

2026

SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

Presenter Profiles



GAKINO'AMAAGE
TEACH FOR CANADA



Our 2026 Summer Enrichment Program Presenters



Tammy & Bernard Nelson

WELCOME CIRCLE and
BERNARD'S STORY

ELDERS-IN-RESIDENCE

Bernard Nelson, also known as Gizhii Manitou Gaamik, "Spirit of the Earth," is an Indigenous Ojibway-Cree from Eabametoong First Nation. He is a survivor of the Pelican Lake Indian Residential School and currently resides in Kingston, Ontario with his wife, Tammy.

Bernard is a long-time Men's Traditional Dancer, Eagle Staff Carrier, and Sundancer. He and Tammy work with Indigenous students from across Canada and are connected to 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 and a long-time Women's Traditional Dancer. Together, they are blessed with a blended family of nine children and several grandchildren.

Both Bernard and Tammy were awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal and, more recently, the King Charles III Coronation Medal for their leadership in community work. Their way of life includes "Walking the Red Road" and living by the Seven Grandfather Teachings. Much of their time is spent with community, in ceremony, at powwows, teaching, and crafting. They are passionate about working with both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

Bernard and Tammy have served as Elders-in-Residence for our Gakino'amaage Summer Enrichment Program every year since our first session in 2015.





Erin Lovis

TRAUMA-INFORMED CLASSROOMS WITH AN INDIGENOUS LENS

After earning her Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Education from Lakehead University in 2014, Erin's path led to Wunnumin Lake First Nation, where she lived and taught for five years. There, she was welcomed with profound kindness and trust, learning alongside Elders, Knowledge Keepers, Language Speakers, and community members.

Now based in Thunder Bay, Erin serves as an Education Advisor with Nokiiwin Tribal Council. As Biskaabiiyaang Project Coordinator and Spirit Builder Coordinator, she works closely with community and school partners across the territory. Erin approaches her work with humility, gratitude, and care, seeing her role as a helper, an ally, and a respectful listener.



Glenda Moose

LANGUAGE LESSONS

Glenda Moose, whose spirit names are Circling Eagle Woman and Morning Star Eagle Woman, is from Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation. She has lived on the traditional territory of her Cree ancestors for most of her life. Her home is situated on the southwest shore of Southern Indian Lake in Manitoba, Canada, about 130 kilometres north of the city of Thompson, traditionally known as O-pipon-na-piwan.

Glenda has taught Kindergarten to Grade 12 in Manitoba, both on and off reserve. She currently works as a Grade 9–12 English Language Arts teacher and has previously worked as a Cree teacher and as a Literacy and Assessment Facilitator for the Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre.

She completed her Master's in Educational Foundations in Indigenous Education through the University of Saskatchewan.



Kristin Ward

LAND-BASED
LEARNING

Kristin Ward is currently the Assistant Director of Education for Lac Seul First Nation. Prior to her current role, she has worked as a principal, teacher, and as a special education teacher in both First Nations schools, and in the provincial school system.

Kristin is a strong advocate for trauma-informed inclusive schools that ensure all students feel safe, supported, and respected. Kristin has recently led a project to create a land-based curriculum for the elementary schools in Lac Seul that connects to the Ontario Curriculum.



Jean Marshall

LAND-BASED
LEARNING

LEAD HIDE TANNER, KITCHENUHMAYKOOSIB INNINUWUG FIRST NATION

Jean Marshall is of Ahnishnaabe/English descent, born and raised in Thunder Bay, Ontario. She is a band member of Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwig, also known as Big Trout Lake, Treaty 9. She has been practicing professionally as a maker for the past 20 years. As a child, she was surrounded by beadwork. This lasting admiration grew into her arts practice, becoming a bead worker and moose hide tanner.

Jean attended the Dene Nahjo Urban Hide Tanning Residency at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity in Fall of 2018. She was mentored by the Dene Nahjo Collective. She observed and learned from master hide tanners Lucy Ann Yakalela and the late Judy Lafferty.

She is now dedicated to leading, organizing, and supporting hide tanning projects in Fort William First Nation. This June, they will celebrate their 7th Annual Hide Camp. Her life goal is to become a master hide tanner someday.

She is thrilled to be sharing about her experience working with moose hides. This work has been life-changing for her, and she feels strongly that it can be for you too!

Miiigwetch

Gakino'amaage extends our sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed to the co-creation of this year's Summer Enrichment Program.

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THE FIRST NATIONS PARTNERS, ELDERS, KNOWLEDGE KEEPERS, FACILITATORS, PRESENTERS, EDUCATORS, ALUMNI, AND GAKINO'AMAAGE TEAM MEMBERS WHOSE KNOWLEDGE, GUIDANCE, AND GENEROSITY HELPED SHAPE THIS LEARNING EXPERIENCE.

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE GAKINO'AMAAGE: TEACH FOR CANADA TEAM?

Go to teachforcanada.ca/our-people to get to know our staff.







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