

**ONTARIO NATIVE LITERACY COALITION – CELEBRATING 30 YEARS  
AGM & CONFERENCE MAY 31- JUNE 1, 2018  
KEY NOTE SPEAKERS**



**Rebecca Jamieson, Tuscarora, Six Nations of the Grand River**

Rebecca Jamieson, Tuscarora, is the President-CEO Six Nations Polytechnic, mother, grandmother, sister and auntie. Six Nations Polytechnic (established 1993) is centre of excellence for Indigenous community-based learning at the post-secondary level. Rebecca has been involved at all levels of First Nations education in a wide range of roles including teaching; counselling; policy, curriculum and institutional research and development; teacher education; administration, governance and jurisdictional negotiations. In Ontario, Rebecca has also been actively involved in public postsecondary education, serving as the first Executive Director of the College Standards and Accreditation Council (CSAC), and on the Board of Governors for several Ontario Universities and Mohawk College.

Rebecca holds an undergraduate degree in psychology and philosophy from Wilfrid Laurier University and a Master of Education from the University of Toronto. Rebecca is a member of the College of Teachers and holds Supervisory Officers Qualifications. She is trained in mediation and alternative dispute resolution and is a Graduate of the Carver Institute, Policy Governance. In recognition of her contributions in Indigenous education Rebecca received the Order of Ontario (2008); was appointed Distinguished Fellow, Mohawk College (2015), received an Honorary Doctor of Laws, University of Western Ontario (2015) and an Honorary Doctor of Laws, Wilfred Laurier University (2017).



## **Lorna Wanosts'a7 Williams**

Ed.D University of Tennessee  
Order of British Columbia 1993  
Honorary Doctor of Laws, SFU, 2016  
Professor Emerita: University of Victoria  
Aboriginal Education Consultant

Lorna Wanosts'a7 Williams is a member of the Lil'watul. She retired in December 2014 as the Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Knowledge and Learning, an Associate Professor in Indigenous Education and Linguistics, and Program Director of Aboriginal Education at the University of Victoria. At the university she developed a series of courses called Learning

and Teaching in an Indigenous World, introducing a learning community to Indigenous ways of teaching and learning. She developed a Bachelors Degree and a Masters degree in Indigenous Language Revitalization, and co developed a Masters degree in Counseling for Aboriginal Communities. She introduced a required course in Indigenous Education in the faculty of Education. She co-chaired a task force for the BC Deans of Education making it possible to implement a required course in all Faculties of Education in BC and she co-chaired a National Deans of Education report to achieve the same. Before joining the University of Victoria, Lorna held several senior positions, she was the Director of the Aboriginal Education Enhancement Branch at the BC Ministry of Education for three years where she directed research, policy development and implementation in all areas of education for Aboriginal students. Prior to this appointment, she was the First Nations Education Specialist with the Vancouver School Board. Lorna is a strong advocate committed to working with Aboriginal communities to increase the achievement of Aboriginal learners and to teach First Nations languages, cultures, heritage, traditions, and history to all students.

Lorna received her doctorate in education at the University of Tennessee. Her research is in the area of teacher development, collaborative learning and Indigenous language revitalization. Lorna was Chair of First Peoples Culture Council, an organization devoted to Indigenous language revitalization and supports culture and arts development. She is a Council member of the Minister's Council on Aboriginal Women.

Lorna co-directed a series of videos called First Nations: The Circle Unbroken made available to all BC schools and she was co-producer and subject of the award-winning film, The Mind of a Child, one award was the Gemini - Canada Award. She has written children's books, teachers' guides and developed Lil'wat language curriculum to teach people to read and write the Lil'wat language, which was exclusively oral until 1973.



### ***Ontario Regional Chief Isadore Day, Wiindawtegowinini***

**Ontario Regional Chief Isadore Day is from Serpent River First Nation, Ontario**, which is located in the North Channel of Lake Huron. Born in Elliot Lake and raised in the North, Regional Chief Isadore Day worked in construction, commercial fishing, and in the social services setting. Regional Chief Day's post-secondary education consists of Social Work, Business and Public Administration and Governance. He and his partner Angela raise their girls in the North and are committed to ensuring that the North remains a key grounding in their lives. He is strong in his commitments to his community and all treaty regions.

**He had been Chief of Serpent River FN since being elected in 2005.** Regional Chief Day has a combined total of 12 years in leadership. Public service ideas and dedication have seen him involved in various boards, committees, and volunteer positions over the past 15 yrs. With a list of diverse attributes and skills, Regional Chief Day has been welcomed at many tables to share in efforts to make constructive change for the Anishinaabe and First Nations at the Regional and National level in recent years. Known as hard hitter on the issues, he has a demeanor that seeks to find ways to highlight and uplift the dignity of others.

Today, Regional Chief Day is quite active on many files in all policy sectors at the local level and provincially. His main focus at all tables with government is First Nation rights, health, social, economies, infrastructure, Quality of Life – and overall, Nationhood, based on all facets of what a nation embodies. He sees political justice as being the main goal for First Nation leaders and is emphatic that the Indian Act is colonial oppression and at the root of what must change in all First Nations. He is practical with both high level policy and is a strong grassroots First Nation leader.

## AGM & CONFERENCE MAY 31- JUNE 1, 2018 WORKSHOP PRESENTERS



### ***Judith Knight***

Judith Knight is a Programs and Services Officer for Grand River Employment and Training. Her employment objective is to assist clients with training and employment initiatives directed towards higher career pathways. She brings fifty years of work experience and resilience that has kept her successfully employed in a changing world



### ***Marjorie Henhawk***

Wolf Clan, Mohawk Nation, Six Nations of the Grand River Territory. Workshop Facilitator/Programs & Services Officer with Grand River Employment & Training.

Marjorie has spent 30 years helping youth/adults in their journey of discovering their own skills, abilities and aptitudes working towards a gainful career that they enjoy; one that will provide a good lifestyle for them and their families. Marjorie has found it to be a very rewarding career supporting and assisting others to look within themselves to be the best they can be; she has also found it important for program delivery to be from a First Nations perspective in order to relate to the needs of her community.



### ***Sherry Babiwash***

Ojibway, Mississauga First Nation.

Literacy Coordinator, Vice-Chair of ONLC Board of Directors.

Sherry is a dedicated mother and community partner in literacy. After struggling with the education system and her own learning challenges, intergenerational trauma inflicted on her family through the residential school as well as insecure housing she found her way to success completing the Native Education Diploma-Community & Social Development. Since her success she has devoted her career to helping others succeed in higher education to help create healthy families and communities.



### ***Sarah Stocker***

Contact North | Contact Nord's Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) e-Channel Coordinator, Thunder Bay.

Sarah has worked with Contact North since 2007 to support online learning and LBS programming. Sarah has served on the ONLC board as a director since June 2016.



### ***Iehnotonkwas Bonnie Jane Maracle***

Wolf Clan, Mohawk Nation, Tyendinaga Territory;

Bonnie Jane holds a B.A. in Indigenous Studies, Trent; a B.Ed. & M.Ed., Queen's; and is a Ph.D. candidate in Indigenous Studies, Trent. Bonnie Jane is a Board

member for the Language and Culture Centre, Tyendinaga; the Ontario Native Literacy Coalition, Ohsweken; and is a Board member and Language Program Coordinator at Kanasihareke Mohawk Community, NY. She is an Instructor at University of Victoria, and at University of Toronto at OISE and the Linguistics Dept. She is presently employed at First Nations House U of T as the Aboriginal Learning Strategist.



***Kevin Martin***

Oneida Nation, Turtle Clan, Six Nations.

Kevin is a student in Dwadewayehsta' Gayogoho:no (We are learning Cayuga) a Cayuga Adult Immersion program. Kevin holds a Master of Social Work and has 10 years' experience as a Case Manager at Six Nations Mental Health where he gained a vast amount of knowledge, insight and understanding with who had been diagnosed and undiagnosed with a mental health challenge.



***Diane Katsitsawaks Hill-***

Diane is the Program Administrator for R.E.A.L. School Leadership- a reality educations & applied life skills program focused on leadership development for youth.



***Jordan Teshakotennyon's Miller*** is a senior program animator and founder of the R.E.A.L. School Leadership Program.



***Jason Shawana***

Jason is Odawa with family roots in Wiikwemkoong Unseeded Indian Reservation, Manitoulin Island and currently resides in the Niagara Region.

Jason has been working with Indigenous communities for 15 years delivering workshops based on Anishinaabe ways of being and knowing and integrating understanding into professional practice in social services.



***Linda Wright***

Distance Projects, Good Learning Anywhere

Linda has been with the Sioux-Hudson Literacy Council for the past 15 years where she started out as a volunteer in their Sioux Lookout Learning Centre and began instructing and developing online courses. Linda enjoys travelling and working with organizations and communities to identify challenges they face, molding the Aboriginal Stream e-Channel program, Good Learning Anywhere, to meet these needs. Linda understands the many barriers faced by our rural and remote First Nation communities and that one of those solutions is introducing online learning that is delivered in a warm, positive, non-threatening way. Linda has implemented strategies like the Sharing Circle in GLA to promote Aboriginal Culture and inspire learners. The staff coordinate inspiring Aboriginal guest speakers to come and share their story and learners have an opportunity to ask



questions. This initiative won her team the National NALD innovative Technology Award in 2013. Linda's team was also awarded the 2015 Employment Ontario Leadership Collaboration Award for their work to provide opportunities to learn, to clients on OW in remote FN communities.



***Judy Reuben-***

Judy retired in November 2017 after 38 years of working in the area of First Nations Education. Judy has been an Elementary School Principal for over 30 years. After completing her Master's Degree in Curriculum and Policy Studies, Judy worked with Six Nations Education Commission. She volunteered with the Ontario College of Teachers accreditation program and was a working member of a Provincial team who reviewed the current Ontario Elementary Curriculum. Judy was a sessional instructor for Brock University's NTEP and a guest instructor for Nipissing University's ATCP. Judy is a wife, mother of 3 and Nana to 3 beautiful grandchildren. She is Mohawk from the Turtle Clan.



***Scott Mindel- Pardons Canada***

Scott has been a counsellor at Pardons Canada since 2008. He is passionate about helping individuals make positive changes in their lives. Scott began his career working in his father's business in Montreal as a sales professional and it was there that his passion for working with people really grew. He has made an impact in a number of different organizations over the years with his compassion and great attitude towards life. Scott currently lives in Toronto with his wife, 2 children and 6 grandchildren

**AGM & CONFERENCE MAY 31- JUNE 1, 2018  
ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTERS**



**Darren Thomas**

**Title of Presentation:** The Power of Your Mind Comedy Hypnosis Show

Darren Thomas is Seneca Nation Bear Clan and resides at the Grand River Territory of the Haudenosaunee. Darren is a PhD candidate and lecturer at in the community psychology program at Wilfrid Laurier University. His research focuses on Indigenous knowledge, Indigenous research methodologies, and Indigenous governance. Beyond his current academic pursuits, Darren works closely with Indigenous communities assisting to improve health and well-being.

**Abstract:** Come witness the amazing "power of the mind" in this high-energy, interactive, comedy hypnosis show. The audience will enjoy a clean, fast paced, family fun experience, as participants become the stars of this hilarious show. Everyone will have memories to be talked about for years.



## Santee Smith

### **T**ekaronhiákhwa Santee Smith

Santee is from the Kahnyen'kehàka (Mohawk) Nation, Turtle Clan from Six Nations of the Grand River, Ontario. She is a mother, multi-disciplinary artist, and award-winning producer, choreographer. She holds performance in a sacred space, as all life is sacred. Santee maintains an Onkwehon:we understanding of performance, the body and role of artist: music and dance are celebrations of life; the body is a vessel to house our spirit during our earth walk and the artist as a storyteller, transformer and medicine person. From this perspective her work speaks about identity and humanity in relation to the creative universe. Recovering from two broken legs, completing six years of training at Canada's National Ballet School, Physical Education and Psychology degrees from McMaster University and theatre training, Santee returned to dance in 1996 as a choreographer. Dedicating six years to create and produce her first dance work, Kaha:wi, a family creation story, she also completed a M.A. in Dance at York University in 2004. Following her passion she founded Kaha:wi Dance Theatre (KDT), a vehicle for her artistic voice in 2005. Her body of works include productions with Kaha:wi Dance Theatre and independent commissions notably: Kaha:wi (2004), Midwinter Dreaming (Dancer's Dancing commission 2004); Here On Earth (2005); The Threshing Floor (co-choreography Michael Greyeyes, 2006); Sacred Spring (2006); A Constellation of Bones (2007); A Story Before Time (TYA, co-production Banff Centre, 2007); A Soldier's Tale (Theatre Aquarius, 2008); Tripped Up Blues (Canada Dance Festival commission, 2009); Susuriwka – willow bridge (co-production Yokohama Noh Theatre, Planet IndigenUS, Harbourfront Centre 2011); The Creator's Game (2011); Medicine Bear (TYA, co-production Woodland Cultural Centre, 2011); TransMigration (co-production Planet IndigenUS, Harbourfront Centre, 2012); Star Dreamer (Canadian Contemporary Dance Theatre commission, 2012); The Honouring (City of Toronto, Indigenous Arts Festival, Fort York, Woodland Cultural Centre, 2013); NeoIndigenA (2014); Electric Inter-tribal (Canada's National Ballet School commission, 2013); Tkaronto Bounce (Panamania, TO2015); Maadaadizi/Summer Journeys (Jason Baerg/Tanya Tagaq commission, TO2015); Inter-Hoop (Fall for Dance North commission, 2015); I Lost My Talk (National Arts Centre Orchestra commission, 2015); Re-Quickening (2016); Powwow Bounce (2016); Sewatonha ren - May Your Spirit Be Well (Mush Hole Project commission, 2016); and Waktényes (Dreamcatcher Gala commission, 2016) among others.

She is the recipient of numerous awards: Chalmers Award; K.M. Hunter Award for Dance; Canada Council's Victor Martyn Lynch-Staunton Award; John Hobday Award for Arts Management; Hamilton Music Award for Kaha:wi in Best Cultural and Ethnic Recording (2003). In 2013, Santee received a Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding Choreography in the Dance Division for Susuriwka – willow bridge and was recognized as a Eihwaedei Yerihwayente:ri (Community Scholar) in 2015 by Six Nations Polytechnic.

Santee's performances have been featured on screen: Buffalo Tracks (APTN); Suite Indian and Rechargin by Mohawk filmmaker Shelley Niro (Turtle Night Productions). Her life and work has been the topic of documentaries: Freedom Series (Acme Productions); Dancing with Spirit Series (Soaring Heart Pictures); See and Hear the World (Amerimage Productions); For the Generations: Native Story and Performance (Painted Sky and Oregon Public Broadcasting); All Our Relations (Waterfront Productions, APTN); "The Sharing Circle (APTN); First Story (CTV Vancouver); Moccasins and Concrete: An Urban Native Story (CBC); dance documentary Kaha:wi – Cycle of Life produced by Wabungung Film Company (2014). Santee is a frequent teacher, lecturer, writer and inspirational speaker on contemporary dance and performance such as at: University of Trinidad & Tobago, McMaster University, University of Toronto, York University, George Washington University (US), Trent University, UQAM (QC), Brock University, Waseda University (JP), University of Puebla (MX), University of New Mexico (NM), University of California-Riverside (CA), Yokohama Arts Foundation, (JP), NAISDA Dance College (AU), International Society for the Performing Arts (ISPA) among others.

Santee is a pottery designer at family owned business Talking Earth Pottery located on Six Nations, freelance actor, writer and producer. Her pottery pieces are in the collections of the Woodland Cultural Centre, Gardiner Museum, Royal Ontario Museum, Museum of Civilization, National Gallery of Canada and in private collections around the world.