

It matters to **US!**

Transforming the legacy of residential schools

Tuesday, March 10 – Wednesday, March 11, 2015

Faculty of Education Building, Western University (1137 Western Rd., London, ON)

Conference Agenda

Traditional Land Declaration

Western University is located in London in the heart of southwestern Ontario in close proximity to three vibrant local First Nations who have longstanding relationships with the land and place we now recognize as London, Ontario:

1. Chippewas of the Thames First Nation (part of the Anishinaabe Nation)
2. Oneida Nation of the Thames (part of the Haudenosaunee Six Nations)
3. Munsee Delaware Nation (part of the Leni-Lunaape Nation)

Historically, the Attawandaron (Neutral) peoples also once settled this region alongside the Algonquin and Haudenosaunee peoples, and used this land as their traditional beaver hunting grounds. Today a diverse and growing Aboriginal population live in London and the surrounding areas.

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Keynote Speakers

Susan Aglukark

Susan Aglukark is one of Canada's more unique and most honored artists. An Inuk from Arviat, Nunavut, Susan has been walking in a tension between two worlds, a defining note in her remarkable career. The songs Susan Aglukark creates have something in them that speak to all of us, whether it's the longing of a woman growing old for the traditional life that she was taken away from ("Bridge of Dreams") to a gentle anthem for peace and tolerance, ("O Sien" – joy in community).

Wab Kinew

Wab Kinew is a one of a kind talent, named by Postmedia News as one of "9 Aboriginal movers and shakers you should know." He is the interim Associate Vice-President for Indigenous Relations at University of Winnipeg and a correspondent for Aljazeera America. He has a BA in Economics, is completing a Masters degree in Indigenous Governance and is a member of the Midewin. Wab is also an Honourary Witness for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

Residential School Survivor Stories

Bud Whiteye

Bud Whiteye is a Residential School Survivor who attended Mohawk Institute Residential School in Brantford, Ontario from 1955-1961. He graduated from Ridgetown District high school in 1965 and served in the United States Marine Corps from 1963-1967. Bud later went on to complete a degree in journalism at the University of Western Ontario school in 1983. He has worked for CBC Radio and is a fellow at Michigan State University in Environmental Journalism. Bud continues to work as a freelance journalist. In 2005 he was awarded Writer of the Year for opinion and analysis.

Geronimo Henry

Geronimo is a member of the Six Nations reserve near Brantford, ON. He is a retired iron worker and 10 year survivor of residential school. Geronimo ran a program for survivors called the Lost Generation: Restoring Balance for Survivors of Residential School from 1999-2005. At the conference Geronimo will speak about his experience attending the Brantford Residential School, the "Mush Hole". He will share his healing journey as an adult.

Grace Smallboy

Grace Smallboy is a member of the Moose Factory First Nation and sits on the advisory committee of the London Truth and Reconciliation Committee. She is a Residential School Survivor who has worked in collaboration with local London community members to articulate the vision and goals for this conference. Grace worked for Nokee Kwe Adult Education as a literacy assistant, and for Southern First Nations Secretariat. She also went to Fanshawe College taking computer courses and received her certificate, and later graduated from Southwestern Business College. Education has always been important to Grace.

Leo Nicholas

Leo Nicholas is a member of the Munsee-Delaware Nation. His professional background is in both community social work and program management. He currently works as the Education Coordinator for Munsee-Delaware Nation. He has served as Chief of Munsee-Delaware Nation and continues to play an active role in their band council. In his community he has coached and managed both youth and adult hockey, softball and baseball. He also formed Axkook Archery and continues to teach archery at schools and across First Nations communities in the local area.

Susie Jones

In 1941, Walpole Island First Nation resident Susie Jones was taken from her home in southwestern Ontario at age four and spent the next 12 years at an Anglican residential school in Sault Ste. Marie. After graduation from high school, she moved to Michigan and only returned to Walpole Island 20 years ago when she was age 55. In her community, she volunteers on health and education issues and serves as a spokesperson for residential school survivors. For her contributions, she received an Ontario Senior Achievement Award in 2011 from the provincial government.

Workshop Presenters

Ashley Sisco

Ashley Sisco is a non-Indigenous Settler Canadian working as an ally with Indigenous communities and peoples. Ashley is the Owner and Principal Consultant of White Buffalo Consulting, which specializes in research on Indigenous relations and issues. She has over 10 years of experience working with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit across Canada and Aboriginal people in Australia in various capacities, including as: a researcher with a non-profit think tank, education advisor with a school board, consultant, and academic. She has a PhD (ABD) in Education, MA in Canadian Studies, and Honours BA in Anthropology.

Becoming an Ally

Ashley Sisco, Owner and Principal Consultant of White Buffalo Consulting, will be speaking on how non-Indigenous people can become allies to Indigenous peoples and communities. The workshop will begin with a brief presentation explaining who allies are, why they are important, and how they can create positive change. Participants will create individual ally action plans and will be given the opportunity to share their plans with the group.

Corine Banon

Corine Banon resides in Thunder Bay, Ontario. Her reserve is Thunder Mountain (Fort William First Nation). She has been in education for 13 years and currently teaches with the Lakehead Public School Board. Her passion is Anishinaabemowin and she has and continues to create many opportunities for student leadership and sharing of the Anishinaabe language in schools and in her community.

Faceless Doll Project

Participants will learn about the Faceless Doll project, a research project that was conducted by the Native Women's Association of Canada in 2010 and is a visual representation of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls in Canada. Corine will use the session as an opportunity to break down barriers and educate participants about the current number of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls who have been victims of violence. In her presentation she will talk about the traditional importance of Aboriginal women and girls in our communities and how they are the keepers of life. She will discuss what their stories tell and the journey forward. To wrap up the teachings all of the participants will have an opportunity to create a Faceless Doll to honor the spirit of one of the 1181 missing or murdered Aboriginal women or girls.

Jane Hubbard, Legacy of Hope

The Legacy of Hope Foundation (LHF) is a national Aboriginal charitable organization whose purposes are to educate, raise awareness and understanding of the legacy of residential schools, including the effects and intergenerational impacts on First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples, and to support the ongoing healing process of Residential School Survivors. Fulfilling this mandate contributes towards reconciliation among generations of Aboriginal peoples, and between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in Canada. The LHF fulfills this mandate by: working in partnership with First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples, educators, communities and organizations across Canada; and undertaking communications, research and policy activities that support the development and implementation of our educational programming. All of these activities are informed by the experiences and stories of Residential Schools Survivors, their families and communities.

100 Years of Loss: the Indian Residential School System in Canada In-service Workshop

The Legacy of Hope Foundation has developed an in-service workshop designed to introduce teachers to the subject of the Indian Residential School System and the 100 Years of Loss curriculum. The session covers the history and legacy of the residential schools and explores the content of the teacher's guide taking participants through the first activity: An introduction to Canada's Residential School System through the lens of the Federal Apology. This workshop provides teachers with the opportunity to quickly acquire the requisite knowledge in order to deliver the content in the classroom with ease and confidence.

Workshop Presenters

Myeengun Henry

Myeengun Henry is an elder, Aboriginal Traditional Counselor from Chippewas of the Thames First Nation near London, Ontario. He works endlessly to support Aboriginal people using language, ceremonies, healing and medicine. He is a graduate of Canadore College's Indigenous Wellness and Addictions Prevention and has worked as Director of Employment Services, Oshkebewis (Healers Program) and Street Patrol front-line worker for Anishnawbe Health Toronto.

A Vision Through Aboriginal Eyes

The history of Canada reflects various avenues of vision and opportunity. We have witnessed a multi-cultural society emerge that gives refuge to all. As we note the struggles and victories that make up this country a new story comes to light from the view of the original inhabitants of North America, the Aboriginal People. This view demonstrates a fully self-contained, spiritual, environmentally responsible, educated and just society. We will explore various components of this society such as medicine, health, treaties, the Indian Act and future opportunities. We will participate in a hands-on experience that helps us understand through ceremony, wampum belts and story-telling. This educational experience will offer a new vision for all.

Nancy Deleary

Nancy Deleary is a member of the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation. She is an independent artist and is a member of council. At the Institute of American Indian Arts she earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. Currently, she is in her final semester of a Masters of Fine Art degree program at the Vermont College of Fine Arts. Her goal is to build a place of learning and creativity through an artist's studio and gallery on the First Nation.

Debagamoojig: Stories of our Recent Past

Nancy Deleary will talk about the art she has created that raises awareness about the reality that the Anishinaabeg are in today. Through her art, she shares her experiences and her findings on her peoples' plight and survival through colonization.

Ray John Jr.

Ray John Jr. lives on the Oneida nation territory. He currently works for both the Thames Valley District School Board and the London Catholic District School Board as a culture consultant. He also works at Antler River Elementary School on the Chippewa territory as a child and youth worker.

Introduction to the Shield Program

Ray John Jr will present the Shield program, an empowerment program designed to look at yourself. The journey towards a better life starts with you. The shield program is a different experience for everyone. Shield helps us with our everyday life and helps us to stay focused and grounded. Ray will offer interactive activities and culturally stimulating content, presented in a dynamic, welcoming environment that focuses on the importance of identity and understanding who we are, regardless of race or cultural background.

Rev. Matthew Stevens

Matthew Stevens is an ordained minister within the United Church of Canada, of Kanien'kehá:ka Haudenosaunee (Mohawk) and Irish Métis heritage, who has been recognized as an Elder within the Anishinaabek (Ojibwe) people. He has served both First Nations and dominant society congregations in five different Conferences across Canada.

The Blanket Exercise

Rev. Matthew Stevens will facilitate the blanket exercise, an experiential learning opportunity developed by KAIROS following the landmark report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples. The exercise uses blankets to represent the lands of what is now called Canada and the distinct cultures and nations which live on those lands to this day. The blanket exercise is an excellent tool that literally walks participants through the history of relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in Canada. It helps participants understand why reconciliation is needed and how to take steps toward reconciliation and new relationships. The blanket exercise will raise attendees' awareness of the First Nations, Métis and Inuit people of Canada. Following the exercise, Rev. Stevens will discuss reconciliation, and more specifically raise the question, what does it mean to us?

Workshop Presenters

Sara Stratton

Sara Stratton coordinates campaigns and member relations at KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives. A Newfoundlander from the Humber watershed, she holds a PhD in History from York University, loves to cook, and is an avid birdwatcher. Sara has campaigned extensively on ecological justice and Indigenous rights, and has coordinated national and international exposure visits to the Alberta tar sands to learn about the issues facing the land and people who live there.

Reconciliation in the Watershed: Moving Forward Together After the TRC

When we look at the world through a watershed map rather than a political map, we see the connections between us rather than the divisions. When we get to know the watersheds we live in, we also learn about those with whom we share it now, and the Indigenous peoples whose home the land was before European settlement. We learn about the struggles of the land and its peoples, particularly the struggles posed by resource extraction. This workshop explores how we can be better connected to our watersheds and to each other, and how we can practice Reconciliation in the resource economy.

Starr McGahey-Albert

Starr McGahey-Albert is a member of the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation. She holds a BMath degree from the University of Waterloo, an Advanced Certificate in Public Administration and Governance from Ryerson University, a BEd from Brock University and a MEd from Western University. Starr has worked for 20 years for the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation Board of Education. Starr also served as an Elected Councillor for her community. Recently, Starr was hired as the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Education Advisor to the Thames Valley District School Board. A proud mother of two children, Shawnah and Richie, and wife of 18 years to wonderful husband, Clint. Her children are active competitive athletes and she loves cheering them on. Starr is an active advocate for First Nations education.

Film Screening of "Our Healing Journey"

"Our Healing Journey" is a unique and profound video about the intergenerational impacts of residential schools on the lives of First Nations peoples. Ten residential school survivors from the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation in Muncey, Ontario, along with other healers share their first-hand experiences in four of these schools.

Trevor Phillips

Trevor Phillips is Métis from Central Alberta. Along with his academic work on Indigenous Literature and Indigenous masculinities, Trevor is a writer of short stories, particularly creative non-fiction and micro-fiction, and has been a participant at the Creative Non-Fiction Writing Collective at the Banff Centre for the Arts. Trevor is the Youth Outreach Coordinator at Western's Indigenous Services. He has coordinated the annual Track and Field Day for Indigenous Youth in Southern Ontario, workshops via Canadian Roots Exchange with local Indigenous communities, and the Mini-University Summer Program -- an academic summer camp designed to introduce Indigenous youth to post-secondary education.

How To Mini U: A Workshop on Coordinating Indigenous Youth Programs

In this workshop, Trevor Phillips (Métis), Youth Outreach Coordinator for Western University's Indigenous Services, will provide a comprehensive "How To" on designing, coordinating, and executing a youth summer academic program designed specifically for Indigenous youth (ages 12-17) from across Canada. Specifically, Trevor will introduce attendees to Indigenous methods of training and programming utilized in the Indigenous Services Mini-University Summer Program that runs annually at Western.

Other Contributors to the Conference

Dan and Mary Lou Smoke

Dan is a member of the Seneca Nation of the Iroquois Confederacy. Mary Lou, a member of the Ojibway Nation, is a gifted writer, singer, guitarist and traditional drummer who willingly volunteers and shares her talents with the community at large. Dan and Mary Lou Smoke are an exceptional couple, who for many years, have fostered and advanced racial harmony and the elimination of discrimination in our community. It has been through their individual and collective efforts of sharing knowledge of the First Nations faith, history and culture that they have greatly enhanced cross-cultural understanding, healed and improved the climate of race relations in London, and provided new means of overcoming barriers and differences.

Jimelda Johnson

Performing This Song

This Song is a healing song, a memory of Residential School. It acknowledges the blood memory this generation may carry of our ancestors' experiences and gives it a voice, a vibration so in that moment there is opportunity to heal, release, and move forward in the true spirit and vision of our history in the hopes that this history may never repeat itself.

This Song will be shared by Ogimah Binesse Kwe (Chief Thunderbird Woman), Jimelda Johnson, Loon Clan from Neyaashiinigiing. Jimelda presently works as a Traditional Healing Coordinator in Owen Sound, Ontario where she coordinates culturally appropriate traditional healing opportunities for Anishnabae.

Sisters of all Nations

The Sisters of All Nations Singers are a women's drum group based out of Western University in London, Ontario. The group formed after taking Cayuga music class taught by Sadie Buck of Six Nations. After taking her class and learning about Haudenosaunee music and culture, a group of ladies from the class decided to perform the songs they learned at Kings University College. Ever since that event the group has been together, singing, performing as well as learning. All of the singers in the group are students at Western and also from different nations and communities. It is because of the diversity of the group that the name Sisters of All Nations Singers came about.

Exhibitors

Fanshawe First Nations Centre
Fourth R Programming
Good Minds
Indigenous Services (Western University)
Kairos
Kiikeewanniikaan- Southwestern Regional Healing Lodge

Legacy of Hope Foundation
Museum of Ontario Archaeology
N'Amerind Friendship Centre
Ska-Nah-Doht Museum and Village
SOAHAC
Woodland Cultural Centre

Members of the London Area Truth & Reconciliation Advisory Committee

Joan Atkinson
Sarah Burm
Kelly Geris

Pat Howe
Andrea Jibb
Barb McQuarrie

Jean Moylan
Margo Ritchie
Grace Smallboy

Dan and Mary Lou Smoke
Anna-Lee Straatman
Nancy Wales

We would additionally like to thank the many contributors who have aided in the planning and organization of this conference

Ashley Sisco
Barb Potter
Bill Tucker
Brent Debassige
Candace Brunette-Debassige
Children of Shingwauk Alumni Association
Cory Habermehl
Eva Jewell
Faculty of Education, Western University
Indigenous Services, Western University
Leo Nicholas
Leslee White-Eye

Jessica Hill
JoAnn Henry
Joe Bezzina
Oneida Braves Elite Lacrosse Organization
National Speakers Bureau
Pauline Wakeham
Purveen Skinner
Rebecca Coulter
Starr McGahey-Albert
Robyn Turgeon
Tara Brown
Tara Elgie

Thank you to our sponsors

This conference was conceived by the London Area Truth and Reconciliation Committee with representatives from the Centre for Research & Education on Violence against Women & Children, Sisters of St. Joseph, Residential School survivors, Indigenous elders and advisors.



Ursulines of the Chatham Union



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