

STRENGTHENING THE STATUS QUEER:

A LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM FOR AND BY QUEER PEOPLE

Friday Oct. 21, 2022 (evening)
at the Little Brown Jug

Saturday Oct. 22, 2022 (all day)
at The University of Manitoba
(Faculty of Education)



mts THE
MANITOBA
TEACHERS'
SOCIETY



University
of Manitoba



CANADA RESEARCH CHAIRS
CHAIRES DE RECHERCHE DU CANADA

Program of Events

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2022

Queer Leadership Pre-Symposium Gathering
Little Brown Jug Brewing Co.
336 William Avenue, Winnipeg, MB

Time: 5:30 pm – 11:00 pm

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2022

Faculty of Education, University of Manitoba
71 Curry Place, Winnipeg, MB

8:00 am – 8:30 am	Registration
8:30 am – 9:40 am	Opening Keynote
9:50 am – 10:50 am	Breakout Sessions (choose one A session)
10:50 am – 11:05 am	Break
11:05 am – 12:05 pm	Breakout Sessions (choose one B session)
12:05 pm – 1:05 pm	Lunch
1:05 pm – 2:05 pm	Queer Leaders: Navigating Difficult Conversations
2:05 pm – 2:50 pm	Networking Session
2:50 pm – 3:50 pm	Closing Keynote

The University of Manitoba has a mask mandate. Please ensure that you wear a mask covering your mouth and nose unless you are in a food-designated area.

- Masks must be worn in all indoor spaces on UM campuses.
- Both KN95 masks (highly recommended) and the 3-ply medical masks (minimum ASTM Grade 2) are acceptable. A supply of masks will be available at the event.
- Unless you are in a food-designated area, you must keep your mask on and covering your mouth and nose at all times. You do not need to wear a mask if you are alone in a closed space or consuming food/beverages in a food-designated area.
- Instructors/presenters may choose to remove their mask when actively teaching/speaking, provided a 2m distance can be maintained from students.

The Manitoba Teachers' Society respects safe spaces for everyone. Photos will be taken during the Symposium and might be shared on our website, publications and social media. By attending this event, you may be included in these photos. If you do not consent to being in a photo please let us know. While all efforts will be made to respect your decision, there may be circumstances where this is not possible.

Schedule

Opening Keynote	8:30 am – 9:40 am	Dr. Kevin Kumashiro
A Sessions	9:50 am – 10:50 am	A1 Navigating Politics and Microaggressions in the Workplace A2 Optimizing Your Job Search with Positive Psychology A3 Non-Binary and Trans Leadership: Stories from the Field A4 Social Construction of LGBTQ Identities: Implications for Leadership
B Sessions	11:05 am – 12:05 pm	B1 Queering Labour: What We've Won and What We Still Want B2 Queer Leadership: Learning from the Research B3 Mental Health and Wellness B4 Politics of Gay-Straight Alliances
C Session	1:05 pm – 2:05 pm	C1 Queer Leaders: Navigating Difficult Conversations
D Session	2:05 pm – 2:50 pm	D1 Networking Session
Closing Keynote Queering Indigenous Leadership	2:50 pm – 3:50 pm	Dr. Alex Wilson, John Sylliboy, and Dr. Albert McLeod



Queer Leadership Pre-Symposium Gathering

LOCATION: LITTLE BROWN JUG BREWING CO.

DATE: OCTOBER 21, 2022

TIME: 5:30 PM – 10:00 PM

Opening Keynote – Dr. Kevin Kumashiro

TIME: 8:30 AM – 9:40 AM

DR. KEVIN KUMASHIRO



Dr. Kevin Kumashiro (<https://www.kevinkumashiro.com>) is an internationally recognized expert on educational policy, school reform, teacher preparation, and educational equity and social justice, with a wide-ranging list of accomplishments and awards as a scholar, educator, leader, and advocate. He is the former Dean of the School of Education at the University of San Francisco, and is the award-winning author or editor of ten books, including *Against Common Sense: Teaching and Learning Toward Social Justice*, and most recently, *Surrendered: Why Progressives are Losing the Biggest Battles in Education*. His recent awards include the 2016 Social Justice in Education Award from the American Educational Research Association, and an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters.

A1 Navigating Politics and Microaggressions in the Workplace

PRESENTERS: LINDSAY BROWN AND CHANTAL RAMRAJ

TIME: 9:50 AM – 10:50 AM

This workshop aims to engage participants in collaborative discussion about pushing back against the interpersonal and structural violence perpetrated against many 2SLGBTQIA+ educators in the workplace. Participants will walk away with strategies to establish networks of support within their own communities, and to build coalitions with folks from other marginalized groups.

Topics covered in this session will include: 2SLGBTQIA+ advocacy; challenging homonormativity; “sensitive topics”; microaggression theory; capitalism; colonization; community organizing; transformative practice; coalition building.

LINDSAY BROWN



Lindsay Brown is a classroom teacher, a member of the Seven Oaks Teachers’ Association, and a Member-at-Large on the MTS Provincial Executive. Lindsay is currently a lead facilitator with QUESO: Queering Seven Oaks, a collaborative network of 2SLGBTQIA+ educators promoting queer-expansive education.

CHANTAL RAMRAJ



Chantal Shivanna Ramraj is a 33-year-old non-binary, queer teacher from Treaty 1 Territory. Their pronouns are she and they. She loves teaching. Chantal is currently pursuing a Masters of Education in Social Justice Education from the University of Toronto. Her priorities are to give young people the skills to understand the world around them – and hopefully the ability to recreate the world for the better.

A2 Optimizing Your Job Search with Positive Psychology

PRESENTER: ANNE MACGREGOR

TIME: 9:50 AM – 10:50 AM

Understanding how your character strengths play a role in your job search.

ANNE MACGREGOR



Anne Macgregor created Bravework in 2017 to service individuals, employers and insurance agencies by offering disability and vocational rehabilitation solutions with a focus on occupational wellness and thriving. She has been providing Manitobans with vocational rehabilitation services to assist with their return to work after job loss, injury, or illness since 2007. Her experience has been a combination of public and private practice. Anne is skilled in working with clients with functional, psychological, cognitive, and emotional and health impairments. She works with clients to overcome barriers to accessing, maintaining, or returning to employment. She is a Certified Vocational Rehabilitation Professional

and in 2022, Anne was elected as the President of the Vocational Rehabilitation Association of Manitoba. The key to Anne's passion for the field has been exploring and discovering new ways of working with clients. She is a Positive Psychology Practitioner and Bounce Back Better (B³)[®] trainer, offering individualized and group programs for building mental, physical, emotional and social resilience. In addition, she is a committed volunteer in her community. As a cancer survivor, Anne is honored to be a Speaker for the Terry Fox Run.*Signature Strengths are Curiosity, Hope, Fairness, Social Intelligence and Zest.

A3 Non-Binary and Trans Leadership: Stories from the Field

PRESENTERS: UZOMA ASAGWARA, BRIELLE BEARDY, MARLEY DEWAR, AND JOSEPH MOORE

MODERATOR: DENE GUILLAS

TIME: 9:50 AM – 10:50 AM

This panel brings together trans and non-binary leaders to discuss the successes, joys, challenges, and experiences of taking on formal leadership roles while confronting rigid cisgender and binary conceptions of gender. Moderated by Dene Guillas (Rainbow Resource Centre).

UZOMA ASAGWARA



Uzoma Asagwara is a Registered Psychiatric Nurse, Addictions Specialist and former member of the Canadian National basketball team and in 2019 made history as the first Black, Queer, Gender Non-Conforming person elected to the Manitoba Legislative Assembly and across Canada. Most recently Uzoma became the first Black person to make a law in Manitoba when their Bill "The Somali Heritage Week Act" was passed in December of 2020 with the unanimous support in the Manitoba Legislature. Uzoma has been a long-time advocate alongside newcomer and refugee communities, two-spirit and LGBTQ+ folks, youth and grassroots organizations.

BRIELLE BEARDY



Brielle Beardy-Linklater is a two-spirit Cree woman from the Nisichawayasihk “[nissy-cha-why-yas-seek]” Cree Nation and York Factory First Nation and is an outspoken advocate for two-spirit resurgence, issues affecting the LGBTQ+ population, Indigenous inherent rights, and poverty reduction. She is a community advocate, keeper of Nehethowuk history, and a land defender.

Brielle is a recipient of the 2018 Sybil Shack Youth Award and has also received a YWCA Woman of Distinction award. In 2015, she was appointed to the Provincial Advisory Council on the Status of Women. In 2017, she was invited to participate as one of the 338 Daughters of the Vote, and was the first transgender woman in Canadian history to sit in parliament.

MARLEY DEWAR



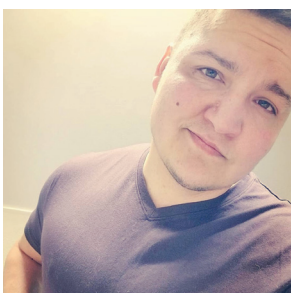
Marley is a queer, non-binary teacher who lives and works in Treaty 2 territory in rural Manitoba. Originally from Winnipeg, Marley relocated to Southwestern Manitoba in 2015 where they still reside with their wife and three-year-old son. They believe very strongly in community and fighting against systems of oppression. Marley is active within The Manitoba Teachers’ Society; they sit as their local chair for Equity and Social Justice and will be joining the Collective Bargaining Standing Committee in the 2022-2023 school year. At work, Marley and their Gender and Sexuality Alliance held the division’s very first Pride Day in 2022 and had the Progressive Pride Flag installed permanently in their school’s library.

JOSEPH (JOEY) MOORE



Joey is a white settler who works in the territories of Ininiw, Anishinaabe, Island Lake Aniciniw, Nakota, Dakota, and Sayisi Dene and in the homeland of the Métis nation. Joey is a proud transgender Queer and is the Director of Services at Rainbow Resource Centre. They oversee the management and development of the Centre’s programming and counselling services to identify and respond to emerging community needs and strive to operate within harm-reduction and client-centered frameworks. Joey is passionate about advocacy, front-line support and fostering community connectedness.

DENE GUILLAS



Dene (he/him) is a proud Indigiqueer, pansexual, transgender man and father who has always lived and worked on Treaty One Territory, the territories of the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dene, Dakota and Métis Nations. He has been lucky enough to be involved in the training and education field for over 18 years. Whether it was in a classroom environment, community centre, conference, or small gatherings, he has always tried to make sure learning is inclusive to everyone. His love of helping others led him to Rainbow Resource Centre in 2019, where he works as the School Equity & Inclusion Coordinator. This has allowed his passion of interacting and speaking to others to turn into a way to give back to the community. Helping to raise awareness for our youth has given him a purpose that is extremely close to his heart.

A4 Social Construction of LGBTQ Identities: Implications for Leadership

PRESENTER: JARED STAR

TIME: 9:50 AM – 10:50 AM

This workshop will explore the complexities and contradictions that collide when queer identities take up space in leadership roles.

- Subjectivity as it relates to sexuality and gender will be defined and situated in contemporary social theory.
- The field of leadership and related research will be briefly explored.
- Connections between both queer identities and leadership will be made.
- Challenges and opportunities that arise from being queer in leadership will be discussed.
- Future directions for queer leaders in a “DEI” focused world will be outlined.

JARED STAR



Jared is a PhD student, and passionate leader in the community health sector with research interests in sexuality, sexual health and critical social science approaches to public health problems. Jared earned his BSW in 2016 and his MSc in Community Health Sciences in 2021, both from the U of M. He is the recipient of both the SSHRC Joseph Armand Bombardier CGS-M award (2018) for his project looking at steroid use among 2SGBQ+ men in Manitoba and the Vanier Award for his upcoming doctoral work. Jared has held several leadership positions in both the non-profit and health sectors, including as the Co-Executive Director, Director of Development, and Director of Programs for

SERC: Sexuality Education Resource Centre of Manitoba and has been a manager at both the local and national levels. While studying, Jared consults on research and program development projects and enjoys deejaying, travelling, and doing everything his bossy little Shiba Inu dog tells him to.

B1 Queering Labour: What We’ve Won and What We Still Want

PRESENTER: DEANNA OGLE

TIME: 11:05 AM – 12:05 PM

Historic and current bargaining for inclusion.

DEANNA OGLE



Deanna is the Prairie Regional Director for the Canadian Labour Congress, a queer woman, and community organizer. As the Prairie Regional Director for Canada’s national voice for labour, Deanna is a resource for Federations of Labour; facilitates labour education on a wide range of topics; and supports union members in engaging in political action across the prairies. When Deanna isn’t working she can be found reviewing lipstick, knitting socks and yelling about politics.

B2 Queer Leadership: Learning from the Research

PRESENTERS: DR. ROBERT C. MIZZI AND CHRISTOPHER CAMPBELL

TIME: 11:05 AM – 12:05 PM

This workshop features current research involving queer leaders and explores why their involvement is crucial towards advancing inclusion.

Topics covered will include: Queer leaders; struggles; barriers; anti-homophobia education; and leadership education.

DR. ROBERT MIZZI



Robert C. Mizzi is the Canada Research Chair in Queer, Community and Diversity Education and Associate Professor in the Faculty of Education at the University of Manitoba, Canada. He has over 200 publications and presentations, including articles published in the *Journal of Homosexuality* and the *International Journal of Educational Policy and Leadership*. He has also published five books, with the most recent being the *Handbook of Adult and Continuing Education* in 2020.

CHRISTOPHER CAMPBELL



Christopher Campbell (he/him) is a PhD candidate in the Faculty of Education, University of Manitoba, working on education reform and policy and the impacts of structural change on 2SLGBTQIA+ students and content in schools. He was co-investigator on the Second National Climate Survey on Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia in Canadian Schools and research coordinator on the RISE Project on 2SLGBTQ+-expansive Teacher Education.

B3 Mental Health and Wellness

PRESENTER: CURTIS LOWTON

TIME: 11:05 AM – 12:05 PM

As we transition out of the pandemic, we are more aware than ever of our mental well-being. 2SLGBTQIA+ people experience higher rates of anxiety, depression, substance abuse, and other mental health struggles...but why? And, knowing that our community is more vulnerable to psychological distress, what can we do? This session will outline reasons why 2SLGBTQIA+ people are more susceptible to mental health challenges, investigate Meyer's Minority Stress Model and its implications on queer mental health, and explore ways to increase resilience and enhance mental well-being.

CURTIS LOWTON



Curtis Lowton (he/him) is an educator and a Canadian Certified Counsellor (CCC) with the Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association (CCPA). An M.Ed graduate with a specialization in Counselling Psychology, Curtis has experience in the areas of addiction, anxiety, depression, and suicidal ideation. He was featured in the Winnipeg Free Press and on CHVN Radio for his co-creation of Shared Hope, an online support group for Manitobans suffering from pandemic-related trauma. Curtis currently teaches grade 7/8 in Louis Riel School Division and operates a part-time online therapy practice.

B4 Politics of Gay-Straight Alliances

PRESENTER: TANNYS MOFFATT

TIME: 11:05 AM – 12:05 PM

This workshop will cover the opportunities and barriers of creating, running, and sustaining a Gender Sexuality Alliance in schools. It will also touch on the importance of representation in workspaces beyond classrooms.

TANNYS MOFFATT



Tannys (she/her) is an educator in the Winnipeg School Division and a member of The Manitoba Teachers' Society Teacher-Led Learning Team. Primarily a science teacher, she has been involved in planning and implementing alternative programming for students needing additional academic, social-emotional, mental health and behavioural supports. She is a strong advocate for anyone who may feel marginalized by a binary and heteronormative society.

C1 Queer Leaders: Navigating Difficult Conversations

PRESENTERS: ALLISA DENBOW, HORACE LUONG, NOREEN MIAN, SHELDON GARDINER

MODERATOR: TERRI-LYNN HILL

TIME: 1:05 PM – 2:05 PM

This panel features queer leaders in various fields to discuss how they navigate hetero/cisnormative systems while providing leadership in their institutions and/or communities. Moderated by Terri Hill of The Manitoba Teachers' Society.

ALLISA DENBOW



Allisa is a queer teacher who lives and works in Treaty 2 territory. She resides with her spouse and son in a small rural community. Allisa is active within The Manitoba Teachers' Society, she sits as her local chair for Equity and Social Justice and will be joining the Equity and Social Justice Standing Committee in the 2022-2023 school year.

HORACE LUONG



Dr. Horace Luong, a Chemistry instructor at the University of Manitoba since 2008, teaches a range of undergraduate organic chemistry courses, including the delivery of laboratory programs. Horace's interest in teaching and participation in science outreach has led to him being recognized with teaching and outreach awards. He served as Associate Head (Undergraduate) for the Department of Chemistry from July 2020-June 2021 and Associate Dean (Student Experience) of the Faculty of Science since March 2022.

NOREEN MIAN



Noreen Mian (she/her) is the Executive Director of the Rainbow Resource Centre. Noreen believes in the power of community and has worked and volunteered in the not-for-profit sector for over ten years as the Executive Director of Volunteer Manitoba and Chair of the Winnipeg Folk Festival. She has a talent for cutting through noise to get to the heart of any matter and champions best practices in governance and organizational development. Noreen holds an MA in cultural studies (Athabasca) and a BA in Art History (McGill) and before beginning her career, spent six months living in West Africa volunteering in community development.

SHELDON GARDINER



Sheldon is the Student Support Services Administrator for Prairie Spirit School Division. He has been a teacher, counsellor and principal. His key interests are in creating school environments where students feel supported and safe.

In his spare time, Sheldon farms and has a growing Quarter Horse operation with his boyfriend, Derek.

TERRI HILL



Terri has been a Staff Officer with The Manitoba Teachers' Society since 2015. Her work primarily involves bargaining, protecting teachers' rights, and supporting teachers with issues in their workplace. She also oversees the Workplace Safety and Health Standing Committee and provides training to teachers across the province on topics including harassment, violence, and general safety at work.

Prior to working for MTS, Terri was a middle school teacher for 23 years, the last eight of which she worked as a principal. Terri enjoys camping and travelling with her wife, and spending time with good friends who make her laugh.

D1 Networking Session

TIME: 2:05 PM – 2:50 PM

In this whole-group session, participants will deepen their learning through facilitated conversations.

Closing Keynote: Queering Indigenous Leadership

PRESENTERS: DR. ALEX WILSON, JOHN SYLLIBOY, AND DR. ALBERT MCLEOD

TIME: 2:50 PM – 3:50 PM

This session invites two-spirit leaders to share stories of their achievements and challenges in their leadership so that other two-spirit or queer leaders can learn from them and their communities.

Topics covered include:

- Indigenous precolonial social structures related to gender and sexual orientation;
- The introduction of the 2Spirit name in 1990;
- The evolution and growth of 2Spirit organizations in Canada and the US; and
- The influence of 2Spirit activist and leaders in Indigenous and LGBTQ governance and community development.

DR. ALEX WILSON



Dr. Alex Wilson, Opaskwayak Cree Nation, is a Professor with the Department of Educational Foundations and the Academic Director of the Aboriginal Education Research Centre at the University of Saskatchewan. Her scholarship has greatly contributed to building and sharing knowledge about land-based education; two-spirit identity, history, and teachings; Indigenous research methodologies; anti-oppressive education; the prevention of violence in the lives of Indigenous peoples; and the protection of land and water.

JOHN SYLLIBOY



John is L'nu from the Millbrook Mi'kmaw Community in Nova Scotia. John is a co-founder and Executive Director of the Wabanaki Two-Spirit Alliance (W2SA) – a 2S organization that advocates for 2S people in Atlantic Canada and nationally. John integrates Indigenous perspectives using Etuaptmumk or Two-Eyed Seeing in curriculum development, research and cultural studies, especially in areas that impact Indigenous youth and well-being.

John collaborates on various regional and national projects involving pain research at the IWK Health Centre in Halifax. As a research activist, his work aims to improve access to health care for Indigenous people, advocate for Indigenous health research, and develop two-spirit research ethics and protocols in the region and Canada. John's doctoral studies are to explore gender, sexuality and sex, using L'nuwey perspectives to explore cultural strategies to address mental health for two-spirit youth.

DR. ALBERT MCLEOD



Albert McLeod is a Status Indian with ancestry from Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation and the Métis communities of Cross Lake and Norway House in northern Manitoba. He has over thirty years of experience as a human rights activist and was one of the founders of the 2-Spirited People of Manitoba. Albert began his 2Spirit advocacy in Winnipeg in 1986 and became an HIV/AIDS activist in 1987. He was the director of the Manitoba Aboriginal AIDS Task Force from 1991 to 2001. In 2018, Albert received an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from the University of Winnipeg. He was also a member of the sub-working group that produced the MMIWG - 2SLGBTQQIA+ National Action Plan Report in 2020-2021. In 2020, Albert joined Team Thunderhead, the team that recently won the international competition to design the LGBTQ2+ National Monument in Ottawa. Albert lives in Winnipeg, where he works as a consultant specializing in Indigenous peoples, 2Spirit history and identity, cultural reclamation, and cross-cultural training. www.albertmcleod.com



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