

Education

Teach For Canada online summer enrichment program a success



submitted photo

Native language teacher Bryan Bellefeuille delivered a Land-Based Learning presentation using a video game environment and videos he shot on the land during the Teach For Canada Summer Enrichment Program.

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

Lac La Croix's Jim Windego appreciated the opportunity to meet the community's two new teachers during Teach For Canada's Summer Enrichment Program, which was held online due to COVID-19. The program is usually held at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay but this year it was held over the Zoom platform with about 51 fully qualified accredited teachers joining in from across the country and the world.

"They had a Meet and Greet, and I was a part of that to meet up with our new teachers," says Windego, director of operations at Lac La Croix. "The principal and I met with them and answered any questions they may have and we made them feel welcome to be new additions to our teaching staff."

Windego says the Meet and Greet Zoom session went "very well."

"The teachers are really anxious for the school year to start," Windego says. "My job is to sell them on all of the good things that are available out here — we are

a semi-isolated community, the classrooms are much smaller. So that is my selling point for them, classroom size, free accommodation and adventures outdoors are right at your doorstep anytime you want to experience that."

Windego says his community is preparing for two options for the upcoming school year, one involving virtual classroom teaching and the other involving the reopening of the school with the use of personal protection equipment and physical distancing measures.

"It's easier to do here because our class sizes are much smaller," Windego says. "Our total school population is 50 for everything from Kindergarten to Grade 12."

The Summer Enrichment Program also provided an opportunity for the teachers to connect with Indigenous leaders and northern educators online to learn about First Nations histories, cultures, languages, culturally-responsive pedagogies and land-based education.

"It was very different than past years being entirely virtual," says Sara-Christine Gemson, vice president of

programs at Teach For Canada. "People were all over the world in some cases, we had some participants who hadn't yet come back to Canada, and people from all over Canada. People were doing it from different time zones but I think that despite it being very different it went very smoothly."

Gemson says the virtual format enabled Teach For Canada to do some things they couldn't do during the usual program.

"We had really amazing participation from community representatives," Gemson says. "We had some new sessions that we haven't had in the past where community representatives were able to join and talk more about something from

their community or from their culture. And in the language lessons it allowed us to have all of the languages — we had Rocky Cree and Swampy Cree represented in the language lessons."

Bryan Bellefeuille, Native language teacher at Blind River Public School and Nipissing citizen, says he used a video game format to create an environment similar to an immersion language to deliver his presentation on Land-Based Learning on July 17.

"I spoke the language as I walked about the game and engaged in actions about the game and at one point I got stung by a bee," Bellefeuille says. "I felt this would be a great medium to assist them in

understanding the importance and necessities of Land-Based Learning. There are quite a few things to teach with Land-Based Learning, safety is one of them, the depth that traditional knowledge holders have and the depth of knowledge and experience our people have had over thousands of years is immeasurable and unbelievable."

Bellefeuille says he also took videos on the land to supplement the video game environment in his presentation.

"I received comments after my presentation and quite a few of them thought the use of the video game was fantastic, they thoroughly enjoyed it and they found it quite engaging,

not only for themselves but to model a way that teachers could teach beyond the walls of their classrooms," Bellefeuille says. "They thought that utilizing video games to create the bush I wanted and using a combination of pre-made videos was a fantastic combination of modern technology to assist in teaching Land-Based Learning."

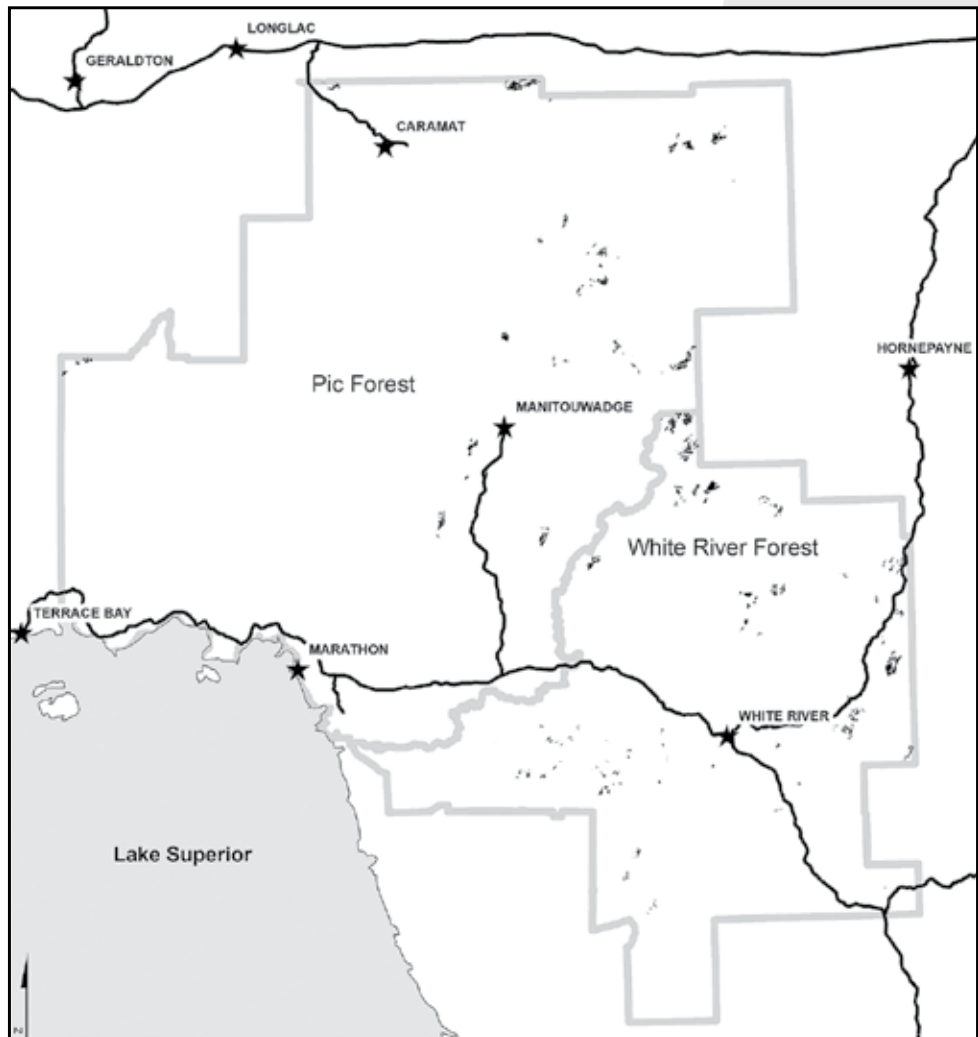
The program also featured a variety of other presentations, including How Indigenous Education Will Save the World by Niigaan Sinclair and Trauma-Informed Classrooms by Emily Blackmoon.

More than 100 Teach For Canada teachers, including this year's cohort, were hired by First Nations to teach this fall.

INSPECTION

Inspection Of Approved Aerial Herbicide Project White River And Pic Forests

The Ontario **Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)** invites you to inspect the MNRF-approved aerial herbicide projects. As part of our ongoing efforts to regenerate and protect Ontario's forests, selected stands on the **White River and Pic Forests** (see map) will be sprayed with herbicide to control competing vegetation, starting on or about: **August 20, 2020**.



The approved project description and project plan for the aerial herbicide project are available electronically for public inspection on the Ontario government website at www.ontario.ca/forestplans beginning **July 20, 2020 until March 31, 2021** when the Annual Work Schedule expires.

Interested and affected persons and organizations can arrange a remote meeting with MNRF staff to discuss the aerial herbicide project. For more information, please contact:

Brian Harbord, R.P.F.
MNRF Wawa District Office
48 Mission Road, P.O. Box 1160
Wawa, ON P0S 1E0
tel: 705-856-4736
e-mail: brian.harbord@ontario.ca

Rebecca Merritt
Nawiinginiima Forest Management Corporation
22 Peninsula Road, P.O. Box 1479
Marathon, ON P0T 2E0
tel: 807-229-8118, ext. 12
cell: 807-620-1738
e-mail: rebecca.merritt@nfmforestry.ca

Renseignements en français : Jennifer Lamontagne au 705 856-4747.

North West LHIN

The North West Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) is seeking:

Community Care Coordinator

Multiple Positions (Temporary and Casual) – Thunder Bay

Team Assistant

Multiple Positions (Temporary and Casual) – Thunder Bay

Mental Health and Addictions Nurse

3.0 FTE Permanent Full-Time in Fort Frances (1), Sioux Lookout (1), and Red Lake (1)

For more information on the North West LHIN and the description of these positions, please visit our website at www.northwestlhin.on.ca. To apply, please e-mail your resume and cover letter to nwlhin.hr@lhins.on.ca. Positions will be open until filled.

All applications will be reviewed; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.