



LIGHTING THE FIRE

**BREAK THROUGH
TO EXCELLENCE IN
FIRST NATIONS EDUCATION**

MAY 10-12, 2023

**VICTORIA INN HOTEL AND CONVENTION CENTRE
1808 WELLINGTON AVENUE, WINNIPEG, MANITOBA**

WELCOME TO THE 2023 LIGHTING THE FIRE CONFERENCE

This year's theme *Break Through to Excellence in First Nations Education* goes to the heart of the Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre's (the Resource Centre) goals, mandate, and work. After decades of hard work by trailblazing First Nations leaders, Elders, and educators, First Nations can now express their right and responsibility to educate their own children. Due to their efforts, we have a foundation to achieve equality and excellence in education and education outcomes.

What does "break through to excellence" look like? It's seen in the dedication within the Resource Centre's leadership and staff to deliver quality education services to First Nations students. It's seen in the artists, creators, writers, and other Resource Centre staff who work to develop books, resources, and other tools to ensure teachers and schools can better teach in the local First Nations language. It's seen in the attention to detail and caring that the Resource

Centre's clinical and technology staff show when working for the students and schools. And, of course, it is seen in the day-to-day work of administrators, educators, and other school staff who spend so much time developing the next day's lessons and deciding how best to reach the students in their care.

The annual Lighting the Fire Conference (LTF) is held to share the many professions, careers, experiences, knowledges, and teachings found within the Resource Centre's staff and beyond. We hope attendees can further develop their ability to teach and support the First Nations students and families we all serve.

Thank you for taking part in this year's conference. We hope you enjoy the workshops and fellowship. May you leave with a few more ideas and new friends.

If you'd like to share pictures taken at LTF on social media, please tag us **@mfnerc** and use **#LTF2023**.





AANIIN/BOOZHOO; WAJEEYE; HO/HAN; WOTZIYE/EDLANET'E; TĀNSI!

It is great to be with everyone at LTF. When you leave this event, I hope you've made new friends and learned something to help you serve our students and schools better. May you be refreshed by sharing experiences and laughter—something that always seems to happen when we all get together.

One of our keynote speakers, Dr. Courtney Leary, grew up on Norway House Cree Nation, dreaming of becoming a healer for her people. After having to leave home to complete university and training, she eventually returned to her First Nation to live out her vision. I am excited to hear about her journey as a First Nations person who has gone through some of the most stringent parts of the Canadian education system and what she has found on the other side.

#LTF2023 has a wide range of workshops, from CPR training to star teachings in the planetarium to ribbon skirt making. I hope you leave with some new knowledge that will help you break through in your area of expertise to a higher level for the First Nations students who are the focal point of our work.

I believe the theme, Break Through to Excellence in First Nations Education, is about ensuring our students have every chance at achieving mino-pimatisiwin, honso aynai, and tokatakiya wichoni washte (a good life) and the best possible futures. Our students should be able to speak their language, live their culture, and have the tools to succeed in any environment. This is what excellence in First Nations education means. I know you are as dedicated to this goal as we are here at the Resource Centre and MFNCS.

Thank you for taking the time to further develop your experience, knowledge, and skills by attending #LTF2023.

CHARLES COCHRANE
Executive Director, MFNERC

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

TUESDAY, MAY 9 SCHEDULE

- 7:00 – 9:00 ● Evening Pre-registration (Centennial 3 & 4)
- Trade Show Booth Set-Up and Welcome (Wellington Room)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10 SCHEDULE

ALL DAY ● **Elder's Room** (Embassy E)

- 8:00 ● Pipe Ceremony (Tipi East Foyer) **Elder Phillip Paynter**
- Registration (Centennial 3 & 4)
- Trade Show (Wellington Room)
- Breakfast (Centennial Ballroom)
- 9:00 ● Opening Ceremonies (Centennial Ballroom)
 - Grand Entry
 - Drum Group **Walking Wolf Ray “Coco” Stevenson and Group**
 - Opening Prayer **Elder Phillip Paynter**
 - Master of Ceremonies **Jason Bone**
- 9:30 ● Welcoming Remarks
 - MFNERC **Executive Director Charles Cochrane** (video greetings)
 - MFNERC **Acting Associate Executive Director Davin Dumas**
 - MFNERC **Chairperson Clarence Easter**
 - First Nations Leadership: Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, **Grand Chief Cathy Merrick**
 - Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak, **Grand Chief Garrison Settee**
 - Southern Chiefs' Organization, **Grand Chief Jerry Daniels**
 - Assembly of First Nations, **Manitoba Regional Chief, Cindy Woodhouse**
 - Treaty Commissioner of Manitoba, Loretta Ross**
 - Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning, **Deputy Minister Dana Rudy**
- 10:00 – 10:45 ● Keynote Speaker **Dr. Courtney Leary**
- 10:45 – 11:00 ● Health Break
- 11:00 – 12:00 ● Honouring Essay Contest Winners
- 12:00 – 1:10 ● Lunch (Provided) (Centennial Ballroom)
- Entertainment **Mattmac**
- 1:10 – 4:00 ● Workshops, Sessions 1 & 2

THURSDAY, MAY 11 SCHEDULE

ALL DAY ● **Elder's Room** (Embassy E)

- 8:00 ● Pipe Ceremony (Tipi East Foyer) **Elder Wally Swain**
- Registration (Centennial 3 & 4 am, Centennial 4 pm)
- Trade Show (Wellington Room)
- Breakfast (Centennial Ballroom)
- 9:30 ● Recap of Day 1
- 10:00 – 10:45 ● Keynote Speaker **Emil Easter, MFNERC**
- 10:45 – 12:00 ● Workshops, Session 3
- 12:00 – 1:10 ● Lunch (Provided) (Centennial Ballroom)
- Entertainment **Jig Master, Ryan Richard and United Thunder**
- 1:10 – 4:00 ● Workshops, Sessions 4 & 5

FRIDAY, MAY 12 SCHEDULE

ALL DAY ● **Elder's Room** (Embassy E)

- 8:00 ● Pipe Ceremony (Tipi East Foyer) **Elder Phillip Paynter**
- Breakfast – Centennial Ballroom
- Keynote Speaker **Rachel Beaulieu, MFNERC**
- 9:10 – 12:00 ● Workshops, Sessions 6 & 7
- 12:00 – 1:10 ● Lunch (Provided) (Centennial Ballroom)
- Entertainment **Walking Wolf Ray “Coco” Stevenson with Singers and Dancers**
- 1:10 ● Closing Ceremonies (Centennial Ballroom)
- Closing Remarks MFNERC **Executive Director Charles Cochrane**
- Closing Prayer **Elder Phillip Paynter**
- Closing Song **Walking Wolf Ray “Coco” Stevenson**

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10 SESSION 1, 1:10 – 2:25

Anxiety, Self-Regulation, and Self-Care Resources for All

Explore Wapaskwa Virtual Collegiate

First Nations Oral Tradition: Storytelling

Harnessing the Power of First Nations Languages: Leverage Student Motivation and Success via Gamification

Let's Talk Diabetes! Student Wellness

Mental Mathematics Strategies

Occupational Therapy Classroom Recommendations to Support First Nations Education

Planetarium Night Sky Stories

Reframing Student Behaviour through Story and Practical Strategies for Intervention

Revitalizing First Nations Culture through Ribbon Skirt Making (1:10 – 4:00)

Understanding How Traditional First Nations Ceremonies Work: Sundances, Sweat Lodges, Pipe Ceremonies, Offerings

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10 SESSION 2, 2:45 – 4:00

Art: The Cross-Curricular Tool

Classrooms Providing Optimal Access to Communication—Helping Students Who Are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or with Delayed Communication Skills

Explore Wapaskwa Virtual Collegiate

Harnessing the Power of First Nations Languages: Leverage Student Motivation and Success via Gamification

How Can Teachers Differentiate?

Land-Based Teachings

Physical Literacy and Holistic Approach to Wellness: A Physiotherapy and URIS Collaboration

Revitalizing First Nations Culture through Ribbon Skirt Making (1:10 – 4:00)

A Tool Box to Develop Essential Skills in Phonics

THURSDAY, MAY 11 SESSION 3, 10:45 – 12:00

Classrooms Providing Optimal Access to Communication—Helping Students Who Are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or with Delayed Communication Skills

Early Number Sense

Explore Wapaskwa Virtual Collegiate

MFNSS MathFest: Sharing the Journey and Promoting Excellence through STEAM and Land-Based Activities

Revitalizing First Nations Culture through Ribbon Skirt Making (10:45 – 2:25)

Teaching to Student Diversity: Planning for Success

Understanding How Traditional First Nations Ceremonies Work: Sundances, Sweat Lodges, Pipe Ceremonies, Offerings

Writing the Denesųtine Topical Dictionary

THURSDAY, MAY 11 SESSION 4, 1:10 – 2:25

333,000 Ways to Achieve Educational Success, Parent/Child Bonding, and Increase Graduation Rates

Bangii’eta Anishinaabemodaa (Let’s Speak a Little Bit of Ojibwe)

EIS Reporting Process: Importing Outcomes High School Marks and Requesting MET Numbers

Explore Wapaskwa Virtual Collegiate

Importance of Physical Movement in Early Years

MFNERC Communication Round Table Project

MFNERC Community Histories Project and Manitoba Museum Educational Resources

Ohpikinawasowin (Raising Our Children) through the Lens of an Asiniskawi-Nihithowiwin Iskwew (Rocky Cree Woman) and an Anishinaabemowin Ikwe (Ojibway Woman)

Physical Literacy and Holistic Approach to Wellness: A Physiotherapy and URIS Collaboration

Planetarium Night Sky Stories

Revitalizing Anishinaabemowin Using Popular Cartoons

Revitalizing First Nations Culture through Ribbon Skirt Making (10:45 – 2:25)

Verbalizing Information for Learners Who Are Visually Impaired – Classroom Strategies

THURSDAY, MAY 11 SESSION 5, 2:45 – 4:00

Explore Wapaskwa Virtual Collegiate

Games and Activities to Support Gross Motor Skills

Language and the Land

MFNSS MathFest: Sharing the Journey and Promoting Excellence through STEAM and Land-Based Activities

Review of New Books: *Our Residential School Story* and *They Have Papers*

See Education Differently and See a Different Education

Strategies to Help Teachers Close the Reading Gap

Thirteen Moons

Using Video Content to Amplify Learning

Verbalizing Information for Learners Who Are Visually Impaired – Classroom Strategies

Writing the Denesųłıne Topical Dictionary

FRIDAY, MAY 12 SESSION 6, 9:10 – 10:25

Advanced ASL: Identify and Describe a Person

EIS Reporting Process: Importing Outcomes High School Marks and Requesting MET Numbers

Hearing and Its Role in the Classroom

History of Education Funding

Onizhishin Anishinaabemowin, Beautiful Ojibwe Language – Early Years Activities to Teach Basic Language

Planetarium Night Sky Stories

Review of the Book *Walk in Our maskisina*

Sharing Best Practices in the School Guidance Program

Teaching Mathematics through Coding

Treaty Education

FRIDAY, MAY 12 SESSION 7, 10:45 – 12:00

Asiniskaw Ithiniwak (Rocky Cree) Place Names Project

Dadavan SIS Outcomes: Revisit and FAQs

Engage Students and Make Math Fun through Apps

First Nations Games

First Nations Original Worldviews

Instructional Language Teaching for Basic Proficiency Strategies

Manitoba Residential Schools: Resource Bundles for Nursery to Grade 12

Science Fair Winners Share Their Knowledge

Teaching Mathematics through Coding

ALL SESSIONS KENSINGTON ROOM

Hands-On Lab Experience: Explore Connect and Outcomes SIS Technology



**KEYNOTE
SPEAKERS**



DR. COURTNEY LEARY

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10 KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Dr. Courtney Campbell Leary is an Indigenous family physician who practises in her home community of Norway House Cree Nation. After graduating from Norway House High School and Warren Collegiate Institute, Dr. Leary obtained a four-year bachelor of science from University of Manitoba. She graduated from the University of Manitoba Faculty of Medicine in 2008 and pursued post-graduate training in Family Medicine. Dr. Leary also graduated from the University of Manitoba CCFP-Emergency Medicine post-graduate training. She practised emergency medicine at the Thompson General Hospital, and in 2014, Dr. Leary started work at the Ongomiizwin Health Services in Norway House. She is the medical education lead for the Norway House

family medicine training site for the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences. She developed a program to introduce Traditional Indigenous Healing practices into the curriculum for medical learners who visit Norway House. Dr. Leary is also the chief of staff of the Norway House Hospital. In 2022, Dr. Leary started a Wellness Clinic in each community school in response to the ongoing mental health and suicide crisis. Dr. Leary's goal is to showcase the diverse experiences and resiliency of the First Nations population in her home First Nation and to encourage other young Indigenous scholars to pursue careers in the healthcare fields. She lives in Norway House with her husband, Preston Muswagon, and is the proud mother to her sons, James and Charles.

EMIL EASTER

THURSDAY, MAY 11 KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Emil Easter is a member of Chemawawin Cree Nation in northern Manitoba. When just a few months old, a case of meningitis resulted in Easter losing his hearing. He spent his childhood growing up in Winnipeg so he could attend the Manitoba School for the Deaf (MSD). Easter graduated from MSD and held various jobs before attending North Central University in Min-

neapolis for a bachelor of arts degree. For the past six years, Easter has been working at the Resource Centre helping students who are Deaf. His favourite parts of the job are travelling to the various First Nations, engaging with the youth, and providing instruction in American Sign Language.





RACHEL BEAULIEU

FRIDAY, MAY 12 KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Rachel Beaulieu is from Sandy Bay Ojibway First Nation. Throughout her career, Beaulieu has focused her creative energy on storytelling through film. She's worked on television and documentaries for the National Screen Institute and National Film Board of Canada and has produced documentaries and films for her own company, Can Dream Productions. Her work has

played on CBC, APTN, SHAW TV, Bell MTS, and in international film festivals such as American Indian Film Festival, Vancouver International Film Festival, LA Skins Fest, and the Gimli Film Festival. Beaulieu currently works as the Resource Centre's audio/video producer creating content for cultural and educational purposes. She will be speaking on "Identity and Storytelling."

OPENING & CLOSING CEREMONIES

JASON BONE MASTER OF CEREMONIES



Jason Bone is from Giizhigoowining in Treaty Two Territory (Keeseekoowenin Ojibway First Nation). Bone is currently a PhD candidate in the Department of Indigenous Studies at the University of Manitoba under the academic advice of Niigaanwewidam James Sinclair. His master's degree thesis was titled *Baagak Aadisookewin: Legends of History and Memory*. Bone's PhD topic is *Miish'akomoo Dibaajimodaad-iwin: Sasquatch Stories of the Anishinaabeg*. He considers himself a life-long student of the Ojibwe language.

WAKING WOLF RAY "COCO" STEVENSON DRUM GROUP, SINGERS & DANCERS

Composer, singer, and drummer **Waking Wolf Ray "Coco" Stevenson** has released seven albums over the years and has performed on and off with the award-winning band *Eagle & Hawk* for more than 20 years. Stevenson regularly collaborates with different artists in a variety of music genres and has performed with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra on more than one occasion. For over 20 years, Stevenson has facilitated powwow clubs, educating people of all ages on First Nations song and dance. He currently oversees powwow clubs at the University of Winnipeg and the University of Manitoba.



In addition to performing during the opening and closing ceremonies, Stevenson will provide our lunchtime entertainment on Friday, May 12.

LUNCHTIME ENTERTAINMENT

MATTMAC WEDNESDAY, MAY 10



Hailing from Garden Hill First Nation, **Mattmac** has been blind from birth. Mattmac began to struggle with depression at a young age and credits music with helping him cope. A fully self-taught artist, he started making beats and writing songs when he was 13 years old and later taught himself piano and guitar. Mattmac launched into the music scene in 2016 when N’we Jinan, a travelling music studio program, visited his First Nation and invited him to collaborate on a project. Pulling inspiration from his personal story, they created a song and video titled “Help You See,” which has been watched nearly 250,000 times on You-

Tube and Facebook. He performed alongside international artist Nelly Furtado at Indigenous Day Live and We Day Canada in 2017; they continue to work together. Mattmac hopes to continue using music to inspire others to know they can accomplish anything they set their mind to.

RYAN RICHARD AND UNITED THUNDER THURSDAY, MAY 11



United Thunder is a high-energy world-class Indigenous square dance group. The group formed to help spread culture to surrounding communities and keep Métis and First Nations traditions alive. United Thunder group members originate from rural Manitoba communities such as Sandy Bay, Crane River, Ebb and Flow, Sagkeeng, Pine Creek, and Dauphin. They mix the Red River Jig with square dancing, a fun combination that has been part of First Nations and Métis communities for many years.

The background of the page is a light green color with a decorative pattern of various floral and leaf motifs in a slightly darker shade of green. The motifs include simple five-petaled flowers, multi-petaled star-like flowers, and sprigs of leaves with small circular accents. A large, stylized flower with many long, thin petals is centered behind the text.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

333,000 Ways to Achieve Educational Success, Parent/Child Bonding, and Increase Graduation Rates

Session 4, May 11, 1:10 pm–2:25 pm, Embassy F

Presenters: Karyn Davis, Loretta Sinclair, Phyllis Racette

Audience: all

The Resource Centre is in partnership with Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library. The Imagination Library program has delivered over 165,000 free, monthly books right to preschoolers’ mailboxes in 24 First Nations affiliated with the Resource Centre. The program assists families in many ways so that children can work toward success in school! Come and find out how families enjoy the Imagination Library program, get a head-start on learning, and feel empowered with these significant resources.

Advanced ASL: Identify and Describe a Person

Session 6, May 12, 9:10 am–10:25 am, Embassy D

Presenter: Destiny Cordell

Audience: ASL learners, teachers, educational assistants, parents, and administrators

This workshop is a fun, interactive way to learn American Sign Language! Attendees will learn how to identify and describe a person using sign language.

Anxiety, Self-Regulation, and Self-Care Resources for All

Session 1, May 10, 1:10 pm–2:25 pm, Centennial 6

Presenters: Gerald Shaganash, Kaylyn McBurney-Flett

Audience: educators, educational assistants, support staff, parents, guardians, and caregivers

This hands-on, activity-based workshop looks at various classroom supports for all learners. Each participant will create a book of tools they can use to assist them with children who may be experiencing anxiety and or who need help with self-regulation, emphasizing self-care.

Art: The Cross-Curricular Tool

Session 2, May 10, 2:45 pm–4:00 pm, Embassy F

Presenter: Donna Prince

Audience: Grades 3–5 teachers

This session will look at art as a powerful teaching tool that helps educators build resources and strategies with cross-curricular learning in mind. Art allows for teacher- and student-directed practice and offers ways for learners to connect and respond in the classroom, on the land, through artist galleries, and other modes of learning. We will explore art through games, activities, galleries, and fun writing tasks. Research has shown that when children create or study art, they experience improved cognitive and critical thinking skills; deeper connections to the world around them; and close examination of new messages or ideas.

Asiniskaw Ithiniwak (Rocky Cree) Place Names Project

Session 7, May 12, 10:45 am–12:00 pm, Embassy A

Presenters: Roland Bohr, Jennie Tait

Audience: all

This project aims to recover, reclaim, revitalize, and validate Rocky Cree knowledge of their places and place names. The people of the Rocky Cree communities of Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN, Nelson House) and O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation (OPCN, South Indian Lake) have lived in the region of the Churchill River drainage since time before memory. The Asiniskaw Ithiniwak have maintained their own histories and ways of knowing through traditions of recording and remembering, passed on in oral and written forms, through webs of relationships and culturally mediated protocols.

Bangii’eta Anishinaabemodaa (Let’s Speak a Little Bit of Ojibwe)

Session 4, May 11, 1:10 pm–2:25 pm, Centennial 5

Presenters: Judy Doolittle, Cynthia Desjarlais, Darcy-Anne Thomas, Brenda Daniels, Rachel Beaulieu

Audience: all

Judy Doolittle shares her language strategy for promoting and supporting fluency for second-language learners. The podcast *Bangii’eta Anishinaabemodaa* (translated to “Let’s speak a little bit of Ojibwe”), supports second-language learners by modelling learning in a relaxed context. When adults learn the language, school-aged children gain opportunities to use the language at home in addition to language learning at school. In this way, *Bangii’eta Anishinaabemodaa* can create a bridge for the continuation of language learning for children in the home.

Classrooms Providing Optimal Access to Communication— Helping Students Who Are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or with Delayed Communication Skills

Session 2, May 10, 2:45 pm–4:00 pm, Embassy B

Session 3, May 11, 10:45 am–12:00 pm, Centennial 1

Presenters: Signe Badger, Mary Lou Pierrard

Audience: Grades N–12 teachers, educational assistants, and parents

This workshop will provide suggestions for creating a classroom with optimal access to communication for all students. Resources and programs developed by the Resource Centre’s Deaf and Hard of Hearing services will be highlighted.

Dadavan SIS Outcomes: Revisit and FAQs

Session 7, May 12, 10:45 am–12:00 pm, Embassy C

Presenters: Vanessa Sinclair, Trisha Malanowich, Vivian Xu

Audience: teachers, information workers, principals, administrative staff

This session offers a refresher course on Dadavan SIS Outcomes rather than a training session. We will look at commonly asked questions, how to enter and print transcripts, scheduling and switching students, removing and bringing students in from the transfer tank, and a brief review of report cards and learning behaviours.

Early Number Sense

Session 3, May 11, 10:45 am–12:00 pm, Embassy F

Presenters: Georgina Moody, Virginia Birch, Pamela Courchene

Audience: Grade K–3 teachers

Participants will engage in hands-on activities for building number sense in the early years. Number sense is important in foundational concepts, including number meaning and relationships, subitizing, early operations, patterns, and place value. Participants will be provided with a USB with suggested activities.

EIS Reporting Process: Importing Outcomes High School Marks and Re-requesting MET Numbers

Session 4, May 11, 1:10 pm–2:25 pm, Embassy C

Session 6, May 12, 9:10 am–10:25 am, Embassy C

Presenters: Vivian Xu, Trisha Malanowich, Vanessa Sinclair

Audience: school administrative staff, principals, and information workers

This workshop will introduce the audience to the Manitoba Educational Information System (EIS) reporting process. We will demonstrate how to prepare, validate, and submit student information to the EIS Collection app using the latest Outcomes EIS high school marks export. The audience will also learn how to request student MET numbers in bulk.

Engage Students and Make Math Fun through Apps

Session 7, May 12, 10:45 am–12:00 pm, Embassy B

Presenters: Pamela Courchene, Virginia Birch, Georgina Moody

Audience: Grades K–8 teachers

We have heard your cries in the dark. How can we make math fun for students and keep them engaged? In this session, participants will engage in math apps on iPads. We will demonstrate apps geared for those in early years to middle years and look at how the apps help meet curriculum outcomes. Suggestions on how to use apps in the classroom will be discussed.

Explore Wapaskwa Virtual Collegiate

Session 1, May 10, 1:10 pm–2:25 pm, Embassy A

Session 2, May 10, 2:45 pm–4:00 pm, Embassy A

Session 3, May 11, 10:45 am–12:00 pm, Embassy A

Session 4, May 11, 1:10 pm–2:25 pm, Embassy A

Session 5, May 11, 2:45 pm–4:00 pm, Embassy A

Presenters: Michelle Jonson, Delaney Appleyard, Ida Bear, Annie Boulanger

Audience: all educators

Wapaskwa Virtual Collegiate is offering a session for teachers to learn how our virtual school works and about the exciting learning opportunities we offer our students. Participants will log onto tablets or their own device to be immersed in the online learning environment. Some of the courses at the collegiate are Cree, Ojibway, Math, Science, and ELA. Come and see what we have to offer!

First Nations Games

Session 7, May 12, 10:45 am–12:00 pm, Centennial 4

Presenter: Norbert Mercredi

Audience: physical education and health teachers, educational assistants, mental health and wellness providers

We will explore the games played by the First Nations Peoples of Turtle Island. Those attending will learn about the games' history, language, and geographical areas and have a chance for hands-on interaction. Participants will engage in physical activities culturally relevant to mino-pimatisiwin (way of life/a good life) and that show the value and importance of living healthy lifestyles.

First Nations Oral Tradition: Storytelling

Session 1, May 10, 1:10 pm–2:25 pm, Embassy C

Presenters: Lucy Antsanen, Elder/Knowledge Keeper Fred Denechezhe

Audience: Elders, Knowledge Keepers, language teachers, classroom teachers, educational assistants, school administrators, education directors, community members

Our ancestral stories are recorded through Oral Tradition. This practice has sustained our knowledge, stories, history, language, and cultural ways. Oral storytelling teaches us lessons about life and helps us to be a stronger, healthy community. Our Oral Traditions help us remember and be a witness to events of First Nations strength and resiliency. Oral storytelling informs decision-making and helps a community to prepare for the future. Oral Tradition is part of our identity and this practice defines us as First Nations people. How do we transfer this knowledge to our children, our students?

First Nations Original Worldviews

Session 7, May 12, 10:45 am–12:00 pm, Carlton Room

Presenters: Cherie Francois, Tina Cook-Martin

Audience: all

This workshop will bring awareness to our individual mindsets. We'll distinguish mainstream thought from original First Nations thought and bring awareness to individual worldviews. Reclaiming original First Nations cultures, spirituality, and mindsets involves placing value on our adverse experiences. Making peace with our past ends the vicious cycle of intergenerational trauma that originated in colonial assimilation practices such as residential schools and the Sixties Scoop.

Games and Activities to Support Gross Motor Skills

Session 5, May 11, 2:45 pm–4:00 pm, Centennial 3

Presenters: Kayla Matheson, Katherine West

Audience: teachers and educators

Participants will learn about various Low Organized Games that support gross motor development. Those attending will have the opportunity to trial games and activities to support students in accessing movement and exercise through play.

Hands-On Lab Experience: Explore Connect and Outcomes SIS Technology

All Sessions, Kensington Room

Presenters: Don Monkman, Nicole Magne, Gary Page, Quincy Wai, Erik Reimann, Tyler Porznak, Vivian Xu, Vanessa Sinclair, Trisha Malanowich

Audience: school administration staff, principals, and teachers

This drop-in computer lab runs during LTF workshop times and invites participants to experience the Resource Centre's new technology initiative Connect, a powerful single-sign-on solution bringing education, learning, administration, and data management all in one place. The Resource Centre's Digital Learning Environment team will provide one-on-one tours of Connect and assist with individual questions about using Outcomes SIS.

Harnessing the Power of First Nations Languages: Leverage Student Motivation and Success via Gamification

Session 1, May 10, 1:10 pm–2:25 pm, Centennial 1

Session 2, May 10, 2:45 pm–4:00 pm, Centennial 1

Presenters: Karl Hildebrandt, Geraldine Campbell

Audience: middle years/high school First Nations language teachers, all subject area teachers

Access the power of gamified learning in the language classroom and explore concrete tools and strategies to inspire First Nations youth to unlock and conquer the power of language. We will explore online gamification tools and how to save and edit teacher-vetted language content or create your own from scratch. Participants will learn how to assign language games for homework via an LMS (learning management software), tap into instant data to guide their teaching, identify learning gaps, and immediately identify struggling learners. Please bring your device as you will actively participate in your language learning journey. Gamification is a strategy that can apply to all curriculum subject areas; however, our focus will be on learning Cree, Ojibwe, and Dakota.

Hearing and Its Role in the Classroom

Session 6, May 12, 9:10 am–10:25 am, Centennial 3

Presenters: Andrea Richardson-Lipon, Dayna Buck, Kendra Halabura

Audience: teachers and educational assistants

Learn about the signs and prevalence of hearing loss, how hearing loss impacts classroom learning, and how sound field systems can create an inclusive environment for students. Participants will gain confidence in using sound field technology through hands-on instruction on how to set up the systems.

History of Education Funding

Session 6, May 12, 9:10 am–10:25 am, Embassy A

Presenter: George Merasty

Audience: school administrators

If you are interested in how Band-operated schools are funded by the federal government, this workshop is for you. The presentation will provide a brief history of education funding and how the federal government changed the education funding formula.

How Can Teachers Differentiate?

Session 2, May 10, 2:45 pm–4:00 pm, Embassy C

Presenters: Linda Marynuk, Evelyn Cameron, Sheryl Prince

Audience: teachers, principals, resource teachers, and educational assistants

Educators will explore how to develop more effective ways for all students to achieve the learning outcomes in differentiated instruction. Manitoba Education defines differentiation as a method of instruction or assessment that alters the presentation of the curriculum for the purpose of responding to the learning diversity, interests, and strengths of pupils.

Importance of Physical Movement in Early Years

Session 4, May 11, 1:10 pm–2:25 pm, Centennial 6

Presenters: Jessica Daniels, Adonis Verona

Audience: early years teachers (N-3)

Learn required skills, abilities, and knowledge for childcare practitioners to support and promote a child's physical development domain. The workshop will look at planning indoor and outdoor activities for early years settings. Presenters will share about presence and absence of equipment for play and the benefits of physical activity in early childhood and for children with special needs and rights.

Instructional Language Teaching for Basic Proficiency Strategies

Session 7, May 12, 10:45 am–12:00 pm, Embassy D

Presenter: Marsha Blacksmith

Audience: early years educators, educational assistants, Elders, and other educators

Come and explore resources for First Nations language teaching. Participants will experience an atmosphere of hands-on language classroom activities. The teaching strategy will help the language teacher to build positive language creativity in their classroom by using what the presenter has developed through her teaching experience. Participants will take home visual language teaching material.

Land-Based Teachings

Session 2, May 10, 2:45 pm–4:00 pm, Centennial 2A

Presenters: Sophie Boulanger, Diane Powderhorn, Elder Florence Paynter,

Knowledge Keeper Ernie Bussidor

Audience: language teachers, land-based teachers, education assistants, classroom teachers, community members, education staff

In this session, we'll explore aspects of land-based teachings. Natural Laws explain sustainability and the sacredness of land, life-giving water, air cleanliness, and the warmth and light of the sun. Our ancestors have passed down the teachings of sustainability and our ways of knowing, being, and doing. Traditional stories teach values and sacredness in all animal, plant, and human life. Land-based teachings demonstrate living and practising mino-bimaadiziwin and honso aynai (a good life) for our children, grandchildren, and future generations to come here on Turtle Island.

Language and the Land

Session 5, May 11, 2:45 pm–4:00 pm, Embassy D

Presenters: Jennifer Williams, Elder Ron Cook

Audience: educators, school administrators, general public

Learn about traditional Nihitho teachings that youth were taught to keep them spiritually grounded and strongly connected to the land. Youth today lack some of this connection to the natural world due to the rise of technology and not knowing their language. By focusing on learning their language and traditional teachings on the land, youth will gain greater spiritual wellness. This workshop includes an opportunity for sharing on what your school or First Nation is doing to promote this connection to the land and feeding their spirit.

Let's Talk Diabetes! Student Wellness

Session 1, May 10, 1:10 pm–2:25 pm, Embassy D

Presenters: Frances Desjarlais, Marrisa Guimond, Marion Boulanger, Shannon Turtle

Audience: school staff

Mind, body, and spirit wellness promotes excellence in learning. The URIS (Unified Referral and Intake System) nurses will answer common questions about diabetes to help raise awareness and shed some light on how serious this condition is, how it's affecting our people, and some tips for the student to live a healthier life.

Manitoba Residential Schools: Resource Bundles for Nursery to Grade 12

Session 7, May 12, 10:45 am–12:00 pm, Centennial 3

Presenters: Brenda Delorme, Doris WicakpeMaza (Ironstar) Der, Melody Dumas

Audience: educators (N–12) and parents

Educator and parent feedback is essential to developing instructional resources for children. This workshop will give participants an overview of the resource materials in development that anyone can use to learn about Manitoba residential schools. We will ask participants to share about their comfort zones in teaching about residential schools and what kinds of instructional, teaching, and student supports are needed to approach this sensitive topic in schools.

We recognize that residential schools had a profound impact on First Nations people. The topic and information shared in this presentation may cause participants to experience different emotions and feelings. We must share the impacts of the residential schools in a caring and respectful way. Our children and everyone deserve to know the truth.

Mental Mathematics Strategies

Session 1, May 10, 1:10 pm–2:25 pm, Embassy F

Presenters: Virginia Birch, Pamela Courchene, Georgina Moody

Audience: Grade 1–8 teachers

Mental mathematics is a skill we learn in school that extends into adulthood. In this session, participants will learn about curriculum content in mental mathematics and a suggested plan to teach those outcomes. Attendees will participate in activities supporting specific mental math strategies for developing procedural fluency and receive a USB with activities.

MFNERC Communication Round Table Project

Session 4, May 11, 1:10 pm–2:25 pm, Centennial 2A

Presenters: Christine Crawford, Kelly Ring-Whiklo

Audience: school staff, First Nations members, MFNERC staff

The Speech-Language Pathology team of the Resource Centre is developing a general framework of First Nations attitudes, beliefs, and values about communication and communication development. The framework will guide culturally valid communication assessment and program development and delivery.

MFNERC Community Histories Project and Manitoba Museum Educational Resources

Session 4, May 11, 1:10 pm–2:25 pm, Embassy B

Presenters: Andy Thomas, Rachel Erickson

Audience: all

This workshop will highlight the Resource Centre's Community Histories Project initiative and other resource development projects. The Manitoba Museum will share some of its recent projects, including Indigenous resource development, exhibits, and community collaborations.

MFNSS MathFest: Sharing the Journey and Promoting Excellence through STEAM and Land-Based Activities

Session 3, May 11, 10:45 am–12:00 pm, Embassy B

Session 5, May 11, 2:45 pm–4:00 pm, Centennial 1

Presenters: Michael Valdez, Christopher Llave, Gerald Anderson

Audience: classroom teachers, educational assistants, and school administrators

This session will share the journey of MFNSS and partner schools on the “hows” and “whys” of conducting a math festival. We will show examples of cultural, community-based activities incorporating science, technology, engineering, arts and math, and land-based learning. Math leads will share testimonies with displays of pictures and templates. Participants will also engage in an interactive game.

Occupational Therapy Classroom Recommendations to Support First Nations Education

Session 1, May 10, 1:10 pm–2:25 pm, Centennial 5

Presenters: Raeanne Wysocki, Gabrielle Peterson, Kimberley Moors

Audience: school principals, classroom teachers, resource teachers, educational assistants, and Jordan's Principle support workers

Come and learn about common occupational therapy strategies. We will look at the role of occupational therapy in schools, sensory-safe classrooms, visual schedules, movement breaks, and calming corners.

Ohpikinawasowin (Raising Our Children) through the Lens of an Asiniskawi-Nihithowiwin Iskwew (Rocky Cree Woman) and an Anishinaabemowin Ikwe (Ojibway Woman)

Session 4, May 11, 1:10 pm–2:25 pm, Embassy D

Presenters: Virginia Moose, Adeline Mercredi

Audience: general audience, teachers, educational assistants, parents, and administrators

Think beyond the academics of Western education and explore how to incorporate First Nations languages and knowledges to teach our children who they are as First Nations people. We will discuss helping students to awaken their identity through First Nations teachings and learning from the land.

Onizhishin Anishinaabemowin, Beautiful Ojibwe Language – Early Years Activities to Teach Basic Language

Session 6, May 12, 9:10 am –10:25 am, Embassy F

Presenters: Brenda Daniels

Audience: early years language teachers, language learners, educators, caregivers

This workshop fosters pride in our traditional languages and culture by sharing innovated methods that can be used to teach early years basic language with the focus on Anishinaabemowin. However, these activities can be used to teach any language. Interactive games, songs and a craft will be demonstrated which can be utilized in the classroom, community or in the home. The Total Physical Response method will be briefly discussed.

Physical Literacy and Holistic Approach to Wellness: A Physiotherapy and URIS Collaboration

Session 2, May 10, 2:45 pm–4:00 pm, Embassy D

Session 4, May 11, 1:10 pm–2:25 pm, Carlton Room

Presenters: Kayla Matheson, Priscilla Flett, Marion Boulanger, Shannon Turtle

Audience: teachers and educators

Learn about strategies for preventing and managing diabetes, including the impact of exercise and movement as a tool for regulating blood sugars. Participants will learn about diabetes and how it affects First Nations children. We will discuss a holistic approach to diabetes management.

Planetarium Night Sky Stories

Session 1, May 10, 1:10 pm–2:25 pm, Centennial 2

Session 4, May 11, 1:10 pm–2:25 pm, Centennial 2

Session 6, May 12, 9:10 am–10:25 am, Centennial 2

Presenters: Allen Richard Keeper, Jason Bone

Audience: all

The MFNERC/MFNSS Planetarium shares First Nations Creation and constellation stories. Once inside the planetarium, we will present Cree and Ojibwe perspectives through storytelling using a drum, rattle, and animal puppets. Teacher resources are also explored.

In addition to the three workshop times, the planetarium will remain open for drop-in visits during all sessions.

Reframing Student Behaviour through Story and Practical Strategies for Intervention

Session 1, May 10, 1:10 pm–2:25 pm, Embassy B

Presenter: Chantal Wiebe

Audience: teachers, principals, educational assistants, and child development workers

Student behaviour is frequently a top priority that requires staff response. Using story and discussion, participants will be encouraged to reflect on beliefs, assumptions, and interpretations of child behaviours. Presenters will provide information on childhood developmental considerations and practical strategies for intervention to help create calm, resilient, and engaged learning environments.

Review of New Books: *Our Residential School Story* and *They Have Papers*

Session 5, May 11, 2:45 pm–4:00 pm, Embassy B

Presenters: Melody Dumas, Virginia Birch

Audience: Grade N–8 teachers, education staff, Elders and Knowledge Keepers

This presentation will introduce two important new books: *Our Residential School Story* (N–3) and *They Have Papers* (4–8), which are part of *Manitoba Residential Schools: Resource Bundles for Nursery to Grade 12* that MFNERC is developing. We will also look at the teacher’s guides that accompany the books. Participants will hear a reading and learn how to use the stories to teach about the residential school experience. We will have a healing activity from the *Bundles* to end the presentation.

We recognize that residential schools had a profound impact on First Nations people. The topic and information shared in this presentation may cause participants to experience different emotions and feelings. We must share the impacts of the residential schools in a caring and respectful way. Our children and everyone deserve to know the truth.

Review of the Book *Walk in Our maskisina*

Session 6, May 12, 9:10 am–10:25 am, Embassy B

Presenters: Melody Dumas, Virginia Birch

Audience: Grade 9–12 teachers, education staff, Elders and Knowledge Keepers

This presentation will review the valuable new book *Walk in Our maskisina* (9–12), which is part of the *Manitoba Residential Schools: Resource Bundles for Nursery to Grade 12* that MFNERC is developing. We will also look at the teacher’s guide that goes with the book. Participants will listen to a reading and learn how to use the story to teach about the residential school experience. We will have a healing activity from the *Bundles* to end the presentation.

We recognize that residential schools had a profound impact on First Nations people. The topic and information shared in this presentation may cause participants to experience different emotions and feelings. We must share the impacts of the residential schools in a caring and respectful way. Our children and everyone deserve to know the truth.

Revitalizing Anishinaabemowin Using Popular Cartoons

Session 4, May 11, 1:10 pm–2:25 pm, Centennial 1

Presenters: John McLean, Westin Sutherland, Cindy Sinclair

Audience: second language learners and First Nations language teachers

Immersion style is the most effective means of teaching a language. Participants will be immersed in Anishinaabemowin by listening to fluent speakers who voice-over popular cartoon characters. The actors are fluent Ojibwe speakers from different communities and have different sub-dialects, but they make it work in this hilarious and highly entertaining cartoon series.

Revitalizing First Nations Culture through Ribbon Skirt Making

Sessions 1–2, May 10, 1:10 pm–4 pm, Regency Room (half-day, 10 participants)

Sessions 3–4, May 11, 10:45 am–2:25 pm, Regency Room (half-day with lunch break, 10 participants)

Session 5, May 11, 2:45 pm–4:00 pm (extra time)

Presenters: Sylvia Anderson, Mona Asham, Catherine Constant

Audience: all

***Fee: Ribbon Skirt Kit \$75.00**

Come and explore the rich traditional history of the ribbon skirt. You will learn the practices and techniques of making a ribbon skirt. This hands-on workshop lets you develop a skill you can pass on to your students, family, and community members. Enjoy this stress-free sewing project that teaches skills outside of the academic box.

Science Fair Winners Share Their Knowledge

Session 7, May 12, 10:45 am–12:00 pm, Embassy F

Presenters: student science fair winners, Carrie Fontaine

Audience: all

Learn from four outstanding MFNERC Schools Science Fair winners who will continue to the Canada-Wide Science Fair in Edmonton on May 14–19. These budding scientists will present their science projects and answer questions.

See Education Differently and See a Different Education

Session 5, May 11, 2:45 pm–4:00 pm, Embassy F

Presenters: Susy Komishin, Jennifer Waytiuk, Jody Yerlitz

Audience: Educators

This session will look at the optimal environments for learning through an understanding of how the brain mediates our thoughts, feelings, actions, and connections to others and the world. Another topic is exploring how the well-being of children is inseparable from the well-being of all the critical adults in their lives.

Sharing Best Practices in the School Guidance Program

Session 6, May 12, 9:10 am–10:25 am, Carlton Room

Presenters: Brandee Albert, Angeline Peterson

Audience: school counsellors, guidance counsellors, teachers, and administrators

In this workshop, school counsellors and guidance counsellors will come together to gain insight and knowledge into successful practices that promote the holistic well-being of First Nations students in schools. Participants will have the opportunity to learn and share First Nations knowledge and evidence-based practices that support the social, emotional, and mental well-being of First Nations students. Another highlight is a chance to network and collaborate with other professionals in the field.

Strategies to Help Teachers Close the Reading Gap

Session 5, May 11, 2:45 pm–4:00 pm, Centennial 2A

Presenters: Graça do Coto Moreira, Evelyn Cameron, Tiffany Cote

Audience: Grade K–6 classroom teachers and resource teachers

If you have students who struggle and are not reading at grade level, this workshop is for you. Learn proven strategies to help your students with letter sounds, sight words, word study, and vocabulary that you can use in your classroom on Monday morning.

Teaching Mathematics through Coding

Session 6, May 12, 9:10 am–10:25 am, Centennial 1

Session 7, May 12, 10:45 am–12:00 pm, Centennial 1

Presenters: Michael Li, Chun Ong, John McLean

Audience: teachers

Coding helps students build on many different skills in mathematics, such as problem-solving, pattern recognition, problem decomposition, and abstraction. Through coding, students can practise and apply math concepts learned in class in an engaging and fun way. This workshop will look at the widely used coding language Python to demonstrate a spectrum of maths from the elementary to senior levels. These math concepts range from basic additive, multiplicative operations, and number theory to complex geometry and equations.

Teaching to Student Diversity: Planning for Success

Session 3, May 11, 10:45 am–12:00 pm, Embassy C

Presenters: Jessica Finucane, Erin Paupanekis, Vera Big George

Audience: teachers and educational assistants

This workshop will focus on teaching to student diversity by using videos, discussion, and real-life examples to help educators build their knowledge on planning for specific students. Presenters will provide general strategies to benefit student learning and guide participants through the process of developing different types of plans for students (e.g., Adapted Education Plan).

Thirteen Moons

Session 5, May 11, 2:45 pm–4:00 pm, Centennial 6

Presenters: Betsy Mazawasicuna, Doris WicakpeMaza (Ironstar) Der

Audience: teachers, principals, educational assistants, educators, and general audience

Come and explore cultural aspects related to the thirteen-month calendar. Learn how the Dakota language describes the seasons and the moons (months). See how the turtle has been used for generations as a calendar to count the days, months, and cycle of the months.

A Tool Box to Develop Essential Skills in Phonics

Session 2, May 10, 2:45 pm–4:00 pm, Carlton Room

Presenters: Richelle Lovegrove, Glenda Moose, Bonnie Monias

Audience: teachers, resource teachers, educational assistants, parents, and volunteers

We will introduce participants to a tool box that provides explicit and systematic instruction in phonics that teaches students foundational skills necessary to become proficient readers and spellers. Participants will learn skills to help close the gap in reading levels and give First Nations students the opportunity to become excellent readers.

Treaty Education

Session 6, May 12, 9:10 am–10:25 am, Regency Room

Presenters: Cynthia Bird, Amanda Simard, Loretta Ross

Audience: Grades K–12 classroom teachers

This workshop provides an overview of the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba’s “Teaching Treaties in the Classroom K–12.” Educators will hear why teaching Treaties in the classroom is essential for our students, as they learn the First Nations’ perspective on the historical relevance and contemporary issues of the Treaties and the Treaty Relationship. Educators will get an introduction to the resources developed that support Treaty Education in schools and classrooms and additional supports available at the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba.

Understanding How Traditional First Nations Ceremonies Work: Sundances, Sweat Lodges, Pipe Ceremonies, Offerings

Session 1, May 10, 1:10 pm–2:25 pm, Carlton Room

Session 3, May 11, 10:45 am–12:00 pm, Carlton Room

Presenters: Cherie Francois, Tina Cook-Martin

Audience: all

First Nations traditional way was living in a natural and constant state of communion with our Creator. First Nations used Creator as witness when signing the treaties, in the historical artifacts like pipes and pipe bags, in the many historical portraits, and more. However, the assimilation practices of Western culture have resulted in First Nations people believing it is naive to reclaim this way of life. This session gives information to reclaim the traditional ways with confidence by seeing the intelligence of our people in their ceremonial practices and explores the purposes behind ceremony.

Using Video Content to Amplify Learning

Session 5, May 11, 2:45 pm–4:00 pm, Centennial 5

Presenters: Alberto Mansilla, Carrie Fontaine

Audience: educators

iMovie is a free video editing application made by Apple for Mac, iPhone, and iPad. It includes a range of video effects and tools like colour correction and image stabilization but is designed to be accessible to users with little or no video editing experience.

Verbalizing Information for Learners Who Are Visually Impaired – Classroom Strategies

Session 4, May 11, 1:10 pm–2:25 pm, Centennial 3

Session 5, May 11, 2:45 pm–4:00 pm, Carlton Room

Presenters: Christina Valiquette-Kirkness, Elma Arthurson

Audience: classroom teachers, educational assistants, resource teachers, and parents

Create a learning-rich environment for children with a visual impairment through verbalization and auditory input, such as directional cues, descriptions of visual materials, verbal identification, and other adaptations. The Zimmerman Low Vision Simulation Kit allows those working with people with low vision to understand better the effect that low vision has on mobility, learning, employment, and activities of daily living. The Zimmerman Kit contains goggles and interchangeable visual acuity and visual pathology simulations, as well as peripheral field restriction simulations.

Writing the Denesųłıne Topical Dictionary

Session 3, May 11, 10:45 am–12:00 pm, Embassy D

Session 5, May 11, 2:45 pm–4:00 pm, Embassy C


Presenters: Agnes Carlson, Elder Lizette Denechezhe

Audience: language instructors, educational assistants, parents, language revitalization workers

The presenters will introduce the *Denesųłıne Topical Dictionary, the Dialect of Dalųtxuwé Neųné*. Carlson wrote this dictionary for middle years and high school students and young parents seeking to learn “our” Dene language or nuheyatie. This dictionary goes hand-in-hand with an online Dene dictionary Carlson is working on. As with any language work or project, there are challenges and strengths to various ways of writing and transcribing, and writers must seek guidance from Knowledge Keepers and fluent speakers. The presenters will share themes from the dictionary and sample words and phrases often heard at home, school, and language camps.

TRADE SHOW VENDORS

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MANTIC Indigenous/Metaphysical	Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba
Mazinaate Inc.	Yellowquill University College
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