

## EFR18-36 Speaking to the Heart - The Importance of Understanding the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Perspectives for School Communities



**PRESENTED BY**

**Charlene Bearhead**



**SERIES SESSIONS**

Date	Time
February 27, 2018	8:45 AM - 3:15 PM



**LOCATION**

**St. Paul Regional High School Room 220 - 4701  
- 44 Street**

**FEE**

**\$65.00**

**QUESTIONS?**

**Contact Us:**

**780-623-2248**

**REGISTER ONLINE**

**Visit our website to register:**

**Ines.ca**

### Program

Come spend a day with Charlene Bearhead to gain an understanding of why it is important that school communities work together to increase their knowledge and understanding of the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit perspective and experience.

**8:45am to 9:00am Welcome and Introductions**

**9:00am to 11:45am Historical Perspective and Foundational Knowledge – all staff (15 min. break midway)**

This session will focus on why it is important that school communities know and understand the history of residential schools in Alberta and Canada as well as the history of the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement leading to the Alberta Joint Commitment to Action. It will provide school stakeholders the opportunity to explore their foundational and professional "starting points" for integration of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit understandings within their practice and to understand the legacy of residential schools and intergenerational trauma on learner development. This session will provide the historical background information and the stories of the First Nations' experience leading to today's reality.

**11:45 to 12:45pm Lunch provided on site**

## **12:45pm to 1:45pm The Role of Support Staff in Supporting Students Experiencing Intergenerational Trauma**

Many of our First Nations students and their families are impacted by intergenerational trauma. This session will focus on its impacts and provide suggestions for support staff and other school community members on a variety of ways to support students that are impacted by Intergenerational Trauma.

## **2:00pm to 3:15pm First Nations Champions – Making a Difference In Our Schools**

The session is designed for school and jurisdiction leaders that are responsible for providing the leadership and support to their school communities in building foundational knowledge and understanding the First Nations perspective and history. Practical ideas and suggestions that can be implemented will be shared and participants will expand their ability to work with their school communities as they support this critical work.

*This learning opportunity is being offered through curriculum implementation funding from Alberta Education.*

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## **Presenters**

### **Charlene Bearhead**

**Charlene** is a mother, grandmother, community member, experienced educator and education innovator with 30 years of regional, national and international experience in the field. Most recently Charlene served as the first Education Lead for the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation at the University of Manitoba and is currently the project coordinator for the Alberta Joint Commitment to Action: Education for Reconciliation. She currently serves as the co-chair of the Downie-Wenjack Fund Board of Directors and is a member of the Pathways to Education Canada Indigenous Education Advisory Circle.

Charlene previously served as the National Coordinator for Project of Heart, the primary focus of which is the education of Canadians on the history and legacy of Indian Residential Schools in Canada, and for the National Day of Healing and Reconciliation, the primary goal of which as to educate Canadians on the legacy of federal government policy on various ethnic groups throughout Canada's history and to promote respect and reconciliation. Ms. Bearhead coordinated the Education Days within the TRC National Events for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, which focused on inspiring teachers and students to further educate themselves around the history and legacy of Indian Residential Schools as well as to support and facilitate the building of positive and respectful relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in Canada.

Bearhead also served as the National Coordinator for the National Addictions Awareness Week at Native Counselling Services of Alberta. She was the curriculum writer for the education program Sacred Relationship

with Water ([www.sacredrelationship.ca](http://www.sacredrelationship.ca)) with BearPaw Media Productions. Charlene was the founder of *Mother Earth's Children's Charter School* in Alberta and coordinated the youth track of *Healing Our Spirit Worldwide* in Albuquerque, New Mexico in 2002 and the children's program of the same international gathering in Edmonton, Alberta in 2006.

Charlene has served as a teacher, principal, education director and superintendent, both on and off reserve, over the years and holds permanent teaching certificates from both Alberta and Manitoba.

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## Registration Notes

Registration includes a continental breakfast and lunch.