

Mamawhitowin “Coming Together” Conference 2019

Registration Fee:

\$250.00

Registration Deadline:

October 17, 2019

Course Code:

NR.IF20.011FNMI

Date(s):

Oct 17, 2019 - Oct 18, 2019

Session Location:

12102-100 Street, Grande Prairie, AB

About the Session:

This year's Mamawhitowin Conference features another two days

of keynotes and breakout sessions to engage and empower all educators who come together and work toward the success of all students under the new Alberta TQS standards.

This year's theme is

“Celebrating Diversity”

and when you register for the conference, you have the opportunity to also pre-register into your breakout sessions of choice, including sessions with Aaron Paquette, Goota

Desmarais

, Etianna Moostoos-Lafferty and more!

WHO CAN ATTEND

Teachers, Educational Assistants, Administrators, School Council Members, School Board Trustees, CASS members, Indigenous Support Workers

About the Presenter(s):**Aaron Paquette**

Aaron Paquette is one of Canada's best-known First Nations Metis personalities. He is a bestselling, award-winning author, an acclaimed painter and artist, an illustrator, goldsmith and cathedral stained glass artist. Active in his community, Aaron sits on various civic, provincial and national Boards and Advisory Councils. On October 16, 2017, Aaron was elected to the Edmonton City Council to represent Ward 4 in the City's Northeast. He is also fortunate to be alive. It was on a cold August night in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada that Aaron found himself on the guardrails of the High Level Bridge. A moment of crisis. Over the intervening years, through ups and downs and many mistakes and learning opportunities, Aaron has found a way to voice his message. We all suffer, but none of us are alone. There is a strength within us and around us that we can constantly draw on, not only to get us through tough times, but to propel us into the life we always wanted. Aaron's public art and mural work is colourful, flowing and accessible, perfect for any community. In great demand, Aaron is an engaging, exciting and inspiring speaker and gives generously of his spirit in laughter, joy and learning. He has shared the stage with former and current politicians such as Phil Fontaine, Premier of Ontario Kathleen Wynne, Dr. Marie Wilson of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, former Auditor General of Canada Sheilah Fraser, Right Honorable Paul Martin, among others. In early 2013 he coined the term #Ottawapiskat which helped disrupt the way we look at the relationship between Indigenous Reservations and the Canadian Government in a constructive and humorous way. It was a stark and paradigm shifting marriage of the words Ottawa (Canada's capital city) and Attawapiskat, a northern community under the grip of extreme poverty and suffering. People immediately saw the potential and began creating their own highly charged, incisive, or just plain funny tweets around the new word. Making space for other's creativity and inventiveness is something that inspires Aaron's work and efforts.

Brigitte Benning

Born and raised in Grande Prairie, Brigitte is passionate about reconciliation through relearning Canada's history as a community and encouraging cultural pride in youth. As a Métis woman, she appreciates the opportunity to share her story as well as continue

to learn from others. In her current role as the Indigenous Education Coordinator for Peace Wapiti School Division, Brigitte is able to work with students K-12, educators, liaisons, leadership and the community to ensure that Indigenous people are celebrated, represented and supported in classrooms and schools. Prior to this role, she undertook a two year research project exploring the role of Indigenous-based support in post-secondary education for her MA from UVIC. She is very grateful to be back in traditional territories and homelands of the Cree, Beaver, Dene and Métis peoples.

Cassandra Mercer

Cassandra Mercer is a Cree-Metis from Northern Alberta. Her maternal family roots are from the Peavine and Kinuso Metis Settlements. Cassandra earned her Bachelor of Elementary Education degree from the University of Alberta and currently teaches Grade 4 for Grande Prairie Public School Division. She is also an Indigenous Representative for the Alberta Education Math 5-9 Curriculum Working Group. Cassie and her husband enjoy spending leisure time on Lesser Slave Lake with their four wonderful children, friends and extended family members. She is very passionate about her role as Indigenous Education PD Facilitator in Region A for the Alberta Teacher's Association and sharing her foundational knowledge with other educators and colleagues.

Charlene Noskey

I am originally from Loon River First Nation, a small reservation of approximately 500 members. Loon river is situated near Red Earth Creek. I am proud to say that I am a First Nations woman who is fluent in my Cree language. I moved to Peace River in 2011 and completed my B. Ed in 2016. This school year, my role is to assist our divisions teachers in meeting the new Teacher Qualification Standards.

Dennis Whitford

Dennis Whitford is the owner/operator of 2Thunder Consulting (www.2Thunderconsulting.com) since retiring in June 2015 from the Government of Alberta, Child and Family Services, where he worked for 27 years as a caseworker, supervisor, Aboriginal policy specialist, and senior manager. He completed Bachelor of Social Work, and Master of Social Work degrees, both at the University of Calgary, and is a registered Social Worker with the Alberta College of Social Workers. He is most proud of reconnecting with his Indigenous heritage over the past thirty years through traditional dancing and experiencing and living the teachings of Indigenous Elders and ceremonialists.

Etienna Moostoos-Lafferty

Etienna Moostoos-Lafferty was born and raised in Grande Prairie Alberta. Etienna's family is from the Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation in Treaty 8 territory. Etienna has 7 years of teaching experience both on and off-reserve, and also in public and Catholic school systems. Etienna spent 4 years working for an Indigenous perspective school with the Calgary Board of Education where she learned the importance of culture and language in Indigenous education. Etienna has since moved back to Edmonton has worked provincially as an Indigenous Education consultant helping to develop and implement workshops aimed at promoting reconciliation through teacher education. Etienna has created resources for the ATA and ARPDC that help teachers better understand topics such as Residential Schools, Metis Settlements, Inuit history, Myths and Stereotypes of Indigenous people, progression of the TRC, and treaty relationships. Today, Etienna is an Indigenous Education Coach for Evergreen Catholic Schools and is completing her masters full time at the University of Alberta. Additionally, she works as an assistant researcher for two Indigenous professors at the University and is learning a lot about provincial and local initiatives surrounding Indigenous education. She is a mother to a 4 year old daughter named Layla and her husband is also a teacher and works as an assistant Principal for Edmonton Public Schools. Etienna is thrilled to be back in Treaty 8 territory, a place that she still considers home.

Goota Desmarais

Goota Desmarais grew up on the south shore of Baffin Island in Cape Dorset, Nunavut. Her early childhood was spent in a modern Inuit settlement during the winters and in a traditional camp during the summers. Goota is now an urban Inuk, living in Sherwood Park, Alberta for the past 30 years. She stays connected to her Inuit culture through frequent visits to Nunavut and her involvement on the board of the Edmonton Inuit Cultural Society and Edmontonmiut Inuit. Through her business, Inuit Connection, Goota has been educating people about Nunavut and Inuit culture for over 20 years. She shares personal stories of growing up in the North that illustrate the unique Inuit way of life. Goota is currently working with Alberta Teacher's Association in their Walking Together: Education for Reconciliation Project.

Holly Crumpton

Holly Crumpton has been an employee of Peace River School Division #10 for the last twelve years. She spent the first eight years as a teacher and the First Nations, Metis and Inuit liaison for Peace River High School. She then spent two years as a learning coach supporting teachers and other instructional leaders as they sought ways to more effectively support the learning of their students. Returning to Peace High, Holly Crumpton has not only resumed her previous role but has also expanded her teaching repertoire to include Aboriginal Studies.

Kim Barker-Kay

Kim is a retired teacher, principal, and researcher. She was also a professional development provider. Kim has an elementary generalist Bachelor of Education degree and a Masters in Educational Studies with a focus on the Roles and Responsibilities of Native Liaison Workers in Northern Alberta. She has 33 years of experience as an educator in High Prairie and area. Kim spent many years researching and learning about barriers to Indigenous student achievement and how to remove those barriers. Her journey led her in many directions, including an opportunity to put what she learned into practice. The results were highly rewarding

for students and were encouraging for increasing minority student achievement. Kim's work on closing the achievement gap was influenced by a variety of findings and experiences, including: The Equity Framework, Diversity Training, Cultural Awareness and Personal Wellness as well as Critical Pedagogy and Transformative Theory. Over the years, Kim has become an expert on transforming school cultures and closing the educational achievement gap.

Not applicable

Various Experts

Photography Release:

This is a public event with the likeliness of photo/video throughout the day. By attending, participants understand they may be captured in photo or video for future presentations or promotional material development. Please see conference hosts if you prefer to not be photographed.

Registration Notes:

Please be advised that Thursday, October 17, 2019' morning conference activity includes *a Pipe Ceremony starting from 6:30am to 8:30am.*

Check the attached Conference Program for full details.

You may choose to come in at 8:30am to check-in and have morning refreshments.

This learning event includes Lunch.