

# Speakers



## Willie Ermine, M.Ed. Keynote Speaker

**Willie J. Ermine, (M.Ed)** is a Traditional Health Coordinator with the Sturgeon Lake Traditional Health Program and a part of kêtê-ayak, the Elders Council at First Nations University of Canada. He is Knowledge Keeper and Ceremonialist from Sturgeon Lake First Nation in the north central part of Saskatchewan where he lives with his family. When serving as an Associate Professor with the First Nations University of Canada, he lectured in the areas of Education, Humanities, Indigenous Studies and Research Methods. He has published numerous academic articles and contributed reports to the Tri Council Panel on Research Ethics. He has presented at various venues nationally and internationally and various national knowledge symposiums on the topics of education, research and in particular the nature of Indigenous thought. Professor Ermine has worked extensively with Elders in his research and promotes ethical practices of research involving Indigenous Peoples with particular interest in the conceptual development of the 'ethical space' – a theoretical space between cultures and world views.

## Miigam'agan

**Miigam'agan** is a Wabanaki/Mi'kmaw grandmother of the Jagej Clan from Esgenoôpetitj/ Burnt Church. She is a mother of three wonderful people and a grandmother to four beautiful grandchildren. Her life has been devoted to rematriation in Wabanaki drawing on her language. She is Elder-in-Residence at St. Thomas University in Fredericton, NB, a role in which she provides support for First Nation students and offers opportunities for the students and faculty to learn from indigenous knowledge keepers. Miigam'agan is also a member of the national steering committee on Adult Education Initiatives for the Catherine Donnelly Foundation and a co-chair for the Wapna'kikewi'skwaq/ Women of First Light, an indigenous women-led initiative on adult education for radical social change.





## Dr. Bob Kayseas

**Dr. Bob Kayseas** has held many positions during his more than 20 years at First Nations University of Canada. He is the Vice President Academic and has served as Interim President since 2019. Dr. Kayseas is a Saskatchewan born Anishnaabe (Saulteaux) scholar. He obtained a degree in Business Administration and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Regina and Ph.D. (Enterprise and Innovation) from the Australian Graduate School of Entrepreneurship, Swinburne University of Technology in Melbourne, Australia. Dr. Kayseas has established a recognized scholarly program of research centered on Indigenous entrepreneurship and economic development. He remains actively engaged in both the research and practice of entrepreneurship and economic development. Most recently, he has worked to foster the integration of reconciliation into academic programming both in the classroom and in online distance learning.

## Professor David Newhouse

**David Newhouse** is Onondaga from the Six Nations of the Grand River community near Brantford, Ontario. He is a Professor of Indigenous Studies and Chair of the Chanie Wenjack School for Indigenous Studies, was the first Principal of the new Peter Gzowski College at Trent University and has been Chair of the Department of Indigenous Studies, now the Chanie Wenjack School for Indigenous Studies since 1993. He is also a Professor in the School of Business. Professor Newhouse is Co-Chair of the Trent Aboriginal Education Council. He was the IMC/U of S Aboriginal Scholar in Residence at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon in 1998/99. He also teaches in the Graduate CED Program at Concordia University. In 2016, he received the Trent Award for Education Leadership and Innovation.



## Loretta Robinson

**Loretta Robinson** is a Naskapi Cree educator from the Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach and member of the Pimicikamak Cree Nation of Manitoba. Loretta is the Educational Projects Coordinator for First Nations Education Council of Quebec. She holds a Master's Degree in Education as well as a Bachelor of Education both from Bishop's University. Loretta works with universities in Quebec in Indigenous and decolonizing their academic programs and courses.

## Dean Smith

**Dean Smith** is an enthusiastic educator with 29 years of teaching and coaching experience in the elementary and secondary panels in Ontario. This is his third year as an Indigenous Education Consultant. Throughout his career Dean has been involved in a wide range of multicultural events and initiatives in his school board community with an emphasis on collaboration, anti-racism and trauma-informed training, and youth empowerment.

As a member of the Pictou Landing First Nation, he believes in and practices the Two-Eyed Seeing approach, as taught by Mi'kmaw Elder Albert Marshall, in his own way of learning and teaching. His application of "Etuaptmunk" appears as a strong desire to prepare students for the 21st century through the use of Web 2.0 tools (incl. Google Classroom and virtual learning spaces) in nurturing their critical thinking skills through a lens of authentic Indigenous traditional teachings.



## Tanya McCallum

**Tanya McCallum** is a K-12 teacher from Pelican Narrows, Saskatchewan. The name of her community in the Cree language is 'Wapawikoscikanik' – Narrows of Fear. She is a proud member of the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation, Treaty Six Territory in northern Saskatchewan. Tanya holds a Master's Degree in Land-based Education from the University of Saskatchewan, an Education Degree from the Gabriel Dumont Institute SUNTEP program with great distinction and a major in Indigenous studies. She also holds certificates in Forestry, Fisheries & Wildlife and a diploma in Integrated Resource Management. As a teacher, Tanya wants to ensure students are strongly rooted culturally and linguistically from within their communities so they can walk in multiple worlds.

## Lionel McKenzie

**Lionel McKenzie** is a high-school math and carpentry teacher in Sturgeon Lake, Saskatchewan, and before this taught high-school in Cumberland House, and Red Earth. Born and raised in Cumberland House, Lionel is an avid hunter, fisher and camper. For the last few years, he has been sharing his knowledge and appreciation of nature with the children of the Warrior's Club. In addition to this, he helps teach land-based education, culture and language on the weekends and in the summer months. A teacher for the last 33 years, Lionel continues to be open to new ideas and approaches that will benefit his students.





## Debbie Pushor, PhD

**Debbie Pushor**, PhD, is a mother of three adult sons, Cohen, Quinn, and Teague, and a former public school teacher, consultant, principal and central services administrator. She currently works as a Professor in the Department of Curriculum Studies at the University of Saskatchewan in Canada.

In her program of research, Debbie has engaged in narrative inquiries into parent engagement and leadership, a curriculum of parents, and parent knowledge. She is currently engaged in research on systematic parent engagement in an elementary and a secondary school in SK. In her undergraduate and graduate teaching, Debbie makes central an often absent or underrepresented conversation about the positioning of parents in relation to school landscapes.

## Vernon J. Linklater

Sports Hall of famer, championship boxer, father and education advocate are just some of the titles **Vernon J. Linklater** holds. These days Vernon serves as a school board trustee for Saskatoon Public Schools. He also works with the Saskatoon Indian and Métis Friendship Centre as a community knowledge keeper where he leads men's circles as a Family Violence Worker.

Vernon walks the Red Road in all that he does. Known in the boxing world as Angry Bear, he has won 4 Canadian Championships in the super heavyweight division, bronze medals in the World Cup and Commonwealth Games, and is a 1990 Gold medal in the North American Indigenous Games. Vernon holds a diploma in General Arts & Science from the Confederation College of applied arts and technology



## Erin Goodpipe

**Erin Goodpipe** is a dakȝ óta wíjyaŋ / anishinaabekwe from tatanka najin oyate (Standing Buffalo Dakota Nation) and is a multidisciplinary artist, educator, and researcher. After completing her Bachelor of Indigenous Education at First Nations University of Canada (FNUniv), she attended the Vancouver Film School, winning a national competition for a full ride scholarship. She is currently in the Master of Indigenous Education program, as well as an instructor at FNUniv. Alongside her education, she is a television host on APTN's *The Other Side* and is involved in various Indigenous health and wellness, and arts related research projects. Erin is a co-founder of the Making Treaty 4 Collective, a group of artists from Treaty 4 territory dedicated to community education by story sharing through the arts. Her most recent theatre work can be seen in the performances: *Making Treaty 4*, *In Care and Education is Our Right*. Her professional work is rooted in her personal circles where kinship, ceremony, land/sky/water-based practices lead her learning. In her spare time, Erin enjoys being out on the land or creating art with her partner and six younger siblings.

## Holly Redden

**Holly Redden** is an Anishinaabe-kwe currently finishing her Indigenous Bachelor of Education degree in the Primary/Junior stream at Trent University. She also holds a BAH in Indigenous Studies (2019). Having a career in education has been her goal since childhood; she found leadership and organizational roles in education and sport from a very young age. Holly is passionate about the inclusion of BIPOC voices within education with particular interest in having these voices reach young audiences. She believes every student should be able to see themselves as a valued member of the classroom.



## Simon Bird

**Simon Bird** comes from the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation and was raised in the community of Southend, Reindeer Lake. He currently holds a Bachelor of Education., a Master of Education Administration, and a Master of Northern Governance and Development. Simon is a very proud and fluent Cree speaker. In his spare time, he hosts a language initiative aimed at educating his +12,500 followers on the Cree language, via Facebook Live.

Simon is a strong believer in both learning traditional skills and formal education. The lessons taught in the bush are just as valuable within the classroom and are directly applicable in every walk of life. Simon believes it is critical to continue learning and keep asking questions from elders while they still hold open the door to our past. This philosophy continues to serve him well in his professional working career in education or in politics. He has served as the Vice Chief of FSIN, and as a teacher, a principal, liaison, coach, Superintendent of Education for the Stoney Education Authority. Currently, Simon is the Education Director for the Lac La Ronge Indian Band. With a population of approximately 11,000 band members, the community has made language and culture top priority.

## Dustin Brass

Anīn nitišinihkas **Dustin Brass**, nīn anihšināpēk šikwa from the pisiw doodom, nitōnči Key First Nation, nitōnči ahki. I completed a Bachelor of Education degree in the Secondary Indian Education Program at First Nations University of Canada (FNUiv). After graduating from FNUiv, I became the first employee in the Regina Public School Division to serve as a school's Aboriginal advocate and set precedent on many initiatives with the School Division. Since 2013, I have been an instructor in the Faculty of Indigenous Education at FNUiv. Over the past decade I've imparted a variety of arts-based research methods and activities to support wellness with Indigenous youth. I continually facilitate arts-based and holistic learning methods in numerous First Nation communities, locally and across Turtle Island. In 2017, I was the chair for the Indigenous Advisory Circle to the president at the University of Regina. In 2019-2020, I became the Regional Lead for Saskatchewan with the National Centre of Collaboration in Indigenous Education (NCCIE). Currently, I am the Undergraduate Program Coordinator with the Indigenous Education Faculty at FNUiv.





## Dr. Bettina Schneider

**Bettina Schneider** is the Associate Dean of Community, Research, and Graduate Programs at the First Nations University of Canada (FNUUniv) and is also an Associate Professor in Indigenous Business and Public Administration. She received her MS in Community Development and her PhD in Native American Studies from the University of California, Davis. She has worked at FNUUniv since 2007.



## Dr. Belinda Daniels

**Belinda C. Daniels** (*kakiyosew*) (Cree) is a *nēhiyaw* from Sturgeon Lake First Nations, SK. She takes great pride in remembering her roots and ties to land. She is a grand-daughter, mother, sister and wife. Belinda has four children and resides in *saskatoon-minatohk askiy*. She is a Cree language activist for the preservation and revitalization of all Indigenous languages. She is the founder of the *nehiyawak* Summer Language Experience (13 years), an annual summer camp that focuses on language skill building in the original context of our *nēhiyawak* ancestors, out on the land. Belinda teaches others how to teach Cree as a second language on various First Nations Reserves. Her role in language development, theory and practice has been diverse from teaching language methodologies, curriculum development from K-12 in *nēhiyawēwin* to programming. Belinda is a published academic writer, teacher, mentor and an award winning educator. She was the only Canadian Global Teacher Finalist in 2016 out of 8000 nominations that took her Dubai for the last two years. Amongst her many accomplishments Belinda has travelled nationally to internationally on issues about Indigenous education, language revitalization and Indigenous Identity. Belinda currently teaches Indigenous Studies, Cultural Arts and *nehiyawewin* Core Language classes for the Saskatoon Public School Division and is a sessional for the Canadian Indigenous Language and Development Institute with the University of Alberta. Lastly, she has just completed her doctorate with the Interdisciplinary Department at the University of Saskatchewan.



## Dr. Jennifer S. Dockstator

**Jennifer Dockstator** is the National Project Director for the National Centre for Collaboration in Indigenous Education (NCCIE), which began in 2017. Over the last four years, she has worked on the project collaboratively through First Nations University of Canada (FNUUniv), Trent University, and Johnson Shoyama Graduate School for Public Policy. She has been honoured to serve in this role, listening to the guidance given by the FNUUniv Elders Council and working with the regional and national teams to co-create the website with community partners across Canada. Before joining NCCIE, Dr. Dockstator worked as a Senior Research Associate with Trent University for the Poverty Action Research Project, a multi-year project involving frequent visits to the fly-in community of Eabametoong First Nation in northern Ontario where she worked with the people of Eabametoong on action research projects of their design. She received her Master's and PhD from the Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University. Her doctoral dissertation is entitled: *Widening the Sweetgrass Road, Rebalancing Ways of Knowing for Sustainable Living with a Cree-Nishnaabe Medicine Circle*. Her Bachelor of Science degree is from the School of Natural Resources at the University of Michigan.