



IAESC

# Our Community Our Choice

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Indigenous Institutes Student Conference

February 6-7, 2019

## Welcome students, facilitators and guests



Students from Indigenous Institutes in Ontario are helping design the future of community-driven post-secondary education at the Our Community, Our Choice conference in Toronto February 6-7.

“The Indigenous Advanced Education and Skills Council (IAESC) was created to provide quality assurance for this new and important pillar and students are uniquely qualified to guide this work,” said Laurie Robinson, chairwoman and executive director of the Council. The two-day event organized by IAESC welcomes representatives from among the nine Indigenous Institutes from across the province. The conference begins Wednesday afternoon at the Westin Prince Hotel with an opening traditional ceremony. The evening features a dinner with entertainment by Adrian Sutherland, a language keeper among the Mushkegowuk Cree of James Bay and Midnight Shine band member.



The 29<sup>th</sup> Lieutenant Governor of Ontario Elizabeth Dowdeswell will join the students, facilitators and organizers for dinner as special guest speaker. On Thursday, the conference moves to the Evergreen Brickworks beginning with a sunrise ceremony while the day of workshops kicks off with inspirational words from Ashley Callingbull, Plains Cree role model from Enoch First Nations.

Facilitators are Erin Dokis, a post-secondary educator from Dokis First Nation and Perry McLeod Shabogesic, IAESC’s cultural advisor from Nipissing First Nation.

**“The goal of the first-ever gathering of its kind is to learn from the students what an “ideal” post-secondary experience must include. What do they value? What do they need to fulfill their role in making their families and community the best it can possibly be?”**

Back at the Westin Prince for closing ceremonies and dinner, students share their thoughts before Sagkeeng’s Finest dance and DJ NDN provides musical stylings. Lisa Charleyboy, Tsihgot’in from Tsi Deldel First Nation and award-winning story teller, is MC for the evening.



## **Dedicated to the late Delbert Horton**

The Our Community, Our Choice student conference is dedicated to the late Delbert Horton, a founding board member of the Indigenous Advanced Education and Skills Council.

Chi Anikwat (Atik N'Dodem), 'Big Cloud' (Caribou Clan), Delbert Horton, 70, passed on peacefully Dec. 23, 2018 at the Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg. A wake was held at the Manitou Rapids gymnasium December 26, 2019 and a traditional Midewewin ceremony took place December 27, attended by several IAESC representatives, including his wife Laura Horton, a founding member of the IAESC Quality Assessment Board.

A 3<sup>rd</sup> degree Midewewin, Horton was a leader of his Manitou Rapids community (one term as chief and 25 years as councillor) while also a life-long educator and student. He earned a Masters of Indigenous Knowledge and Philosophy from the Aanda Wenjigewin Programme at Seven Generations Education Institute (SGEI) in 2015, the same year the World Indigenous Nations University bestowed upon him an Honourary Ph.D. In 1985, Horton began the Rainy Lake Ojibway Education Authority, which transformed into SGEI, to bring further education into Anishinaabe communities. He was also a founding member of the World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium in 2002.

**“Delbert was a kind and generous man who leaves many people with memories of love and happiness.”**

One of his last interviews about education took place during the unveiling of IAESC review materials in Toronto September 26, 2018 and a tribute video with him speaking can be viewed on the Council's website at [www.iaesc.ca](http://www.iaesc.ca)

## **Our Community, Our Choice, Student Conference**

Students of Indigenous Institutes are uniquely qualified to help set the standards for this newly-recognized pillar of post-secondary education and training in Ontario. As the recipients of the education offered by Institutes, students have made a choice to seek an education that provides benefits to them, their families and their communities. The Indigenous Advanced Education and Skills Council (IAESC) has organized the *Our Community, Our Choice* conference to seek the insights and perspectives of students to help guide our quality assurance process.

### **February 6**

#### **DAY I: *Westin Prince Hotel, 900 York Mills Road***

- 2:30 p.m. Light snacks and beverages, Valleybrook Room
- 3:00 p.m. Opening of Conference, Valleybrook Room
- Welcome Remarks, Laurie Robinson, IAESC board chairwoman and executive director
- 3:15 p.m. Introduction of facilitators
- Erin Dokis and Perry McLeod-Shabogesisic
- 3:20 p.m. Smudging ceremony and teaching
- Darrell Boissoneau
- 4:15 p.m. Session I: Introduction of students and networking activity, Erin Dokis, Perry McLeod-Shabogesisic
- 5:10 p.m. Closing of session
- 5:15 p.m. Break
- 6:00 p.m. Dinner, Valleybrook Room
- 6:15 p.m. Introduction of Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, Elizabeth Dowdeswell
- Laurie Robinson
- 6:20 p.m. Remarks. The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario
- 7:30 p.m. Musical performance, Adrian Sutherland of Midnight Shine
- 8:15 p.m. Closing remarks, Laurie Robinson

**February 7**

**DAY II: *Evergreen Brickworks, 550 Bayview Avenue***

6:15 a.m.	Breakfast
7:15 a.m.	Departure, Coach bus to conference location
7:30 a.m.	Sunrise Ceremony, BMO Atrium <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Darrell Boissonneau and Perry McLeod-Shabogestic</li></ul>
8:30 a.m.	Introduction to sessions: Erin Dokis and Perry McLeod-Shabogestic.
9:00 a.m.	Keynote address, Ashley Callingbull
9:20 a.m.	Session I:  What do you value about your community? What is your role?
10:30 a.m.	Health Break
10:45 a.m.	Session II: What have been the highlights of your post-secondary experience?
12:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 p.m.	Keynote address, Ashley Callingbull
1:20 p.m.	Session III: Building an Indigenous Institute  What are the priorities? What does it look like?
3:00 p.m.	Health Break
3:15 p.m.	Session IV: Describe a perfect day of learning.
4:45 p.m.	Departure, Coach bus to Westin Prince Hotel
<u>Dinner</u>	<i>Westin Prince Hotel, Valleybrook Room</i>
6:00 p.m.	Welcome, MC Lisa Charleyboy
7:15 p.m.	Remarks, IAESC
7:20 p.m.	Dance performance, Sagkeeng's Finest
8:05 p.m.	Musical performance, DJ NDN



### **Adrian Sutherland**

Adrian Sutherland comes from the Cree community of Attawapiskat in Northern Ontario. He's a singer/songwriter and frontman for roots-rock band Midnight Shine, making contemporary music that gives a glimpse of life in Canada's Far North reflecting universal themes like family, home,

love and loss. In addition to making contemporary knowledge and being a language keeper of his Mushkegowuk Cree people of the James Bay, he teaches his children about the traditional ways of the land, he participates in annual harvests and takes part in and often leads ceremonies. He is a father of four, grandfather of three, and hard-working husband, proud of who he is and where he comes from. A graduate of Northern College in Timmins, Adrian completed Business Management in 2014. Prior to that, he worked as certified Emergency Medical Technician for 10 years. He is currently Board Chair of the Attawapiskat First Nation Education Authority.



### **Ashley Callingbull**

Ashley Callingbull is a Cree First Nations woman from the Enoch Cree Nation in the province of Alberta, Canada. She is very devoted to her culture and people, and takes pride in her Native Cree heritage, showing this through her volunteer work with community Elders and youth. Ashley is a model, actor, and First Nation's activist who was the reigning Mrs. Universe 2015, an actor on the television show *Blackstone*, and a contestant on the *Amazing Race Canada* in 2016.



### **Lisa Charleyboy**

Lisa Charleyboy (Tsilhqot'in from Tsi Deldel First Nation) is an award-winning writer, editor, and storyteller. *Huffington Post* named her one of three Aborigines to watch, and the *National Post* called her an "Aboriginal storyteller for the digital generation." She is host of CBC Radio One's *New Fire*, co-creator of APTN's *Urban Native Girl*, and co-editor of three anthologies with Annick Press.



## Sagkeeng's Finest

Hailing from the Sagkeeng First Nation, Vince O'Laney and brothers Brandon and Dallas Courchene all began dancing in their community only a few years ago. While they won competitions and had taken stages around the province, including performances at Asham Stomperfest, they formed the trio known as Sagkeeng's Finest to participate in the largest national talent contest in Canadian television history. Their intricate footwork and enthusiasm earned them the title of "Most

Improved" as well as "Biggest Risk Taker" from the Canada's Got Talent judges. On May 14, 2012, Sagkeeng's Finest was named the winner of the first-ever contest. Their blend of traditional jigging blended artfully with modern, clogging and tap styles has created a unique and infectious style of upbeat dance. As a result of their success, The Province of Manitoba honoured the trio with the Order of the Buffalo Hunt this spring. They are among the youngest to receive the honour, which recognizes outstanding and distinctive contributions to the life of Manitoba.



## DJ NDN

Ian Campeau, also known as DeeJay NDN, is the co-founder & former member of the music group A Tribe Called Red (ATCR). Through a powerful combination of art and activism, he uses his notoriety to draw attention to issues of racism, gender-based violence, stigmas of mental health, and other forms of oppression. He is Ojibwe, Anishinaabe from the Nipissing First Nation.

## Behind the IAESC logo

Rocks are our Grandfathers, they have held our teachings since time immemorial.

Rocks represent the integrity of Indigenous languages, cultures and knowledge. Rocks are resilient, forged by the elements and shaped by the environment over generations.

For these reasons, the Indigenous Advanced Education & Skills Council has chosen the Rock as the primary element in its corporate logo. The colours – reds and browns – reflect the earth and minerals that develop the rock's character, strength and diversity.

The Rock also represents the strength of the communities and partners forming the foundation and future of Indigenous post-secondary education and training. The quality assurance standards established by the Council, signified by the rock's layers, support students at Indigenous Institutes in their communities. Asymmetrical and varied layers are also similar to the many different approaches to education and multiple relationships that bond to support the journey of life-long learning.

## IAESC is a quality assurance organization

The Indigenous Advanced Education and Skills Council, an independent not-for-profit corporation created through provincial legislation, is the accreditation organization for Indigenous Institutes to grant certificates, diplomas and degrees.

The Council uses a quality assurance process steered by its Quality Assessment Board, which sets standards approved by the Council. Assisting quality assurance in Ontario is the World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium. WINHEC is providing IAESC use of its framework accreditation process and access to its expertise through a memorandum of understanding agreement signed during its annual general meeting held in Norway in August 2018. See the story at our website [www.iaesc.ca](http://www.iaesc.ca)

Members of IAESC's founding board of directors includes Pamela Toulouse, PhD, the late Delbert Horton and Bob Watts with Laurie Robinson the chair and executive director. The Council's Quality Assessment Board members include Kali Storm, Laura Horton and T'hohahoken Michael Doxtator, PhD.

