

2023

SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

# Presenter Profiles



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CANADA  
GAKINAAMAAGE









**Our 2023  
Summer  
Enrichment  
Program  
Presenters**





# Tammy & Bernard Nelson

**WELCOME CIRCLE and BERNARD AND TAMMY'S STORY**

**Monday, July 17th & Tuesday July 18th  
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM EDT & 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM EDT**

## 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 powwows, 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-Gakinaamaage Summer Enrichment Program in 2015.







## Randy Weekes

### CULTURAL ADJUSTMENT

Monday, July 17th

1:00 PM - 3:30 PM EDT

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 seventh year presenting at the Summer Enrichment Program.



## Laura Maracle

### INDIGENOUS HISTORIES OF TURTLE ISLAND

Tuesday, July 18th

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM EDT

Laura Maracle is a mixed-race woman who has made the conscious decision to live according to Haudenosaunee tradition. Her biological father was an Anishinaabe man and her mother is of French/Irish descent. The father who raised Laura is Mohawk, and that is how she knows Tyendinaga as her home today. Laura was born and raised in Toronto, where she spent the first 22 years of her life. Thereafter, she claimed her identity, language, and culture (to the best of her ability) and has been sitting (with the Bear Clan) and learning in the longhouse with the traditional Haudenosaunee people of Tyendinaga.

Laura's work experience is diverse and covers the fields of administration, legal secretary (corporate and criminal law), Aboriginal employment, and Aboriginal education. Her passion, heart, and soul lie in the field of Aboriginal education. Having taught from early childhood right up to Adult Education, the biggest life lessons she has gained came from teaching at-risk youth at the high school level. Most recently Laura's path has led her to the field of education and social work.





## Amy Michano

**LAND-BASED LEARNING**

Wednesday, July 19th

9:00 AM - 11:30 AM EDT

Learn more about Amy during her session at SEP 2023.



## Susannah Walker

**TRAUMA-INFORMED CLASSROOMS**

Wednesday, July 19th

1:00 PM - 3:30 PM EDT

Susannah Walker is an enrolled citizen of the Waganakising Odawa tribe from northern Michigan and her grandmother's family is from the Santee Sioux (Dakota) Nation of Nebraska. She worked as a K-12 teacher in Texas and Medellin, Colombia for five years and completed her MSW in 2012 at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she interned with the North Carolina Commission on Indian Affairs. In 2011, she completed a summer internship with her tribe in the Department of Human Services. Since moving to Saskatchewan in 2013, she worked as a sessional instructor in Indigenous Social Work and was hired to the Faculty of Indigenous Social Work in 2019. She worked at a nonprofit in North Central Regina as Program Director, focused on work with Indigenous youth, and now serves on the Board of Directors. She served on the Regina Homelessness Community Advisory Board and currently is a PhD student at the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy. Her dissertation is on the impact of cultural connection on the mental health of on-reserve Indigenous youth. She is an Odawa language learner with the tribal language program through Bay Mills Community College in Michigan.





## Dan MacDonald

### SAFETALK SUICIDE ALERTNESS TRAINING

Thursday, July 20th

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM EDT

Dan MacDonald is a certified teacher with the Ontario College of Teachers (OCT), Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation (STF), and the British Columbia Teachers Federation. Dan spent 5 years teaching high school English and Wildlife Studies in the northern Dene community of La Loche, Saskatchewan, from 2012 to 2017. He then worked as a Teacher Development Manager with Teach For Canada–Gakinaamaage until 2021, working to prepare and support teachers in Northern Ontario and Manitoba First Nations.

Dan is now on a new adventure, working as a Principal at the Inuksuit School in Qikiqtarjuaq, Nunavut. 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.



## Dr. Angelina Weenie & Ida Swan

### DANCE YOUR STYLE: TEACHING AND LEARNING IN AN INDIGENOUS WORLD

Friday, July 21st

1:00 PM - 3:30 PM EDT

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 nakîwacîhk Sweetgrass First Nation, Treaty 6 territory.



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

Dr. Weenie and Ida Swan have been presenters at SEP for the last three years with a focus on infusing First Nations content in the curriculum in a variety of ways, from learning about local protocol to perceiving students' giftedness.





## Dr. Niigaan Sinclair

### HOW INDIGENOUS EDUCATION WILL CHANGE THE WORLD

Friday, July 21st  
Closing Ceremony Keynote

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 came out with the University of Minnesota Press in 2021.





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