Brandon Teachers' Association
LIFT 2026 Conference - HYBRID

Please note:

- **EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION ENDS September 18th, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.**
- A $10.00 fee will be charged with respect to the cancellation of a registration or switch of sessions. **Deadline for cancellations is October 15th at 1:00 p.m. Cancellations after this date & time will not receive a refund of fees.**
- **Walk-up Registrations will ONLY be for in-person sessions at Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School at a cost of $70 at the door.**
- **A link will be provided to attendees for virtual sessions.**
- We accept either Credit Cards or Debit Cards when registering on-line.
- Registration fee includes GST.
- **Registration is not complete until full payment is received**.

FULL DAY SESSIONS – IN PERSON:

1) BEADED POPPIES

Laura Moar, Indigenous Academic Achievement Support Worker, Brandon School Division

In this session, we will be beading a poppy which includes edging and making a brooch so you can wear it.

BIO:

Laura has worked as an IAA Support worker for six years. During this time, she learned to bead from knowledge keepers and now shares those skills with students and staff in the Brandon School Division. She enjoys beading as a pastime and values how each project helps build skill and deepen understanding of the process.

Suitable for All Educators
9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Maximum number of participants 25)

COST: $80.00 until September 18th/$90.00 after September 18th
(includes $30.00 supply fee)
LOCATION: Library - École Secondaire Neelin High School
1020 Brandon Avenue, Brandon, MB

2) EXPRESSIVE ART EXPLORATION OF THE IMPACTS OF AI ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

Tara Leach, Teacher, Brandon School Division

Explore how expressive art can provide balance and enlightenment as we come to terms with AI's impact on teaching and learning. In a safe and supportive space, we will express our thoughts and feelings about our personal AI journeys and take part in a guided expressive art experience involving two modes of art-making and, through a closing conversation in circle, we will share our discoveries. My hope is that through this time spent in creative community, we will combat the loneliness and overwhelm that can come with being "left to our own devices," and make supportive connections with each other to sustain us going forward. This is a full day experience, with a $10 fee for art supplies. No previous art experience needed. Suitable for teachers of any grade level.

BIO:

Tara Leach (she/her) lives, works, and creates on Treaty 2 territory, in Brandon School Division. As a high school teacher, expressive arts practitioner, exhibiting artist, and active contributor to the theatre community,

she has been encouraging young people to find their creative voices through the visual, literary, and performing arts for twenty-five years. Tara is committed to inclusive teaching practices, soft heartedness, and empowering all learners to envision and achieve the Good Life.

Suitable for teachers of any grade level.

9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Maximum number of participants 15)

COST: $60.00 until September 18th /$70.00 after September 18th
(includes $10.00 supply fee)

LOCATION: Art Room - École Secondaire Neelin High School
1020 Brandon Avenue, Brandon, MB

3) RIBBON SKIRT MAKING

Deborah Tacan

Gain understanding of ribbon skirts and variations in styles (traditional and modern). Learn how to measure, cut and sew a simple ribbon skirt.

BIO:

Deborah Tacan is a Cree/Métis woman from northern Manitoba. Deborah has worked in areas of childcare, mental health, and substance use; as well as most recently as a cultural support worker for the Brandon Friendship Centre. Deborah has been actively supporting the Brandon community for many years. She currently spends time organizing and supporting community gatherings and at schools giving cultural teachings and understandings. She is a dedicated mother and grandmother. Deborah carries many traditional skills such as making moccasins, willow baskets, dream catchers, beading, ribbon skirts and many other things using the natural materials from Mother Earth.

A list noting all materials required for the ribbon skirt will be forwarded to registered participants prior to the LIFT Conference. Supplies will not be provided.

Suitable for All Educators

9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Maximum number of participants 20)

COST: $50.00 until September 18th/$60.00 after September 18th

LOCATION: Human Ecology Room – Riverheights School
32 E. Fotheringham Drive, Brandon, MB

4) CANVA FOR BEGINNERS

Angela Jarosz, Teacher, Brandon School Division

Teachers will have an opportunity to come, set up a Canva account (if they have not yet) and learn some of the tools, options and how to create quick and easy resources, documents and posts for SeeSaw or parent emails, etc. The possibilities are endless. This is set up for those who have never used Canva, are just beginning or needing to switch from Publisher as it gets discontinued. There will be time in the afternoon to create, and trouble shoot with support as teachers get started.

Participants need to bring their personal device (laptop/tablet) and a screenshot of the top of their paystub showing their division and that they are a teacher. No personal info needed beyond name, division and title.

BIO:
Angela is an Early Years teacher who has worked with the Brandon School Division for over 11 years after relocating from Saskatchewan. Throughout her career, she has primarily taught Kindergarten to Grade 2 and has also worked in Reading Recovery. Angela is a mom to three kids (18, 16 & 12) and wife of a railroader, so time is not something she has a lot of! Angela enjoys creating for school and home and appreciates being able to quickly create the things she needs.

Suitable for All Educators
9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Maximum number of participants 25)

COST: $50.00 until September 18th/$60.00 after September 18th
LOCATION: Room 9 – Riverheights School
32E Fotheringham Drive, Brandon, MB

5) WELLNESS/OUTDOOR EXPERIENCE

Orrin McIntyre, Guidance Counsellor, Mountainview School Division

In this session, we will complete a hike and have discussions on staff wellness. This will provide an opportunity to take part in a wellness activity while reflecting on how you can improve staff wellness at your school.

This session will take place at the **Northgate Trail System about 15 km south of Dauphin** (151 km north of Brandon), near the boundary of **Riding Mountain National Park**. Please **meet at the trailhead at 9:00 am**. There is a sign on the west side of Highway 10 that notes the location of the trailhead.

Please bring a bag lunch as we will be stopping to eat on the trail. A backpack with extra clothing, water, lunch, snacks, etc. will be required. Please wear appropriate footwear and dress in layers as the weather can be unpredictable at this time of year. The specific trail(s) hiked will be determined in the fall. The trail rating will be moderate or difficult.

BIO:
Orrin McIntyre is a guidance counsellor at Dauphin Regional Comprehensive Secondary School. He is an advocate for staff wellness and enjoys sharing his love of the outdoors with his colleagues. Orrin is an avid hiker and photographer and the time he spends in nature is important to his overall health.

Suitable for All Educators
9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Maximum number of participants 20)

COST: $50.00 until September 18th/$60.00 after September 18th
LOCATION: **Northgate Trail System (15 km south of Dauphin – 151 km north of Brandon).**
Please meet at the trailhead at 9:00 a.m. There is a sign on the west side of Highway 10 that notes location of the trailhead.

6) LESS PLANNING CHAOS MORE INSTRUCTIONAL PAYOFF

Kiera Bowskill/Teresa Flannery

See how mentor texts, reading conferences and writing workshops can work together to build stronger readers, writers and thinkers - without doubling your workload.

BIO:
Kiera has worked in her role as Continuous Improvement Coach to help teachers in programming as well as co-teaching with classroom teachers and has seen the benefit of cross curricular planning. She engaged in personal development sessions with Kelly Gallagher and Matt Glover.
Teresa has taught in a variety of roles over the years including Resource, Academic Support, Literacy Support, Reading Recovery, Empower Reading, EAL as well as teaching in the classroom. She has used a variety of strategies and programs to help students improve their literacy skills.

Suitable for All Educators
9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Maximum number of participants 20)

COST: $50.00 until September 18th/$60.00 after September 18th
LOCATION: Room 108 – Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School
1930 – First Street, Brandon, MB

7) BEADING WRISTLET KEYCHAINS

Vanessa Pascal, BSSIP Worker, Brandon School Division

In this full day session, participants will learn the art of beading and bead wristlet keychains. All supplies will be provided (additional session fee of $35.00)

BIO:
Through beading, many stories are told, preserving history and identity. By continuing this tradition, Vanessa honours her ancestors and celebrates her culture. For Vanessa, beading is a form of medicine. It helps her stay focused, relieves stress, and teaches her patience. It provides a sense of accomplishment, nurtures mindfulness, and sparks creativity. This workshop is a wonderful opportunity to unwind, connect with others, and hopefully inspires you to create something meaningful.

Suitable for All Educators
9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Maximum number of participants 30)

COST: $85.00 until September 18th/$95.00 after September 18th
(Includes $35.00 supply fee)
LOCATION: Room 1 – Betty Gibson School
701 – 12th Street, Brandon, MB

HALF DAY SESSIONS – REPEAT (A.M. & P.M.) - IN PERSON:

8) WELLNESS STRATEGIES FOR HELPING PROFESSIONALS

Jocelyne Lalonde, M.Sc., PHEC, Crisis & Trauma Resource Institute

In many organizations it is common to find employees suffering from the adverse effects of stress. In the helping field, there are additional factors related to the nature of supporting people that can contribute to compassion fatigue or secondary trauma symptoms. Left unmanaged, stress can lead to unproductive patterns and result in loss of focus, motivation, and productivity. This workshop will help participants identify personal stress factors and introduce them to practical methods for successfully managing stress. Participants will have the opportunity to develop a personalized plan to repair negative effects of stress as well as accelerate their resilience.

BIO:
Jocelyne Lalonde is a proud franco-manitobaine and a Certified Motivational Interviewer with a master's degree in Family Social Science and an Honours Bachelor's degree in Sociology. She has over 15 years of experience working with youth, families, and adults in community, government, and school settings. Jocelyne's expertise and passion center around addiction, other mental health concerns, and wellness. Most recently, she has enjoyed teaching at the post-secondary level, where her research has focused on the experiences of youth in and from the child welfare system. As an enthusiastic lifelong learner, Jocelyne meaningfully acknowledges that there are many valuable ways of understanding ourselves and the world around us. She believes in the importance of walking respectfully alongside others and taking a strengths-based approach to providing support that focuses on each person's innate ability to create a more peaceful life. Jocelyne is passionate about creating genuine connections with others and believes that this is the first step to a better life and, ultimately, to a better world.

Suitable for All Educators

A) **9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** (Maximum number of participants 100)

B) **1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.** (Maximum number of participants 100)

COST: $25.00 until September 18th /$30.00 after September 18th
BTA MEMBERS $9 until September 18th/$10 after September 18th – Walk-up (Late) $15
LOCATION: Drama Room – Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School
1930 – First Street, Brandon, MB

9) BIN THERE, DONE THAT: THE REAL DIRT ON WASTE RECLAMATION

Kat Hunkin, Teacher

Most of the things we throw away can be reused, recycled, composted, or repurposed. In Manitoba, waste accounts for ~10% of our greenhouse gas emissions every year. Plastic pollution has reached a crisis level worldwide. Tackling these issues starts right in your homes and in our schools and is one of the easiest and most impactful changes that every person can make to fight climate change and consume sustainably. Learn about the options right here in Brandon for sorting and reducing your waste, take a crash course in how to recycle and compost effectively, and find out how to get your schools and students involved in making sustainable and mindful choices about what happens to the waste they produce.

BIO:
Kat Hunkin is a passionate advocate for the environment. She has lived most of her life on the west coast working as a marine ecology researcher, ecotour guide, and youth environmental science mentor. She has learned that one of the most impactful ways to change our society's views on climate, science, and the importance of the environment is by involving youth and the people that nurture and empower them.

Somehow (long story), she ended up as a math teacher in Brandon, Manitoba. She is a science communicator, climate activist, mindful consumer, and avid cook and gardener.

Suitable for All Educators

A) **9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** (Maximum number of participants 25)

B) **1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.** (Maximum number of participants 25)

COST: $25.00 until September 18th/$30.00 after September 18th
LOCATION: Room 210 – Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School
1930 – First Street, Brandon, MB

10) INDIGENIZING EDUCATION

Raven Willoughby, Indigenous Education Learning Specialist, Brandon School Division

Participants will learn suggested strategies for Indigenizing Education: connected to experience and documents. Participants will ask questions to expose greatest concerns about engaging in this work. Time will be given to interact with available resources at the BSD Indigenous Resource Centre that they might consider adding to their schools or classrooms, and brainstorm integration.

BIO:

Raven has her Master's Degree in Curriculum and Pedagogy from Brandon University. She has 20+ years of previous teaching experience in early years, middle years, senior years, alternative education and adult education; city and rural teaching. Raven is currently working as BSD's Indigenous Education Learning Specialist - making relationships and welcoming Elders and Knowledge Keepers into BSD buildings; as well as interacting with teachers and students to integrate more Indigenous ways of knowing and being into education. Raven has taught courses for Brandon University: Education Faculty and P.E.N.T Program. Raven appreciates every opportunity that she has to learn with Elders, Knowledge Carriers, and students. Raven has trekked her own personal journey of what it means to be a Métis person. She is a proud Métis woman – a member of the Red River Métis and the Westman Local of the Manitoba Métis Federation. She has become a beader, embroiderer, moccasin and ribbon skirt maker.

Suitable for all levels of Educators, Division or School Leaders

A) **9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** (Maximum number of participants 20)

B) **1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.** (Maximum number of participants 20)

COST: $25.00 until September 18th/$30.00 after September 18th
LOCATION: Indigenous Resource Centre – École New Era School ground, West Portable
527 Louise Ave, Brandon, MB

11) CREATING DIGITAL PE LESSON VISUALS: A NEW WAY OF PRESENTING LESSONS IN YOUR GYMNASIUM

Derek Richels, K-8 Physical Education Teacher, Brandon School Division

This session would provide a review of the sensory systems and the impact of the gym environment on individuals as well as strategies for providing support and including all learners.

BIO:
Derek Richels is a K-8 Physical Education teacher at J.R. Reid School in Brandon, and has 20+ years of teaching experience in both classroom and gymnasium settings. For the last 8 years PE has been his passion and brings new found knowledge and enjoys sharing it with colleagues to make their jobs just a little bit easier. Derek was the recipient of the Middle Years Physical Educator Award from PHE Manitoba in 2022. Derek is married to his wife Kim Richels, also a PE teacher in the Brandon School Division, and they have two active boys.

Suitable for All PE teachers

A) **9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** (Maximum number of participants 25)
B) **1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.** (Maximum number of participants 25)

COST: $25.00 until September 18th /$30.00 after September 18th
LOCATION: Room 125 – Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School
1930 – First Street, Brandon, MB

12) INCLUSIVE GYM SPACES

Erin Nairn - Brandon Children's Therapy Team/PMH
Sarah Belcher - Brandon Children's Therapy Team/PMH
Courtney Forsyth, Administrator – Student Services Brandon School Division

This session will provide a review of the sensory systems and the impact of the gym environment on individual learners. Participants will leave with strategies to support the development of physical literacy in students with varying physical and cognitive abilities and include all learners in phys. ed.

BIO:
Sarah graduated from the University of Manitoba in 2004 with a Bachelor of Medical Rehabilitation in Occupational Therapy. Over the course of her career, she's provided direct and consultative care to children from premature birth to age 21 in the NICU, homes, childcare facilities and schools. Sarah currently works with school aged children, providing support for participation at home and school.
Erin graduated with a Bachelor of Medical Rehabilitation (Physical Therapy) in 2007. She has experience working in multiple practice settings across the lifespan. She landed in pediatrics in 2013 and has since provided care to children from infancy through the school years. Erin's goal is to support families and school teams as they help children build independence and realize their potential.

Courtney Forsyth is currently serving as an Administrator of Student Services. With a strong foundation in classroom instruction and student support, she brings a well-rounded and compassionate approach to her work. Her experience in resource education strengthened her commitment to inclusive practices and individualized student support. Courtney holds two Master of Education degrees with specializations in Inclusive Education and Educational Administration.

Suitable for All Educators.

A) **9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** (Maximum number of participants 20)
B) **1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.** (Maximum number of participants 20)

COST: $25.00 until September 18th /$30.00 after September 18th
LOCATION: Room 122 – Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School
1930 – First Street, Brandon, MB

13) THE MINDFUL GROUNDED EDUCATOR

Chantalle Crepeele, Resource Teacher, Brandon School Division

Join Chantalle for a slow and grounding half-day session of breathwork, yin yoga, and guided meditation. Reflect on important themes in yoga philosophy and learn breathing techniques to support the nervous system. Be prepared to be on your yoga mat and move through a supported and gentle yoga practice. You are invited to bring items for comfort and dress in layers, Please bring a yoga mat, a blanket, and pillow/bolster.

BIO:
Chantalle is a 500-hour certified yoga teacher and Resource teacher in BSD who cares deeply about inclusion and autonomy, in both school and yoga settings.

Suitable for All Educators

A) **9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** (Maximum number of participants 25)

B) **1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.** (Maximum number of participants 25)

COST: $25.00 until September 18th/ $30.00 after September 18th
LOCATION: Room – 204 Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School
1930 – First Street, Brandon, MB

14) DRIVING SUCCESS: TEACHING GOLF FUNDAMENTALS TO STUDENTS

John McLeod, Phys. Ed Teacher, Brandon School Division

The session will focus on three main topics: swing fundamentals, course management, and rules and etiquette. The primary objective is to equip teachers with the skills and knowledge needed to design engaging games and activities that help students improve their hand-eye coordination through golf-related exercises. Additionally, the session will introduce First Tee Canada, a new program aimed at bringing golf to more students across Canada. This program has already seen great success in the United States, providing young athletes with opportunities to experience golf and develop their skills.

BIO:
John McLeod has been teaching Physical Education for 7 years at various schools throughout Southwestern Manitoba. He has been teaching in Brandon School Division for 5 years and is currently teaching Grades 3-8 Physical Education/Health at Green Acres School. John has a background in coaching all levels in a variety of sports including Volleyball, Basketball, Golf, Track & Field, and Soccer.

Suitable for All Educators

A) **9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** (Maximum number of participants 25)

B) **1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.** (Maximum number of participants 25)

COST: $75.00 until September 18th/$80.00 after September 18th
Includes $50.00 rental fee for the EVO Golf facility

LOCATION: EVO Golf
Unit E, 545 Pacific Avenue, Brandon, MB - West Side Parking Lot Entrance

15) ZENTANGLE ART

Cathy Watt Gauthier, Teacher, Brandon School Division

Zentangle is often described as "yoga for the mind," offering a calming, approach to creativity. In this session, participants will explore a variety of patterns and techniques used to create intricate, unplanned designs. Emphasis is placed on the process rather than the final product— no erasers allowed! Many of these strategies can be easily adapted for use in classroom settings, supporting focus, relaxation, and artistic expression among students.

Please bring 1-2 Ultra fine point black Sharpies or a black drawing marker of your choice (0.5mm-0.8mm line is recommended for beginners but ultimately it is your choice regarding line thickness).

BIO:
Cathy Watt-Gauthier has been a teacher at Betty Gibson School for 24 years. With a lifelong passion for art in all its forms, she brings creativity and experience to her teaching, inspiring students to explore and express themselves through a wide range of artistic styles. She values the artistic process as much as the final product, encouraging others to slow down, be present, and appreciate art as a pathway to calm and inner peace.

Suitable for All Educators

A) 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (Maximum number of participants 20)

B) 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Maximum number of participants 20)

COST: $25.00 until September 15th/$30.00 after September 18th
LOCATION: Room 11 – Betty Gibson School
701 – 12th Street, Brandon, MB

16) WELLNESS WITH PADDLE BROS

Lindsay Robinson, Owner/CEO Paddle Bros

Restorative wellness session for educators combining gentle movement, guided meditation and calming sound to support stress reduction, focus and nervous-system regulation.

Participants should bring a yoga mat, bolster blocks, eye mask and a blanket.

BIO:
Lindsay Robinson is the founder of Paddle Bros Wellness, a Manitoba-based wellness collective dedicated to creating accessible, grounding experiences that support both mental and physical well-being. With a background in yoga, meditation, and sound-based relaxation, Lindsay specializes in helping individuals slow down, reconnect with their bodies, and reset their nervous systems in a supportive, judgment-free environment. Lindsay has a deep understanding of the pressures teachers face and the importance of practical sustainable self-care. Her classes emphasize simple tools participants can take with them into daily life-whether in the classroom or at home-to support emotional regulation, focus, and overall well-being. Lindsay continues to expand her education in meditation, sound healing and nervous system informed practices.

Suitable for All Educators

A) **9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** (Maximum number of participants 25)

B) **1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.** (Maximum number of participants 25)

COST: $25.00 until September 18th/$30.00 after September 18th
LOCATION: Room 207 Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School
1930 – First Street, Brandon, MB

17) MAKE, TAKE, LEARN REPEAT: MAKEABLE MATH GAMES

Jon Nairn, Teacher Brandon School Division

You will spend the day making and playing math-based games. All of these can be constructed using readily available materials found in any classroom. Most games can be scaled up or down depending on skill levels and all will connect to math outcomes. Some are familiar, some are ancient, some are student created, all are classroom tested. While any teacher from K-12 would get something useful out of the session, most games are geared for students in grades 3-8.

BIO:
Jon Nairn is a Grade 7/8 teacher in the Brandon School Division who has also taught all the math courses in senior years. He tries to incorporate games into his math instruction as much as possible.

Suitable for All Educators

A) **9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** (Maximum number of participants 25)

B) **1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.** (Maximum number of participants 25)

COST: $25.00 until September 18th/$30.00 after September 18th
LOCATION: Room 113 - Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School
1930 – First Street, Brandon, MB

18) USING MANIPULATIVES IN MIDDLE YEARS MATH

Jillian Creasor, Teacher Brandon School Division

In this session, we will cover how to use different manipulatives in the middle years classroom. We will cover online manipulatives as well.

Attendees should bring pattern blocks, integer tiles, and algebra tiles if they have any.

BIO:
Jill is a teacher in Brandon School Division. Her passion is teaching mathematics and specializes in high school and middle years math.

Suitable for Middle Years Educators

A) **9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** (Maximum number of participants 20)

B) **1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.** (Maximum number of participants 20)

COST: $25.00 until September 18th/$30.00 after September 18th
LOCATION: Room 115 - Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School
1930 – First Street, Brandon, MB

HALF DAY SESSIONS – A.M. ONLY – IN PERSON:

19) FINANCIAL FOUNDATIONS FOR MANITOBA TEACHERS: A SEMINAR ON PENSION BASICS, INVESTING AND LONG-TERM PLANNING

Jennifer McMillian, Consultant

This session takes a holistic and human approach to financial planning. We will connect the dots between current investment decisions and your retirement sources of income. We will cover the advantages of various investment registrations and navigating risk. Lastly, we will answer frequently asked questions related to tax and investing, plus see how a fictional "mock teacher profile" might plan for long-term financial success. This seminar is designed specifically for educators and reflects the financial landscape teachers commonly experience through their career. No prior financial planning knowledge is required, and the session is applicable to teachers in all stages of their career.

BIO:
For the past 10 years, Jennifer co-owned and operated a small business with her husband. That experience shaped how she works today – Jennifer understands firsthand the pressures, risks, and tough decisions that individuals, families, and business owners face. It also taught her the value of planning, adaptability, and having trusted guidance along the way. As a consultant at IG Wealth Management, Jennifer takes a down-to-earth, relationship-focused approach. Jennifer partners with clients to build financial plans that fit their real lives - their families, values, and long-term goals. Whether you're growing a business, planning for retirement, or simply wanting more clarity and confidence in your financial world, Jennifer is here to support you with practical advice and a friendly family-oriented experience.

Suitable for All Educators

A) 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (Maximum number of participants 25)

COST: $25.00 until September 18th/$30.00 after September 18th
LOCATION: Room 120 – Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School
1930 – First Street, Brandon, MB

20) STARTING EARLY: PRACTICAL ANTI-RACISM STRATEGIES FOR K–6 TEACHERS

Dr. Michelle Lam, Associate Professor & Canada Research Chair, Brandon University

A student repeats something they heard at home about some groups of people getting "special treatment." Or tells a classmate they can't be the princess because their skin is too dark. What do you say? What do you do next? Moments like these happen when we least expect, but we want to be prepared to respond in ways that are thoughtful, educational, and developmentally appropriate. This highly practical session is designed for K–6 classroom teachers who are looking for concrete strategies and tools to create anti-racist learning environments and to respond to moments when racism appears. This session will explore both curriculum and

pedagogy, aimed at sharing ready-to-use resources, strategies, and tools so that all students can feel respected, represented, safe and valued.

BIO:
Dr. Michelle Lam is a Canada Research Chair in Rural Community-Based Education for Reconciliation. She is a faculty member in the Curriculum and Pedagogy Department at Brandon University and former Director of the Centre for Applied Research and Education in Indigenous, Rural, and Remote settings (BU CARES). She is interested in community education, rural immigration, identity, anti-racism, and social justice.

Suitable for K-6 Educators

A) **9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** (Maximum number of participants 30)

COST: $25.00 until September 18th /$30.00 after September 18th
LOCATION: Room 112 – Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School
1930 – First Street, Brandon, MB

21) GENDER AND SEXUALITY

Racheal Wu - 2STLGBQIA+ Program Facilitator, Sexuality Education Resource Centre

Conversations about gender and sexuality continue to evolve and finding up to date and appropriate information can feel overwhelming. This session will breakdown common terminology, invite participants to engage with their own knowledge, provide skills to navigate conversations about these topics, and learn about relevant resources.

BIO:
Racheal (she/they) has lived in the Westman region for the majority of her life. After graduating from Brandon University, they went on to work in frontline social services before moving to the Sexuality Education Resource Centre. Racheal has spent over seven years facilitating the 2STLGBQIA+ Programs at SERC.

Suitable for All Educators

A) **9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** (Maximum number of participants 30)

COST: $25.00 until September 18th/$30.00 after September 18th
LOCATION: Room 111 – Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School
1930 – First Street, Brandon, MB

22) TEACHING THE NATURE OF SCIENCE

Dr. Ellen Watson, Associate Professor at Brandon University, Faculty of Education

The new curriculum documents contain Nature of Science (NOS) specific outcomes for K-10. The NOS describes how science works and how we know in science, so how do we teach that? This session will explain the NOS and offer strategies for teaching it in MB science classrooms. This session will look at the Early Years' curriculum. A PM session will look at the Middle Years' curriculum.

BIO:

Ellen Watson is an Associate Professor of Science Education at Brandon University. She teaches science methods courses as well as general pedagogy courses and graduate education courses in curriculum. She has experience teaching science in grades 8-12 and a background in physics. Her research focuses on teachers' beliefs about (and practices in) the nature of science.

Suitable for All Early Years Educators

A) **9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** (Maximum number of participants 30)

COST: $25.00 until September 18th/$30.00 after September 18th
LOCATION: Room 206– Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School
1930 – First Street, Brandon, MB

23) BASIC PRINCIPLES OF DECOLONIZATION

Doug Pople, Brandon University

This session will explore and define the concept of decolonization and reconciliation, both from an Indigenous and non-Indigenous perspective. Both terms are used extensively yet do we understand what they mean and the actions involved in working towards them? Decolonization takes on many facets including economic, cultural and educational and this session will look at how decolonization is or can be operationalized in each of these areas. This session will also explore steps and actions that move the concept of decolonization from performative to actual meaningful change. Specifically, sharing tools and techniques to assist non-Indigenous individuals to feel comfortable engaging in this vital and meaningful change. Time will be spent examining the TRW 94 Calls to Actions, and if and how they impact decolonization. This session will provide a step-by-step guide on how to establish an atmosphere of trust and engagement and create meaningful actions.

BIO:
Doug Pople is a proud Métis originally from Portage la Prairie. He has a demonstrated passion for Indigenization in all facets of life and a solid commitment to the principle of decolonizing in order to achieve a fair society. Culture is of paramount importance, both learning and sharing. Doug is an avid harvester of both plants and animals yet always lives the belief of only take what you need and leave plenty for future generations. The passion to reclaim his Métis heritage is a decades long journey with no end in sight. Travelling to and experiencing historical sites such as Ste. Madeleine, Batoche, Duck Lake, Rooster Town and Fish Creek is so important to his understanding of Métis history. His Kookum is with him in spirit every time he stands up and proudly proclaims his Métis ancestry, which she had to give up 90 years ago in order to survive in the settler world. Doug strives to be a positive role model and always promotes meaningful changes.

Suitable for All Educators

A) **9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** (Maximum number of participants 30)

COST: $25.00 until September 18th/$30.00 after September 18th
LOCATION: Oyate Tawapi Ceremony Room (Room 141), Health Studies Building (#18 on map), Brandon University, 270 – 18th Street, Brandon, MB

HALF DAY SESSIONS – P.M. ONLY – IN PERSON:

24) DIGGING DEEPER: PRACTICAL ANTI-RACISM STRATEGIES FOR 7-12 TEACHERS

Dr. Michelle Lam, Associate Professor & Canada Research Chair, Brandon University

A student casually uses the N-word. Another claims that "everyone is just too sensitive" during your lesson on residential schools. What do you say? What do you do next? Secondary classrooms are spaces where conversations about race, identity, and larger social structures deepen. This highly practical session is designed for Grades 7–12 classroom teachers seeking strategies and tools to create anti-racist learning environments and to respond effectively when racism arises. Teachers will leave with ready-to-use strategies and tools to support meaningful dialogue, promote equity, and ensure all students feel respected, represented, safe, and valued in their learning spaces.

BIO:

Dr. Michelle Lam is a Canada Research Chair in Rural Community-Based Education for Reconciliation. She is a faculty member in the Curriculum and Pedagogy Department at Brandon University and former Director of the Centre for Applied Research and Education in Indigenous, Rural, and Remote settings (BU CARES). She is interested in community education, rural immigration, identity, anti-racism, and social justice.

Suitable for 7-12 Educators

B) 1:00 P.m. – 3:30 P.m. (Maximum number of participants 30)

COST: $25.00 until September 18th /$30.00 after September 18th
LOCATION: Room 112 – Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School
1930 – First Street, Brandon, MB

25) TEACHING THE NATURE OF SCIENCE

Dr. Ellen Watson, Associate Professor at Brandon University, Faculty of Education

The new curriculum documents contain Nature of Science (NOS) specific outcomes for K-10. The NOS describes how science works and how we know in science, so how do we teach that? This session will explain the NOS and offer strategies for teaching it in MB science classrooms. This pm session will look at the Middle Years' curriculum.

BIO:

Ellen Watson is an Associate Professor of Science Education at Brandon University. She teaches science methods courses as well as general pedagogy courses and graduate education courses in curriculum. She has experience teaching science in grades 8-12 and a background in physics. Her research focuses on teachers' beliefs about (and practices in) the nature of science.

Suitable for All Middle Years Educators

B) 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Maximum number of participants 30)

COST: $25.00 until September 18th/$30.00 after September 18th
LOCATION: Room 206– Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School
1930 – First Street, Brandon, MB

26) TEACHING WITH STRENGTH: FITNESS & NUTRITION FOR LASTING ENERGY

Andrea Robinson, Teacher/Coach Rocked Community Fitness
Zack McMillan, Owner/Head Coach, Rocked Community Fitness

Join us for an interactive afternoon designed to energize both body and mind! Participants will experience a strength & conditioning session followed by an engaging nutrition presentation. We'll cover the key principles of movement and strength training, then guide you through a fully scalable workout suitable for all ages and fitness levels—no previous experience necessary. The workshop will explore how combining physical activity with proper nutrition can boost well-being, reduce stress, and enhance daily performance. Walk away with simple, actionable strategies to keep your energy high and your days productive.

Please bring gym clothes and runners.

BIO:
Andrea has been teaching at Carberry Collegiate since 2006 and currently teaches English and French, as well as Grade 11 and 12 Physical Education and Food and Nutrition classes. As a coach at Rocked Community Fitness, she is passionate about strength and conditioning and loves staying active with her husband and dogs. Zack is a co-owner and a nutrition coach at Rocked Community Fitness. He completed his BKin while playing hockey at Acadia University. He is part of a Therapy Dog team and also has two other rescue pups at home. He enjoys spending time with his wife and daughter.

Suitable for All Educators

B) **1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.** (Maximum number of participants 30)

COST: $25.00 until September 18th/$30.00 after September 18th
LOCATION: Rocked Community Fitness
205 – 16th Street North, Brandon, MB

27) TALKING ABOUT CONSENT IN YOUTH

Chris Romaniuk, Sexuality & Reproductive Health Facilitator, Sexuality Education Resource Centre

Consent is not new but talking about and knowing how to teach it might be. Through activities, discussions and knowledge-building, participants will leave this workshop with practical tools, activities and resources to help youth navigate consent. We'll discuss the grey areas of consent, consent and the law, consent in the digital world and how to talk about consent in a way that's impactful.

BIO:
Chris Romaniuk (they/them) is a Sexuality & Reproductive Health Facilitator at the Sexuality Education Resource Centre. Since 2020, Chris has travelled throughout Manitoba sharing sexual health information with youth, adults, parents/caregivers, and service providers. They are passionate about reproductive justice, consent and destigmatizing discussions around bodies. Chris brings unique perspectives and vibes to their workshops and education as a Métis, non-binary, pan person with ADHD. In their free time, they love to sew, play video games, read and hang out with their husband and two children.

Suitable for All Educators

B) **1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.** (Maximum number of participants 30)

COST: $25.00 until September 18th/$30.00 after September 18th
LOCATION: Room 111 – Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School
1930 – First Street, Brandon, MB

HALF DAY SESSIONS – REPEAT (A.M. & P.M.)- VIRTUAL

A link will be provided to attendees for virtual sessions.

28) ACTIVE ALLYSHIP IN 2026

Jillian Calais, Learning and Change Coordinator at Rainbow Resource Centre

This workshop will explore the change in climate for 2SLGBTQI+ folx in MB with a focus on practical tools for increasing allyship, upstander behaviour, supporting allied teachers and students, building safe(r) spaces, finding community and responding to deeply held anti-2SLGBTQI+ beliefs.

BIO:
Jillian Calais (she/her) is an experienced nonprofit educator with a strong background in curriculum development, facilitation, and inclusive programming. She brings over a decade of experience supporting equity-deserving youth, advancing reconciliation, and delivering impactful learning experiences across Manitoba. Her prior experience includes delivering career counselling and educational workshops, as well as several years supporting youth in completing high school and accessing needed social supports. Across all her roles, Jillian has developed and facilitated a wide range of custom workshops, partnered with community stakeholders, and built evaluation frameworks to demonstrate outcomes and drive program improvement.

Suitable for All Educators

A) **9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** (Maximum number of participants 50)

B) **1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.** (Maximum number of participants 50)

COST: $25.00 until September 18th/$30.00 after September 18th
PLATFORM: VIRTUAL - ZOOM

29) BAKE MY DAY

Des Tucker, Educator, Brandon School Division

Step away from the lesson plans and into the kitchen for a half-day virtual PD designed just for educators who need a moment to breathe, create, and reset. In this relaxed, immersive session, you'll bake 3–4 delicious treats from the comfort of your own kitchen. No pressure. No perfection required. Just simple, satisfying recipes and a calm, welcoming atmosphere where you can slow down and focus on something joyful. This experience is designed for all skill levels — whether you've been baking for years or rarely turn on the oven. Each recipe is approachable, clearly guided, and made with everyday ingredients. You'll leave with: - a handful of tasty, homemade treats - easy-to-follow recipes you can make again anytime - practical baking tips and confidence in the kitchen - a sense of calm and accomplishment. More than just a baking session, this is intentional time for you — to unplug and be present in a low-stress environment. Come as you are, apron optional.
A list of supplies and recipes will be emailed to participants prior to the session.

BIO:

I'm a mom, a wife, and a support teacher who truly loves bringing joy to others — especially through baking. I've been teaching in the Brandon School Division for 14 years. While my heart will always be in the early years classroom, I now work as a support teacher, where I continue to care deeply about helping students (and colleagues!) feel supported and successful. I don't have any formal training in baking — just years of experience learning alongside my mom in the kitchen. Some of my most cherished memories are tied to food, especially baked goods made and shared with the people I love. For me, baking isn't about perfection; it's about comfort, connection, and creating moments that bring people together. I'm so excited to share that joy with you.

Suitable for All Educators

A) **9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** (Maximum number of participants 30)

B) **1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.** (Maximum number of participants 30)

COST: $25.00 until September 18th/$30.00 after September 18th
PLATFORM: VIRTUAL – MICROSOFT TEAMS

30) VICARIOUS TRAUMA

John Koop Harder, MSW, RSW, Facilitator, Crisis & Trauma Resource Institute

Helpers regularly encounter stories and symptoms of trauma in their roles. There is growing evidence that the impact of directly supporting others through experiences of trauma goes beyond burnout or fatigue. The toll of witnessing intense human experiences and emotions can contribute to a negative transformation of a helper's own sense of safety, and of being competent and purposeful. This workshop will provide participants with the opportunity to examine their own experiences and become aware of the signs of both vicarious trauma and vicarious growth. Participants will have the opportunity to develop a personalized plan to repair negative effects as well as accelerate their resilience.

BIO:

John has been working as a therapist and trainer for over 20 years. He is a Registered Social Worker who holds a Master of Social Work degree. John is a contributing author of our Counselling Insights and Counselling in Relationships books. Much of John's career has centred on working with children, youth, adults, and families dealing with crisis and trauma. While he has a diverse practice, he has particular interest and specialized experience in working with individuals and families impacted by mental health concerns, violence, post-war trauma recovery, gender/sexuality issues, and sexual abuse recovery. John's work is also informed by his international experiences working with individuals and communities impacted by civil war and ethnic conflicts in Colombia, Albania, and Northern Ireland. John believes people are their own best experts and already have many of the skills, abilities, and competencies that will assist them to address the challenges influencing their lives. John is a warm and engaging facilitator who values interactive learning experiences.

Suitable for All Educators

A) **9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** (Maximum number of participants 100)

B) **1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.** (Maximum number of participants 100)

COST: $25.00 until September 18th /$30.00 after September 18th
BTA MEMBERS $9 until September 18th/$10 after September 18th –Late fee $15
PLATFORM: VIRTUAL – ZOOM

31) ANXIETY IN CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Nicole Deagle, MSW, RSW, Facilitator, Crisis & Trauma Resource Institute

Childhood and adolescence are critical times for emotional and psychological development. During these stages, anxiety patterns can begin that continue into adulthood. Anxiety represents our body's natural alarm system, signalling the possibility of danger. When this response arises too frequently or intensely and doesn't match actual situations of danger, it can interfere with life and cause great distress. Having caregivers who are equipped to support and teach children and youth skills for managing and interrupting their anxiety patterns is crucial for early intervention. This workshop will provide a structure for understanding how anxiety works in the nervous system. Participants will also learn a diverse range of skills that can be taught and practiced with children and youth. These skills are designed to decrease anxiety and expand the capacity for managing emotions and anxious thought patterns.

BIO:

Nicole is a bilingual Registered Social Worker (French and English), who holds a Master of Social Work degree. She also has additional certifications in areas related to trauma and loss, suicide prevention and intervention, violence and threat risk assessment, and nonviolent crisis intervention. Her professional experience includes direct clinical practice with children and youth in individual and group settings; systemic work targeting organizational change, crisis intervention, mental health training, post secondary education in the social services field, service coordination, and clinical supervision.

In addition to her work with CTRI, Nicole works for an organization where she provides clinical supervision to a large, diverse team that offers a range of social services to children and youth. She is committed to lifelong learning and believes that there is always something to learn and room to grow. As a trainer, Nicole creates a supportive and safe learning environment grounded in respect and compassion for all learners. She draws on her passion and experience to provide trainings that are engaging, positive, and memorable.

Suitable for All Educators

A) **9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** (Maximum number of participants 100)

B) **1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.** (Maximum number of participants 100)

COST: $25.00 until September 18th /$30.00 after September 18th

BTA MEMBERS $9 until September 18th/$10 after September 18th – Late $15

PLATFORM: VIRTUAL – ZOOM

32) ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES

Jennifer Slay, MSW, RSW, Facilitator, Crisis & Trauma Resource Institute

Helping children work through adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) is difficult but important work because they can have lifelong effects on mental, physical, and relationship health. This workshop provides a deeper understanding of trauma's effects on a child's brain and teaches practical strategies for supporting children and their caregivers. You will discover how to identify ACEs, recognize their signs and symptoms, and learn preventative strategies for counteracting their negative effects. This workshop explores common ACEs, attachment theory, and strategies for supporting children and their caregivers. Join us and equip yourself with the tools you need to make a positive impact on the lives of children and families affected by ACEs.

BIO:

Jennifer is a Registered Social Worker who has nearly two decades of experience working in the child welfare system as a social worker, trainer, and manager. She now operates her own psychotherapy practice where she primarily works with women experiencing feelings of depression and anxiety. Jennifer has a passion for supporting people to overcome their fears and reach their full potential. Using a combination of CBT, positive psychology, and mindfulness, she provides her clients with the tools and strategies they need to empower themselves and become more confident. Jennifer believes in the power and importance of communication and feels it is a vital tool in effective relationships with yourself and others. As a facilitator, Jennifer is energetic and engaging, often using humour to support learning.

Suitable for All Educators

A) **9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** (Maximum number of participants 100)

B) **1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.** (Maximum number of participants 100)

COST: $25.00 until September 18th /$30.00 after September 18th

BTA MEMBERS $9 until September 18th/$10 after September 18th – Late $15

PLATFORM: VIRTUAL – ZOOM

HALF DAY SESSIONS – (A.M.) – VIRTUAL

33) STRATEGIES FOR WORKING WITH STUDENTS WITH EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONING CHALLENGES

Dr. Pamela Kelso, School Psychologist, Brandon School Division

Executive functioning skills—such as planning, organization, working memory, task initiation, and self-regulation—play a critical role in students' academic success and daily functioning in the classroom. Students who experience executive functioning challenges may struggle with completing assignments, managing time, staying organized, or regulating their attention and behaviour. This session will provide educators with practical, classroom-based strategies to support students with executive functioning difficulties. Participants will explore ways to scaffold tasks, teach organizational and planning skills, use visual supports and structured routines, and implement strategies that promote independence and self-regulation. The session will also discuss how executive functioning challenges may present in students and how proactive supports can help reduce frustration while improving engagement and learning outcomes.

BIO:

Pamela Kelso, PhD, currently works as a School Psychologist in the Brandon School Division and as a Sessional Instructor in the Department of Education/Inclusive Education at Brandon University. She obtained her Bachelor of Arts Degree (Psychology) from Brandon University in 2002, Master of Arts Degree (Clinical Psychology) from North Dakota State University in 2004, and PhD (Clinical Psychology) from the University of Manitoba in 2012. She has a special interest in working collaboratively with teachers to promote positive student behaviour in classroom environments.

Suitable for All Educators

A) **9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** (Maximum number of participants 50)

COST: $25.00 until September 18th/$30.00 after September 18th

PLATFORM: VIRTUAL - MICROSOFT TEAMS

34) PLANNING FOR THINKING: AUTHENTIC LEARNING & MB'S GLOBAL COMPETENCIES IN THE AGE OF AI

Shawna Philpott, Director of Field Experience, Brandon University
Dr. Gustavo Moura, Director of BU CARES, Brandon University

Artificial intelligence is rapidly reshaping how students access information and complete learning tasks, raising important ethical considerations for educators. Questions of bias, authorship, privacy, and responsible use require thoughtful guidance so that students learn when and how AI can enhance learning and when its use may limit their capacity to think critically. This session explores how educators can move beyond detecting AI use and instead design learning experiences that assume these tools are part of students' environments. Participants will look at ways to encourage critical thinking in their classrooms, develop AI literacies, design rich learning experiences for our students, and create authentic assessments that put students in charge of their own learning. Throughout the session, Manitoba's Global Competencies will be woven into instructional planning to strengthen communication, critical thinking, collaboration, and responsible decision-making in an AI-enabled world.

BIO:
Shawna Philpott is the Director of Field Experience in the Faculty of Education at Brandon University, where she supports practicum partnerships, mentor teacher development, and field experiences connecting teacher candidates with schools across rural and urban communities. She previously taught in middle years classrooms and has held instructional leadership roles supporting teachers in the integration of technology and innovative teaching practices. Shawna is currently a doctoral student in Educational Leadership at the University of Windsor, where her research focuses on ethical leadership, artificial intelligence in education, and the policy challenges associated with emerging technologies in schools and post-secondary institutions.
Dr. Gustavo Moura is the Director of the BU CARES Research Centre in the Faculty of Education at Brandon University. His research examines the intersections of identity, technology, and social justice in teacher education, with a focus on transforming educational systems to better support marginalized communities, including queer, immigrant, refugee, Indigenous, and rural populations. Dr. Moura has led national and international research initiatives that translate transdisciplinary scholarship into practical strategies for inclusive education, community engagement, and curriculum development. His work emphasizes collaborative, community-based research that bridges academic insight with meaningful impact in educational policy and practice.

Suitable for All Educators

A) 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (Maximum number of participants 100)

COST: $25.00 until September 18th/$30.00 after September 18th
PLATFORM: VIRTUAL - MICROSOFT TEAMS

35) AWARENESS TO ACTION: PRACTICAL TOOLS FOR STIGMA-FREE SCHOOLS

Jillian Boyd, Program and Content Manager, Stigma Free Mental Health

After this session, participants will be equipped with practical resources to confidently support student mental wellness in grades 4–12. This session highlights our no-cost Student Mental Health Toolkit and features a

sample of our Stigma-Free School Presentation, showcasing powerful personal stories that challenge stigma and spark meaningful conversations.

BIO:
Jillian has a combined degree in Health Sciences majoring in Public Health, and General Management from the University of Lethbridge. She has developed and facilitated a variety of impacting programs to empower youth in past roles and has spearheaded numerous service projects and events in rural Southern Alberta. Jillian believes fostering awareness and education around mental health is a necessary and effective way to prevent stigma and promote more inclusive communities. She has completed her Suicide Intervention Training and is also 'Dare to Lead' certified. Jillian is excited to work with the Stigma-Free team as she has always been deeply passionate about mental health promotion and helping people navigate their mental wellness journeys with resilience.

Suitable for All Educators

A) **9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** (Maximum number of participants 50)

COST: $25.00 until September 18th/$30.00after September 18th
PLATFORM: VIRTUAL - ZOOM

36) BROADENING THE CONVERSATION: CRITICAL QUESTIONS AMIDST NARROWING VIEWS OF LITERACY INSTRUCTION

Dr. Joe Stouffer, Associate Professor, Brandon University
Kathie Sutherland, Recovery Teacher Leader, Brandon School Division

In a repeat of their 2025 session, Dr. Joe Stouffer and Kathie Sutherland invite classroom teachers, literacy support personnel, and school leadership into the ongoing conversations around literacy instruction. Drawing from their 2026 publication, the presenters offer essential questions for school teams to consider when navigating the current tumultuous climate, clarify terminology, and unpack the debates in supporting all children's learning to read and write.

BIO:
Dr. Joe Stouffer holds a PhD in Language and Literacy Education and is an Associate Professor in the Department of Curriculum and Pedagogy. He currently chairs the Undergraduate Education Committee at Brandon University. A former classroom teacher, Reading Recovery Teacher Leader, and literacy consultant, he is also the recipient of the 2022 Brandon University Senate Award for Excellence in Teaching. His research interests include formative reading and writing assessment and early literacy theory and pedagogies.
Kathie Sutherland holds Master degrees in Inclusive Education, Curriculum and Pedagogy, and Educational Administration and has taught as a sessional instructor in the Faculty of Education at Brandon University. She draws on 27 years classroom teaching, literacy support, resource experience from Kindergarten to Grade 12 and as a Recovery Teacher Leader in her current role as Literacy Intervention Specialist with the Brandon School Division.

Suitable for All Educators

A) **9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** (Maximum number of participants 50)

COST: $25.00 until September 18th/$30.00 after September 18th
PLATFORM: VIRTUAL - ZOOM

HALF DAY SESSIONS – (P.M.) - VIRTUAL

37) A VIRTUAL TOUR OF INDIGENOUS HISTORICAL SITES

Douglas Pople, Career Planning & Placement Officer, Brandon University.

This session offers a virtual tour of significant Indigenous sites in Manitoba and beyond, highlighting their historical, cultural, and commercial importance. Featured locations include key river crossings such as Brockinton Site, Snyder II, Grand Rapids, and Sourisford, as well as the Linear Burial Mounds—an important National Historic Site that provides insight into life on the Great Plains and early trade networks.
The tour also explores sites such as St. Peter's Mission, Ste. Madelaine, Flea Island, St. Victor Petroglyphs, Batoche, Rooster Town, Fish Creek, Duck Lake, Grand Coteau, and Fort Carleton, along with various forts and settlements along major rivers. Participants are encouraged to pack lots of virtual snacks (including pemmican), virtual sturdy hiking boots and lots of virtual bug spray.

BIO:
Doug Pople is a proud Métis originally from Portage la Prairie. He has a demonstrated passion for Indigenization in all facets of life and a solid commitment to the principle of decolonizing in order to achieve a fair society. Culture is of paramount importance, both learning and sharing. Doug is an avid harvester of both plants and animals yet always lives the belief of only take what you need and leave plenty for future generations. The passion to reclaim his Métis heritage is a decades long journey with no end in sight. Travelling to and experiencing historical sites such as Ste. Madeleine, Batoche, Duck Lake, Rooster Town and Fish Creek is so important to his understanding of Métis history. His Kookum is with him in spirit every time he stands up and proudly proclaims his Métis ancestry, which she had to give up 90 years ago in order to survive in the settler world. Doug strives to be a positive role model and always promotes meaningful changes.

Suitable for All Educators

B) 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Maximum number of participants 25)

COST: $25.00 until September 18th /$30.00 after September 18th
LOCATION: VIRTUAL – MICROSOFT TEAMS

38) FINANCIAL FOUNDATIONS FOR MANITOBA TEACHERS: A SEMINAR ON PENSION BASICS, INVESTING AND LONG-TERM PLANNING

Jennifer McMillian, Consultant

This session takes a holistic and human approach to financial planning. We will connect the dots between current investment decisions and your retirement sources of income. We will cover the advantages of various investment registrations and navigating risk. Lastly, we will answer frequently asked questions related to tax and investing, plus see how a fictional "mock teacher profile" might plan for long-term financial success. This seminar is designed specifically for educators and reflects the financial landscape teachers commonly experience through their career. No prior financial planning knowledge is required, and the session is applicable to teachers in all stages of their career.

BIO:

For the past 10 years, Jennifer co-owned and operated a small business with her husband. That experience shaped how she works today – Jennifer understands firsthand the pressures, risks, and tough decisions that individuals, families, and business owners face. It also taught her the value of planning, adaptability, and having trusted guidance along the way. As a consultant at IG Wealth Management, Jennifer takes a down-to-earth, relationship-focused approach. Jennifer partners with clients to build financial plans that fit their real lives - their families, values, and long-term goals. Whether you're growing a business, planning for retirement, or simply wanting more clarity and confidence in your financial world, Jennifer is here to support you with practical advice and a friendly family-oriented experience.

Suitable for All Educators

B) **9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** (Maximum number of participants 25)

COST: $25.00 until September 18th/$30.00 after September 18th
PLATFORM: VIRTUAL - MICROSOFT TEAM

39) POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR STRATEGIES FOR EDUCATORS

Dr. Pamela Kelso, School Psychologist, Brandon School Division

Creating positive, productive learning environments begins with promoting and reinforcing appropriate student behaviour. This session will explore practical, evidence-informed strategies educators can use to increase positive behaviours in the classroom and reduce disruptive or challenging behaviours. Participants will learn how proactive classroom practices, clear expectations, positive reinforcement, and relationship-based approaches can support students' social, emotional, and academic development. The session will also highlight ways educators can foster inclusive and supportive classroom climates that encourage engagement, self-regulation, and success for all learners.

BIO:
Pammela Kelso, PhD, currently works as a School Psychologist in the Brandon School Division and as a Sessional Instructor in the Department of Education/Inclusive Education at Brandon University. She obtained her Bachelor of Arts Degree (Psychology) from Brandon University in 2002, Master of Arts Degree (Clinical Psychology) from North Dakota State University in 2004, and PhD (Clinical Psychology) from the University of Manitoba in 2012. She has a special interest in working collaboratively with teachers to promote positive student behaviour in classroom environments.

Suitable for All Educators

B) **1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.** (Maximum number of participants 50)
COST: $25.00 until September 18th/$30.00 after September 18th
PLATFORM: VIRTUAL – MICROSOFT TEAMS