

## EFR19-127 4th Annual Spring Gathering - Meet the Inuit: A Spring Gathering for Educators; Building Inclusive Relational Spaces for Reconciliation Education



### PRESENTED BY

**Mini Aodla Freeman, Goota Desmarais, Clint Chocan, Dan Nash & Etienna Moostoos-Lafferty**



### SERIES SESSIONS

Date	Time
May 21, 2019	3:00 PM – 9:00 PM
May 22, 2019	8:30 AM – 9:00 PM
May 23, 2019	8:30 AM – 3:00 PM



### LOCATION

**Lakeland College Vermilion - 5707 College Dr**

### FEE

**\$350.00**

### QUESTIONS?

**Contact Us:**

**780-623-2248**

### REGISTER ONLINE

**Visit our website to register:**

**Ines.ca**

## Program

Program Highlights:

**Weaving Ways** supports teacher exploration of the histories, cultures, languages, contributions, perspectives, experiences and contemporary context of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples while engendering knowledge, understanding and respect. "Effective education that includes Indigenous knowledge systems does not exclude or discredit other cultures, but instead ensures that both non-Indigenous students and Indigenous students alike are given the opportunity to see perspectives, strengths, and gifts of the First Peoples reflected in the schools they attend" (Battiste, M. & Henderson, 2000)

Weaving Ways workshop is structured with four interrelated quadrants; Cultures of Belonging, Instructional Design, Pedagogy, and Sharing Through Story, which teachers can utilize to organize their thinking and approaches. The structure supports teachers in designing

meaningful teaching and learning opportunities that weave together Indigenous ways of knowing with Western pedagogical practices for the benefit of all students

**Nunavut Animation Lab** In the last few years the Canadian National Film

Board (NFB) has developed low cost, highly effective programs that fill the gap between the film and training schools and first professional production experience. Short film programs in documentary and animation have pioneered an integration of master classes and full professional production to train the next generation of artists and artisans. Such programs have allowed for innovative ways of involving underserved communities. the Nunavut Animation Lab, for instance, has nurtured emerging filmmakers in Indigenous communities. And they have done so in partnership with a range of other institutions, including provincial agencies, broadcasters and independent production companies. These programs are among the very best in the world.

They respond to a specific need, allowing new artists to develop their voice in a professional milieu. Tonight's selected animated shorts will serve to introduce foundational Inuit knowledge and understandings. Deeper exploration and discussion will be guided by our Elder.

**Introduction to Inuit Culture:** Spend the day in an authentic Inuit summer

camp sharing in Inuit traditions. Inuit way of life evolved around the landbased resources of the North. With the limited resources of the harsh arctic environment, the Inuit demonstrated resilience and innovation. Discussion will also include southern contact changes and the North's modern challenges. Goota Demarais passionately shares her culture through storytelling complemented by authentic Inuit artifacts.

**HOT6 TALKS** is an open community reconciliation event featuring a cadre of

performers who will share a wide spectrum of Indigenous perspectives in a series of short "Rapid-Fire" conversation starter presentations. Topics will profile foundational knowledge and understandings, cultural celebrations, Indigenous histories and contributions, and contemporary reconciliation themes through art and song. Upon completion of the rapid-fire presentations, performers and community audience members are invited to "Meet and Mix" in conversation to further explore and expand the reconciliation topics. The mixer will be held in a venue providing refreshments and samplers of traditional Indigenous foods.

This learning opportunity is being offered through a grant from Alberta Education.

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## Presenters

### Mini Aodla Freeman

Mini was born in 1936 on Cape Hope Island in James Bay. At the age of sixteen, she began nurse's training at Ste. Therese School in Fort George, Quebec, and in 1957 she moved to Ottawa to work as a translator for the then

Department of Northern Affairs and Natural Resources. Her book *Life Among the Qallunaat* was first published in 1978 and has been translated into French, German, and Greenlandic.

#### **Goota Desmarais**

Goota was born in Cape Dorset, Nunavut. Her early childhood was spent in a modern Inuit settlement during the winters and in a traditional camp during the summers. Goota is now an urban Eskimo, living in Sherwood Park, Alberta for the past 30 years yet stays connected to her Inuit culture through frequent visits to her home community.

#### **Clint Chocan**

Clint was raised on Onion Lake Cree Nation and has taught Cree Language and Cultural Education for over 25 years. Currently, he is the Manager of Indigenous Support Services and provides guidance and support for the indigenous Lakeland College student body, as well as acting as a Cultural liaison for Lakeland College surrounding Indigenous communities in groups.

#### **Dan Nash**

Dan is currently a Professional Learning Program Coordinator for the Learning Network Educational Services who is leading the Implementation work associated with the 'new' Alberta Curriculum. He also brings with him, over 40 years of classroom, school and district administration, and curriculum implementation leadership. Dan fully subscribes to being a lifelong learner and his mantra is, "*That it is generally easier to get people to act their way into a new way of thinking... than it is to get them to think their way into a new way of acting.*" So, let's roll up our sleeves and get to it!

#### **Etienna Moostoos-Lafferty**

Etienna was born and raised in Grande Prairie Alberta. Etienna's family is from the Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation in Treaty 8 territory. Etienna has seven years teaching experience and has worked provincially as an Indigenous Education consultant

helping to develop workshops aimed at promoting reconciliation through teacher education. Currently, Etienna is an Indigenous Education Coach for Evergreen Catholic Schools and is completing her masters full-time at the University of Alberta.

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### **Registration Notes**

Registration includes meals for all 3 days.