



Brandon Teachers' Association LIFT 2025 Conference - **HYBRID**

Please note:

- **EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION ENDS September 15th, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.**
- A \$10.00 fee will be charged with respect to the cancellation of a registration or switch of sessions. **Deadline for cancellations is October 15th at 1:00 p.m. Cancellations after this date & time will not receive a refund of fees.**
- **Walk-up Registrations will ONLY be for in-person sessions at Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School.**
- **A link will be provided to attendees for virtual sessions.**
- We accept either Credit Cards or Debit Cards when registering on-line.
- Registration fee includes GST.
- **Registration is not complete until full payment is received.**

KEYNOTE SPEAKER – IN-PERSON:

1) SURVIVING TO THRIVING: A GUIDE TO SELF HEALTH

Sylvia Marusyk, Founder / Speaker / Coach

The chain reaction of events ignited by 2020 are impacting our lives, bodies, and minds. Fatigue, brain fog, unexplained symptoms, and illness are impacting performance and SAFETY in the workplace and reshaping our lives at home.

Join Sylvia and learn how to reactivate your resilience and move from surviving to thriving!

In this presentation you will walk away with:

- An understanding of how stress affects the mind and body, especially chronic stress.
- Specific tools to move from survival into thriving, not just personally but also in the workplace.
- Practical solutions to deal with the three universal triggers of stress, to help participants not only mitigate challenges but also to PREVENT future challenges, at home and work.

BIO:

Sylvia Marusyk is everything you never knew you wanted in a public speaker. The owner and innovative mind behind MindBody Works Inc; a Canadian company focusing on creating and maintaining health and wellness in the workplace, Sylvia is fun, sassy and passionate about safety & health. As an Occupational Therapist with over 30 years of experience and expertise in the field of health and safety, she emphasizes that prevention is the key to creating happy, healthy individuals, employees and businesses. The former host of the 'Happy Hour with Sylvia!' radio show, international keynote speaker, "activation" mentor, author, and industry expert has proven that the way we look at corporate health, safety and wellness is due for a change of perspective; and Sylvia is leading the charge. Her entertaining presentations focus on a proactive approach to building healthy lives and workplaces. Through the use of humour and her incredibly dynamic presentation style, Sylvia leaves audiences laughing, learning, and going home with the tools and confidence to change their lives for the better.

Suitable for All Educators

- | | | |
|-----------|-------------------------------|--|
| A) | 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. | (Maximum number of In-Person participants 90) |
| B) | 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. | (Maximum number of In-Person participants 90) |

COST:	\$25.00 until September 15th /\$27.50 after September 15th
LOCATION:	Drama Room – Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School 1930 – First Street, Brandon, MB

KEYNOTE SPEAKER – VIRTUAL:

1) SURVIVING TO THRIVING: A GUIDE TO SELF HEALTH

Sylvia Marusyk, Founder / Speaker / Coach

Suitable for All Educators

C) 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (Maximum number of **Virtual** participants 150)

D) 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Maximum number of **Virtual** participants 150)

COST: \$25.00 until September 15th /\$27.50 after September 15th

PLATFORM: MICROSOFT TEAMS

FULL DAY SESSIONS – IN PERSON:

2) BEADED POPPIES

Laura Moar, Indigenous Academic Achievement Support Worker, Brandon School Division

We will be beading a poppy which includes edging and making a brooch so you can wear it.

BIO:

Laura is an Indigenous woman, has lived in Brandon all of her life, and has worked in many different jobs. Laura's position at Neelin is probably her most rewarding job, as she gets to learn and help students learn as well. Laura has only learned to bead within the last five years, and if she can learn, so can you. She finds beading very calming, most of the time, until she makes a mistake!

Suitable for All Educators

9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Maximum number of participants 20)

COST: \$75.00 until September 15th/\$80.00 after September 15th
(includes \$25.00 supply fee)

LOCATION: Library - École Secondaire Neelin High School
1020 Brandon Avenue, Brandon, MB

3) ART – DRAWING LESSONS HANDS ON

Harvey Dutkewich, Retired Teacher

Over a dozen ready-made art lessons on PowerPoint for student use. Lessons include drawing, one and two-point perspectives, and portraits, among others. There will be actual lessons done on a variety of these that you will have as samples. **PLEASE BRING A USB STICK OR LAPTOP TO DOWNLOAD LESSONS.**

BIO:

Harvey is a retired grade 5/6 teacher. Harvey taught in Brandon for 34 years and substituted for another 18. He has developed these art lessons over the years and has had success with students enjoying and learning the basics of drawing.

Suitable for Middle Years Educators

9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

(Maximum number of participants 25)

COST: \$50.00 until September 15th /\$55.00 after September 15th

Participants are to bring a USB

LOCATION: Room 206 – Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School
1930 – First Street, Brandon, MB

4) **RIBBON SKIRT MAKING**

Deborah Tacan

Gain understanding of ribbon skirts and variations in styles (traditional and modern). Learn how to measure, cut and sew a simple ribbon skirt.

BIO:

Deborah Tacan is a Cree/Metis woman from northern Manitoba. Deborah has worked in areas of child care, mental health, and substance use; as well as most recently as a cultural support worker for the Brandon Friendship Centre. Deborah has been actively supporting the Brandon community for many years. She currently spends time organizing and supporting community gatherings and at schools giving cultural teachings and understandings. She is a dedicated mother and grandmother.

Deborah carries many traditional skills such as making moccasins, willow baskets, dream catchers, beading, ribbon skirts and many other things using the natural materials from Mother Earth.

A list noting all materials required for the ribbon skirt will be forwarded to registered participants prior to the LIFT Conference. Supplies will not be provided.

Suitable for All Educators

9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

(Maximum number of participants 25)

COST: \$50.00 until September 15th /\$55.00 after September 15th

LOCATION: Human Ecology Room – Riverheights School
32 E. Fotheringham Drive, Brandon, MB

5) **SUPPORTING FINE MOTOR SKILL DEVELOPMENT IN THE EARLY YEARS**

Sarah Belcher, Occupational Therapist, Brandon School Division

Heather Keeble, Pediatric Occupational Therapist, Prairie Mountain Health

This session will review fine motor skill milestones and ways to support development in the classroom and includes make and take activities to get you started.

BIO:

Sarah graduated from the University of Manitoba in 2004 with a Bachelor of Medical Rehabilitation in Occupational Therapy. Over the course of her career, she's provided direct and consultative care to children from premature birth to age 21 in the NICU, homes, childcare facilities and schools. Sarah currently works with school-aged children, providing support for participation at home and school.

Heather graduated with a Bachelor of Occupational Therapy from the University of Manitoba in 2001. Prior to this, she attended Brandon University for two years to complete pre-professional arts and science courses. Heather has worked for Prairie Mountain Health since 2002, more specifically with the school-aged pediatric population since 2005. She has provided consultative services within the Brandon School Division since that time. Heather most recently began working part-time at the Child and Adolescent Treatment Center in Brandon in January 2024 in addition to continuing to consult within Brandon schools. She has facilitated many fine motor skill educational sessions for school teams and partners over the years and plays a role in supporting families and school staff with tier one strategies that allow children to reach their fine motor skill milestones.

Suitable for Kindergarten, Early Years, Resource/Specialty, and Student Teachers

9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

(Maximum number of participants 25)

COST: \$70.00 until September 15th/\$75.00 after September 15th
*(Includes \$20.00 supply fee for make and take supplies) *

LOCATION: Room 108 – Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School
1930 – First Street, Brandon, MB

6) WELLNESS/OUTDOOR EXPERIENCE

Orrin McIntyre, Guidance Counsellor, Mountainview School Division

In this session, we will complete a hike and have discussions on staff wellness. This will provide an opportunity to take part in a wellness activity while reflecting on how you can improve staff wellness at your school.

This session will take place at the **Northgate Trail System about 15 km south of Dauphin** (151 km north of Brandon), near the boundary of **Riding Mountain National Park**. Please **meet at the trailhead at 9:00 am**. There is a sign on the west side of Highway 10 that notes the location of the trailhead.

Please bring a bag lunch as we will be stopping to eat on the trail. A backpack with extra clothing, water, lunch, snacks, etc. will be required. Please wear appropriate footwear and dress in layers as the weather can be unpredictable at this time of year. The specific trail(s) hiked will be determined in the fall. The trail rating will be moderate or difficult.

BIO:

Orrin McIntyre is a guidance counsellor at Dauphin Regional Comprehensive Secondary School. He is an advocate for staff wellness and enjoys sharing his love of the outdoors with his colleagues. Orrin is an avid hiker and photographer and the time he spends in nature is important to his overall health.

Suitable for All Educators

9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

(Maximum number of participants 20)

COST: \$50.00 until September 15th/\$55.00 after September 15th

LOCATION: **Northgate Trail System (15 km south of Dauphin – 151 km north of Brandon).** Please meet at the trailhead at 9:00 a.m. There is a sign on the west side of Highway 10 that notes location of the trailhead.

7) **HANDS-ON. MINDS-ON. TEACHING THROUGH PLAY.**

Agriculture in the Classroom Manitoba

Get ready to roll up your sleeves, dive in, and play your way through AITC-M's top classroom resources! In this hands-on session, you won't just hear about our curriculum-connected programs—you'll experience them just like your students would.

Through interactive games, hands-on challenges, and engaging activities, you'll discover how AITC-M's free, ready-to-use resources make it easy to teach a variety of courses and topics including science, social studies, geography, history, careers, and sustainability through the lens of agriculture. You'll leave with practical strategies, new ideas, and the confidence to bring real-world learning into your classroom—starting Monday morning!

And just like your students, you'll be having so much fun, you won't even realize how much you're learning! Join us and bring agriculture to life in a way that's exciting, impactful, and easy to implement.

Agriculture in the Classroom Manitoba BIO:

Agriculture in the Classroom Manitoba (AITC-M) empowers K-12 educators by providing curriculum-aligned resources and programs that bring agriculture to life in any classroom! Through hands-on activities and engaging content, AITC-M fosters an understanding of agriculture's impact on science, technology, business, and sustainability. Our resources and programs are free, accurate, balanced, curriculum connected and inspire critical thinking while nurturing our next generation of leaders. Join AITC-M to inspire your students while enriching your teaching with real-world, Monday-morning ready, Manitoba-specific resources.

Suitable for All Educators

9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

(Maximum number of participants 30)

COST: \$50.00 until September 15th/\$55.00 after September 15th

LOCATION: Room 225 – Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School
1930 – First Street, Brandon, MB

8) **AAC (AUGMENTATIVE/ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATION) & LITERACY SUCCESS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES – GOING FROM FEELING OVERWHELMED TO “I’VE GOT THIS!”**

Jan Pilling, Speech Language Pathologist, Brandon School Division

Stephanie Innes, Educator/Resource Teacher, Brandon School Division

Let's talk about students who enter your class and may not be speaking, have limited to no verbal skills, have had limited or no preschool intervention, are not yet communicating, have complex bodies, do not know their letters and sounds, or need a way to communicate. You want to set them up for success. You may be thinking – ‘Well they didn't talk about this in university!’ Come to learn strategies and ideas that you can use in your classroom for students with complex support needs.

We know that all students can learn! So, how do you get your students on the road to literacy and communication in your classroom? What are the techniques you can use to support writing when the student can't hold a pencil? How do you highlight communication while reading a story? How do you teach the letters of the alphabet in an alternative way, or interactive communication strategies for students to contribute in class, model aided language stimulation? How do you do all of this while still making it fun?

This workshop will provide:

- opportunities for hands on practice
- suggestions to help EAs use the strategies that work best
- ideas around teaching the foundations of comprehensive literacy for even the most emergent learners.

This session is for early years teachers, clinicians, support teachers, and/or resource teachers who are working with young learners.

BIO:

Jan Pilling is a Speech Language Pathologist with over 30 years experience working with students who have complex communication needs and use augmentative/alternative communication. She currently works in the Brandon School Division. Stephanie Innes is an Educator with over 8 years experience teaching in an early year's classroom and is currently a resource and academic support teacher in the Brandon School Division.

Suitable for Early Years Teachers, Clinicians, Support Teachers, and/or resource teachers who are working with young learners.

9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

(Maximum number of participants 30)

COST: \$50.00 until September 15th/\$55.00 after September 15th
LOCATION: Library – Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School
1930 – First Street, Brandon, MB

HALF DAY SESSIONS – REPEAT (A.M. & P.M.) - IN PERSON:

9) BROADENING THE CONVERSATION: CRITICAL QUESTIONS AMIDST NARROWING VIEWS OF READING INSTRUCTION

Dr. Joe Stouffer, Associate Professor, Faculty of Education, Brandon University
Kathie Sutherland, Reading Recovery Specialist, Brandon School Division

In a tumultuous time of competing orientations and theories of reading instruction, teachers may feel pulled in different pedagogical directions. In this session, the presenters will present current research, pose questions and offer middle-ground suggestions to assist teachers as they navigate the currently contested field.

BIO:

Joe Stouffer holds a PhD in Language and Literacy Education and is an Associate Professor in the Department of Curriculum and Pedagogy and Chair of the Undergraduate Education Committee at Brandon University. Bringing over 30 years-experience as a former classroom teacher, Reading Recovery Teacher Leader, and literacy consultant working across Canada, Dr. Stouffer was also the recipient of the 2022 Brandon University Senate Award for Excellence in Teaching. His research interests include formative reading and writing assessment, early literacy theories and pedagogy, and Reading Recovery. www.joestoufferliteracy.com

Kathie Sutherland holds master's degrees in Inclusive Education, Curriculum and Pedagogy, and Educational Administration and has taught as a sessional instructor in the Faculty of Education at Brandon University. She draws on 27 years classroom teaching, literacy support and resource experience from Kindergarten to Grade 12 in her current role as Reading Recovery Specialist with the Brandon School Division, where she works alongside children and teachers from across Manitoba.

Suitable for Early Years Educators

- A)** 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (Maximum number of participants 30)
B) 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Maximum number of participants 30)

COST: \$25.00 until September 15th/\$27.50 after September 15th
LOCATION: Room 214 (second floor), Education Building,
Brandon University, 270 – 18th Street, Brandon, MB

10) THE THRIVING ADOLESCENT – BUILDING RESILIENCE WITH PRE-TEENS & TEENS

Melissa Hart, Teacher/Guidance Counsellor

This presentation uses the DNA-V model (Acceptance and Commitment Therapy for adolescents) as its foundation for building adolescent resilience. It will demonstrate how students learn about themselves, their brains, their values, and three key ingredients: Noticer, Advisor, and Discoverer. Participants will be guided through activities and given resources that educators and mental health professionals can use with or without the model. The model integrates Mindfulness, Positive Psychology and building skills for wellbeing.

BIO:

Melissa Hart has been an educator for almost 25 years. She has worked on reserves, in the juvenile prison system, and in the public school system, where she learned about behaviour management and psychological flexibility. She currently works in Neepawa as a school counsellor and private practice therapist focusing on trauma therapy.

Suitable for Middle Years, Senior Years, Admin, Resource/Specialty, Student Teachers

- A)** 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (Maximum number of participants 25)
B) 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Maximum number of participants 25)

COST: \$25.00 until September 15th/ \$27.50 after September 15th
LOCATION: Room 111 – Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School
1930 – First Street, Brandon, MB

11) SWITCH IT UP!

Thomas Weber, Physical Education Teacher, Brandon School Division

This session will aim to motivate physical/health educators to try something new! The focus is on implementing technology (specifically a Nintendo Switch) into your Physical/Health Education program. We will be learning about and playing "Ring Fit" and "Switch Sports" to showcase the various options to further engage/assess all students in Grades K-8.

BIO:

Thomas Weber is a Physical/Health Education teacher at Alexander School in Alexander, MB. This will be his 10th year teaching at the school and working within the Brandon School Division. Thomas is consistently finding new ways to incorporate fun and exciting activities into daily lessons. He is a very outgoing, knowledgeable, and dedicated teacher.

Suitable for K-8 Physical/Health Education Educators

- A)** 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (Maximum number of participants 30)
B) 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Maximum number of participants 30)

COST: \$25.00 until September 15th/\$27.50 after September 15th
LOCATION: Room 220 – Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School
1930 – First Street, Brandon, MB

12) STAR CHART THE COURSE: TRANSFORMING FRENCH INSTRUCTION WITH COMPREHENSIBLE INPUT

Sonya Lacharité, Teacher, Brandon School Division

Are you frustrated with the one-size-fits-all approach to teaching French? Join Sonya, an experienced educator, to unlock effective language acquisition for every student. In this workshop, Sonya will share practical strategies inspired by Ben Slavic's "The Big CI Book" and his Star 1 and Star 2 Creative Activities for Language Classrooms (<https://www.benslavic.com/>). Say goodbye to ineffective legacy methods and immerse yourself in a refreshing approach that ignites passion for learning. Gain valuable knowledge to transform your language instruction and revolutionize your classroom.

BIO:

Sonya Lacharité currently teaches French grades 9-12 and English Language Arts in the Brandon School Division. Sonya also previously taught English as an Additional Language for three years. Growing up in Ontario, she spoke French at home and has strong ties to her Québécois family. After working as an Educational Assistant in a French Immersion school, Sonya pursued her Bachelor of Education After Degree. Enrolled in the French Methods course, she discovered research on comprehensible input, fuelling her passion for inclusive language teaching methods.

Suitable for teachers of Middle Years and High School, as well as student teachers with language teachables such as: French, English as an Additional Language, Indigenous Languages, and others.

- A)** 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (Maximum number of participants 20)
B) 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Maximum number of participants 20)

COST: \$25.00 until September 15th /\$27.50 after September 15th
LOCATION: Room 201 – Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School
1930 – First Street, Brandon, MB

13) YOGA + BREATHWORK FOR THE MINDFUL EDUCATOR

Chantalle Crepelee, Resource Teacher, Brandon School Division

Join Chantalle for a half day session to deepen your connection to your yoga practice. You will be guided through slow moving yoga and various breathwork techniques. Use this time to check in with your body and mind while acknowledging and paying respect to the 8 Limbs of Yoga by Patanjali. Prepare for a cozy and supportive practice by dressing in comfortable layers, bringing a water bottle, a yoga mat, yoga blocks (optional), and a blanket (optional). No yoga experience necessary.

BIO:

Chantalle is a Resource Teacher passionate about inclusive education. She has 11 years of experience in education and over 12 years of experience guiding all forms of yoga.

Suitable for All Educators

- A)** 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (Maximum number of participants 30)
B) 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Maximum number of participants 30)

COST: \$25.00 until September 15th/ \$27.50 after September 15th
LOCATION: Music Room – Betty Gibson School
701 – 12th Street, Brandon, MB

14) BEADING WORKSHOP

Vanessa Pascal, BSSIP Worker, Brandon School Division

During your half-day session with Vanessa, you will make a Daisy Flower Bracelet.

BIO:

Beading has deep roots, especially in Metis culture, where we are often called the "Flower Beadwork People" for our breathtaking flower designs. Through beading, many stories are told, preserving history and identity. By continuing this tradition, Vanessa honours her ancestors and celebrates her culture. For Vanessa, beading is a form of medicine. It helps her stay focused, relieves stress, and teaches her patience. It provides a sense of accomplishment, nurtures mindfulness, and sparks creativity. This workshop is a wonderful opportunity to unwind, connect with others, and hopefully inspires you to create something meaningful.

Suitable for All Educators

- A)** 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (Maximum number of participants 20)
B) 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Maximum number of participants 20)

COST: \$40.00 until September 15th/\$42.50 after September 15th
(Includes \$15.00 supply fee)
LOCATION: Breakfast Room – Betty Gibson School
701 – 12th Street, Brandon, MB

15) PLAY TO LEARN: ENGAGING MATH GAMES FOR ALL AGES

Susan Waldner, Teacher
Beverly Walter, Teacher

Join us for a hands-on session all about how math games can make learning fun and engaging! We will explore how simple games can help students master key skills. Our games will cover topics such as ten pairs, doubles, number recognition, counting, ordering numbers, adding, subtracting, multiplication, and division. You will get to try out some of these games, discuss how they can work in your classroom, and adapt them to fit your needs. Most games only need basic materials like a print-out sheet, some dice, or a deck of cards. You will leave with all the instructions and resources you need to bring these games to life in your classroom!

BIO:

Beverly and Susan have been teaching math for a combined 10 years. They have taught all grade levels of math from K-12, often in a combined grade setting. They have found value in using math games to reinforce concepts and have built up an extensive collection of games that they use on a regular basis in their own classrooms.

Suitable for EY and MY Educators

A) 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (Maximum number of participants 50)

B) 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Maximum number of participants 50)

COST: \$25.00 until September 15th/\$27.50 after September 15th

LOCATION: Room 107 – Education Building, Brandon University
270 – 18th Street, Brandon, MB

16) OUTDOOR PLAY-BASED LEARNING

Carole McCurry, Retired Teacher

Can you cover curriculum outcomes outdoors? At this session you will be exposed to what learning in the forest looks like. You may not have a forest, but you can still take the learning outdoors with your students. There will be activities shared for all seasons, time to play and time for discussion. Please come dressed for the weather as this session will be held outdoors in my forest.

BIO:

Carole McCurry retired after 33 years teaching grades K - 2. Since retirement, Carole has opened her forest for school groups to enjoy. Along with hosting classes in her forest and subbing, Carole enjoys a warm beach in the cold winter months and camping in the summer.

Suitable for Early Years Educators

A) 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (Maximum number of participants 25)

B) 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Maximum number of participants 25)

COST: \$25.00 until September 15th/\$27.50 after September 15th

LOCATION: This session will be held at Carole McCurry's forest 4.5 miles southeast of Brandon
Directions will be provided to registered participants

17) LET'S TALK MONEY

Nick Onischuk, School Counsellor, Brandon School Division

Let's Talk Money is an opportunity to learn more about your money. From understanding your paycheque better, to managing everyday spending, learning about large purchases, how to become a saver, how to invest for your future, what do our pensions look like, and retirement planning and living are topics covered in this session.

If you are just starting out, in the middle of your career, or ready to retire, this engaging presentation will increase your financial knowledge and leave you with more money in your pocket!

BIO:

Nick Onischuk is a school counsellor by day and creator and host of his financial educational podcast TalkingToonies by night. Nick has spent over 10 years in education and 8 years facilitating financial workshops for teachers, non profits and university students.

Nick is passionate about helping people figure out their money better. Nick takes an honest and simplified approach to all money concepts so that all can understand.

Suitable for All Educators

- A) 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** (Maximum number of participants 30)
B) 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Maximum number of participants 30)

COST: \$25.00 until September 15th/\$27.50 after September 15th
LOCATION: Room 28 - École Secondaire Neelin High School
1020 Brandon Avenue, Brandon, MB

18) THERAPY DOGS – WORKING IN SCHOOLS, AND WORKING WITH CHILDREN

Stephanie Hofer, Principal, School Counsellor, Therapy Dog Handler
Lindsay Judd Hill, Principal, School Counsellor, Therapy Dog Handler
Emmy Elliott, Red Seal Certified Hairdresser, Therapy Dog Handler
Korinne Bullee, Early Childhood Educator III, Family Life Facilitator, Therapy Dog Handler

This session, facilitated by members of PATDogs (a local therapy dog group with 40+ therapy dog teams), explores the benefits of therapy dogs in school settings, highlighting their positive impact on students' emotional well-being, social skills, and academic performance. Attendees will learn how therapy dogs can help reduce stress and anxiety, support students with special needs, and create a more inclusive and supportive learning environment. The session will also cover best practices for integrating therapy dogs into schools, ensuring a safe and effective program for both students and staff. Information about the PATDogs organization and the work that their therapy dog teams do in our community will be shared, as well as information about how to become a certified therapy dog handler and team for participants who are interested in pursuing this. And of course, participants will have plenty of opportunity to meet and interact with certified Therapy Dogs throughout the session!

BIO:

Stephanie Hofer is a Principal and School Counsellor. She and her dogs, Waylon and George, are certified through Alliance of Therapy Dogs and are active educators at Rapid City School. They recently completed HOPE Crisis Response training.

Lindsay Judd Hill is a Principal and School Counsellor. She and her dog, Roman, are a certified team through the Alliance of Therapy Dogs, and work with students and staff every week at Douglas Elementary School.

Emmy Elliott and her dog, Vinny, are a certified therapy dog team through Alliance of Therapy Dogs and are also a HOPE AARC (Animal-Assisted Crisis Response) team.

Korinne Bullee and her dog, Romeo, are a certified therapy dog team through the Alliance of Therapy Dogs and recently completed HOPE Crisis Response training. Korinne is an ECE III and works for Child and Family Services as a Family Life Facilitator.

Suitable for All Educators

- A)** 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (Maximum number of participants 40)
B) 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Maximum number of participants 40)

COST: \$25.00 until September 15th/\$27.50 after September 15th

LOCATION: Gymnasium - Betty Gibson School
701 – 12th Street, Brandon, MB

19) DRIVING SUCCESS: TEACHING GOLF FUNDAMENTALS TO STUDENTS

John McLeod, Phys. Ed Teacher, Brandon School Division

The session will focus on three main topics: swing fundamentals, course management, and rules and etiquette. The primary objective is to equip teachers with the skills and knowledge needed to design engaging games and activities that help students improve their hand-eye coordination through golf-related exercises. Additionally, the session will introduce First Tee Canada, a new program aimed at bringing golf to more students across Canada. This program has already seen great success in the United States, providing young athletes with opportunities to experience golf and develop their skills.

BIO:

John McLeod has been teaching Physical Education for 7 years at various schools throughout Southwestern Manitoba. He has been teaching in Brandon School Division for 5 years and is currently teaching Grades 3-8 Physical Education/Health at Green Acres School. John has a background in coaching all levels in a variety of sports including Volleyball, Basketball, Golf, Track & Field, and Soccer.

Suitable for All Educators

- A)** 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (Maximum number of participants 25)
B) 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Maximum number of participants 25)

COST: \$75.00 until September 15th/\$77.50 after September 15th

*(Includes \$50.00 rental fee for the EVO Golf facility) *

LOCATION: EVO Golf
Unit E, 545 Pacific Avenue, Brandon, MB - West Side Parking Lot Entrance

20) ACCEPTING STUDENT CHALLENGE: STRATEGIES TO HELP STUDENTS WHO NEED OUR SUPPORT

Dale Seafoot, Guidance Counsellor, Resource Teacher, Brandon School Division

The session's take-away will be a look at research-based strategies for supporting students with difficulty engaging in academics, as well as helpful programs and ideas about teaching that support the concept of Universal Design for Learning. With a focus on behaviour support, we will discuss a mindset shift from thinking about "challenging" or "bad" kids to thinking about how we can adapt teaching strategies and learning

environments so that we can be "turnaround teachers". We will also touch on student ecological resilience and how we can support students in their social and academic success.

BIO:

Dale Seafoot has been a teacher in the Brandon School Division since 2011 and has always had a focus on making connections with students and helping students when they seem to be in trouble at school. Dale received his Master's Degree in Inclusive Education in 2020 and has since changed roles to Guidance Counsellor and Resource Teacher in the Life Skills Program at Riverheights School.

Suitable for All Educators

- A)** 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (Maximum number of participants 25)
B) 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Maximum number of participants 25)

COST: \$25.00 until September 15th/\$27.50 after September 15th
LOCATION: Room 115 – Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School
1930 – First Street, Brandon, MB

21) SOUND THERAPY

Janelle Koroscil, Teacher, Park West School Division

Sound Therapy is a unique way to renew our body and mind with powerful sound waves and frequencies. The sound waves travel deep into our body, so we are more renewed with a sense of purpose. It also boosts our well-being, creating a calmness in us with a sense of joy as we feel more rested & relaxed. There are many different physical, emotional & mental benefits to attending a sound therapy session. During this session participants will do some journaling, have group discussions and enjoy Sound Therapy.

Note: Participants should wear comfortable clothes as we will be laying on the floor for most of the session. Bring a yoga mat, if you can't be on the floor bring a folding zero gravity chair, blanket, pillow and a water bottle.

BIO:

Janelle has been teaching for 17 years in many different roles. Over the years, Janelle has seen the need for staff/student health & wellness, so she took her Level 1, 2 & 3 Certified Sound Therapy Practitioners Course in January/February 2023, to help bring Sound Therapy to her community and surrounding areas.

Janelle offers individual & group sessions in the evenings & weekends in between teaching and running her three kids to sporting events.

Suitable for All Educators

- A)** 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (Maximum number of participants 20)
B) 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Maximum number of participants 20)

COST: \$25.00 until September 15th/\$27.50 after September 15th
LOCATION: Elephant Room (3rd Floor) Knowles-Douglas Building
Brandon University, 270 – 18th Street, Brandon, MB

22) TEACHING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Bea Basaran, Education Specialist, Manitoba Council for International Cooperation

What if you were forced to flee your home due to violent conflict? What happens when some have access to clean water and others don't? How can we keep our clothes out of the dump? MCIC provides teachers and students with the tools that they need to inspire action on sustainability guided by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and with direct links to K-12 Manitoba curriculum topics. The session features a demo of classroom activities on SDG themed activities to bring sustainability education into the classroom in a way that is hands-on and interactive, leaving students feeling empowered to make positive change. Examples include tracking textile waste in Fast Fashion: The T-shirt Board Game, gathering scrap materials in Designing for the Future, and using Lego blocks in Building a Good Life. Learn about these and more in our interactive session. MCIC's vision is a just world, and our educational programs aim to grow the next generation of global citizens.

BIO:

Bea Basaran (she/her) is the Education Specialist for Manitoba Council for International Cooperation. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Human Rights and Sociology from the University of Winnipeg. Her research in the social sciences and humanities has focused on interdisciplinary studies, exploring education, intersectionality, culture, globalization, and various social issues. Passionate about social justice, Bea strives to empower individuals through education and advocacy. She is committed to ensuring that everyone has access to essential human rights, knowledge and resources, fostering a more inclusive and equitable society.

Manitobans working together as global citizens!

MCIC is a coalition of Manitoba-based organizations involved in international development and so much more! We are committed to global citizenship and A Just World.

To reach these goals, we have three focus areas:

We collaborate with Youth and Educators to promote global citizenship through the SDGs in the classroom and beyond. If you are an educator, check out our Lesson Plans and Resources.

We work to promote Sustainability and Fair Trade through public engagement and community support resources.

We are responsible for distributing Government of Manitoba and Government of Canada funds designated for international development projects.

Suitable for All Educators

A) 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (Maximum number of participants 50)

B) 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Maximum number of participants 50)

COST: \$25.00 until September 15th/\$27.50 after September 15th

LOCATION: Lecture Theatre - Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School
1930 – First Street, Brandon, MB

23) ENGAGING STUDENTS AND HONOURING CONTEMPORARY INDIGENOUS ART AND ARTISTS WITHOUT CULTURAL APPROPRIATION

Tara Leach, Teacher, Brandon School Division

This half-day session will include an introduction to an exciting array of contemporary Indigenous art and artists to dig into with students; tried and true strategies for doing so; and a hands-on experience exploring how to draw inspiration from the work of Indigenous artists without engaging in cultural appropriation.

BIO:

Tara Leach (she/her) lives, works, and creates on Treaty 2 Territory, in Brandon School Division. As a high school teacher, exhibiting artist, and active contributor to the theatre community, she has been encouraging young people to find their creative voices through the visual, literary, and performing arts for twenty-five years. Tara is committed to inclusive teaching practices, soft-heartedness, and empowering all learners to envision and achieve the Good Life.

Suitable for Middle Years, Senior Years, and Student Teachers

- A) 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** (Maximum number of participants 20)
B) 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Maximum number of participants 20)

COST: \$35.00 until September 15th/\$37.50 after September 15th
(Includes \$10.00 supply fee)
LOCATION: Art Room - École secondaire Neelin High School
1020 Brandon Avenue, Brandon, MB

24) EMPOWERING NEURODIVERSE LEARNERS

Bobbi Schaminee, Teacher, Brandon School Division

In this half-day session, participants will be introduced to the fundamentals of Structured Teaching approaches, build a deeper understanding of how to plan for the learning styles of atypical learners, and learn how to implement classroom-based strategies that compliment adaptive curriculum concepts. This session will include hands-on tools, opportunities to learn how to create task systems, and how to build a structured teaching program. Participants will learn how individualized and whole group visual schedules effectively engage students in activities and help students transition throughout their day.

BIO:

Bobbi Schaminee received her B.Ed. A.D. from Brandon University, Orff Level 1 from University of Manitoba, and Advanced Application of TEACCH Principles and Practices in 2022, from the University of North Carolina. Bobbi has presented for Berklee Institute for Arts Education and Special Needs, Garden Valley School Division, numerous sessions for LIFT and the Manitoba Orff Chapter. She has enjoyed a variety of teaching roles for K-6 Music, HALEP, Kindergarten, Grade 1, and Grade 4. Bobbi infuses her passion for inclusive practices in her grade one classroom at Riverheights School.

Suitable for K-8 Educators, Specialists, Resource Teachers, School Leaders

- A) 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** (Maximum number of participants 25)
B) 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Maximum number of participants 25)

COST: \$35.00 until September 15th/\$37.50 after September 15th
(includes \$10.00 for materials provided in the session)
LOCATION: Room 6 – Riverheights School
32 E. Fotheringham Drive, Brandon, MB

HALF DAY SESSIONS – A.M. ONLY – IN PERSON:

25) GRADES K-4 BUILDING THINKING CLASSROOMS IN MATH INTRO

Kim Berezka, Teacher, BSD Numeracy Specialist, Brandon School Division

In this half day session, educators will actively solve and debrief grades K-4 thinking math tasks within a Building Thinking Classrooms in Math framework.

BIO:

Kim has worked in Brandon School Division for 16 years as a grades 4-6 classroom teacher, Literacy Support teacher, EAL teacher, Academic Support teacher, and Numeracy Specialist. Over the last 3 years in her role as Numeracy Specialist, she has worked with K-12 math teachers learning about and implementing the Building Thinking Classrooms practices.

Suitable for Student Teachers

A) 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (Maximum number of participants 24)

COST: \$25.00 until September 15th/\$27.50 after September 15th
LOCATION: Room 21 – Linden Lanes School
49 Silver Birch Drive, Brandon, MB

26) INDIGENIZING THE CLASSROOM

Douglas Pople, Career Planning & Placement Officer, Brandon University.

This workshop is designed to give a basic overview and to provide some general knowledge of Indigenous people and to share strategies necessary to create inclusive learning environments. The overall goal will be to provide understanding and several take-aways to assist you in your work with Indigenous students. This session is interactive so those who already have experience working with Indigenous students will have lots of opportunity to share their knowledge. Key points to be presented and discussed include western disconnect with Indigenous learners, basic history of Indigenous peoples, the meaning of systemic racism, the effect of colonization on loss of cultural identity/self-worth, current and historical implications of legislation including the Indian Act, contemporary relationships within Canada, and their subsequent implications for funding models and service provision. The session will conclude with next steps and strategies to assist you in your schools and classrooms to create an inclusive and respectful learning environment for all.

BIO:

Doug Pople is a proud Métis originally from Portage la Prairie. He has a demonstrated passion for Indigenization in all facets of life and a solid commitment to the principle of decolonizing in order to achieve a fair society. Culture is of paramount importance, both learning and sharing. Doug is an avid harvester of both plants and animals yet always lives the belief of only take what you need and leave plenty for future

generations. The passion to reclaim his Métis heritage is a decades long journey with no end in sight. Travelling to and experiencing historical sites such as Ste. Madeleine, Batoche, Duck Lake, Rooster Town and Fish Creek is so important to his understanding of Métis history. His Kookum is with him in spirit every time he stands up and proudly proclaims his Métis ancestry, which she had to give up 90 years ago in order to survive in the settler world. Doug strives to be a positive role model and always promotes meaningful changes, especially those that recognize Indigenous ways of knowing, researching, and working. He is also a huge proponent of personal growth and individual empowerment, while still being aware of the historical realities in which we live and the challenges and barriers many Indigenous people still face to this day.

Suitable for All Educators

A) 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (Maximum number of participants 20)

COST: \$25.00 until September 15th /\$27.50 after September 15th

LOCATION: Oyate Tawapi Ceremony Room (Room 141), Health Studies Building (#18 on map),
Brandon University, 270 – 18th Street, Brandon, MB

27) INTRODUCTION TO BUILDING THINKING CLASSROOMS FOR MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL

Terry Knight, Teacher, Brandon School Division

Carly Prawdzik, Teacher, Brandon School Division

This session will be an introduction to Building Thinking Classrooms in late middle years and high school. We will look at the beginning steps and offer a chance to experience a thinking classroom at these levels and walk away with ideas to try in your own classroom.

BIO:

Terry and Carly are both teachers in the Brandon School Division and have been implementing Building Thinking Classrooms for 3 years at the grade 7/8 and 11/12 Math levels.

Suitable for Middle Years and Senior Years Educators

A) 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (Maximum number of participants 21)

COST: \$25.00 until September 15th /\$27.50 after September 15th

LOCATION: Room 39 – Vincent Massey High School
715 McDiarmid Avenue, Brandon, Manitoba

HALF DAY SESSIONS – P.M. ONLY – IN PERSON:

28) GRADES 5-8 BUILDING THINKING CLASSROOMS IN MATH INTRO

Kim Berezka, Teacher, BSD Numeracy Specialist, Brandon School Division

Lexi Davidson, Teacher, Brandon School Division

Stephen Beg, Teacher, Brandon School Division

In this half-day session, teachers will actively solve and debrief grade 5-8 thinking math tasks within a Building Thinking Classrooms framework.

BIO:

Kim has been an educator in the Brandon School Division for 16 years as a grades 4-6 classroom teacher, Literacy Support, EAL teacher, Academic Support, and Numeracy Specialist. Over the last 3 years as Numeracy Specialist, she has worked with several K-12 teachers learning about and implementing the Building Thinking Classrooms in Math practices. Lexi has been an educator for 17 years. She taught internationally for 12 years and has been in Brandon School Division for the remainder of her time as a grades 5 and 6 teacher. Lexi has been implementing the Building Thinking Classroom principles in her math class for the past 4 years. Stephen has taught middle years in the Brandon School Division since 2017. For the past two years, he has implemented and refined Building Thinking Classrooms in his math instruction while sharing strategies and successes with colleagues. He is passionate about the framework's impact and has seen firsthand how it boosts student engagement, confidence, and problem-solving by encouraging thinking and meaningful learning conversations.

Suitable for Middle Years Educators

B) 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Maximum number of participants 24)

COST: \$25.00 until September 15th/\$27.50 after September 15th

LOCATION: Room 21 – Linden Lanes School
49 Silver Birch Drive, Brandon, MB

29) TEACHING WITH STRENGTH: FITNESS & NUTRITION FOR LASTING ENERGY

Andrea Robinson, Teacher, Beautiful Plains School Division

Kyla Yanick, Teacher

Jenn McMillan, Owner/Head Coach, Rocked Community Fitness

In this hands-on workshop, participants will enjoy a strength and conditioning workout followed by a nutrition presentation. We will discuss the fundamentals of strength and conditioning before taking part in a scalable workout designed for all ages and abilities – no prior workout experience required. The session will highlight how movement and nutrition can enhance overall well-being, reduce stress, and improve daily performance. Educators will leave with practical strategies to build healthy habits that sustain their energy throughout the school year.

Please bring gym clothes and runners.

BIO:

Andrea has been teaching at Carberry Collegiate since 2006 and currently teaches English and French, as well as Grade 11 and 12 Physical Education classes at the town gym. As a coach at Rocked Community Fitness, she is passionate about strength and conditioning and loves staying active with her husband and dogs.

Kyla taught in the Brandon School Division for 12 years before working at Brandon University, teaching courses in the Faculty of Education. In her spare time, Kyla enjoys coaching & working out at Rocked Community Fitness, and spending time (outside!) with her family.

Jenn is a co-owner and a nutrition coach at Rocked Community Fitness. Originally from Winnipeg, she completed her B.Ed. at the U of M but has used her passion for teaching others in the gym instead of the traditional classroom. She loves being active and getting outside with her husband, daughter, and three dogs.

Suitable for All Educators

B) 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Maximum number of participants 30)

COST: \$25.00 until September 15th/\$27.50 after September 15th

LOCATION: Rocked Community Fitness
205 – 16th Street North, Brandon, MB

30) BANNED BOOK BUFFET

Allyson Wronowski, Teacher, Brandon School Division
Shayne Macgranachan, Teacher, Brandon School Division

A professional discussion of challenged literature in classrooms.

BIO:

Allyson and Shayne can be found teaching side-by-side at Crocus Plains, where they teach English Language Arts.

Suitable for All Educators

B) 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Maximum number of participants 30)

COST: \$25.00 until September 15th/\$27.50 after September 15th

LOCATION: Brandon Public Library
701 Rosser Avenue, Brandon, MB

HALF DAY SESSIONS – REPEAT (A.M. & P.M.)- VIRTUAL

➤ **A link will be provided to attendees for virtual sessions.**

31) POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

Pamela Kelso, School Psychologist, Brandon School Division

This session will focus on strategies for increasing appropriate student behaviours in the classroom in an effort to create more positive school environments and help students to achieve social, emotional, and academic success.

BIO:

Pamela Kelso, PhD, currently works as a School Psychologist in the Brandon School Division and as a Sessional Instructor in the Department of Education/Inclusive Education at Brandon University. She obtained her Bachelor of Arts Degree (Psychology) from Brandon University in 2002, Master of Arts Degree (Clinical Psychology) from North Dakota State University in 2004, and PhD (Clinical Psychology) from the University of Manitoba in 2012. She has a special interest in working collaboratively with teachers to promote positive student behaviour in classroom environments.

Suitable for All Educators

A) 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (Maximum number of participants 50)

B) 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Maximum number of participants 50)

COST: \$25.00 until September 15th/\$27.50 after September 15th
PLATFORM: VIRTUAL - MICROSOFT TEAMS

32) BAKE MY DAY

Des Tucker, Educator, Brandon School Division

Join Des, for a half day, as you relax and make some tasty treats. Baking is Des' favourite form of relaxing, and sharing sweet treats with her friends, family and colleagues brings her joy! During your time together you will make three desserts/treats. **A supply list will be provided to participants.**

BIO:

Des has been a teacher in Brandon School Division for 12 years. Baking has been a hobby of hers since she was a girl, and some of her best memories include baking and sharing treats with those she loves.

Suitable for All Educators

A) 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (Maximum number of participants 30)

B) 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Maximum number of participants 30)

COST: \$25.00 until September 15th/\$27.50 after September 15th

PLATFORM: VIRTUAL – MICROSOFT TEAMS

33) ENGAGING YOUR STUDENTS IN WRITING USING "180 DAYS" BY KELLY GALLAGHER & PENNY KITTLE

Tori Buizer, Grade 3 Teacher, Brandon School Division

In this session you will learn strategies for teaching writing that are presented in the book "180 Days" by Kelly Gallagher & Penny Kittle. The main focus will be engaging writers and helping students to work independently during writing time. This method uses a notebook approach with teacher modeling.

BIO:

Tori Buizer is a grade 3 teacher at Meadows school. She is from Brandon and came through the Brandon University Faculty of Education. Tori has taught 3/4 for 3 years, and taught grade 5, 2 years prior to that.

Suitable for Early and Middle Years Educators

A) 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (Maximum number of participants 40)

B) 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Maximum number of participants 40)

COST: \$25.00 until September 15th/\$27.50 after September 15th

PLATFORM: VIRTUAL – MICROSOFT TEAMS

34) RUNNING A SCIENCE FAIR IN YOUR CLASSROOM OR SCHOOL

Robyn Forsman, Teacher, Beautiful Plains School Division

In this session you will learn how to introduce, organize, and run a science fair in your classroom or school. You will leave with a step-by-step guide, digital resources, and lots of easy-to-use examples that can be shared with students. You will also see the opportunities available to students in STEAM beyond the classroom/school and learn how to get your students or children involved.

BIO:

I am a teacher in Beautiful Plains School Division and have been teaching for 18 years. I have been on the Western Manitoba Science Fair (WMSF) Committee in my role as Judging Chair since 2008 where I recruit, train and lead a team of over 100 judges needed for our annual WMSF. From 2010 to present I have attended the annual Canada Wide Science Fair as the adult delegate at Universities across Canada. I have seen the positive impact that STEM and Science Fair opportunities can provide students, and I love sharing these with educators and students.

Suitable for All Educators

A) 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (Maximum number of participants 40)

B) 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Maximum number of participants 40)

COST: \$25.00 until September 15th/\$27.50 after September 15th

PLATFORM: VIRTUAL - ZOOM

HALF DAY SESSIONS – (A.M.) – VIRTUAL

35) Git AND GitHub FOR EDUCATORS: A BEGINNER’S GUIDE TO VERSION CONTROL

Daniel Solomon, High School Teacher, Brandon School Division

Tired of lost files and chaotic project management? Discover how Git and GitHub, the industry-standard version control tools, can transform your classroom! Whether you teach coding, manage group projects, or simply want a more organized workflow, this beginner-friendly session is for you.

Version control is a powerful tool that helps track changes to your files across time and across different computers. This enables you to effortlessly recover previous versions of your work, collaborate efficiently with others, and maintain a clear project history.

Imagine:

- Allowing students to undo mistakes on their assignments with the click of a button.
- Moving back and forth between different versions of your project.
- Collaborating seamlessly with other people across time and space!

In this practical workshop, you’ll find:

1. The fundamentals of Git to track file changes on your local machine.
2. Using GitHub to collaborate with other people on projects.
3. Real-world classroom applications including coding projects.
4. Resources to help you teach version control to all your students.

BIO:

Daniel Solomon is an educator at Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School with a background in software development. He has developed innovative Windows and mobile applications tailored to school environments, blending his technical expertise with a passion for education.

Suitable for All Educators

A) 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (Maximum number of participants 30)

COST: \$25.00 until September 15th/\$27.50 after September 15th

LOCATION: VIRTUAL - MICROSOFT TEAMS

36) **SUPERCHARGE YOUR TEACHING: AI TOOLS TO SAVE TIME AND BOOST IMPACT**

Shawna Philpott, Director of Field Experience, Brandon University

Unlock the power of AI to make lesson planning, grading, and feedback faster and more efficient. Explore tools that enhance your workflow and give you more time to focus on students.

BIO:

Shawna Philpott is the Director of Field Experience and professional development leader at Brandon University's Faculty of Education, specializing in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for educators. With a Master's in Environmental and Life Sciences, she brings a rich interdisciplinary background and over a decade of experience as an educator, including roles supporting Indigenous education and mentoring pre-service teachers. Shawna's work focuses on enhancing educational practice through technology integration and fostering collaborative learning environments.

Suitable for All Educators

A) 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (Maximum number of participants 299)

COST: \$25.00 until September 15th/\$27.50 after September 15th

PLATFORM: VIRTUAL - MICROSOFT TEAMS

HALF DAY SESSIONS – (P.M.) - VIRTUAL

37) **INDIGENIZING THE CLASSROOM**

Douglas Pople, Career Planning & Placement Officer, Brandon University.

This workshop is designed to give a basic overview and to provide some general knowledge of Indigenous people and to share strategies necessary to create inclusive learning environments. The overall goal will be to provide understanding and several take-aways to assist you in your work with Indigenous students. This session is interactive so those who already have experience working with Indigenous students will have lots of opportunity to share their knowledge. Key points to be presented and discussed include western disconnect with Indigenous learners, basic history of Indigenous peoples, the meaning of systemic racism, the effect of colonization on loss of cultural identity/self-worth, current and historical implications of legislation including the Indian Act, contemporary relationships within Canada, and their subsequent implications for funding models and service provision. The session will conclude with next steps and strategies to assist you in your schools and classrooms to create an inclusive and respectful learning environment for all.

BIO:

Doug Pople is a proud Métis originally from Portage la Prairie. He has a demonstrated passion for Indigenization in all facets of life and a solid commitment to the principle of decolonizing in order to achieve a fair society. Culture is of paramount importance, both learning and sharing. Doug is an avid harvester of both plants and animals yet always lives the belief of only take what you need and leave plenty for future generations. The passion to reclaim his Métis heritage is a decades long journey with no end in sight. Travelling to and experiencing historical sites such as Ste. Madeleine, Batoche, Duck Lake, Rooster Town and Fish Creek is so important to his understanding of Métis history. His Kookum is with him in spirit every time he stands up and proudly proclaims his Métis ancestry, which she had to give up 90 years ago in order to survive in the settler world. Doug strives to be a positive role model and always promotes meaningful changes,

especially those that recognize Indigenous ways of knowing, researching, and working. He is also a huge proponent of personal growth and individual empowerment, while still being aware of the historical realities in which we live and the challenges and barriers many Indigenous people still face to this day.

Suitable for All Educators

B) 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Maximum number of participants 25)

COST: \$25.00 until September 15th /\$27.50 after September 15th

LOCATION: VIRTUAL – MICROSOFT TEAMS

38) ETHICAL AI: NAVIGATING THE DIGITAL FRONTIER IN EDUCATION

Shawna Philpott, Director of Field Experience, Brandon University

Dive into the ethical challenges of AI in schools. Learn how to foster responsible citizenship and critically assess AI-generated content.

BIO:

Shawna Philpott is the Director of Field Experience and professional development leader at Brandon University's Faculty of Education, specializing in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for educators. With a Master's in Environmental and Life Sciences, she brings a rich interdisciplinary background and over a decade of experience as an educator, including roles supporting Indigenous education and mentoring pre-service teachers. Shawna's work focuses on enhancing educational practice through technology integration and fostering collaborative learning environments.

Suitable for All Educators

B) 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Maximum number of participants 299)

COST: \$25.00 until September 15th/\$27.50 after September 15th

PLATFORM: VIRTUAL - MICROSOFT TEAMS