

HOSTED BY

**Algoma University
Anishinaabe Initiatives Division
and the
Department of Geography & Geology**

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*CHI MIIGWETCH
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TAKING CARE
OF OUR
LAND
4-6/2015
SYMPOSIUM
gdo akiiminaan ganawendanaan



PROGRAM



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*To learn more about our Presenters and their Presentations visit our website:
www.algomau.caltaking-care-of-our-land*

GDO AKIIMINAAN GANAWENDANDAAN
(Taking Care of Our Land)

Map



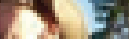
PRESENTERS



Presenter: Robert Rattle

Independent Scholar

Title: *Health Impact Assessment for Aboriginal Communities in Northern Ontario*



Abstract: Health Impact Assessment is “a combination of procedures, methods and tools that systematically judges the potential, and sometimes unintended, effects of a policy, plan, program or project on the health of a population and the distribution of those effects within the population. HIA identifies appropriate actions to manage those effects.” Democracy, ethical use of evidence, equity and sustainability are key pillars of HIA. Originating from the confluence between the impact assessment and health communities, HIA employs the determinants of health framework which is very similar to the Medicine Wheel Framework. HIA can be applied prospectively or retrospectively to any policy, plan or project, and is typically applied to activities that are not intended to impact health but have the potential to affect health and health equity (both adversely and beneficially). This presentation will provide a brief overview of HIA and its benefits for land management practices.




Presenter: Mitchell Case

Student - Algoma University History Department

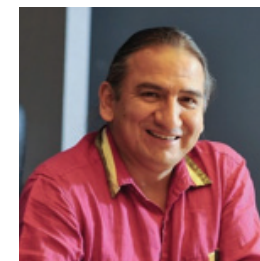
Youth Representative- Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario

Title: Now that Was a Great Life: Mapping Historic Métis Nation

Communities, Connections and Movement in the Great Lakes Region (1800-1900)



Abstract: As a response to Métis victories in the court system, governments have attempted to limit Métis rights to “site specific” communities. This concept of “site specific” rights is not reflective of the reality of the Métis people or the way Métis communities were historically structured. In this soon-to-be completed undergraduate thesis (spring 2015) Métis student, Mitch Case challenges the flawed notion that Métis people exist in “dot on a map” communities, but in fact are a complicated web of interconnected communities extending from Georgian Bay to Sault Ste. Marie to Red River and beyond. The thesis argues that rather than being dots on a map that are disconnected from each other, the communities are interconnected by three main types of connections; social, economic and political. Métis families around the Great Lakes often had relatives in half a dozen communities or more, and were highly mobile, frequently relocating from location to location while still remaining within traditional Métis territory. How does this relate to our reality today? As the Métis Nation rebuilds itself and reasserts our rights as an Indigenous nation, our rights to lands and resources, we as a nation need to look to our history and understand how our communities were and are organized and what our connection to land looks like. This thesis also incorporates Métis beadwork as means of telling the story of the interconnections between Métis communities, connecting our identity and traditional story telling methods to our approaches going forward.



Presenter: Chief Dean Sayers

Batchewana First Nation

Title: Asserting Our Sovereignty

Abstract: Batchewana First Nation (BFN) is a progressive First Nation nestled in the heart of the Great Lakes. Batchewana has always taken seriously their inherent obligations as a People. That assertion has been active to varying degrees over time and most recently with much vigor.

Batchewana's leadership has ensured that their protected interests were never compromised. Historic leaders including former Chief's Wabagiizhik and Nebenaigoching went to great lengths to protect Batchewana's inheritance.

Treaty negotiations throughout history were based on the settler's need to access BFN lands and resources. BFN agreed to share. That sharing relationship never evolved/aligned with the original spirit and intent of the Treaty Agreements. Canada has failed to live up to Section 91-24 of the British North America Act and its assumed role as our fiduciary and hence, Batchewana has had to take action aligned with reserved jurisdictions around sovereignty into its own hands.

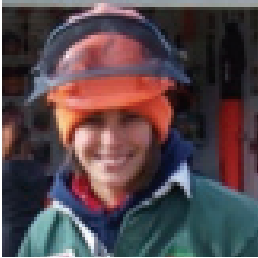
Chief Dean Sayers will share some of those insights with the attendees and help in creating an understanding of how a First Nation can strategically attain the spirit and intent of Treaty relationships with the Canadian and Ontario Governments while at the same time fulfilling inherent obligations to the land, the environment and the successful pursuit of environmentally sound sustainable economic development. This work has largely been successful because Batchewana calls on traditional knowledge keepers and Elders for instructions on how to protect Nationhood rights.

PRESENTERS



Presenter: Carly Dokis, Ph.D.
Dokis First Nation and Nipissing University
Title: Working to Protect the Water: Exploring Water Knowledges and Experiences Through Storycircles by Carly Dokis, B. Kelly, R. Restoule, P. Restoule, and N. Restoule with Dokis First Nation and Nipissing University.

Abstract: This paper offers a reflection on an exploratory methodological approach developed as part of a collaborative project exploring interconnections between technology, water, risk, and Indigenous identity in Dokis First Nation, an Anishinaabe community in Northern Ontario. Storycircles have been identified as a productive method to share stories and preserve traditional knowledge. These stories have been digitally recorded and are being developed with storytellers into digital stories that will be shared with members through a web portal. Grounded in story-based sharing, storycircles offer an alternative to individual interviews, which may not be consistent with Anishinaabe forms of knowledge transmission. Thus, storycircles are closely tied to decolonizing methodologies that attend to Indigenous knowledge systems, as well as conceptions of identity, relationality, spirit, community, and renewal. Additionally, recent work on participatory digital mapping as a form of knowledge gathering and transmission suggests that it can facilitate cultural and language revitalization, may assert alternatives to colonized forms of representation, and has the potential to foster capacity for locally developed solutions in wider social, cultural, and political arenas. Here we explore how prioritizing locally-described and emplaced experiences of water has led to enhanced awareness of the nature and depth of local water knowledge, and has allowed for a re-evaluation of notions of risk typically associated with water quality.



Presenters: Stephanie Seymour & Mike Hosszu
M.Sc. Candidates, Lakehead University Faculty of Natural Resources Management
Title: Community Land Use Planning for Alternative Energy Projects in Ontario’s Far North: Lessons and Opportunities for Aboriginal Land and Resource Management by S. Seymour, M. Hosszu, B. Kurikka, M.A. Smith, M.Sc. Candidates, Lakehead University Faculty of Natural Resources Management.

Abstract: This paper focuses on alternative energy research conducted in collaboration with Lakehead University, Confederation College, and two remote First Nations in Northwestern Ontario. The purpose of the current research is to assess two communities’ solar and forest resources for energy production in order to offset electricity and fuel oil heating: diesel is costly and environmentally problematic and electricity from the grid is very expensive when utilized for heating. To determine whether or not renewable energy could be cost-effective in these areas, a series of inventories was conducted to develop a cost-benefit analysis. The potential economic benefits from utilizing renewable resources for heat and energy production is becoming clear and will be highlighted in a pre-feasibility report and a series of technical documents for the partnering communities. The presentation will focus on the results of the study, highlight the challenges and opportunities for land use planning in the Far North, and share lessons learned that may be of use to other Aboriginal communities across Ontario and Canada who are interested in research that promotes sustainable use of resources and supports local interests in renewable energy projects.



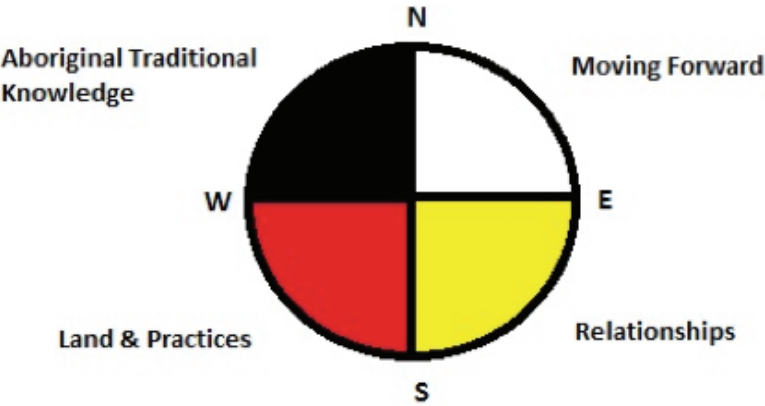
WELCOME

We’re pleased to welcome you to our first Land Management, Planning & Use Symposium:

GDO AMIIMINAAN GANAWENDANDAAN
(Taking Care of Our Land)

The Anishinaabe Initiatives Division and the Department of Geography & Geology at Algoma University in partnership bring to you a symposium on ‘Exploring Aboriginal Land Management, Planning and Use’ from diverse perspectives. The purpose of this symposium is to begin exploring through research and best practices, the inclusion of cultural and traditional practices of land management, planning and use for Aboriginal communities in northern Ontario.

These four themes using the Medicine Wheel Framework have guided the process and planning:



This symposium is relative to the ‘teaching’ mandate of the university and the importance of disseminating new knowledge to the public (Algoma University Charter, 2008). This symposium will create awareness regarding the discourse of land management, planning, and use, and will explore the appropriate steps to building capacity in Aboriginal communities. The needs of Aboriginal communities are diverse as they prepare to face contemporary challenges.

OPENING CEREMONIES

- Opening Prayer and Smudge: Elder Barbara Nolan
- Welcome by Chief L. Sayers, Garden River First Nation
- Welcome by Dr. Myers, Algoma University
- Introduction of Algoma University Chancellor Shirley Horn
- Welcome by Nairne Cameron & Judy Syrette
- Drum Welcome by Miigwannanse (Little Feathers) Girls Drum Group, Eastview Public School
- Time:** 9-9:45am
- Location:** Grand Ballroom

SCHEDULE

Registration and all events are being held at the Days Inn except for the optional field trips (by bus).

MONDAY, MAY 4

Registration open at Days Inn

Time: 11am - 8pm **Location:** Northern Lights Room

Field trips (optional):

- 1) Garden River First Nation
- 2) Batchewana First Nation

Time: 12:30 – 4:30pm **Location:** Meet at Registration in Northern Lights Room

Opening Reception, Days Inn

Time: 6 - 8pm **Location:** Northern Lights Room

TUESDAY, MAY 5

Registration Open at Days Inn

Time: 8am - 5:30pm **Location:** Northern Lights Room

Opening Ceremonies

Time: 9 - 9:45am **Location:** Grand Ballroom

Keynote address: Pamela Perrault, Ph.D. Candidate Faculty of Forestry, University of British Columbia

Managing at the Margins: Aboriginal Land Management in Context

Time: 9:45 - 10:45am **Location:** Grand Ballroom

BREAK & EXHIBITORS & POSTER VIEWING

Time: 10:45 - 11am **Location:** Northern Lights Room

Presenter: Travis Jones, B.Sc. Environment Officer, Ontario Region Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Environmental Pollutions Fund

Time: 11 - 11:30am **Location:** Grand Ballroom

Poster Session

Time: 11:30 - 12pm **Location:** Northern Lights Room

Presenter: Gayle Broad, Ph.D.
NORDIK Institute, Algoma University

Poster Title: Thessalon First Nation Wild Foods Distribution Hub

PRESENTERS



Presenter: Rose Cameron, Ph.D.
Department of Community Development and Social Work,
Algoma University
Title: The Nurturance of Akii

Abstract: The exploration of the significance of Akii (land) and its nurturing processes from the perspective of an Anishinaabekwe situated in an academic context is discussed. The components of the medicine wheel are used to illustrate the positive and negative dis/connections between Akii to self at the micro-, meso- and macro-levels of analysis. The integration of life experiences assists in understanding the implications of Akii in the academic context.



**Presenters: Raymond Owl and Willie Pine, and Associated
Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) Elders
North Shore Lake Huron**

*Title: Working Together to Stop Land Management Practices
Harming Our Health, Home and Future Forests*

Abstract: The Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) Elders Group was created to bring like-minded individuals together to discuss the preservation, use and evolution of TEK in all communities along the North Shore of Lake Huron. All residents of Mother Earth are dependent socially, economically, and culturally on the health and wellbeing of the forest, including the wildlife, plants, water, and soil. The TEK Elders Group and supporting citizens feel that herbicides and pesticides such as “Round Up” (glyphosate) and other similar chemicals used in the Ministry of Natural Resources aerial spraying program have serious known impacts on humans, wildlife, water and plants, including; destroying traditional medicines, poisoning wildlife, water and soil and as a result destroying a way of life (cultural practices) protected under Section 35 of the Canadian Constitution. The wisdom of the TEK Elders Group has guided the development of an advocacy group that transcends the political and social boundaries that plague Aboriginal-non-Aboriginal relations in this country. The “tool” used to gain recognition of citizen concerns has been the Aboriginal and Treaty right to hunt, fish and gather resources. However, the “tool box” for successful advocacy on behalf of Mother Earth includes partnership, collaboration, and a willingness to share and learn from each other. This panel of Elders will share their story, strategy and lessons learned while exercising their right and responsibility as caretakers of Mother Earth.



Presenter: Deborah McGregor, Ph.D.
Department of Geography, University of Toronto
*Title: Anishinaabe Knowledge Traditions: Governance,
Treaties and Environmental Justice*

Abstract: This presentation will explore concepts of environmental justice from an Anishinaabe knowledge perspective. The main theme of this paper centers on ideas relating to Anishinaabe views of EJ that consider relationships not only among people, but rather among all our relations (all living things). Anishinaabe philosophies, principles, and values will be described. Statistics unfortunately inform us that many First Nations are operating under boil water advisories and a lack of appropriate infrastructure to ensure safe drinking water for their communities. This presentation will highlight some traditional knowledge perspectives of water and advice given to ensure the appropriate protection and maintenance of respectful and ethical relationships with water. In particular, the point will be made that environmental injustice from the perspective of Elders and traditional knowledge holders is not just about injustice to the Anishinaabek, but also about injustice to water as living force/being.

PRESENTERS



Panel: Noel (Skip) Jones, Stephen O’Neill, and Alice Corbiere

Title: *Garden River Highway & Land Agreements*

Abstract: Traditional knowledge, building relationships and moving forward on our lands were all under consideration as the Garden River membership ratified the four tri-party agreements in 1994. These four separate agreements addressed several million dollars in compensation, additions of twenty four thousand acres of lands to Reserve status, a fifty million dollar highway construction contract, sale of sand and gravel, including a highway maintenance contract. Representatives of seven main family groupings within the community, along with a coordinator and a solicitor made up the Garden River negotiating team. Garden River’s position was to first deal with historical land issues within the original boundaries of the 1850 Robinson-Huron Treaty. Unclear land titles were addressed with the Echo Lake Cottage Association. The selection and agreement of a joint venture partnership for the formation of a Garden River Construction Company required for highway building contracts with Ministry of Transportation was all part of the complex negotiations.



Workshop #1 Presenter: Martin Millen

Anishanaabe Maamwaye Aki Kiigeyewin (AMAK) Institute

Title: *Amak Institute: The Power of Relationship As We Reclaim Our Land Management for the Future*

Abstract: AMAK (All People Coming Together to Heal the Earth) Institute is an emerging social enterprise that is addressing complex social and environmental challenges of mining reclamation through knowledge sharing and cross-cultural understanding that uses a holistic, cross-cultural and interdisciplinary approach to ensure a healthy human-environment system for future generations. This integrated approach represents a unique opportunity for the healing of the relationships(s)

between Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and the mining sector through a long-term process of transferring and preserving Traditional Indigenous Knowledge and Land Use Practices for future generations. AMAK’s goal is to educate, facilitate, and create space and access to Traditional Indigenous Knowledge carriers, land based practices, ethics and values as an attempt to assist and support any organizations, groups, and individuals concerned with the environment. The highly interactive and practical workshop planned for the Gdo Akiiminaan Ganawendanaan Symposium will focus on the transference of Indigenous Knowledge to local community members and the capacity building that will result from AMAK’s initiatives as we move forward into the next generations.



Workshop #2 Presenter: Cheryl Recollet, M.Sc.

Wahnapiatae First Nation

Title: *An Eco-based Approach to Land Use Planning: A Community Perspective*

Abstract: Wahnapiatae First Nation (WFN) has recently completed the development of a Land Use Plan (LUP) utilizing an eco-based approach. This approach enables WFN to clearly address the sustainability of our ecosystems. The plan was written by WFN staff over a five-year time period. WFN engaged a consultant to complete a third party review to ensure that they effectively integrated land use planning principles. The plan went through several stages of community engagement and was presented to leadership for ratification in November 2014. This Land Use Plan is unique to WFN

as it addresses land use and resource management at three levels of planning: community, traditional territory, and treaty wide.

The eco-based approach enabled the identification of six specific resource management targets: cultural heritage resources; water resources and aquatic habitats; biodiversity and terrestrial habitats; forest resources, lands and soils; tourism, recreation and access; and minerals and energy resources.

SCHEDULE

Presenter: Ryan Bullock, Ph.D.

Environmental Studies and Sciences,

Center for Forest Interdisciplinary Research, University of Winnipeg

Poster Title: Northern Governance Innovation and Development for Socially Resilient Boreal Communities

Presenter: Deborah Woodman, Ph.D. and Dave Mornix

Sociology Department, Algoma University

Poster Title: Deviantly Unifying Diversity through Collective Knowledge on Land Use and Location

LUNCH

Keynote: J. Stephen O’Neill, L.L.B, Judge of the Superior Court of Justice

The Need for Reconciliation

Time: 12 - 1:15pm

Location: Northern Lights Room

Presenter: Linda Savory-Gordon, Ph.D.

Coalition for Algoma Passenger Trains (NORDIK) and Missanabie First Nation

Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Communities Partnering to Save and Sustain Algoma Central Passenger Train

Time: 1:15 - 1:45pm

Location: Grand Ballroom

Presenter: Rhonda Gagnon. B.Sc. (Hons.)

Department of Geography, Nipissing University/Lands

& Resources Department, Union of Ontario Indians

First Nation’s Perspectives on the Crown’s Obligation of the Duty to Consult Process in Ontario on Natural Resources

Time: 1:45 - 2:15pm

Location: Grand Ballroom

Presenter: Stefanie Recollet, B.A. (Hons.),Wahnapiatae First Nation

Use and Occupancy Mapping

Time: 2:15 - 2:45pm

Location: Grand Ballroom

BREAK & EXHIBITORS & POSTER VIEWING

Time: 2:45 - 3pm

Location: Northern Lights Room

Presenter: Chief Isadore Day, Wiindawtegowinini Serpent First Nation

Serpent Rivers Critical Path and Decision-Making on Major Projects and the Environmental Process - Our Approach to Sustainable Development

Time: 3 - 4pm

Location: Grand Ballroom

Panel: Noel (Skip) Jones, J. Stephen O’Neill, and Alice Corbiere

Garden River Highway & Land Agreements

Time: 4 - 5:30pm

Location: Grand Ballroom

SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

Time: 9 - 10:30am

Workshop #1 Presenter: Martin Millen
Anishanaabe Maamwaye Aki Kiigeyewin (AMAK) Institute

Amak Institute: The Power of Relationship As We Reclaim Our Land Management for the Future

Location: Grand Ballroom

Workshop #2 Presenter: Cheryl Recollet, M.Sc.
Wahnapiitae First Nation

An Eco-based Approach to Land Use Planning: A Community Perspective

Location: Grand North Room

BREAK & EXHIBITORS & POSTER VIEWING

Time: 10:30 - 10:45am

Location: Northern Lights Room

Presenter: Rose Cameron, Ph.D.

Department of Community Development and Social Work, Algoma University
The Nurturance of Akii

Time: 10:45 - 11:15am

Location: Grand Ballroom

Raymond Owl and Willie Pine, and Associated Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK)
Elders North Shore Lake Huron

Working Together to Stop Land Management Practices Harming Our Health, Home and Future Forests

Time: 11:15am - 12pm

Location: Grand Ballroom

LUNCH

Keynote: Cheryl Recollet, M.Sc.

Environmental Coordinator, Wahnapiitae First Nation

Using GIS to Inform First Nation Decision Making

Time: 12 - 1:15pm

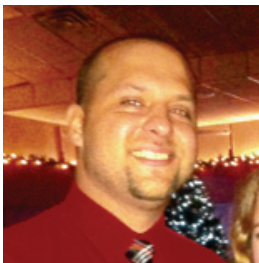
Location: Northern Lights Room

Presenter: Deborah McGregor, Ph.D. Department of Geography, University of Toronto
Anishinaabe Knowledge Traditions: Governance, Treaties and Environmental Justice

Time: 1:15 - 1:45pm

Location: Grand Ballroom

PRESENTERS



Presenter: Travis Jones, B.Sc.
Environment Officer, Ontario Region
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Title: Environmental Pollutions Fund

AANDC’s Lands and Economic Development Services Program (LEDSP). LEDSP helps Aboriginal communities build and manage a solid land base for economic development activities. This program supports the economic development, land and environmental capacity of First Nation communities.



Presenter: Gayle Broad, Ph.D.
NORDIK Institute, Algoma University
Poster Title: Thessalon First Nation Wild Foods Distribution Hub

Abstract: The Thessalon First Nation Wild Foods Distribution Hub is a community economic development project which demonstrates the feasibility of maintaining healthy forest eco-systems while generating self-sufficiency through the harvesting, processing and distribution of wild foods to national and international markets. A collaborative project that includes RAIN (Rural Agri-Innovation Network), NORDIK Institute, Nipigon Forage and Forbes Wildfoods, the Wildfoods Distribution Hub is in its early stages of development, the feasibility of establishing a distribution hub has already been assessed.



Presenter: Ryan Bullock, Ph.D.
Environmental Studies and Sciences,
Center for Forest Interdisciplinary Research, University of Winnipeg
Poster Title: Northern Governance Innovation and Development for Socially Resilient Boreal Communities

Abstract: Northern regions require assistance to be resilient to transition and crisis, namely, pressures from global economic restructuring, climate change, large-scale timber, mineral and energy development, social unrest, and political reform. Our research will examine northern and Aboriginal governance innovation for inclusive development and social resilience in natural resource rich settings.

Knowledge mobilization efforts will return co-created applied knowledge back to northern communities; inform policy making and practice; and contribute to theory development as well as academic and public debates, both domestically and internationally.



Presenters: Deborah Woodman, Ph.D.
& Dave Mornix
Poster Title: Deviantly Unifying Diversity through Collective Knowledge on Land Use and Location

Abstract: SOCI 3526 – Students of Diversity, Collective Action and Community Resistance, Sociology Department, Algoma University

The students of this third year required course in Sociology have created a video project specifically for this Symposium. The course examines, through the considerations of different ontologies, how we may deconstruct what we understand about the world. In this project, the location of Northern Ontario and in particular Algoma University, the former site of Shingwauk Residential School requires that those of us who study and teach here consider how we respect and incorporate the location and the space. In this proposition, the students offer a reflection of how they encounter the location, the space, relationships and each other. A seven minute video captures this conversation, offering alternatives to western ways of knowing and being through their difference and the encounter of these differences.



SCHEDULE

Presenter: Carly Dokis, Ph.D., Dokis First Nation and Nipissing University

Working to Protect the Water: Exploring Water Knowledges and Experiences Through Storycircles

Time: 1:45 - 2:15pm **Location:** Grand Ballroom

Presenters: Stephanie Seymour & Mike Hosszu
M.Sc. Candidates, Lakehead University Faculty of Natural Resources Management
Community Land Use Planning for Alternative Energy Projects in Ontario’s Far North: Lessons and Opportunities for Aboriginal Land and Resource Management

Time: 2:15 - 2:45pm **Location:** Grand Ballroom

BREAK & EXHIBITORS & POSTER VIEWING

Time: 2:45 - 3pm **Location:** Northern Lights Room

Presenter: Robert Rattle, Independent Scholar
Health Impact Assessment for Aboriginal Communities in Northern Ontario

Time: 3 - 3:30pm **Location:** Grand Ballroom

Presenter: Mitchell Case
Student - Algoma University History Department
Youth Representative- Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario
Now that Was a Great Life: Mapping Historic Métis Nation Communities, Connections and Movement in the Great Lakes Region (1800-1900)

Time: 3:30 - 4pm **Location:** Grand Ballroom

Presenter: Chief Dean Sayers, Batchewana First Nation
Asserting Our Sovereignty

Time: 4 - 5pm **Location:** Grand Ballroom

BANQUET
Keynote: Karl Hele, Days Inn
Associate Professor and Director, First Peoples Studies Program, Concordia University
The Water is the Wrong Colour: Observations on the Impact of Borders and Treaties in the Bawating Region

Time: 6 - 8pm

*KEYNOTE SPEAKERS & BIOGRAPHIES***Pamela Perrault, Ph.D. Candidate**

Faculty of Forestry, University of British Columbia

Presentation title: Managing at the Margins: Aboriginal Land Management in Context

Pamela Perreault is a member of Garden River First Nation and a Ph.D. candidate in the Faculty of Forestry at the University of British Columbia. For the last 17 years, she lived in British Columbia but worked extensively with First Nation communities and organizations all over Canada on natural resource issues such as consultation policy development and implementation, forest resource management, land-use planning, non-timber forest resources (NTFRs), community-based research, and Aboriginal governance related to lands and resources. Her Ph.D. research focuses on Indigenous people's empowerment through resource management and capacity building. She has been a research fellow at the University of Auckland, NZ, a Member of the Forest Sciences Board of the BC Ministry of Forests, a program coordinator in the Faculty of Forestry at UBC, a university instructor on Haida Gwaii, northern BC and Sault Ste. Marie. She has a biology degree, specializing in freshwater ecology from the University of Waterloo and a Master's of Science in Forestry from UBC. She is co-editor of *Aboriginal Peoples and Forest Lands in Canada* (UBC Press 2013).

J. Stephen O'Neill, L.L.B.

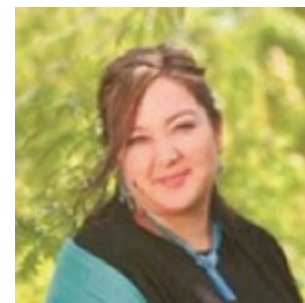
Judge of the Superior Court of Justice

Presentation title: The Need for Reconciliation

John Stephen O'Neill graduated from the University Of Windsor Law School in 1975 and practiced law in Thunder Bay and Sudbury up to his appointment as Judge of the Superior Court of Justice (Ontario) in 1999 and served in that capacity until 2013. Aboriginal legal issues have been the emphasis of his law practice since 1984 and in 1997-98, Silrun Surveys Ltd. named Stephen O'Neill as one of Canada's leading Aboriginal law practitioners. His Aboriginal law practice has included representation for numerous First Nation communities and Tribal Councils. The following are some of the legal issues addressed: general legal services, leasing, boundary clarification, by-law development, hunting and fishing harvesting, negotiation and settlement of tripartite agreements, return of unsold surrendered lands and settlement, highway by-pass negotiation and settlement, native provisions in Child and Family Services Act, settlement of gas pipelines and power lines across First Nation communities, tribal police services, and land claim negotiations and settlements for seven First Nation Communities in Ontario.

*KEYNOTE SPEAKERS & BIOGRAPHIES***Cheryl Recollet, M.Sc.**

Environmental Coordinator, Wahnapiatae First Nation

Presentation title: Using GIS to Inform First Nation Decision Making

Recollet has been the Environmental Coordinator for the Wahnapiatae First Nation since 2009, in which her primary role is to develop and coordinate community-based environmental management. Another key function of her role is to implement environmental components of formalized mining relationships.

She holds a Master's of Science Degree (MSc) in Environmental Assessment from McGill University. Her graduate research focusses on First Nation decision making authorities within environmental assessment regimes. Recollet also recently fulfilled requirements for the Executive Certificate in Conflict Resolution from the University of Windsor and the Stitt Feld Handy Group.

She holds an Honours Bachelor of Arts Degree in both Geography and Anthropology (Laurentian University), a Certificate in Applied Geography (Laurentian University), as well as a Diploma in Native Lands Management (Cambrian College).

Karl Hele, Ph.D.

Associate Professor and Director, First Peoples Studies Program, Concordia University

Presentation title: The Water is the Wrong Colour: Observations on the Impact of Borders and Treaties in the Bawating Region

Karl S. Hele, a member of Garden River First Nation, is an Associate Professor and the Director of the First Peoples Studies Program at Concordia University. He has served as the joint editor of the *Algonquian Proceedings* (39th, 40th, and 41st), edited two collections entitled *Nature of Empires* and *Empires of Nature* and *Lines Drawn Upon the Water* (WLUP), as well as published and presented numerous papers on the history of the Anishinaabeg and Métis of the Sault region. He currently has an edited collection, "This is Indian Land: The Robinson Treaties of 1850", accepted for publication by the Aboriginal Issues Press. Additionally, Dr. Hele publishes a monthly column "Hidden Histories" in the *Sault Star* and is a regular article and review contributor to *Anishinaabeg News*.