) and an Associate Professor at the University of Manitoba. He is an award-winning writer, editor, and activist who was named one of Monocle Magazine's "Canada's Top 20 Most Influential People," and he won the 2018 Canadian columnist of the year at the National Newspaper Awards for his bi-weekly columns in The Winnipeg Free Press. In 2019 he won Peace Educator of the Year from the Peace and Justice Studies Association based at Georgetown University in Washington, DC. He has written national curriculums for Indspire and the Assembly of First Nations and is a former secondary school teacher who has trained educators and students across Canada. His first book on Anishinaabeg literary traditions will be coming out with the University of Minnesota Press in 2021.



Emily Blackmoon

TRAUMA-INFORMED CLASSROOMS

July 19

HOLISTIC PSYCHOTHERAPIST

Emily Blackmoon (French/British/Algonquin) (She/Her) is a Registered Social Worker and holistic psychotherapist. She has worked for over 10 years as a therapist and case manager specifically within the urban Indigenous community of Toronto, supporting parents, families, children, and youth. In 2014 she completed a 4 year training in Gestalt therapy and is now a supervisor. In her therapy practices, Emily combines Anti-Racist, Anti-Oppressive, and Feminist principals of social work with Gestalt therapy and Indigenous worldviews.

Emily is currently one of two Indigenous social workers at the Toronto District School Board and focuses her work on advocacy for Indigenous students. She also works to create professional learning opportunities for staff at the intersections of education, Indigeneity, trauma, and mental health.



Bryan Bellefeuille

LAND BASED LEARNING

July 20

OJIBWE LANGUAGE TEACHER

Bryan is the father of three and is Anishinaabe of Nipissing First Nation. He is a firekeeper, a grass dancer, and a traditional fisherman. Bryan graduated from the Schulich School of Education at Nipissing University after completing an undergraduate in Mathematics. During his time enrolled he was invited to speak at the Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics regarding Indigenous Mathematics, as well as attend a session of the same topic at the Fields Institute of Mathematical Sciences.

Bryan is currently an Ojibwe Language Teacher on the North Shore of Lake Huron. He previously worked with Indigenous people within the Ontario and Canadian Criminal Justice System as a Gladue Report Writer. During that time Bryan was part of the team that edited the Ontario curriculum for Grade 10 History in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Actions numbers 62 & 63. Bryan loves to explore traditional Indigenous mathematics and to find ways to connect this knowledge with students and educators.



Dr. Angelina Weenie & Ida Swan

MIYIKOSOWIN: FINDING OUR GIFTEDNESS
July 21

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION AT THE FIRST NATIONS UNIVERSITY OF CANADA

Dr. Angelina Weenie is an Associate Professor of Indigenous Education at the First Nations University of Canada. She is a Cree y dialect speaker from Sweetgrass First Nation.



Ida Swan, M.Ed, is an Assistant Professor of Indigenous Education at the First Nations University of Canada. She is a Cree th dialect speaker from Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation.

Dr. Weenie and Ida Swan recently presented at Teach For Canada on the topic of infusing First Nations content in the curriculum in a variety of ways, from learning about local protocol to perceiving students' giftedness.



Kevin Berube

DUTY TO REPORT
July 22

SENIOR ADVISOR, COMMUNITY AND INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT - Enbridge

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 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 former Executive Director and former member of the Board of Directors for Teach For Canada. 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.



Edith Sanderson

DUTY TO REPORT
July 22

35+ YEARS IN CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES IN MANITOBA

Leo Atlookan

DUTY TO REPORT
July 22

SOCIAL COUNSELLOR, JOHN C. YESNO EDUCATION CENTRE - Eabametoong First Nation



Karen Cox-Gurdon

DUTY TO REPORT
July 22

SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER, PEGAMIGAABO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - Big Grassy River First Nation

Karen Cox-Gurdon (they/she) is part of the 2017 cohort of Teach For Canada teachers and has spent the past 4 years as the Special Education Resource Teacher in Big Grassy River First Nation at Pegimagaabo Elementary School. Karen supports a variety of students from kindergarten to Grade 8 both in and out of the classroom. This past year, Karen took on the challenge of providing meaningful education throughout COVID-19 by implementing a travelling classroom which was set up in students' driveways, yards, and porches...anywhere lessons could be conducted safely and with as much fun as possible. When Karen is not at the school, you can usually find them wandering around the woods, kayaking on the lake, or practicing their martial arts skills in a "neighbouring" community.

Karen has their Honours BA and a B.E.d. from Nipissing University. In addition to having their Special Education Specialist, Karen is currently completing the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Teacher Education Program through York University. Prior to their job at Pegamigaabo School, they were an Outdoor Educator in Mattawa and Haliburton, Ontario. Karen is looking forward to returning to Big Grassy River First Nation for their 5th year of teaching!



Joanna Lindeman

**LITERACY GAP MANAGEMENT —
PRIMARY (K–GRADE 2): SUPPORTING
EMERGENT READERS**

July 23

KINDERGARTEN TEACHER - Ears Falls Public School

Joanna has been an educator for 15 years—time goes fast when you are having fun! She started her career as an Early Childhood Educator in Thunder Bay. She enrolled at Lakehead University part-time and over a period of five years, completed a HBA and a BEd. Joanna then moved to Red Lake and taught Kindergarten to Grade 4/5, FSL, Grade 6/7, Grade 1, and also did supply teaching at the high school—she is extremely versatile.

She has been the Kindergarten teacher in Ear Falls for the past 5 years and also taught the Grades 1–3 Summer Literacy Program during this time. Over the past three months, when teaching was moved on-line, she served as the Kindergarten Lead Teacher for the school board.

She believes in the necessity of having a literacy-saturated program and has mentored several teachers to help them implement effective strategies. In her spare time, she likes to go fishing (winter and summer) and camping, and she likes to create oil paintings.



Rachelle Bergen

**LITERACY GAP MANAGEMENT —
JUNIOR/INTERMEDIATE (GRADES 3–8):
SUPPORTING STRUGGLING READERS**

July 23

TEACHER, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Rachelle Bergen has worked in special education and Deaf education for three nearly decades. That work has taken her to school boards across Canada and as far away as New Zealand where she studied and trained in their bicultural teaching approach (Māori and non-Māori). She is currently teaching students with dyslexia and other learning disabilities at the Ministry of Education.

Much of Rachelle’s special education training and research focuses on the neurology and science behind reading and reading difficulties; and most importantly, taking the knowledge and creating targeted and effective lessons and support for students and teachers.

Rachelle’s work includes her award winning books, political advocacy, and Master of Education research on reconciliatory education, pedagogy and methodologies and how the Western education system would greatly benefit from a deeper understanding of Indigenous ways of knowing and learning.

Her most influential teachers have always been her two marvelous sons.



Dan MacDonald

**INDEPENDENT LEARNING MODULE CO-CREATOR
LITERACY GAP MANAGEMENT —
INTERMEDIATE/SENIOR (GRADES 9–12):
GAP MANAGEMENT**
July 23

REMOTE TEACHER DEVELOPMENT MANAGER - Teach For Canada

Dan MacDonald spent 5 years teaching high school English in the northern Dene community of La Loche, SK, from 2012 to 2017. Dan is certified with the Ontario College of Teachers (OCT) and the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation (STF). He was a councillor with the STF as well as an executive member of the Northern Area Teacher Association (NATA). Through this work, Dan was able to provide strong advocacy for teachers and students in northern communities.

Prior to that, he worked in a range of fields, including for an independent music label, as a teacher in South Korea, and in the restaurant industry.

Dan is passionate about education and has a particular interest in all things relating to literacy. He also trains teachers in suicide alertness methods and is certified in safeTALK, ASIST, and as a safeTALK trainer.



Charles Catchpole

COOKING WITH CHEF CHARLES
Optional Weekend Activity

CEO CHARGER FOODS

Charles is an Ojibway First Nations Chef and Entrepreneur from Couchiching First Nation. Charles trained at Loyalist & George Brown Colleges. Charles was co-owner of a successful restaurant for several years before stepping away and moving back to Toronto to work at the prestigious Canoe Restaurant. He has also spent time as a Manager of the historic Arcadian Court and as Head Chef of Orchardview Conference Centre in Ottawa.

Charles decided to leave Canoe and go out on his own again, this time in another direction. He created CharGer Foods and now spends his time creating a line of unique hot sauces, salad dressings, flavoured jams, along with other delicacies. When not out peddling his wares he can be found catering parties of all sizes (including his own wedding).

He currently lives in Toronto with his beautiful wife, Germaine, creating new and interesting recipes and traveling over Turtle Island sharing their tasty delights.

To contact Charles or CharGer Foods please visit Chargerfoods.myshopify.com or 647-471-4546. Like him on Facebook.com/ChargerFoods or follow on twitter @chargerfoods.



Louise McKissick

INTRODUCTION TO COUNSELLING

MAAMAWI COUNSELLING CENTRE

Louise has extensive clinical training in Dialectical Behavioural Therapy, trauma-informed therapy, including intergenerational trauma, Cognitive-Behavioural Therapy, and affirmative, attachment-based couples counselling, as well as a postgraduate certificate in counselling for 2SLGBTQ+ individuals and their families.

She obtained her Masters Degree in Clinical Social Work from the University of Chicago, where she had a special interest in ethnopsychology as well as cross-cultural social work. Louise has lived in Nome, Alaska, where she travelled to remote Yu'pik and Innupiat communities located along the Bering Sea Coast to assist the University of Alaska-Fairbanks with cultural archiving projects aimed at strengthening traditional culture whilst bridging the cultural gap.

Louise also worked in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction in rural Vietnam, and she taught digital video to promote empowerment and cultural advocacy to Tibetan refugee youth in India. She returned to her birthplace, Thunder Bay, several years ago. An approved provider for Health Canada's First Nations and Inuit Health, Louise provides counselling to individuals and families eligible for coverage under Non-insured Health Benefits (NIHB) and the Indian Residential Schools Resolution Health Support Program (IRS).



Leah Horzempa

GRAPHIC NOTETAKING

July 16

SISTER CIRCLE CONSULTING

Leah (they/she) has mixed-Indigenous and colonial ancestry and is part of the Aabitaawizininiwag community (commonly known as the Drummond Island or Georgian Bay métis). They reside on Anishinaabeg and Wendat lands on the southern shores of Georgian Bay. Leah is a licensed lawyer who holds a Juris Doctorate from Osgoode Hall Law School (2018) and an Honours Bachelor's degree of Arts and Science from the University of Guelph (2013). During their legal education, Leah dedicated many hours to community legal and restorative justice work. Leah started Sister Circle Consulting in 2019 with their sister, Olivia. Collaboratively they provide strategic consultation, policy auditing, anti-colonial education and training, group facilitation, community engagement, and illustrated resources for a wide diversity of clients in the public and private sectors.



Gurpreet Flora

SEP COORDINATOR

TEACH FOR CANADA TEACHER & ALUMNI

I was born and raised in Etobicoke, Ontario. I completed my Honours Bachelor of Arts at York University in 2016, followed by the completion of my Bachelor of Education at York in 2018. I am qualified to teach I/S, with teachables in Social Sciences and History. I taught for two years in Deer Lake First Nation, first as the grade 6 teacher, then as the grade 7 teacher.

I enjoyed being involved in the school and community. I hosted a few after-school programs including dance club, cooking club, and the WiseMan Math contest, and I was in charge of our staff social. I was also in charge of the breakfast. Fishing and camping are my favourite activities to do in Deer Lake. This year and last year I also had the privilege of working with TrueNorth Aid which helped deliver backpacks to our students in Deer Lake First Nation.

I genuinely believe that students are the pathways to the future. After working with students in Deer Lake I realised that there is a lot more that I do not know. Teaching in Deer Lake raised a lot of questions for me in regard to our educational system, thus I took a break from the classroom and completed a Master of Education degree in 2020-21



Deb Allen

LEARNING MANAGEMENT
SYSTEM COORDINATOR

SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM SPECIALIST - Teach For Canada

Deborah grew up in a large extended family of engineers in the south-western suburbs of Sydney, Australia. At the age of 20, she escaped the “Big Smoke” and has been on the run ever since living in many different places within Canada and New Zealand. Choosing a life of adventure and challenge has led her to experience many different chapters, people, places, perspectives, careers, and cuisines.

In New Zealand she completed a B.A. from Otago University, scaled Mount Ruapehu in the winter with an ice axe and crampons, and circumnavigated a 10 day solo-hike combining the "Northern Circuit" and "Round the Mountain" treks in Tongariro National Park.

Deborah ran a remote fishing and hunting lodge with her husband for several years near Temagami, Ontario. Deborah has worked at Martin McKay Memorial School in Sachigo Lake First Nation, Ontario for the past four years. Currently, she is working on her Masters of Education at Lakehead University, specializing in Social Justice and Unschooling This is Deb’s fourth year working with the TFC crew on the Summer Enrichment Program.



Nicole Nuk

INDEPENDENT LEARNING
MODULE CO-CREATOR

DIRECTOR OF TEACHER DEVELOPMENT - Teach For Canada

Nicole has worked with children and youth for as long as she can remember. After completing her degree in Education through the Trent-Queen's Concurrent Education program, Nicole ran a summer literacy camp in Onigaming First Nations in Northern Ontario. This position led Nicole to fall in love with bringing equitable education and services to all. Nicole was driven to teach in Kenya as a volunteer and started female health initiatives in the communities she served. More locally, she spent years providing community-based education programming to newcomers in Toronto, helping many families navigate Toronto's numerous education-related services.

All of these professional roles ignited Nicole's passion to bring outstanding education and services to children with special needs. She spent two years teaching at a private school for children with special needs and exceptionalities in Toronto. There she honed her ability to develop and implement differentiated curriculum to meet her students' unique learning needs. She helped her students meet their goals both academically and outside of the classroom through a loving and inclusive classroom community. In addition, Nicole volunteers with rEcess, a respite program in Toronto that provides a fun evening for children with severe special needs and their siblings, giving their caregivers a much needed break. Nicole believes that all children, no matter their abilities or geographic location, deserve access to excellent education and services.

In her spare time, Nicole enjoys taking in all that Toronto has to offer and can often be found at concerts, theatre shows, and enjoying great food. Outside of the big city, her favourite pastimes are camping, hiking, and enjoying the outdoors.



Nicole Journal

INDEPENDENT LEARNING
MODULE CO-CREATOR

TEACHER DEVELOPMENT MANAGER - Teach For Canada

Nicole has always loved learning, but it wasn't until her early twenties when she started volunteering at the Daylu Dene School in Lower Post, B.C. that she fell in love with teaching others. Since then she has worked in education, first as a classroom assistant and later as a teacher, in the Canadian North and internationally in Nepal and the UK. Nicole has taught lots of different things, from horse riding to introductory accounting, but her favourite subjects are Social Studies and English. She believes social justice begins with equitable education and always tries to teach with this belief in mind. She is passionate about play-based, inquiry-based, and experiential education. For five years, Nicole worked as an Academic Studies Instructor at Nunavut Arctic College in Iqaluit, Nunavut. While there, she loved working closely with students and learning about Inuit culture and language.

Nicole has a Master of Education specializing in Adult Education from the University of New Brunswick, a Bachelor of Education from the University of Toronto, and a Bachelor of Arts from Mount Allison University. She is certified to teach by the Ontario College of Teachers. There is nothing Nicole enjoys more than a good story. She can often be found searching one out in movies, books, and conversations. When not enjoying good stories she tries to live them by travelling to new places, trying new experiences, and always talking to strangers.



Karissa Frey

INDEPENDENT LEARNING
MODULE CO-CREATOR

TEACHER DEVELOPMENT MANAGER - Teach For Canada

Karissa has always been passionate about education, and she knew that she wanted to work with children and youth. She spent many years volunteering with summer camps and school programs and then decided to obtain her teaching certificate.

Karissa attended the concurrent education program through Wilfrid Laurier and Nipissing Universities at the Brantford campus. She graduated with an Honours Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Contemporary Studies and a Bachelor of Education. Karissa's main area of focus in Teacher's College was French, with additional qualifications in Social Sciences. She is qualified to teach across all divisions in Ontario: Primary, Junior, Intermediate, and Senior.

After graduating, Karissa came across Teach For Canada. She applied to go to the North and spent two years teaching in Sandy Lake First Nation. Throughout her experience in the North she became passionate about closing the education gap between First Nations and non-First Nations students. Karissa always enjoyed spending time with students outside the classroom by running many extracurricular activities and taking students on different excursions, and she believes in the importance of teaching emotional intelligence and life skills alongside the Ontario Curriculum.

Karissa loves reading, puzzles, a hot cup of coffee, and good conversation.



Stephanie Aitchison

INDEPENDENT LEARNING
MODULE CO-CREATOR

TEACHER DEVELOPMENT MANAGER - Teach For Canada

From a young age, Stephanie always knew that she wanted to be a teacher. More importantly, she wanted to inspire a love of learning in her students.

Stephanie graduated from Nipissing University in 2010 with a Bachelor of Education. She spent four years living on the East Coast while obtaining her undergraduate degree in History and English from Saint Francis Xavier University. Stephanie's love of learning and travelling combined as she began her career overseas in London, England. From there, she relocated to Cairo, Egypt where she taught at a Canadian International School. Upon her return to Canada, Stephanie moved to northern Quebec, where she taught high school English and History in Long Point First Nation.

Stephanie has since taught in Timiskaming First Nation as a literacy specialist teacher and has travelled to Prince Rupert, BC, where she first tackled online learning.

During her work in Long Point FN, Stephanie met the love of her life. She currently resides in northern Ontario with her family and two huskies. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, travelling, meeting new friends and has a love for the outdoors, including hiking, swimming, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, and going for walks in the country.



Miigwetch

Teach For Canada would like to thank the following individuals for their support and assistance in co-creating this year's Summer Enrichment Program Learning Modules:

NICOLE BELL

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TEDDY SYRETTE

TEACH FOR CANADA STAFF

ALL THE TEACH FOR CANADA TEACHERS AND ALUMNI

WHO CONTRIBUTED IDEAS AND CONTENT!

Thank you for making this year's Summer Enrichment Program possible.

**WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE TEACH
FOR CANADA TEAM?**

Go to <https://teachforcanada.ca/en/about/our-people/>
to get to know TFC staff members.





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