

2018

TEACH FOR CANADA

2018 Presenters



TEACH FOR
ENSEIGNER POUR LE
CANADA

Get Inspired.







Elvis Adams

Big Grassy River
Transportation

Elvis Adams is Ojibway from the Big Grassy River First Nation on the southeastern shore of Lake of the Woods. He is the school bus driver for Pegamigaabo School in Big Grassy River. Elvis is also a decorated artist. He has been drawing/painting since he was a child. His art decorates many walls, including Prime Minister Trudeau's.

Elvis believes that education is a very important and powerful tool in life. He believes that the better the education, the better the future.



Deb Allen

Summer Enrichment Program
Project Manager

Deborah Allen grew up in a large extended family of engineers in the southwestern 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, careers, and foods. In New Zealand she completed a B.A. from Otago University, and then, in Tongariro National Park, scaled Mount Ruapehu in the winter armed with an ice

axe and crampons. The following summer, she undertook a solo 10-day hike of the 'Northern Circuit' and 'Round the Mountain' treks.

Deborah ran a remote fishing and hunting lodge with her partner for several years near Temagami, Ontario. For the past year, Deborah has been working as a Teacher Assistant, and the interim grade 1 teacher at Martin McKay Memorial School in Sachigo Lake First Nation, Ontario.



Tyler Allen

Teacher Associate
2017 Cohort

Tyler works at Sachigo Lake and is part of the 2017 Teach For Canada Cohort. He believes that weaving cultural perspectives, connectivity, and technology into learning allows students to relate in a way that is both familiar and engaging. This approach has allowed him to establish and maintain mutually respectful relationships between his students, the school, community, and families.

Tyler completed his Bachelor of Teaching in New Zealand at the University of Otago and graduated with the award for

outstanding academic achievement. He taught in New Zealand schools for three years in grades four, five and six. Tyler has been a professional Snowboard Coach for close to eight years. He understands it's important to encourage students to take risks in a safe learning environment by encouraging cooperative discovery and providing a challenging curriculum. In recognition of his contributions to the snow sports industry, in 2017 Tyler received the Instructor of the Year award at Blue Mountain as well as the Award of Merit from the Canadian Ski Instructor Alliance.



Kevin Berube

"Duty to Report"
July 31

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 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.



Lyn Blackburde

**“Community Teachings”
Big Grassy River First Nation
Community Trip**

July 24 - 28

Lyn is a member of the Manitou Rapids/Rainy River First Nation of Ontario and has a Master of Science in Education from the University of North Dakota. The majority of Lyn’s teaching experience has been on various First Nations/Native American communities in Manitoba, where she grew up, teaching on the Dakota Tipi, Sandy Bay, and Brokenhead reserves. Lyn’s husband is an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Chippewa reservation in Belcourt, North Dakota, where she worked as a reading intervention teacher and special education transition specialist. Before becoming a

school administrator, she completed work for the Manitoba First Nation Education Resource Centre in Winnipeg as an early childhood education consultant and a private home placement specialist. Lyn has worked for the past several years as the Education Director/Principal on Big Grassy River First Nation. Lyn has been working in the field of education for over 25 years and is proud to serve the people and children of her Anishinabe culture. Lyn will be pursuing a PhD at the University of Manitoba in the fall.



Sarah Byrnes

**“Special Education”, “Art”,
“Report Cards and Assessment”, and
“Planning with a Northern Focus”**

August 1 & 2

Sarah has ten years of experience teaching all over the world. From ESL work in Japan, to private schools in Germany, and then to the North in Fort Severn First Nation. Her most rewarding and enriching experiences were working in the small school in Fort Severn. She spent two years teaching, learning how to fish, northern light watching, hunting, ATV riding, and drinking as much Labrador tea as she could get her

hands on. She’s a certified primary/junior & senior visual arts educator. Her specialities in education include ESL, early literacy, connecting to culture, yoga & meditation for kids, the arts, as well as non-traditional and holistic teaching. Sarah worked for Teach For Canada as a Recruitment Manager before transitioning back to the classroom this past spring.



Chancillor Crane

Teach For Canada Staff
Teacher Recruitment Manager

“Spirituality in the North”
July 27

Chancillor is Ojibway from Slate Falls Nation in northern Ontario. He was born in the town of Sioux Lookout and has spent most of his life in Slate Falls and Sioux Lookout. Chancillor’s parents are former residential school students as well as community and social leaders. After high school, with a young family, Chancillor returned to Slate Falls to find employment and served in various roles. He was elected band councillor and, in 2014, he became Slate Fall’s Education Director. While serving in this role, many doors were opened to him and education became a passion of his. He saw it as a way to affect change in his community’s school

that benefited children directly. Chancillor strives to contribute in any way he can: personally, socially, and professionally. He believes in openness, transparency, as well as mutual respect, acceptance, and understanding in every avenue of life. Chancillor brings to Teach For Canada northern perspectives as a student, parent, community member, and community leader. Outside of work, Chancillor is an avid fisherman and outdoorsman. He enjoys carving, drawing, hockey, and baseball. While continuing to broaden his experiences, Chancillor raises his eight-year-old son as a single father.



Natasha Davey

Teach For Canada Staff
Teacher Development Manager

“Managing Challenges with People”, “Wise Classroom Management Practices” and “Planning with a Northern Focus”

July 30, 31 and August 2

Natasha studied at the Faculty of Education at Brock University, working and volunteering in various areas of the university. She supported students, supervised residences, and worked at a non-profit organization facilitating international service learning programs on campus. She completed a Bachelor of Integrated Studies and a Bachelor of Education at Brock University. She is a proud member of the Ontario College of Teachers.

After graduation, her sense of adventure prompted her to seize the opportunity to work as the grade 7 and 8 teacher in Aroland First Nation, where she taught for three years. While living in the remote region, she connected with community members and learned many new skills from them. Ice fishing and snowshoeing are some of her favorite things to do in Northern Ontario. To support student learning she incorporated cultural activities such as making snowshoes and bulrush

arrows for target shooting, as well as setting and checking snare lines as part of the classroom experience.

The Ontario Physical Education and Health Association (OPHEA) has recognized Natasha’s outstanding efforts in cross-curricular inquiry-based learning and awarded her the “Deb Courville Legacy Award” in 2016. Her passion for health and physical education has led her to share learnings with others, including being featured in OPHEA’s “All About H&PE” videos and recent OPHEA.net articles.

Natasha loves travelling internationally, hiking, trying new vegetarian recipes, and practicing yoga!

Natasha has been a Teacher Development Manager with Teach For Canada for the past year, working with teachers from Sandy Lake, Slate Falls, Keewaywin, and Sachigo Lake First Nations.



Gurpreet Dipak

Gurpreet is a proud Hamiltonian who walked to all his schools including McMaster University, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Kinesiology. Part of his undergraduate degree included Outdoor Education and Adventure-Based Learning courses, which would eventually lead him to pursue a teaching degree. Gurpreet's adventures in education continued in Melbourne, Australia where he gained his formal teaching (Primary/Junior) credentials at LaTrobe University, all the whilst exploring all that the Australian outdoors has to offer with regards to hiking and diving, including the Great Barrier Reef.

Gurpreet has been certified with the Ontario College of Teachers since 2005 and has taught a variety of grades and subjects in both public and private school classrooms across Canada and internationally. His highlights include teaching English to Tibetan monks in North India, facilitating Upper Canada College's grade 9 Outdoor Education

Teach For Canada Staff
Teacher Development Manager

"Icebreakers & DPA"
Ongoing

Medic, "FNMI Games"
Big Grassy River First Nation Community Trip

"Wise Classroom Management Practices",
"Planning with a Northern Focus"
July 31 and August 2

culminating expeditionary program, teaching various climbing and high ropes classes from Milton, Ontario to Mission, British Columbia, and starting a Storytime with Soldiers program in Norman Wells, Northwest Territory. Gurpreet instructs first aid and continues to serve as a medic, currently in the role of Platoon Warrant with 25 (Toronto) Field Ambulance in the Canadian Armed Forces. As an advocate for lifelong learning and service before self, Gurpreet enjoys volunteering with St. John Ambulance, and at various sports, arts, and cultural events. He rounds out any of his remaining time by running, canoeing, camping, watching too many movies, and discovering new foodie experiences on his many travels.

Gurpreet has been a Teacher Development Manager with Teach For Canada for the past year, working with teachers from Lac Seul, Eabametoong, Marten Falls and Cat Lake First Nations.



Amber Fiore

Teach For Canada Staff
Teacher Development Manager

**“First Nations, Métis and Inuit Games”
Big Grassy River First Nation Community Visit**

**“Wise Classroom Management Practices”,
“Fundraising 101”, “Physical Education and Daily
Physical Activity”**

July 31, August 1 & 2

Amber’s passion for learning, the outdoors, and being physically active have taken her around the world and broadened her experience in the education field, where she has been a teacher for over seven years. She taught in a remote First Nation in northwestern Ontario for the past few years. Amber understands the importance of advocating for equal education and how vital culture and nature are to youths’ well-being.

Amber received her teaching certification at the Christchurch College of Education in New Zealand where she learned more about nature and how a country can be

respectful and inclusive of Indigenous peoples. Prior to that, she obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Kinesiology with Honours from York University to better understand how the body works and what various forms of physical activity can do to a person’s well-being. She is currently certified with the Ontario College of Teachers and the Nova Scotia Teachers Associations.

Amber has been a Teacher Development Manager with Teach For Canada for the past year, working with teachers from Bearskin Lake, Poplar Hill, North Spirit Lake, and Deer Lake First Nations.



Sara-Christine Gemson

Sara-Christine Gemson joined Teach For Canada after 7 years working as a TV, radio, and web reporter for Radio-Canada in Toronto and Regina. Sara-Christine spent 5 of those years in Saskatchewan, providing local and national coverage of daily news and current affairs, including the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, First Nations University of Canada, and local murdered and missing Indigenous women. She also had the opportunity to produce a special national TV and radio series on First Nations employment. Sara-Christine also worked as a journalist at the Daily Nation, the most-read newspaper in Kenya, as an Aga Khan Foundation fellow.

Teach For Canada Staff
Director of Communications

**“Teacher Communications”,
“Integrating Culture and
Community in the Classroom”**
July 20 and August 2

Before turning to journalism, Sara-Christine dipped her toe in the world of education. She taught English in Japan for two years, working in high schools for athletes, students with academic challenges, and students with severe mental and physical disabilities. She also worked at Ontario’s Ministry of Education, supporting the development of the current grading scale.

Sara-Christine completed a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and Communications at the University of Ottawa. She also completed a Master of Philosophy in Comparative Government at the University of Oxford.



Liz Halina

Teach For Canada Staff

Director of Teacher Development

“Introduction to Teach For Canada”, “Lateral Violence”

July 16 and 20

Big Grassy River First Nation Community Trip

Fishing Lead

“Community Governance and Teacher Role”, “Managing Challenges with People”, “Teacher Professionalism”

July 30 and August 3

Liz is a member of Sagkeeng First Nation, grew up in Selkirk, Manitoba and is Métis and Anishinaabe. Growing up in a family of educators, Liz spent her youth developing a deep respect for the land and water while spending her summers camping, boating, fishing, and sailing on the Red River and Lake Winnipeg.

After spending two years as a police officer in a small Métis community in Northern Manitoba, Liz began her teaching career 18 years ago in a remote fly-in community in the Northwest Territories. Her sense of adventure and dedication to working with youth has led her to work as a classroom teacher in several northern communities, most recently Iqaluit, Nunavut, until she relocated to Toronto in 2016. She also taught at the American Embassy School in New Delhi, India.

Liz’s teaching specializations include biology, general science, technology integration, physical education, and health. She has been certified to teach by the Ontario College of Teachers, the Nunavut Department of Education, Manitoba Education and Training, the Government of Northwest Territories and Alberta Learning. Liz, a lifelong learner, continues to participate in ongoing professional development and has a passion for travel, food, scuba diving, and fitness.

Liz has served as the Director of Teacher Development with Teach For Canada for two years. This will be her third Summer Enrichment Program.



Kurtis Hansen

Teacher Associate
2017 Cohort

Kurtis Hansen grew up in the quaint hamlet community of Greenwood, Pickering. He graduated with honours from the Laurentian University Concurrent Education program and has a major in English Literature. He is a highly passionate, ambitious, and adventurous young teacher with an array of international experience. Kurtis began his career educating in London, England as a Supply Educator for Impact Teachers, working from Reception to Year 6 until quickly being offered two full-time positions, initially in Year 6 and subsequently in Reception. While overseas, Kurtis was employed as an International Mentor, supporting teachers in New Delhi, India. For the past two years, he has served as a Kindergarten teacher at

Pegamigaabo School in Big Grassy River First Nation. Children quickly respond to his warm-hearted and open personality as well as musical teaching style. He habitually incorporates music into his lessons, embracing all avenues where he can play his guitar and sing for his students. Kurtis would like to pursue a Master's degree in Indigenous Education so that he can continue to make big differences in the lives of First Nation children around Canada. This summer, Kurtis has the privilege of working for Teach For Canada as a Teacher Associate. Kurtis will be returning to Pegamigaabo as the grade 1/2 teacher this upcoming school year. He is forever committed to being the change within the lives of children.



Kyle Hill

Teach For Canada Staff
Executive Director

Big Grassy River First Nation Community Trip
Camp Lead

“Introduction to Teach For Canada”, “Duty to Report Facilitator”
July 16 and 31

Kyle Hill is the Co-Founder and Executive Director of Teach For Canada. Born and raised in the small community of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, Kyle’s K-12 teachers played a profound and formative role in his life, and his passion for education is driven by the impact his own education had on his development. In 2014, Kyle sat on the Nova Scotia Minister’s Panel on Education, which undertook a once-in-a-generation review of the province’s education system. Since 2011, he has been a member of the Board of Directors of SEVEC, a charitable organization which funds 5000 youth exchanges throughout Canada each year.

He was a volunteer summer school teacher in Jamaica (2008) and Ukraine (2009). Kyle’s professional background is deeply rooted in mathematics and the natural sciences. He has a B.Sc. in Physics and Mathematics from Mount Allison University, and a M.Sc. and Ph.D. in medical physics from the University of Oxford, where he studied as a Rhodes Scholar. His Ph.D. research enabled early-stage diagnosis of lung diseases such as emphysema and pulmonary fibrosis. From 2011-2014, Kyle used his mathematical background in his work as a Consultant and Project Leader at the Boston Consulting Group in Toronto.



Chris Johnson

Teacher Associate
2016 Cohort

Big Grassy River First Nation Community Trip
July 24 - 28

Chris became a Teach For Canada teacher in 2016. He has just completed his two-year commitment with Teach For Canada in Big Grassy River First Nation, where he has been the grade 3/4 teacher since 2016. A graduate of the University of Reading, Chris has been teaching since 2008. He taught in England for four years before moving to Canada in 2012. Since then, Chris has worked as a teacher in the provinces of Nova Scotia, Quebec, and Ontario. He will be returning to Big Grassy for the 2018-

2019 school year in the role of the JK/SK teacher, while he spearheads a language integration program.

When not teaching, Chris enjoys spending time with his dogs and practicing his French skills.

Chris will be supporting the Teach For Canada team and new cohort during their visit to Big Grassy River First Nation as a Teacher Associate.



Darlene Kakepetum

Darlene has been working for the Sandy Lake Board of Education since 1995. She started as a paraprofessional for grade 6 and taught two lessons during the school year, then was asked to teach another lesson. From this experience, Darlene decided that teaching was something that she really enjoyed doing. In 1997 she pursued a teaching degree while still working as a paraprofessional. She started teaching in 2001. Over the years, she taught Kindergarten to grade 12 as a

Sandy Lake
Education Coordinator

Cree Language Instructor
July 30- Aug 1

paraprofessional and as a teacher. She also believed it was important for students to learn their native language and culture, so she pursued her education towards obtaining her native language diploma/certificate and went to school for another four years during the summers at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay. Darlene taught immersion classes in grades 2 and 3 at Thomas Fiddler Elementary School. In 2017, she became Education Coordinator for the Sandy Lake Board of Education.



Carrie Lourenzo

Carrie has been an educator and leader in literacy education for nearly 26 years at the school, board, and university levels. She has held the roles of Curriculum Consultant, Reading Clinician, Reading Recovery TM teacher, Special Education Resource teacher, and classroom teacher. Carrie continues to work as a Program Lead for Winnipeg School Division. She has been working with Pearson Canada since

**“Benchmark Assessments
(Pearson Consultant)”**
August 1 & 2

2015/2016. Carrie has facilitated numerous literacy workshops within the Winnipeg School Division, as well as other areas of Manitoba and Ontario. Her work includes servicing and supporting First Nations, Métis, and Inuit educators. Carrie lives in Winnipeg, Manitoba with her husband Rodger, and their cat, Abbey. She has 3 incredible sons who are currently exploring their passions and love of travel.



Dan MacDonald

Dan MacDonald spent five years teaching high school English and Wildlife Studies in the northern Dene community of La Loche, Saskatchewan, from 2012 to 2017. The experience in La Loche allowed Dan the opportunity to make real connections with students and help them overcome personal and systemic challenges to be successful. Dan is certified with the Ontario College of Teachers, as well as the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation (STF), and the British Columbia College of Teachers. While teaching in Saskatchewan, Dan was involved in teaching associations as a councillor with the STF and an executive member of the Northern Area Teacher Association. Through this work, Dan was able to provide strong advocacy for teachers and students in northern communities. Prior to that, Dan worked in a range of fields such as working for an independent music label as a Talent Director, teaching in South Korea, working for a recruiter in South Korea, and various positions in restaurants and bars in Canada and South Korea.

Teach For Canada Staff
Teacher Development Manager

“SafeTALK”, “Working Through Trauma”, “Wise Classroom Management Practices”, “Special Education”, “Self-Regulation”, “Working Effectively with EAs”

July 19, 20, 31 and August 1 & 2

Dan graduated from Carleton University with a Bachelor of Arts in English and a Master of Arts in English. He also completed a Bachelor of Education at Ottawa University. His undergraduate studies at Carleton focused on First Nations literature, and, through the Canadian Studies department, his master's focused on Inuit forms of creative expression as well as systemic challenges in the far North.

Dan enjoys the outdoors. He attends and volunteers at outdoor music festivals whenever possible. His love of music has offered him various personal and professional opportunities.

Dan has been a Teacher Development Manager with Teach For Canada for the past year, working with teachers from Grassy Narrows, Big Grassy River, Ojibways of Onigaming, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwig, and Fort Severn First Nations.



Will Mcginnis

**“Community Teachings”
Big Grassy River First Nation Community Trip**
July 24-28

Will Mcginnis is a husband, father to three children, and grandfather to five children. He currently works for a gold mine and as an Indigenous advisor.

Will’s spiritual journey started at the age of 35 when he was facing bad dreams and sickness. After trying Western doctors and medicines with mixed results, he found his way to ceremonies at the Broken Head reserve north of Winnipeg, Manitoba. His mentor is a man who taught him how to save his life through Sundance and sweat lodge ceremonies, along with traditional medicines. His mentor is a great man

who carries knowledge gained through commitment and hard work .

Will has carried the teachings he was given for 20 years. He was honoured to reintroduce Sundance to his community after the ceremony was lost there for many year. He has carried a sweat lodge for 19 years and the Sundance ceremony for 18 years. Will was given an eight-sided star lodge to keep, where he hosts other ceremonies and teachings, and is also a home for Grandfathers and Grandmothers (spirit helpers).



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.



Kimberly Masson

“Trauma Informed Classrooms”, “Duty to Report”

July 31

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 next 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’s

degree in 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.



Louise McKissok

“Vicarious Trauma”

July 20

Louise McKissok 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 Dialectical Behavioural Therapy, trauma therapy, and couples counseling, as well as a postgraduate certificate in counseling for LGBTQ2S 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 she 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 His Holiness the Dalai Lama and His Eminence 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 their descendants. Survivors’ perseverance, wry humour, wisdom, and resiliency in the face of intergenerational trauma and institutionalized racism compel her to keep on keepin’ on.



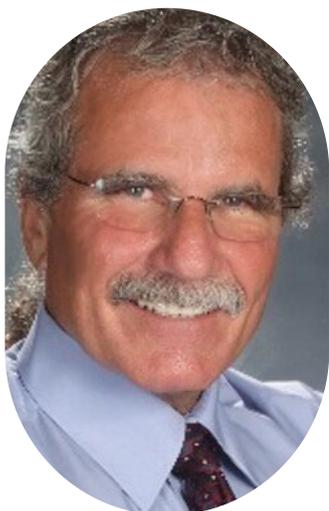
Maria Montejo

“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 Bachelor’s degrees 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 Knowledge Keepers on Turtle Island and from Central and South America. Maria has had the privilege of being exposed to

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 Kanonhsa’ Aboriginal Cultural Facility in Toronto.



Allan Mountford

“FASD”

August 1

Allan Mountford, (B.A., B.P.E., B.Ed., M.Ed., OCT) is on the board of Chimo Youth & Family Services, works with the Durham District School Board in a Care, Treatment, Custody & Corrections, Section 23 Program, and is on the faculty at the Durham College School of Justice. Allan has been a member of several federal and provincial committees on Fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD) and is currently on the Education Action

Group with the FASD Ontario Network of Expertise. He designed an FASD classroom – a partnership of University of Ontario Institute of Technology, Durham District School Board, FASCETS Canada and Youth Connections Youth and Family Services. He is the author of two handbooks for educators of children with FASD and a CD-ROM for the judicial system. He follows the teachings of his Anishnaubek (Ojibway) heritage.



Evelyn Nanokeesic-McKay

**Oji-Cree Language
Instructor**
July 30- Aug 1

Evelyn McKay is Oji-Cree from Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug. She grew up learning her language before she learned any other. Evelyn attended the Big Trout Lake Indian Day School. Her family travelled from camp to camp every spring to fall, hunting and fishing. This is where she learned to read and write syllabics. The first print she saw was the Bible, hymn books, and what her grandfather wrote on sand or freshly fallen snow.

Evelyn completed grade 12 in 1995, through Washa Distance Education which uses radio, telephone, and computer to deliver the program. The majority of her

education was not in traditional classroom setting, but rather from the land taught by her parents and elders. She did complete the Teacher Assistant Certificate from Nippissing University, a Teaching Diploma from the University of Ottawa, and the Native Language Diploma from Lakehead University.

Evelyn has a son (32) and a daughter (21) who can understand and speak Oji-Cree! She enjoys teaching, hunting, and fishing. Some of her hobbies include beading, sewing, crochet, and doing traditional crafts, such as making gloves, mittens, and moccasins.



Tammy and Bernard Nelson

**Cultural Support,
Elders-in-Residence**
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 Wolf Clan and his ancestry is Cree and Ojibwe. He is a survivor of the 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 program. He works with First Nation, Métis, 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 post-secondary 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 also dancers. Chi Miigwech.



Shannon Payne

Blanket Exercise Facilitator

July 18

Shannon Payne is of Mi'kmaq and European descent. She is a member of St. Theresa Point First Nation, an Oji-Cree fly-in community in northern Manitoba. She is married and has four children and one grandchild.

Shannon's academic and professional background is in education and policy and includes a Bachelor of Arts in Native Studies and Psychology, a Bachelor of Education, and a Professional Master of Public Administration from Queen's

University. She has taught grades from Kindergarten to grade 10, mainly on reserve. Shannon has worked as a teaching Principal, an Adult Educator and Trainer, an Employment Counsellor, an Executive Director of a Resource Centre, a university Learning Skills Counsellor, and as an Indigenous Education Coordinator. She worked with the Assembly of First Nations as an Education Policy and Research Analyst and Community Liaison. Shannon is currently CEO of Sakatay Global.



Nicole Peirera

2017 Teach For Canada Cohort

July 18

"Duty to Report", "Special Education"

July 31 and August 1

Nicole Pereira was part of the 2017 cohort of Teach For Canada teachers. She is a Special Education Teacher in Lac Seul First Nation. She has experience working internationally in China and South Korea but has found her passion working with the children in Lac Seul First Nation. Nicole works with students from Kindergarten to grade 8 with exceptionalities and supports the greater school community

through work in all of the classrooms. The highlight of Nicole's first year in Lac Seul was chaperoning her grade 8 students to Toronto to see Michelle Obama speak and hold up their Lac Seul Orange Shirt. Nicole is excited to be returning for her second year in the North and looks forward to working with many new amazing TFC teachers.



Lucy Quezance

Ojibwa Language Instructor

July 30- Aug 1

Lucy Quezance joins us from Lac Seul (Kejick Bay). In 2006, Lucy graduated with a Bachelor of Education and Bachelor of Arts. She received first class standing in the Native Language Instruction Program 2000, and she completed the Specialist

Native Language Program in 2002. Lucy has worked at Kejick Bay White Pine Ridge School, Pikangikum Eenchookay Birch-Stick School, Missabay School, and Pelican Falls Center. She loves working with students and is passionate about teaching.



Sarah Robinson

**“Indigenous History 101”,
“Treaties and the Indian Act”**

July 17

Sarah Robinson is a proud citizen of the Fort Nelson First Nation and the Saulneau First Nation in Treaty 8 territory in northern British Columbia. She is married into the Toquaht Nation on the west coast of Vancouver Island and lives in their small community of Macoah with her husband and an array of animals; she is a proud stepmom and auntie.

Sarah is an appointed member of the British Columbia Minister’s Advisory Council on Indigenous Women, which advises government on improving

Indigenous women’s quality of life. In 2017, she spoke about “Indigenous Women and the Story of Canada” at the #WalrusTalks National Tour kick-off event in the Yukon. Sarah is Principal at Rainwatch Consulting, which she founded in 2015, and provides support to First Nations and various organizations across Canada. She is also studying law at the University of Victoria.

She is an Action Canada Fellow and a happy human being. Find her on Twitter @ sarahc_robinson.



Niigaan Sinclair

“Contemporary Challenges”

July 19

Dr. Niigaan Sinclair is Anishinaabe (St. Peter's/Little Peguis) and is an assistant professor at the University of Manitoba since 2012. His research has included a variety of topics including Indigenous literature, graphic novels, and masculinities. He is a regular commentator on Indigenous issues on CTV, CBC, APTN, and his written work can be found in the pages of The Exile Edition of Native Canadian Fiction and Drama, newspapers such as The Guardian,

and online with CBC Books: Canada Writes. An activist and writer, Niigaan is the co-editor of the award-winning Manitowapow: Aboriginal Writings from the Land of Water (HighWater Press, 2011) and Centering Anishinaabeg Studies: Understanding the World Through Stories (Michigan State University Press, 2013). He is also the editorial director of The Debwe Series, published by HighWater Press (an imprint of Portage & Main Press).



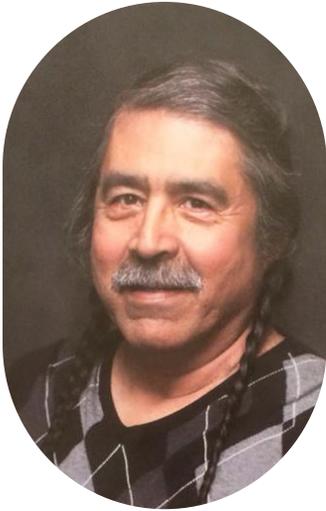
Clifford Tait

“Duty to Report”

July 31

Clifford has been employed by the Sachigo Lake First Nation's Local Education Authority for over 15 years. His primary focus is as the Social Counsellor at Martin McKay, where he provides support and guidance to all students at the school from Kindergarten to grade 8. Part of his role involves being a senior advisory position to support the principal, teachers, and support

staff. Clifford also acts as the secondary student liaison for Windigo Education Authority Support Services, linking students and their families. His days are highly diverse and challenging. A typical day might include stepping into the role of principal, providing advice and guidance, driving the school bus, transforming into a mechanic, or becoming the school chef.



Dan Thomas

“Indian Residential Schools and Intergenerational Trauma”

July 19

Dan Thomas is a father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He is retired after 41 years of working as an educator. He is an Elder/Instructor at the University of Winnipeg and also Elder in Residence at the Aboriginal Student Centre at the University of Winnipeg and for the Seven Oaks School Division. Dan 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 65 years ago.



Lloyd and Linda Thomas

Big Grassy River First Nation Community Trip

Boat driver (Lloyd) and camp leader (Linda)

Lloyd grew up on Matheson Island on Lake Winnipeg in Manitoba and is a member of the Sagkeeng First Nation. His father was a lighthouse keeper and fisher at Black Bear Island. Lloyd worked four summers on Lake Winnipeg boats carrying cement supplies and fish to and from Winnipeg. He then served for five years with the Royal Canadian Air Force. Lloyd later graduated from the Red River College Vocational Education Program and then went on to complete a Bachelor of Education at the University of Winnipeg. Lloyd taught high school electrical theory, electronics, science, math, and Native Studies for 14 years. He then went on to teach mathematics, physics, and chemistry at Red River College for another 14 years. Before

retiring, Lloyd was the Chair of Off-campus and Aboriginal Programs at the College. Fully enjoying retirement, Lloyd spends his time with his grandchildren, boating, and playing his fiddle with his music group: Old Tyme Friends.

Linda grew up on a farm near Selkirk, Manitoba. She attended the University of Manitoba where she earned a Bachelor of Human Ecology in Family Studies. She then went on to complete a pre-master's certification in Secondary Education. Linda taught high school to students in Selkirk for over 30 years. Linda is now enjoying retirement spending time with her five grandchildren and in the garden.



Gloria Tuesday and Derek Turcotte

**Big Grassy River
First Nation
Community Trip**
Cooks

Gloria is from Big Grassy River First Nation, Ontario. She has been working at Pegamigaabo School as a cook for three years. Derek is originally from Couchiching First Nation, Ontario. He has been working

as a cook at the school for just over a year. Gloria and Derek will be preparing the delicious meals for all to enjoy during the community visit.



Nissa Turner

Teacher Associate
2015 Cohort

**“Outdoor Education”
Big Grassy River First Nation Community
Trip**
July 25 - 27

Nissa has taught at Mikinaak Onigaming School, in Ojibways of Onigaming First Nation, for the past three years and was part of the original 2015 TFC cohort. Her favourite things about teaching there are the small classes and being able to take students outside whenever she wants. Being able to connect with her students and connect them to the outdoors are the most rewarding aspects of her job. Before moving North, Nissa taught for two years in England. She attended Teachers’ College at Lakehead University, where she fell in love with Thunder Bay and Northern Ontario. Nissa did her undergraduate

degree at New England College, in New Hampshire, where she majored in Communications.

Nissa enjoys pretty much any activity done outside. She has trained her amazing dog, Kallan, to break trail while snowshoeing, and she is currently training her to ride in a canoe without tipping it over or falling overboard.

Nissa will be working this summer as a Teach For Canada Teacher Associate at the Summer Enrichment Program and instructing Outdoor Education.



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.





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