



University of Saskatchewan

Master of Indigenous Land-Based Education

2021 Cohort

The background is a solid black color. It is decorated with several elements: a large, light beige circular shape in the top left; a large, light beige wavy shape in the top right; a dark grey circular shape in the bottom left; a large, light beige circular shape in the bottom right; and several green leaves and stems scattered throughout, primarily in the corners. Thin white lines are also visible, some following the edges of the shapes and others as simple curves.

Faculty

Gabrielle Doreen



Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory, ON

Doctoral Candidate, University of
Saskatchewan

Course:

EFDT 854.3: First Nation Study Tour

Dr. Carmen Gillies



Saskatoon, SK

Assistant Professor, Educational
Foundations, University of Saskatchewan

Course:
EFDT 844: Theory and Practice
of Anti-Racist Education

Dr. Leanne Betasamosake Simpson



Alderville First Nation, ON

Faculty Member, Dechinta Centre for
Research and Learning

Course:

EFDT 479: Introduction to
Land-Based Education

Dr. Raven Sinclair



George Gordon's First Nation, SK

Professor, University of Regina

Course:

EFDT 845: Cross Cultural Research
Methodologies

Dr. Alex Wilson



Opaskwayak Cree Nation, MB

Professor, Educational Foundations, University of Saskatchewan

Courses:

EFDT 870: Foundations of Land-Based Education

EFDT 854: International Study Tour

ERES 810: Indigenous Research Methodologies

EFDT 869.3: Queering Indigenous
Land-Based Pedagogies

EFDT 991.3: Capstone Course

Fernanda Yanchapaxi



Sigchos, Ecuador

PhD Student at OISE, University of
Toronto

Course:
EFDT 817: Climate Change
Education

Teacher Assistants



Nicki Ferland
Winnipeg, MB



Tanya McCallum
Pelican Narrows, SK

The background is a solid black color. It is decorated with several elements: a light green leafy branch in the top-left corner; a large, light beige circular shape in the top-left; a large, light beige wavy shape in the top-right; a dark grey circular shape in the middle-right; a dark grey circular shape in the bottom-right; a light beige wavy shape in the bottom-left; and a dark grey circular shape in the bottom-left. There are also several small, light green leafy branches scattered throughout the bottom-left and bottom-right areas.

Students

Jeremy Albert

Nakiwaciy (Sweetgrass First Nation), SK - Treaty 6 Territory

Capstone Project Title: Land-Based Kinship

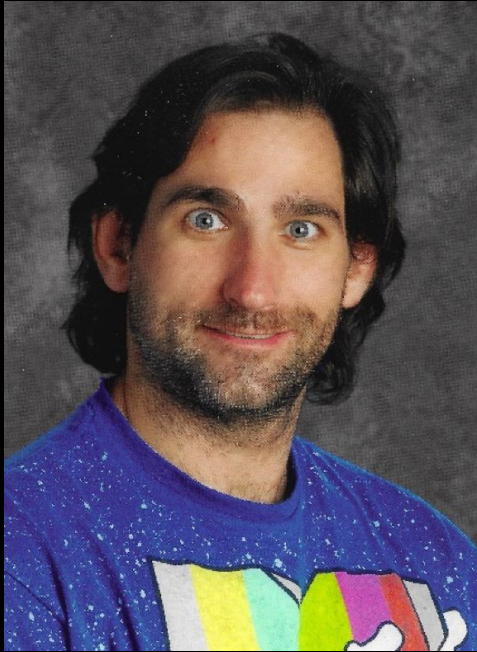


Bio: Jeremy is of nehiyaw/nahkawiyiniw/French/Irish descent. His partner, Michelle, and him raise four beautiful children and currently work and reside in amiskwaciy waskahikan (Edmonton). As a First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Education Advisor with Elk Island Public Schools, Jeremy and his colleagues support the Division with Indigenous education and work to foster connections with the land between students, families, and staff. Jeremy is a student of nehiyawewin and finds that the best way to learn is through experiences that take place in Land and kinship-based settings. As a lifelong learner, Jeremy continues to develop his critical thinking skills and uses them to challenge societal systems by creating space for Indigenous perspectives. This includes the education system, where he continues to reflect on and adapt his pedagogical approaches. Jeremy feels fortunate to have met and learned from many Indigenous scholars and community members. He is proud to be a part of a worldwide network of people who work to defend and protect land, water, and sky.

David Bennett

Saskatoon, SK

Capstone Project Title: Starting an Indigenous Land-Based Program



Bio: I was born and raised in Saskatoon and come from Ukrainian and Irish heritage. I am married with two children. I have been a teacher for 11 years and the last 10 have been at Stobart Community School in Duck Lake, Saskatchewan. The MILBE program has helped me grow personally and professionally by improving my understanding of the effects of colonization and how to decolonize myself and the teaching that I do. The program has changed my worldview, which has allowed me to connect with the community I serve in a better way. It has provided me with the knowledge and understanding needed to support getting a land-based program started at Stobart. The land-based program is applying the queering teachings that the MILBE program has taught me to ensure that everyone is welcome and safe. I enjoy connecting with the Land when I hunt, fish, canoe, camp, hike, help harvest berries and medicines, and learn from Elders and Knowledge Keepers. I also like to spend time outside with my family, so that we can connect with nature together, with a more Indigenist perspective.

Jerome Chabot

Treaty Six - Just North of Edmonton, AB



Capstone Project Title: Michif Shorts - A continual video series that highlights Métis culture and traditions that his family practices.



Bio: Taanshii, I am a Red River Métis, husband, father of three beautiful children, vice-principal, and Métis Learning Coach for Sturgeon Public Schools. I hunt, trap, and fish and I am very passionate about passing on many of my traditional skills to the future generations. My hope is to develop more land-based programs in the future and share the knowledge that has been gifted to me. Through more thoughtful land-based programming and education, we can create a new generation of people with a stronger connection to the land.

Sara Miskolzie

Treaty 6, SK

Capstone Project Title: askī pīmacihowin program



Bio: Sara is a Métis educator from Treaty 6 territory in Saskatoon. Her journey in teaching started at St. Frances Cree Bilingual School in Saskatoon where she taught grade 7/8 for five years and then started in an admin role. For her capstone project, she initiated the askī pīmacihowin program within her school alongside her Cree elder John Merasty. askī pīmacihowin provides Indigenous youth with transformative experiences connecting them to Métis and Cree teachings. Students and staff engaged in ceremonies, medicine harvesting, hunting and harvesting skills, and deepened their relationships with each other, the land and Creator. Sara organized a cultural exchange between Opaskwayak Cree Nation and askī pīmacihowin. This exchange led to meaningful cross-cultural connections enriching the lives of the students, staff, and community members involved. Sara aims to expand the askī pīmacihowin program to more school communities within Saskatoon and envisions a network of Indigenous land-based learning programs within schools across Saskatchewan.

Chantal Harel

Winnipeg, MB - Treaty 1 Territory

Capstone Project Title: Documenting the 2021-2023 MILBE program



Bio: Chantal is a Red River Métis from Winnipeg, MB. She has been teaching French Immersion in the Louis Riel School Division for the past 10 years and currently teaches grade 2 at École St. Germain. Outside of work, Chantal enjoys bead work, travelling, spending time with her 2 dogs, gardening and playing soccer, golf and softball. She is thankful that the MILBE program has given her the opportunity to step outside of her comfort zone and connect to her Indigenous roots. Chantal plans to be active in her Métis community and to implement Indigenous land-based learning at her school and eventually within her school division. She hopes to learn Michif one day and possibly pursue further studies in Indigenous land-based education. Chantal would like to thank her family, classmates and professors for their support throughout the completion of her master's degree.

Jasmine LaBillois

Ugpi'Ganjig (Eel River Bar First Nation), NB

Capstone Project Title: Ugpi'Ganjig Study Tour 2021



Bio: Teluisi Jasmine LaBillois. Tleyawi Ugpi'Ganjig. My name is Jasmine LaBillos I am a proud Mi'kmaq woman belonging to the community of Ugpi'Ganjig. By using the knowledge I have gained from the MILBE program, I have successfully established a Forest School in my First Nation community. Centred within an Indigenous Land-Based pedagogy, the program is geared towards elementary school children connecting them to land as our first teacher and creating spaces of healing and community resurgence. I am a mother of two beautiful children, Maggie Jo and Rudy Jay. Both have inspired me to pursue this important work. Msit No'kmaq Forest & Nature School is a transformative learning program that builds connections to land, is student-centred and emerged from the MILBE program. Hosting a week-long study tour in my community of Ugpi'Ganjig as part of my capstone project together our cohort built a long house structure that serves as our base camp for our Forest School program.

Jaymyn La Vallee

Xwemelch'stn (Capilano Reserve), BC



Capstone Project Title: Nenakw - Returning Home

Bio: Jaymyn, a proud Skwxwú7mesh and 'Nāmgis queer woman, is an Indigenous educator and advocate for language and cultural revitalization. Currently situated in the territories of the Kwagiut Nation, she is the Kwak'wala teacher and program manager with the Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Nation's immersion program. Drawing from her communities and deep-rooted connection to the land, she has integrated a land-based curriculum to empower individuals to reclaim their ancestral language and cultural identity. Her formative experiences with the Heiltsuk people in Bella Bella, BC, where she had opportunities to learn from the land at a young age, inspired her to pursue education as a tool for healing and empowerment. Fueled by her passion for creating positive change, Jaymyn envisions a future where Indigenous communities can access tailored educational opportunities honouring their unique learning needs. Her dream is to contribute to establishing a school specifically designed to meet her community's needs.

Brittany MacDonald

Fort McKay First Nation, AB



Capstone Project Title: Documenting the 2021-2023 MILBE program

Bio: Brittany is a Mother and Educator of Cree, Dene, Scottish and Hungarian ancestry. She grew up separate from her culture and wanted to begin on the journey of reconnecting with her identity and her culture as a mixed race Indigenous person. Being from Fort McKay First Nation and seeing the destruction of the oilsands, Brittany feels very passionate about Land-Based learning as a way to build a reciprocal caring relationship with the land. She wants to give youth the opportunity to learn from land and develop a deep rooted relationship with it, where youth are free to be authentically themselves, as land will always make space for you and embrace you for who you are without judgment. She presently teaches grade 3 in Fort McKay First Nation at the Elsie Fabian School that has a heavy focus on land-based learning for its students. Brittany hopes to continue her learning journey by pursuing a PhD.

Sabrina MacNab

Meadow Lake, SK - Treaty 6 Territory



Capstone Project Title: Indigenous Land-Based PD

Bio: Sabrina is 26 years old and comes from Métis and Scottish ancestry. Spending a lot of time outdoors with her family, Sabrina has grown up knowing the importance of placing oneself with the land. She is currently working as a Michif Kindergarten teacher in Meadow Lake. Sabrina's journey is a tribute to the importance of family and connection to land. Her late sister, Brittany, continues to inspire her from beyond, fueling Sabrina's pursuit of land-based knowledge, culture and drive to help others. Sabrina would like to thank her family for their unwavering support throughout the past 2 years.

Marrsî Nîtisânak.

Mary Mason

St. Theresa Point, MB



Capstone Project Title: Women Empowering Women Through Land-Based Activities

Bio: Mary is a Cree woman and a highschool teacher who teaches geography, physical geography, world geography and history. For her capstone project, Mary had the women, who are knowledge keepers in her community, serve as role models for the young women of the community. They all went on an all-female canoe camping trip and paddled from their community to Mary's ancestral territory about sixteen kilometers away. Some of the activities they engaged in were sewing, medicine harvesting and preparing, fishing, and group discussions. The experience was well received by all of the participants. Mary enjoyed doing this capstone project as she learned to organize a small group land-based learning opportunity with wonderful people.

Tawny Maxie-Poitras

White Bear First Nations, SK - Treaty 4 Territory

Capstone Project Title: Wâhkôhtowin: Building Kinship with Land and Community



Bio: Tawny Maxie-Poitras nitsiyihkâson. niya nêhiyaw êkwa nahkawê iskwêw nitohcin wapi-maskwa môswacihk kayahtê, mâka oskana ka-asastêki niwîkin mêkwac, nêwo asotamatowin askiy. My name is Tawny Maxie-Poitras. I am a nêhiyaw and nahkawê woman originally from White Bear First Nations, Moose Mountains but I currently live in Regina. I am a mother to three daughters and one son, and a life partner to my best friend Anthony. I have been a high school teacher for 14 years and am currently teaching Indigenous Studies and nêhiyawêwin in miskasowin askîhk - Finding Ourselves on the Land, a high school land-based program at Campus Regina Public. My goal is to foster a sense of community, belonging through revitalization of Indigenous languages, community knowledge systems and relationality with Land. My passions include spending time with my family, camping, ceremonies, language learning and various land-based activities as well as learning with and from Land. êkosi.

Krista Reid

Haines Junction, YK

Capstone Project Title: Chu ts'an tanädel - back to the water



Bio: Chùndayma/Krista Reid is a matrilineal descendant of the Haudenosaunee people and has family connections to the Hałtzaqv and Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, and is a member of Agunda (Wolf Clan). Chùndayma has dedicated her lifelong learning to Indigenous land-based pedagogy, language revitalACTION and restoryation and works within our communities to advocate and ensure the ways of Indigenous knowledge and stories are transferred and reconnected to our people. Her professional experience has included strategic implementation and opportunities to ensure traditional values are the pillars that guide the development and application of organizational policies, procedures and that legislation promotes language and the traditional knowledge of the Elders and the Ancestors.

Crystal Constant

Opaskwayak Cree Nation, MB - Treaty 5 Territory

Capstone Project Title: Re-enacting River Navigation & Fall Moose Hunting on The Birch River: An Ancestral Waterway of the Opaskwayak Cree People



Bio: Crystal is a nêhiyaw – iskwêw with over 16 years of teaching experience. Discovering what the land offers began at a young age thanks to her parents Lillian Sinclair (nee Ross) and Father, John G. Sinclair Sr., who exposed her and her 5 siblings to a hunting, trapping, and gathering lifestyle. Her Grandmother Eva Sinclair was her first mentor who helped teach her about having gratitude in everything we receive from the land. With the help of her husband Omar, she continues to hunt, fish, trap, and gather traditional foods while both being land stewards. Crystal's recent hobbies include reading, canoeing, preserving traditional foods and re-learning the Cree language ('n' dialect) so that she can speak it fluently again and use this in her future teachings with others.

Lyndon Suntjens

Goodfish Lake First Nation, AB



Capstone Project Title: ᑭᓴᓴᑦᑭᓴᑦ miywâcimowin

Bio: Lyndon Suntjens is ᑭᓴᓴᑦᑭᓴᑦ ᑭᓴᓴᑦᑭᓴᑦ nêhiyaw-ayisiyiniw. A loving and devoted father to three beautiful daughters, he is an active hunter and sports enthusiast who enjoys coaching and participating in many sports, especially golf and basketball. Most recently, Lyndon co-coached Alberta's U14 girl's basketball team to a bronze medal finish at the 2023 North American Indigenous Games in Halifax, NS. He currently resides and works in ᑭᓴᓴᑦᑭᓴᑦ ᑭᓴᓴᑦᑭᓴᑦ amiskwacyi-wâskahikan (Edmonton) where he is a teacher as well as coach at ᑭᓴᓴᑦᑭᓴᑦ amiskwacyi Academy. In 2023, Lyndon developed and taught a 10 week pilot program for his employer which allowed students to get outdoors and connect with the Land while earning credits towards their graduation. He has created and been featured in two educational films; From the Bush to the Plate (2021) with his cousin Barbra Dumingan-Jackson and: ᑭᓴᓴᑦᑭᓴᑦ miywâcimowin (a good story), currently in post production.

Tanya Vancoughnett

Beauval, SK



Capstone Project Title: Strengthening Connections: Indigenous Land-Based Education and Ice Fishing

Bio: Tansi! Tanya Vancoughnett (formerly Laliberte) nitisiyihkāso. I am a proud Métis educator presently teaching nēhiyawēwin (Cree language) and Indigenous Studies at Wesmor High School in Prince Albert, SK. My passion for the land fuels my continuous learning and exploration. Recognizing the immense benefits of engaging with the land, I am dedicated to providing youth with opportunities to cultivate their relationships with this invaluable resource. Looking forward, my commitment extends to the creation of inclusive spaces where language revitalization, land stewardship, and food sovereignty converge. Through my endeavors, I aspire to initiate a ripple effect of positive transformation that creates cultural diversity, community bonds, and a vibrant and resilient future for all.

Odia Wood-Krueger

Saskatoon, SK



Capstone Project Title: A Summer Learning Program for Wakan Tipi Awanyankapi: Reconnecting urban Indigenous youth to the land

Bio: Odia has worked in public education for the past twenty years focusing on culturally relevant content, curriculum writing, and community engagement. Prior to consulting full time with her own firm, Wood Krueger Initiatives, she spent nine years working for the Indian Education department at Minneapolis Public Schools. As a consultant, Odia is able to collaborate with various organisations in hopes of making education better for all students, especially Native ones. Some of her projects include the first-of-its-kind Native American Freedom Schools®; sensitivity writing for publishing houses; community outreach for *The Bias Inside Us*, a travelling Smithsonian Institution exhibition focusing on implicit bias; and a consultant for a narrative change project called Understand Native Minnesota. Odia is Métis and a dual Canadian-American citizen who lives in Minneapolis with her partner, Tim, and their two cats.

Eel River Bar First Nation, NB

April 2022





Eel River Bar First Nation, NB
Elders and Knowledge Keepers

Hank Caplin
Beckie LaBillois
Earl LaBillois

Karen Thurlow
Glenda Wysote

Detta, NWT

July 2022



The background is black with several large, organic, watercolor-style shapes in shades of beige, cream, and light green. Some shapes resemble leaves or petals, while others are more abstract, rounded forms. Thin white lines curve across the composition, adding a sense of movement and design.

Dettah, NWT

Elders and Knowledge Keepers

John Crapeau

Paul Mackenzie

Charlie Sangris

Irene Sangris

Gordie Liske

Randy Baillargeon

Denenize Basil

Archie Liske

Alizette Lockhart

O'ahu, HI

January 2023





O'ahu, HI

Elders and Knowledge Keepers

Ka'imi Hanohano

Kalani Young

Ku'uliali

Manulani Meyer

Sonny Ah Puk

Synnora Bettencourt

Auntie Ali

Uncle Mona

Kahanu Ah Puk

Indrajit Gunasekara

Uncle Robert

Opaskwayak Cree Nation, MB & Cumberland House, SK

July - August 2023





Opaskwayak Cree Nation, MB & Cumberland House, SK
Elders and Knowledge Keepers

Michela Carriere
Renee Carriere

Solomon Carriere
Martina Manly

The First M. Ed. Concentration in Land-Based Education Cohort



2008



