



CHIEFS OF ONTARIO

EDUCATION CONFERENCE 2015: A GATHERING OF EDUCATION LEADERS



March 5-6, 2015

King Edward Hotel
37 King Street
Toronto, Ontario

Our Children, Our Future, Our Vision

Keynote and Featured Speakers



Rebecca Jamieson

Rebecca Jamieson, President/CEO of Six Nations Polytechnic is Tuscarora, Eel Clan and resides on the Six Nations of the Grand River. She has been involved at all levels of First Nations education in a wide range of roles including teaching, counselling, policy, curriculum, institutional research and development, teacher education, administration, governance and jurisdictional negotiations.

In Ontario, Rebecca has also been actively involved in public post-secondary education, serving as the first Executive Director of the College Standards and Accreditation Council (CSAC), and on the Board of Governors for several Ontario Universities and Mohawk College.

Rebecca holds an undergraduate degree in psychology and philosophy from Wilfred Laurier University and a Master of Education from the University of Toronto. Rebecca is a member of the College of Teachers and holds Supervisor Officers Qualifications. She is trained in mediation and alternative dispute resolution and is a Graduate of the Carver Institute, Policy Governance. In 2007, Rebecca was honoured with the Order of Ontario for her contributions to Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education.

Panellists



Annie Kidder

Annie is Executive Director, People for Education which she helped found in February 1996. An independent organization dedicated to the ideal of a publicly-funded education system, People for Education promotes greater civic engagement in the public education system; conducts ongoing research into the effects of policy and funding changes on schools; coordinates a comprehensive communications strategy focused on education issues and brings an independent voice to government policy tables.



Michael Mendelson

Michael Mendelson is Senior Scholar at the Caledon Institute of Social Policy. He has held public service positions in both Ontario and Manitoba, including Deputy Secretary of Cabinet Office in Ontario and Deputy Minister of Social Services in Manitoba. In Manitoba, Mr. Mendelson was responsible for negotiating the first tripartite child welfare agreements and securing funding for the Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata centre.



Paul W. Bennett

Paul Bennett is Founding Director of Schoolhouse Consulting and Adjunct Professor of Education at Saint Mary's University, Halifax, Nova Scotia. Dr. Bennett is a widely recognized leader in Canadian education. From 1997 until 2009, he served as headmaster of two of Canada's leading independent co-educational day schools, Halifax Grammar School and Lower Canada College. He has written or co-authored eight books.



Lindsay Morcom

Dr. Lindsay Morcom (Algonquin Metis, Bear Clan) is Assistant Professor, Queen's University where she coordinates the Aboriginal Teachers Education Program. She is an interdisciplinary researcher with experience in Education, Aboriginal languages, language revitalization, and linguistics. She earned her Master's degree in Linguistics from the University of Regina in 2006.

Workshop Facilitators



Gina McGahey

Gina McGahey is of Delaware descent and currently resides with her family on the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation community. For over 28 years, Gina has dedicated her life journey in education as a counsellor, a teacher, a director and currently the Education Policy Advisor for the Association of Iroquois & Allied Indians.



Kelly Crawford

Kelly Crawford is a citizen of M'Chigeeng First Nation, Waabizhishi Dodem (Marten Clan). She holds a Master of Arts – Integrated Studies degree with a concentration in Culture and Education from Athabasca University, Bachelor of Education from Nipissing University and Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree in Native Studies from Laurentian University. She is currently in the PhD Human Studies program at Laurentian University.

Maureen Callan

Maureen Callan is the manager in the implementation and review unit in the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Branch. Maureen's experiences as a classroom teacher, department head and system leader have led her to the manager position at the ministry. Originally, Maureen went to the ministry to lead the revisions to the science curriculum grades 9-12 in 2005.

Masters of Ceremonies (MC)



Grand Chief Gordon Peters

Gordon Peters is a citizen of the Leni Lenape or Delaware Nation and is of the Turtle Clan. He is the current Grand Chief of the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians, a political territorial organization that represents eight Member Nations and approximately 20,000 citizens.

Grand Chief Peters obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Public Administration at Ohio State University. He has expertise in facilitation, consensus building, mediation, negotiation, writing, communication and team building.

Grand Chief Peters has over thirty years of involvement in local, regional, national and international politics regarding Indigenous issues. Some of his experience includes Presidency of AIAI, teaching at the University of Toronto, former Ontario Regional Vice-Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, President and CEO of the Centre for Indigenous Sovereignty.

Grand Chief Peters is interested in cultural activities and culture-based work, personal development, reading, music, and golf.



Tristen Schneider

Tristen is from the Ojibway Territory of Shawanaga First Nation, she is currently studying in Early Childhood Education and wishes to continue in the Education field for further study. She currently sits on the Ontario First Nation's Young Peoples Council as the Independent First Nation's Female Representative since December 2014, she holds the Education and Mental Health Portfolios for OFNYPC.



AGENDA Thursday March 5, 2015

8:00 AM	REGISTRATION AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST	
8:45 AM	Opening Prayer Amy Desjarlais	SOVEREIGN BALLROOM
9:00 AM	Traditional Hoop Dance Lisa Odjig, World Hoop Dance Champion	
9:15 AM	Opening Remarks Master of Ceremonies: Grand Chief Gord Peters, Education Portfolio Tristen Schneider and Michael Moore, Ontario First Nations Young Peoples Council	
9:30 AM	Welcoming Remarks Ontario Regional Chief Stan Beardy Grand Chief Gordon Peters	
10:00 AM	BREAK	VISIT OF EXHIBIT BOOTHS
10:15 AM	KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Sharon Venne, Lawyer and Treaty 6 Ambassador to UN Anchoring the event with a big picture on First Nations Education, the presenter will weave a coherent and actionable vision for the needed reforms. Laying out a foundation for the rest of the event, attendees will be motivated to translate ideas into mechanisms.	
11:15 AM	EDUCATION UPDATE: Julia Candlish, Education Coordinator Julia will provide updates on various priority areas including Early Learning, provincial and national activities, Special Education and the Charting Our Own Path Forward initiative. Education Web Portal Demo- Joe Quaresima, Systems Director, Sencia	
12:00 PM	LUNCH	
1:00 PM	PANEL DISCUSSION: What's New in Recent Reports Authors of recent reports on First Nations education will make a short presentation on the findings associated with their study. Presentations will be followed by a Q&A.	
	PANELLISTS: Annie Kidder, Executive Director, People for Education and co-author of <i>First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Education: Overcoming gaps in provincially funded schools</i> Paul Bennett, Founding Director, Schoolhouse Consulting and co-author of <i>Picking up the Pieces: A Community School-Based Approach to First Nations Education Renewal by Northern Policy Institute</i> Michael Mendelson, Senior Scholar, Caledon Institute of Social Policy and author of <i>A Second Look at the First Nations Control of First Nations Education Act</i> Lindsay Morcom, Assistant Professor, Queens University and author of <i>Determining the Role of Language and Culture in First Nation Schools: A Comparison of the First Nation Education Act with the Policy of the Assembly of First Nations</i>	
2:30 PM	BREAK	
2:45 PM	FEATURED SPEAKER: Mac Saulis, Associate Professor, Wilfred Laurier University Educating with Indigenous Worldview	

3:15 PM BREAK OUT INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION CIRCLES			
These four sessions are designed to provide information, encourage feedback/input and share best practices.			
Sovereign Ballroom	Windsor 'A'	Windsor 'B'	Windsor 'C'
In Depth Update and Discussion From Julia Candlish, Education Coordinator, Participants will be provided detailed information on national, provincial and internal initiatives that COO is involved in (i.e. Bill C-33, Special Education etc.) and be given the opportunity to provided input.	Early Learning Network From Yolanda Fobister, Education Policy Analyst, participants will receive an overview of the new Education Portal on the COO website and engage in strategy development for networking and capacity development for Early Learning professionals.	K-12 Network From Gina McGahey, Education Policy Advisor, participants will receive an overview of the new Education Portal on the COO website and engage in strategy development for networking and capacity development for elementary/secondary technicians, teachers, etc.	PSET Network From Murray Maracle, Education Director, Anishinabek Education Institute, participants will receive an overview of the new Education Portal on the COO website and engage in strategy development for networking and capacity development for postsecondary and training professionals.
4:45 PM	Closing Prayer Amy Desjarlais		

EDUCATION RESOURCE BOOTHS & CRAFT VENDORS (March 5-6) WINDSOR LOBBY

AANDC Reporting Clinic Boardroom A Mezzanine Floor (March 5-6)

Indian Affairs staff will be on hand to provide one-on-one assistance with Data Collection Instruments (DCI's) and to review the completion of the Education Reporting or Proposal DCI's for the various Education Programs. Please bring laptops and/or information to complete the DCI's. Sessions will take place in 30 minute increments throughout the day. Space is limited please see sign-up sheet at the registration desk.

Our Children, Our Future, Our Vision

AGENDA Friday March 6, 2015

8:00 AM	CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST	
8:45 AM	Opening Prayer Amy Desjarlais	SOVEREIGN BALLROOM
9:00 AM	Featured Speaker Andrea Landry, Participant, United Nations Global Indigenous Youth Caucus	
9:30 AM	YOUTH PANEL DISCUSSION - SPECIAL EDUCATION AND PERSONAL UNDERSTANDINGS Post secondary students from various First Nation communities will share their experiences and insights related to how their special education needs were met throughout their school years. The panel presentations will be followed by an opportunity for Q&A.	
	YOUTH: Julie "Nessie" Mawakeesick, A student from Deer Lake, obtaining her Aboriginal ECE Diploma with Oshki-Pimache-O-Win Education and Training Institute Michael Wheatley-O'Conner, Community of Shawanaga First Nation, with the special education system throughout schooling Peyton Thomas, student of Grade 8, Morris Thomas Memorial Christian School	
10:30 AM	BREAK	VISIT OF EXHIBIT BOOTHS
10:45 AM BREAK OUT INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION CIRCLES		
These four sessions are designed to provide information, encourage feedback/input and share best practices.		
Sovereign Ballroom	Windsor 'A'	Windsor 'B'
Provincial Mental Health Strategy Special Education Policy and Programs Branch of the Ministry of Education will provide an overview of the provincial Mental Health Strategy focusing on connections with First Nation education.	Treaty in the Classroom Kelly Crawford, Instructor at Kenjgewin Teg Educational Institute, former Transitions coordinator and a writer, will present the "We Are All Treaty People Kit/Resource Guide" created by the Union of Ontario Indians and facilitate a discussion on how to incorporate Ontario Treaty education into the classroom.	Provincial curriculum Maureen Callan, Education Officer from the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Branch of the Ministry of Education will provide an overview of the process for incorporating First Nation content into the provincial curriculum.
		Language and Culture, Standards for Lifelong Learning Gina McGahey, Education Policy Advisor, will provide an overview of the process undertaken at the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians to develop language and culture standards for lifelong learning.
12:00 PM	LUNCH	

1:00 PM	DISCUSSION: Burning Issues, Brainstorming and Strategy Development This is a plenary discussion devoted to strategy development on the top issues that were collected through direct input of participants over the previous day and a half of the conference. The issues are identified as those needing to be addressed as priorities through regional activities over the next year. The ensuing strategy with timelines and anticipated outcomes will be circulated within two weeks of the conference and follow-up activities will begin as soon as possible in the new fiscal year.
2:30 PM	PRESENTATION - SUCCESS STORIES ROADMAP TO RECOGNITION Rosie Mosquito, Chair, Aboriginal Institutes' Consortium (AIC) The speaker will present the highlights from the AIC position paper that launched the campaign for a policy for Aboriginal Institutes in the face of funding pressures. WORLD INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION (WIPCE) Rebecca Jamieson, President-CEO, SN Polytechnic The speaker will present how this global event, held every 3 years, will be hosted in Toronto in 2017 and how it will be an unprecedented showcase of partnerships and successes in Indigenous education
3:15 PM	Closing Remarks Grand Chief Gordon Peters, Education Portfolio
4:45 PM	Closing Prayer Amy Desjarlais

EDUCATION RESOURCE BOOTHS & CRAFT VENDORS (March 5-6) WINDSOR LOBBY



Keynote and Featured Speakers



Sharon H. Venne

Sharon H. Venne is an Indigenous Treaty person (Cree) and by marriage a member of the Blood Tribe within Treaty 7, with one son. She has worked at the United Nations prior to the establishment of the Working Group on Indigenous Peoples in 1982. The background research

to the many clauses on the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is included in her book: *Our Elders Understand Our Rights: Evolving International Law Regarding Indigenous Peoples*.

In addition, Sharon has written numerous articles and edited materials related to the rights of Indigenous Peoples. She has lectured on the rights of Indigenous Peoples in Australia, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, France, Italy, Hawaii, United States and Canada. In addition to her work on the Declaration, she worked to secure a UN Study on Treaties. From the first introduction of the resolution in 1983 until the report was finalised in 1999, Sharon worked to ensure that the report reflected Indigenous laws and norms.

Sharon has written numerous articles on the Treaty Rights of Indigenous Peoples. All her work internationally and domestically relates to the promotion of the rights of Indigenous Peoples, especially rights related to lands, resources and treaties. Some of her works on laws of the Cree Peoples related to treaty making were published in *Aboriginal and Treaty Rights in Canada* (Michael Asch, ed.) and *Natives and Settlers - Now & Then* (Paul DePasquale, ed.).



Mac Saulis

Mac Saulis is an Indigenous Scholar and Elder who has been teaching at University in the field of Social Work for 34 years. He has taught at St. Thomas University, Carleton University, and Wilfrid Laurier University. He was an adjunct instructor in the faculty of Education at St Thomas and the University of New Brunswick.



Andrea Landry

Andrea Landry has attained her Masters in Communications and Social Justice at the University of Windsor. She also sits on the United Nations Global Indigenous Youth Caucus for the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. She formerly worked as the Governance Development Officer for her home community of Pays Plat First Nation.



Rosie Mosquito

Rosie is from Bearskin Lake First Nation. Rosie served her community in many capacities, first as a community economic development worker, a Councillor and then as the first female elected Chief in her community in north western Ontario.

Rosie is currently the Executive Director for the Oshki-Pimache-O-Win Education and Training Institute that was established by Nishnawbe Aski Nation.