



Join us for the...

Leading INSPIRED Learning

2024 System-Wide
Professional Learning Day

This opportunity will bring the London-Middlesex early years systems together to learn, reflect, grow, and highlight the invaluable contribution early years professionals make each day in service to children and families across our regions.

Together, we will explore topics of belonging and pedagogical perspectives through developing connections.

SCAN TO LEARN
MORE



November
15, 2024



Agenda

Leading
INSPIRED
Learning

9:30 AM - 10:00 AM	Welcome + Municipal Address
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Keynote Speaker: Anthony McLean
11:00 AM - 11:15 AM	Debrief and Q&A
11:15 AM - 12:30 PM	Working/Reflection Time
12:30 PM - 1:15 PM	Lunch Break
1:15 PM - 2:15 PM	Travel or Working/Reflection Time Dependent on Session Format
2:15 PM - 3:45 PM	Afternoon Breakout Sessions
3:45 PM - 4:00 PM	Closing Remarks

KEY REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

- Each person will have the opportunity to attend **ONE** afternoon session.
- Please connect with your centre director/leadership team about registration.

Keynote

Leading
INSPIRED
Learning

BELONGING: THE INTERSECTION OF MENTAL HEALTH AND DEI (VIRTUAL)

FACILITATED BY ANTHONY MCLEAN

One of the outcomes of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) is to ensure people have a sense of belonging within our organizations. There is a considerable amount of overlap between mental wellness and racial equity. In this inspiring presentation, Anthony contends that empathy is at the heart of both DEI work and mental health awareness. Psychological safety and creating a sense of belonging are central to both pursuits. This interactive presentation helps participants bring more compassion and courage to the work of anti-racism and mental wellness.



Called a “master storyteller”, Anthony McLean delivers lively, actionable presentations on mental health, diversity & inclusion, and the intersection between them. He’s worked with such leading organizations as PepsiCo, Intel, Danone, Coca Cola, and more. McLean shows audiences how to foster an environment of empathy, acceptance, and mental well-being to enhance DEI work and boost individual and team performance.

A respected voice in his field, McLean has delivered hundreds of inspiring talks across the world, rocking the stage at conferences, colleges, and corporate events. His clients have ranged from charities and non-profits to Fortune 500s, with all benefitting from his research-backed tools and actionable strategies that leave them inspired and equipped to bring their best every day. In 2024, McLean released his first book, *All Fired Up: Optimize Mental Health to Ignite Joy and Fuel Peak Performance*.

McLean has a background in theatre and works actively in the film and television industry. As a screenwriter, he’s currently in development on two feature films.

Afternoon Session

Leading
INSPIRED
Learning

CABINET OF CURIOSITY & CREATIVITY (IN PERSON)

FACILITATED BY KRISTEN DAY (FORMERLY KRISTEN RB PETERSON)

Rooms of Wonder, Cabinets of Curiosity... Many years ago, people paid to see people's collections of curious things. The Cabinet of Curiosity became a traveling show to showcase collections that would wonder the audience. To capture that feeling, Kristen has created her own Cabinet of Curiosity (and Creativity) and travels with it to spark curiosity and wonder in the heart and soul of caregivers around the world. The Cabinet is filled with open ended materials that will get children (and adult learners) curious and creative. There will be many things that will make attendees say

"Why didn't I think of that?". Kristen starts with a showcase of the contents of the Cabinet of Curiosity, then attendees will have time to interact with the materials and create their own play. Attendees will learn the benefits of curious and open-ended materials, understand how play schema drives behaviors in early childhood & walk away with new ideas.

Kristen Day (B.A. Education and ECE) is the founder of a play and nature based preschool and forest school in central Minnesota, host of The Play Based Learning Podcast and creator of The Camp Renegade Play Virtual Summit. Kristen retired from teaching two years ago to travel the world and inspire early childhood audiences to give children the most developmentally appropriate environment possible.

Kristen shows up in life authentically and is real with her audience. Her presentation style can best be described as a conversation with a best friend. Funny and dramatic, she captivates adult learners with stories that can be applied to the life of any early childhood professional. She leaves ECE professionals motivated to take risks so they can better serve the children in their lives.



Afternoon Session

Leading
INSPIRED
Learning

HAVING AND BEING A PEDAGOGICAL COMPANION: A DEMOCRATIC ANTIDOTE TO BURNOUT (IN PERSON)

FACILITATED BY KARYN CALLAGHAN

The title of our provincial pedagogy for the early years is a question. The question is not “How do children learn?” It is not “How does teaching happen?” It is asking about everyone’s learning. There is strong evidence to indicate that a significant element in response would be “together”. Together with children. Together with families. Together with colleagues. Together in contexts that challenge and intrigue us. We are never alone in this profession, but we may not be realizing the full potential of our together. In this session, we will



consider what might happen when we challenge ourselves and each other to recognize and address the longstanding assumptions and practices that keep us from engaging in transformative experimentation. I will share stories of the experiences of educators who supported each other to be courageous in their exuberant quest to ensure that every aspect of their practice reflected the view of the child, family, and educator that they said they held. We will also look together at documentation from programs that committed to these views every day. This session will also serve to launch an ongoing network of pedagogical companions for those who are interested.

After working with young children for several years as an early childhood educator, Karyn became a professor in college and university ECE programs, and has had the privilege of learning with children, educators, families and artists for over four decades. She founded and coordinated the Artists at the Centre project in Hamilton, Ontario that brought artists into early learning programs, and contributed to the development of the Ministry of Education’s pedagogy for early years document *How Does Learning Happen?*. She has been a keynote speaker at conferences across four continents and with Carol Anne Wien and artist Jason Avery is co-author of a book entitled “Documenting Children’s Meaning”, published by Davis Publications.

Afternoon Session

Leading
INSPIRED
Learning

EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT INDIANS BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK (VIRTUAL)

FACILITATED BY ANTON TREUER

"I use the terms *Indian*, *Native*, *Native American*, and *Indigenous* in the book intentionally and with full knowledge of their shortcomings and the risk that some of them are confusing or even give some people offense." (p. 15 from *Everything You Wanted to Know About Indians But Were Too Afraid to Ask*)

Ranging from "Why is there such a fuss about nonnative people wearing Indian costumes for Halloween?" to "Why is it called a 'traditional Indian fry bread taco'?" to "What's it like for natives who don't look native?" to "Why are Indians so often imagined rather than understood?", and beyond, *Everything You Wanted to Know About Indians But Were Afraid to Ask* does exactly what its title says, in a style consistently thoughtful, personal, and engaging.

White/Indian relations are often characterized by guilt and anger. *Everything You Wanted to Know about Indians But Were Afraid to Ask* cuts through the emotion and builds a foundation for true understanding and positive action. Anton welcomes any questions you may have, whether in the moment or in advance.

Anton Treuer (pronounced troy-er) is Professor of Ojibwe at Bemidji State University and author of many books. He has a B.A. from Princeton University and a M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota. Treuer is a member of the governing boards for the Minnesota State Historical Society and Waadookodaading Ojibwe Language Institute and has received many prestigious awards and fellowships, including ones from the American Philosophical Society, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the First Nations Development Institute, and many more. In 2018, he was named Guardian of Culture and Lifeways and recipient of the Pathfinder Award by the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums.



Afternoon Session

Leading
INSPIRED
Learning

EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE OUTSIDE (VIRTUAL)

FACILITATED BY CHRISTINA PICKLES

Everything is possible outside – children are more physically active, the natural world enters through all the senses, and community connections are made. In this workshop, we will explore the reasons for getting outdoors and our role as adults in these experiences. You will come away with inspiration and practical ideas to create engaging outdoor play spaces and experiences.



What is covered:

- Explore personal knowledge and feelings about outdoor play.
- Identify barriers to and benefits of outdoor play.
- Reflect on your “why” for getting children outside to play.
- Review the key roles of adults in providing time, space, and materials for outdoor play.
- Learn about loose parts in the outdoor environment.
- Build their repertoire of outdoor play experiences for children.

Christina Pickles is an outdoor play advocate and founder of Get Outside and Play, an organization that ensures more outdoor play in early learning and care settings, schools, and communities through events, presentations, workshops, and consulting.

She has been supporting outdoor experiences with people of all ages for 25 years and 10 years ago, pivoted her work to put play at the centre of everything she does. She believes play is the best way children (and adults) connect with the land, their communities, their bodies, and each other.

She lives along the Bow River in Calgary, Alberta and can be found walking her dog Clover or chasing after her adventurous 10 year old.

Afternoon Session

Leading
INSPIRED
Learning

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP PANEL (IN PERSON)

FACILITATED BY FRED SEABROOK (HOST)
ADEBOLA ADEFIOYE (PANELIST), ASAD CHOUDHARY (PANELIST), ROBYN MICHAUD (PANELIST), AND DR. HALA MREIWED (PANELIST)

This panel discussion will invite participants to consider the ways in which children's rights and global citizenship are conceptualized and practiced in the early childhood education and care (ECEC) sector. Together, through a lens of critical empathy, panelists will discuss the challenges and opportunities of enacting rights-based pedagogies in everyday practice. Those attending are invited to participate in a question and answer (Q & A) following the discussion.



Fred Seabrook (they/them) is an Ontario-based RECE and public speaker with experience in childcare, elementary school, pre-service and professional learning spaces. Fred describes themselves as an early childhood anarchist, a reflection of their professional and academic work toward equity-based liberatory pedagogies, community care and mutual aid, and rejection of oppressive norms, tacit and explicit (e.g., policies), imposed on children, educators, and communities in our sector.



Adebola Adefioye (she/her) has a big heart and a passion for supporting racialized women and educators to build leadership and advocacy skills. She is the owner of Adebola Adefioye Consulting. She founded The Afro Women And Youth Foundation after her daughter's experience of racism in Grade 2. She is a professor in Early Childhood Education (ECE). She works from an anti-oppressive and anti-racist lens and continues to seek opportunities for meaningful community collaborations and partnerships.

Afternoon Session

Leading
INSPIRED
Learning

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP PANEL (IN PERSON)

FACILITATED BY FRED SEABROOK (HOST)
ADEBOLA ADEFIOYE (PANELIST), ASAD CHOUDHARY (PANELIST), ROBYN MICHAUD
(PANELIST), AND DR. HALA MREIWED (PANELIST)



Asad Choudhary (he/him) is a Ph.D. candidate in the Faculty of Education at Western University with research interests in Critical Policy, Equity, and Leadership Studies. He is a professor of the Early Childhood Leadership program at Fanshawe College, a Faculty Fellow for at Niagara University in Vaughan, ON, and a course instructor for teacher candidates at Western University. Asad was also a former principal in AB and ON and was the recipient of the Alberta's Distinguished Leadership Award during his time as principal for the Palliser Regional School District in Calgary, AB.



Robyn Michaud (she/her) is Anishinaabe Kwe, Bear Clan, from Sagamok Anishnawbek First Nation. She is an Indigenous Education specialist with 25+ years experience as an educator and leader in the areas of ESL, anti-racism, equity, diversity and inclusion. Currently, she is an Ed.D. student at Western University, as well as a full-time Indigenous Studies professor at Conestoga College. Robyn is also very proud to be an author and Indigenous education consultant for several award-winning series by Rubicon Publishing including Turtle Island Voices, Issues 21, Big Idea, BoldPrint Inquiry and MathUP.

Afternoon Session

Leading
INSPIRED
Learning

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP PANEL (IN PERSON)

FACILITATED BY FRED SEABROOK (HOST)
ADEBOLA ADEFIOYE (PANELIST), ASAD CHOUDHARY (PANELIST), ROBYN MICHAUD
(PANELIST), AND DR. HALA MREIWED (PANELIST)



Hala Mreiwed (she/her) is a children's rights advocate, advisor, educator and researcher with over 20 years of experience in research, curriculum development and pedagogy, training and education, children's media and children's rights education. She is the Co-Chair of the Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children (CCRC). Hala holds a Master's in Public Policy and Public Administration from Concordia University, and a PhD in Educational Studies from McGill University. Her multidisciplinary research interests in children's rights, human rights, education, social policy, media, creative drama, participatory action research, arts-based educational research, critical discourse analysis and their intersections, come from her experiences in Canada and abroad working in education, media, and with non-governmental and civil society organizations.



Venue Information

Although there will be free parking available at each venue, **it is very limited**. We strongly encourage you to carpool in groups or take public transportation if available. **More specific parking details for each venue are available on striveswo.ca/leading-inspired-learning-system-wide**

HELLENIC COMMUNITY CENTRE

FACILITATED BY KRISTEN DAY (FORMERLY KRISTEN RB PETERSON)

This session will be taking place in the **Main Hall**.

133 Southdale Road West
London, ON
N6J 2J2

FACULTY OF EDUCATION - WESTERN UNIVERSITY

FACILITATED BY THE PANEL

This session will be taking place in the **Auditorium - Room 1050**.

1137 Western Road
London, ON
N6G 1G7

BEST WESTERN PLUS - LAMPLIGHTER INN

FACILITATED BY KARYN CALLAGHAN

This session will be taking place in the **Crystal Ballroom**.

591 Wellington Road South
London, ON
N6C 4R3