

Kinàmàgawin Symposium

2024 Program

Connecting to Indigenous Spirituality: Learning from the Land, Community, and Culture

Thursday, February 8th, 2024
9:00 Am to 4:00 PM
Richcraft Hall - 2220

The Centre for Indigenous Support
and Community Engagement



Table of Contents

Territory Acknowledgement	2
About the Theme	3
Director's Welcome	5
Safe Space Acknowledgement	6
About the Presenters	7
Symposium Agenda	13
Q&A Sessions: Using Padlet	15
Community Feedback	16

Territory Acknowledgement



**KITIGAN ZIBI
ANISHINABEG**



**Algonquins of
Pikwakanagan
First Nation**

Carleton University acknowledges the location of its campus on the traditional, unceded territories of the Algonquin nation. In doing so, Carleton acknowledges it has a responsibility to the Algonquin people and a responsibility to adhere to Algonquin cultural protocols.

Territory acknowledgments have become commonplace in many postsecondary institutions and demonstrate respect for the traditional custodians of a particular region or area. The practice has gained popularity because it serves to remind people who are not Indigenous that they are guests in these territories and that these territories had complex and culturally specific legal, governance, education, and justice systems before the creation of Canada.

It serves to reframe relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in a way that acknowledges Indigenous people have inherent rights to their territories.

Carleton University faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to acknowledge the first peoples on whose territory they are gathered when hosting events or meetings.

Acknowledging territory in the Ottawa area shows recognition and respect for the Omamiwininiwag (Algonquin people in the Algonquin language).

About the Theme

This year's theme, like past years, was chosen by a group of Indigenous students on the Student Planning Committee for the Kinàmàgawin Symposium. Many great theme ideas were presented but consensus was met on this year's theme: Connecting to Spirituality: Learning from the Land, Community, and Culture.

As Indigenous Peoples, engaging with spirituality is a core aspect of who we are. However, due to colonial tactics and assimilative practices, many communities have been negatively impacted by being able to practice spirituality in their own cultures and communities.

With the pandemic and through a lot of healing journeys, community members have been working tirelessly to reclaim and help support a resurgence of engaging in Indigenous spirituality. We are in a time where many community members have access to ceremonies and cultural practices like never before. We have been able to adapt and provide teachings virtually, welcome inclusive ceremonial practices, and continue to educate our youth about the importance of ceremony and spirituality.

Today, you will hear from a series of community members who have been able to support the resurgence of Indigenous spirituality in different spaces: in academia, in the community, and on the land.

Learning about spirituality can hold significance for individuals on both personal and societal levels. Spirituality often provides a framework for individuals to explore questions related to the meaning and purpose of life. It can offer a sense of direction and help people find purpose beyond materialistic pursuits .

Spiritual exploration is often linked to personal growth and self-discovery. It encourages individuals to reflect on their beliefs, values, and behaviors, fostering a deeper understanding of oneself. Engaging in one's own spirituality can also serve as a healing support. Many First Nations, Metis, and Inuit community members find that spiritual practices, such as engaging in a smudge or other ceremonies, contribute to a sense of inner peace and well-being. Spirituality can be a source of comfort and support during challenging times, contributing to mental and emotional resilience.

Spirituality can often emphasize a sense of interconnectedness and unity with others and the universe. This connection can foster empathy, compassion, and a sense of community, leading to more meaningful relationships. In addition, many spiritual traditions provide ethical and moral guidelines that help individuals navigate ethical dilemmas. Learning about spirituality can contribute to the development of a strong ethical foundation.

Spirituality is often deeply rooted in cultural and historical contexts. Colonization has attempted to interrupt the accessibility of this. Learning about different spiritual traditions can enhance cultural understanding and promote tolerance and acceptance of diversity.

In summary, learning about spirituality can be important for personal growth, well-being, ethical development, and fostering a sense of connection with oneself, others, and the world. It's a deeply personal journey that can contribute to a more fulfilling and purposeful life.

Director's Welcome

Each year, it is the Centre for Indigenous Support and Community Engagement's pleasure to host the annual Kinàmàgawin Symposium. Kinàmàgawin is an Algonquin word meaning "learning together"; that is what this event is about. The symposium serves to amplify Indigenous perspectives, teachings, and ways of being. It also serves to address First Nation, Metis, and Inuit perspectives and topics on a more specific level, which is not always afforded to us.



This year, the conference theme our Indigenous Student Advisory Committee chose is Connecting to Spirituality: Learning from the Land, Community, and Culture. As you will see from our presenters, these community members will be able to dive deeper into these topics to highlight the uniqueness and importance of community practices and engagement opportunities.

The 2020 Kinàmàgawin report's call 12 says "We call for space and funding to hold at least one large university-wide Indigenous event per year to facilitate relationship building, learning, and appreciation of Indigenous cultures and ways of knowing across the university". It is a pleasure to say we are in our 5th year of this symposium. Here is to many more symposiums to come.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Benny Michaud".

Benny Michaud

Director of the Centre for Indigenous Support and Community Engagement

Safe Space Acknowledgement

We are proud to welcome folx from across different communities, far and wide, to this year's Kinàmàgawin Symposium. Together, we actively commit to fostering a space that is welcoming and respectful of everyone, regardless of identity, experience, or beliefs. We commit to engaging in this learning space with open minds, respect for lived experiences, and active reflection.

Media Statement

There will be photographers taking pictures and videos during the event to create historic records and for CISCE to use in its promotional materials as it sees fit. By participating in the Symposium, you are granting permission to CISCE to do so. If you do not want your photo taken or your image to be used in this way, please inform the conference staff.

Social Media

Share your thoughts on social media!

📷 Instagram: @carleton_Indigenous_centre

📘 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cuindigenous/>

About Presenters



Matthew Bisson

Emcee

A member of M'Chigeeng First Nation on Manitoulin Island, Matthew is a Professional Communicator, and Team Manager, currently leading the new Indigenous Relations Team with the Canadian Radio-Television Telecommunications Commission (CRTC). Prior to joining the CRTC in 2023, he spent almost a year working as a Communications Officer with the Assembly of First Nations (AFN). Matthew spent 20 years in radio and television, most recently working as the Station Manager, News Anchor and Program Host for 95.7 ELMNT FM, First Peoples Radio in Ottawa. Prior to that, he served as a Program Director, Station Manager, Program Host, and News Anchor/Reporter for Bell Media in Kingston, Rogers Media in Ottawa, Corus Entertainment in Edmonton, and CFRC, Queen's University Radio in Kingston.



Barbara Dumont-Hill

Elder

Barbara Dumont-Hill is Algonquin Anishinabeg from the Kitigan Zibi community in Quebec. She has served as a Knowledge Keeper at Carleton University since 2018. Barbara was a grandmother in the 2015 Walking With Our Sisters installation at the Carleton University Art Gallery. More recently, she traveled across Canada as an advisor with the Canadian Department of Justice to witness the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls National Inquiry. Barbara's work has inspired her path to honor and empower Indigenous youth. In June 2023, Barbara received an Honorary Doctorate in Law from Carleton University to recognize her outstanding contributions as an advisor and community volunteer working to improve the lives of Indigenous peoples.



Shannon 'Waba' Chief

Presenter

Waba/Shannon was born and raised in the Wolf Clan of the Anishinabe-Algonquin Nation. She contributes at various levels to the decolonization and the restoration of her people's sovereignty. Waba commits to the defense of her people's culture and language. The protection and advocacy for land, waters, and animals is a priority for the Anishnabeg with climate changes also affecting the Algonquin Unceded Territory. Waba was a Language Teacher but now runs a land-based culture camp called Odinewin that was built up with her traditional Elders focusing on fully immersed language building and reclamation of their Nation's cultural and seasonal traditions.

She presently works as the Anishinabe Moose Committee (AMC) Coordinator for the community-led Moose Studies.



Mko Mose (Andrew Judge)

Presenter

Mkomose (Andrew Judge, PhD) is an Assistant Professor of Anishinaabe Studies at Algoma University. He has worked in education for 15 years focusing on awakening Ancestral Anishinaabe teachings to restore land and to heal ourselves.



Ron Indian Mandamin

Presenter

Ron Indian-Mandamin has spent his life sharing Anishinaabe knowledge through active teaching, engagement, and ceremony. Ron has received his traditional knowledge from elders and family, for our People and communities.

He is a member of Iskatewizaagegan No. 39 Independent First Nation. Contemporary boundaries locate his community in Northwestern Ontario, by the Manitoba border. Ron is honored to carry and keep alive the traditional teachings. His knowledge of stories, plants, medicines, healing practices, and language are shared and celebrated.

Ron is known across Anishinaabe country and is highly respected as a presenter, ceremonial lead, orator, singer, teacher, language speaker, fabric and beading artist, and man of ceremony.

Throughout his life, and through spirit, Ron continues to learn and teach. Ron is the headman, Ogimaa for the Iskatewizaagegan 39 Midewiwin Lodge. Honoring the Midewiwin Lodge, good-hearted way, he leads humbly and attracts Anishinaabe from across our territory.

He carries songs, teachings, protocols, and so much more that he passes forward to the people. Ron empowers others by encircling himself with many Oskabiwis as he continues to invest strongly in building productive, reciprocal relationships.



Kookum Barbara Bruce

Presenter

Kookum and Knowledge Keeper Barbara is a citizen of the Red River Metis Nation– Michif aen Otipemisiwak. Her beliefs of Indigenous traditional teachings are reflected in all of the work she takes on.

A Sundancer, Sweatlodge leader, and Pipe Carrier, her dedication to advancing the rightful place, recognition and acknowledgment of the Two Spirit community, Indigenous women, and children are an integral part of her life.

Some of her past and current board appointments include: National Aboriginal Economic Development Board, Manitoba Communities Economic Development Fund, Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business, Top 40 Under 40, University of Winnipeg Board of Regents and Chair of the Metis Child and Family Services Authority. Most recently, she Co-Led a working group for the University of Manitoba on Identity Fraud.

Barbara has been recognized and honoured for her work by the Human Rights Commission of Manitoba for her significant contributions to promoting Indigenous rights and equality. She was honoured by ‘Keeping the Fires Burning’ as a Kookum/Grandmother for her contribution of the wellbeing of all Indigenous Peoples. Sageeng First Nation honoured her for her extensive contribution to economic development in First Nation and Metis communities. In recognition of her lifetime of work, she was inducted into the Order of Manitoba in 2018. In 2020, she was acknowledged in the Manitoba legislative Assembly in a Member’s Statement for her work and contribution as a Two Spirit Elder. In 2021, she received the Nellie McClung Manitoba 150 Women Trailblazer Award. In November 2022, she received the Natural Resources Canada Departmental Achievement Award in the category of Workplace Culture and Wellness and she was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal of Manitoba in December 2022.



Kokum Charlotte Nolin

Presenter

Charlotte Nolin is a 73-year-old, 2 Spirit Metis woman with Ojibway and Cree background. Miss Nolin, the youngest of eight children was raised in an era governed by Residential Schools, Indian Day Schools and 60's Scoop. Miss Nolin grew up in non-Indigenous foster homes and attended roman catholic schools run by nuns and priests. She was exposed to racism, homophobia and transphobia, and violence. Miss Nolin left the child welfare system only to fall within the clutches of the justice system and homelessness and addictions. Miss Nolin entered the violent lifestyle of "working the streets" and finally in 1974 realized that if she continued like this, her life would be short. Returning to the "closet" rather than face any more violence, Miss Nolin became a parent and worked in the construction industry till 1989. In 1990 Charlotte changed careers and dove into the social work industry. She remained in this field till 2020 when she decided to retire after going through 2 heart attacks.

In 2016, Miss Nolin completed her transition and now enjoys the liberties that weren't afforded to her as a young person. Today Miss Nolin devotes her time to teaching younger people in regards to being 2 Spirit, Trans, and Indigenous. Miss Nolin led her relatives in the first 2 Spirit Sundance on Turtle Island in August of 2023. Miss Nolin shares her life with various individuals across this country and hopes that her story will impact others on their journeys



Jackie Tenute

Panelist

Jackie is Anishinaabe kwe of Ojibwe and Potawatomi descent, Thunderbird Clan from Chippewas of Nawash -Neyaashiinigimiing First Nation. She is the new Mental Health Counselor at Southwestern Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre (SOAHAC). Jackie is a counselor/therapist and provides culturally appropriate counseling services that often blends mainstream clinical skills and traditional knowledge and ceremony into session work. She offers cultural sensitivity and decolonizing workshops, full moon and other Indigenous ceremonies to support those who may be looking for other mental wellness services



Louella Tobias

Panelist

Louella Tobias is from Moravia town First Nations in Southern Ontario. She is a mother of three: 2 boys and a girl; a grandmother of 7; and a great-grandmother of 1. Louella is third-degree Midewin from the lodge on Manitoulin Island. She has followed the culture for over half her life and is currently residing as a guest in Ottawa, the unceded, unsundered land of the Algonquin peoples.



Makhena Rankin-Guérin

Cultural Performer

Makhena Rankin Guerin is a local two-spirit Anishinabe artist from Abitibiwinni First Nation. As a powwow dancer and a student at Ottawa U in a Bachelor of Indigenous Studies, Makhena is dedicated to the revival and continuity of the culture by using both traditional knowledge and academics.

Kinàmàgawin Symposium Agenda

9:00 AM	Opening	Matthew Bisson
	Opening Prayer	Elder Barbara Dumont-Hill
	Welcoming Remarks	Benny Michaud
	Welcoming Remarks	Pauline Rankin

Touch up on the Anishinabe Pike Constitution with Clan Teachings Waba/Shannon Chief

9:15 AM *A decolonial workshop will bring a presentation on the Pike teachings based on traditional governance, followed by how the Anishinabe got their Clan Systems. This session will also explore decolonial ways about how the Algonquin Peoples had worked before the Indian Act was imposed. Waba will offer an understanding of the kind of structure, protocol, and respectful ways the community worked together as People.*

Indigenous Spirituality and the Land

Ron Indian Mandamin

9:45 AM *Join us for an enlightening exploration of the connection between Indigenous spirituality and the land. In this presentation, participants will have the opportunity to deepen their understanding of Indigenous worldviews, teachings, and practices regarding the sacred relationship with the natural world.*

10:30 AM Q&A

10:45 AM Health Break

Manidookewin, Eskakamikwe, Aanikoobijiganag Minawaaa **Noojimo'iwewin: Ceremony, Mother Earth, Ancestors and Healing** Mkomose (Andrew Judge, PhD)

11:00 AM *In this presentation, Mkomose outlines strategies for developing spiritual awareness and self-healing through ceremony, land-based practices, listening to the messages of the Ancestors, and planning for our future great-grandchildren that address ongoing challenges facing Indigenous communities and their cultural revitalization.*

11:45 AM Q&A

12:00 PM Lunch (*To Be Provided*)
Cultural Performance by Makhena Rankin-Guérin

1:00 PM **Two Spirit and Spirituality – Our Story**
Charlotte Nolin and Barbara Bruce
As Two Spirit and Testawiyiniwak (“in between people”), we continue to be connected to acahk (“spirit”). This connection to spirituality is strong and essential to how we live our lives. Recognizing, acknowledging and accepting who we are as spiritual beings is critical in living pimatisiwin (“the good life”).

2:00 PM Q&A

2:15 PM Health Break

2:30 PM **Accessing Ceremonies in Urban Spaces and How to Connect to Spirituality (Panel)**
Louella Tobias, Jackie Tenute
Explore the intersection of urban living and Indigenous spirituality in our panel discussion. Join us as we delve into the unique challenges and opportunities of accessing ceremonies today. Gain insight into preserving cultural traditions and building bridges between traditional practices and living life in 2024.

3:30 PM Q&A

3:55 PM Closing

Q&A Sessions: Using Padlet

Some Keynote presentations and panel conversations will have anonymous question-and-answer periods facilitated by the Padlet website. To access the Padlet during these sessions, use the QR code below or visit <https://shorturl.at/ciGH1>



To submit a question, click the + button below the session title or at the bottom of the screen.

Once you click a + button, you can enter your question and any additional information you may want to include. See the session you're submitting to on the top left and submit to the right.

Community Feedback

We strive to make this event easy and enjoyable for throughout each stage of the planning process, but we know there is much to learn for future events. We welcome you to share your honest experiences and ideas with us by completing a short anonymous survey. We greatly appreciate your time.

Scan the QR code to share your thoughts.





**The Centre for Indigenous Support
and Community Engagement**

3400 CTTC

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