

THE NORTHERNER

School Committee Conference
Report Edition 2022



FRONTIER
SCHOOL DIVISION
Excellence and Experience in Education

HEALING THROUGH STORIES



43rd Annual School Committee Conference

Healing Through Stories



Dancer Faith Cook
(Photo credit: Kyla Anderson)

May 17 – 19, 2022

Canad Inns Destination Centre Polo Park
1405 St. Matthews Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba



INTRODUCTION

Frontier School Division's annual School Committee Conference is an important event in our school year and always promises to be an exciting, inspiring gathering. Our last event was held in February 2020, and while plans were paused for 2021, we were pleased and excited to see everyone at our 43rd event held in May 2022!

It takes a great deal of planning and work to ensure we have a successful gathering. Our Board is proud of the efforts and commitment that each individual involved demonstrates every year, and we thank every participant for their interest in the education of the children in our communities.

This year our conference theme was "Healing Through Stories."

The COVID-19 pandemic challenged us to find new ways to teach our children. It has caused us to learn new ways to meet, so that we can share ideas and concerns with each other. And it hurt us physically and mentally. Our conference this year was the first time in two years that we have gathered together to learn and share our stories with each other. Our hope is that we will heal through sharing our stories.

Thank you again to everyone who attended and supported the conference, and for the important work done by so many on local school committees.

This report gives you a look at the excitement, inspiration and ideas that came out of the conference and demonstrates our attendees' hard work and dedication to excellence and experience in education.





HEALING THROUGH STORIES

We walk together to create a strong future for our children.

“Always great to hear right from the board all the great things that are happening within our awesome division.”

“Amazing work that our board & staff do – especially during the pandemic – kudos to all!!”

The Board of Trustees of the Frontier School Division thanks you for your interest in the success of our schools, our teachers and, most of all, our children. There were times we were unsure we’d be able to hold our 43rd conference, but thanks to our wonderful planning committee we were able to gather.

Our theme this year is “Healing Through Stories” because as a Board we are dedicated to developing and maintaining caring, healthy, safe and inclusive schools. To that end we continue to foster the development of our staff and strengthening their skills so students can grow, learn and become active participants within their community.

The following three focus areas are the pillars of our strategic plan:

- **Indigenous Way of Life:** Indigenous perspectives, language and way of life will be an active aspect of each curriculum

- **Academics:** Every student will obtain the literacy and numeracy skills necessary to achieve success in their education journey.
- **Wellness:** Every school will provide a caring, healthy, safe and inclusive learning and working environment for students, staff and community.

These focus areas are intricately linked one with the other: one without the other two is not nearly as durable. For example, academic success encourages higher levels of wellness, increased understanding of Indigenous way of life supports students’ academic pursuits, and wellness helps students cope with the rigors of daily life. These focus areas work in harmony and cooperation, and with the help and support of our staff, families and communities, help build strong relationships that connect and sustain our children. This will ultimately teach our children to walk in a good way. The next three sections summarize the Board’s report to conference delegates.

OUR FOCUS ON INDIGENOUS WAY OF LIFE

Frontier School Division is committed to ensuring that our students will know their history and identity, be proud of their heritage and way of life, and be able to communicate in their cultural language.

In the last two years, the Indigenous Way of Life department has established a robust language program, received an increased budget and added personnel, including a Divisional language coordinator and a Divisional land-based learning coordinator.

We have been developing our Indigenous Language Programs for many years and we are happy to have completed the design of an intensive Indigenous language program that will involve community, Indigenous ways of learning, grassroots development of language teachers, as well as improved support for our current language instructors.

Our vision is to achieve a future where school communities communicate with one another in Indigenous language as well as they do in English. Five of the seven officially recognized Indigenous languages that are spoken in Manitoba can already be heard in Frontier School Division!

Since our last meeting, the Indigenous Way of Life department has not only added this robust language program, but they have also received an increased budget and have added personnel, including a Divisional language coordinator and a Divisional land-based learning coordinator to their department.



OUR FOCUS ON ACADEMICS

We are focusing on equity of technology access, academic milestones and lifelong literacy for all students. We've brought in exciting new initiatives to encourage our students to learn better and participate fully.



During the pandemic, it has become more clear than ever that lack of access to internet services and technology hinders our students' ability to learn and thrive in their academics. That being said, we were able to upgrade several of our schools' internet services. And we implemented a "one device for every student" initiative to ensure, as much as possible, access for students and teachers – resulting in the purchase of 2,280 iPads, and 3,900 laptops, as well as licenses and professional development for learning software.

This past year, we partnered with The Learning Bar to implement the "Educational Prosperity" pilot project - an ambitious three-year plan designed to significantly improve the reading skills of the children in our division. The research is clear: children who become skilled readers by age eight or nine are more likely to make a successful transition from "learning to read" to "reading to learn." The plan includes: literacy training for families, assessment and monitoring systems, learning activities and more.

Even this school year – a year disrupted by the pandemic – we witnessed improved reading scores and we are on target to see Grade 1-3 students improve by 20%.

"Good to hear of the new ways and programs to reach more students at home and school with technology."



OUR FOCUS ON WELLNESS

Each of our schools plays a role in achieving our wellness outcomes: to be respectful and caring communities; to support students and staff in achieving a healthy lifestyle; to support students and staff in achieving mental wellness; and to be safe and secure environments conducive to learning.

Over the last two years, many of us have felt additional stress in our lives because of the pandemic. We know that our students have not been exempt from these pressures.

We are on track to continue our initiatives for student wellness and grow them over the following year. Our Jordan's Principle funding has increased, allowing us to hire an

additional Wellness Worker for each area of Frontier School Division. Mental Wellness Workers fill the void for many students whose mental health needs exceed services offered at the school level.

As our funding grows, we continue to collaborate with our communities. Currently, we are working on a

communication strategy with Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak (MKO).

With support from Jordan's Principle and our caring staff and community, we continue to work together to support the wellness of all members of our Frontier family.

ART ON DISPLAY

Every year the Frontier School Division Juried Art Show comes alive with colour, talent and expression.

Once again, our students bring the best in drawing, painting, sculpting, crafts, film and photography. We pivoted to a virtual show this year on the Divisions website, where students' incredible art reached a wide audience.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, students worked in a variety of mediums and were able to expertly express themselves through art while developing their skills in fine arts, technology and teamwork to create everything from drawings to animated films.

Students gain a sense of identity and self-esteem when they are successful in the Arts. The Board is happy to support several Fine

Arts initiatives including the 21st Annual Juried Art Show for all grade 7-12 and adult Education students.

Thanks to the following judges, who contributed their valuable expertise and time and produced written art critiques for all students:

Visual Arts

Shawna Grapentine,
Frontier Traveling Artist

Pat Lazo,
Artistic Director of Graffiti Art Gallery

Doug Melnyk,
Well-known Winnipeg artist in many mediums

Filmmaking and Animation

Angela Chalmers, and
Manitoba Theatre for Young People

Photography

Hans Arnold

WINNERS OF THE 2022 FRONTIER JURIED ART SHOW

"Another area where the talents of the youth are showcased-so enjoy looking at the various projects"

Drawing, Grades 7-8



1ST ROSA MOOSE,
West Lynn Heights School,
"Bad Memories"

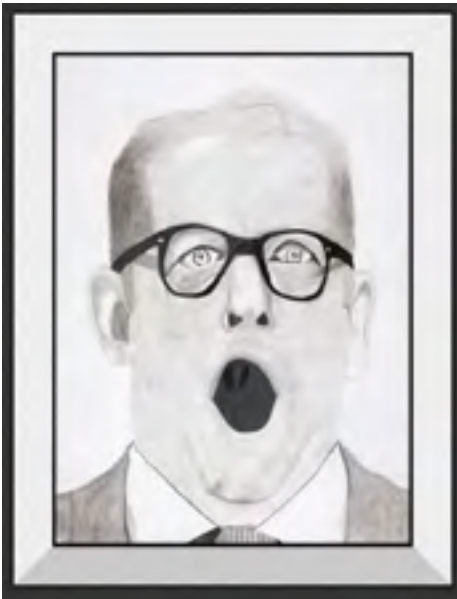


2ND VIOLET TRUDEAU,
Joseph H Kerr School,
"Ordinary Life"



3RD RICKY SEMANIUK,
Joseph H Kerr School,
"American Idiot"

Drawing, Grades 9-10



1ST JENEVIEVE MYERS,
Cormorant Lake School,
“Scream”



2ND IVY TURNER,
Cormorant Lake School,
“Get Me Out Of Here”



3RD ISAIAH MCKAY,
Stevenson Island School,
“Cave”

Drawing, Grades 11-12



1ST KEELYN DISBROWE,
Frontier Collegiate,
“Sunset”



2ND KATRINA DUNCAN,
Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw
Education Resource Centre,
“Portrait 3rd”



3RD AALIYAH ALBERT,
Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw Education
Resource Centre,
“Stuck”

Mixed Media, Grades 7 & 8



1ST GABRIELLE COLOMB-DUMAS,
West Lynn Heights School,
"Frustrated"



2ND TESS PAQUIN,
West Lynn Heights School,
"A Galaxy Night"



3RD VIOLET TRUDEAU,
Joseph H Kerr School,
"Stranger Things"

Mixed Media, Grades 9 & 10



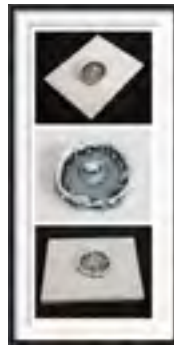
1ST TAYLOR SMITH,
Wanipigow School,
"Stamp"

*"Wonderful display of artwork.
We are very fortunate to have so
many talented children."*

Mixed Media, Grades 11 & 12



1ST CASSEY BERENS,
Wanipigow School,
"Mother Nature"



2ND CASSEY BERENS,
Wanipigow School,
"Alone"



3RD KAYLIH SHORTT,
West Lynn Heights School,
"Astor"

Painting, Grades 7 & 8



1ST BELLE BOULETTE,
San Antonio School,
"The Group"



2ND LIAM SHORTING,
Gypsumville School,
"LOL Out Pop"



3RD TRISTAN DUCHARME,
Cormorant Lake School,
*"The Road to Success is Under
Seasonal Construction"*

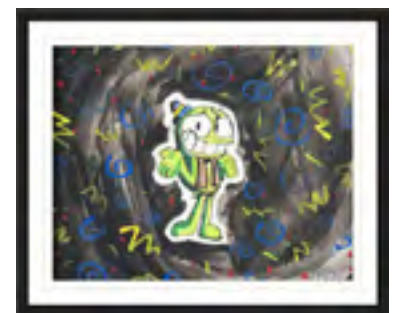
Painting, Grades 9 & 10



1ST MADISON BUSHIE,
Wanipigow School,
"Churchill"



2ND RAQEL BJORK,
Wanipigow School,
"Turtle Island"



3RD ISAIAH MCKAY,
Stevenson Island School,
"Hank"

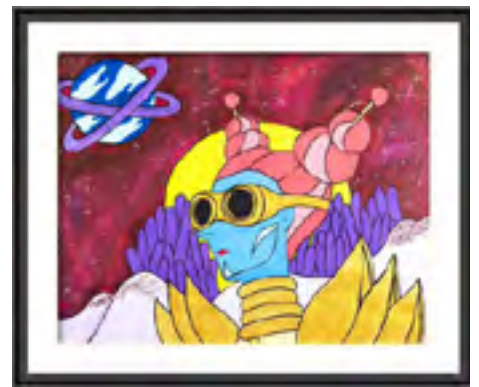
Painting, Grades 11 & 12



1ST KATRINA DUNCAN,
Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw
Education Resource Centre,
"Family Tree"



2ND TRINITY QUESKEKAPOW,
Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw
Education Resource Centre,
"Bison Skull"



3RD SHANNON LAMBERT,
Frontier Mosakahiken School,
"Glenoxi in a Different Dimension"

Pottery/Sculpture, Grades 7 & 8



1ST QUINN BERNAUER,
Joseph H Kerr School,
"The Hunted Caribou"



2ND GREYCEN SMITH,
Joseph H Kerr School,
"Artic Place"



3RD NATHAN KAYSEASS,
San Antonio School,
"Jeremy"

Pottery/Sculpture, Grades 11 & 12



1ST LILY MCCORRISTER,
Frontier Collegiate,
"Magnum opus"



2ND NEENA LUNDIE,
Frontier Collegiate,
"Banana Crab"



3RD ANDREW OKEMOW,
Frontier Collegiate,
"New Hype"

Crafts, Grades 7 & 8



1ST FARREN FARROW PRONTEAU,
West Lynn Heights School,
"Drum"



2ND HAYDEN COLOMB,
West Lynn Heights School,
"Sunny Day"



3RD ROBERT GEORGE DUMAS,
West Lynn Heights School,
"Beat"

Crafts, Grades 9 & 10



1ST MATTHEW CARLINO-SHORTT,
West Lynn Heights School,
*"Mixed Media - Made Frame
Acrylic Paint"*



2ND KIARRA IWANKOW,
Falcon Beach School,
"Hat"



3RD SCOTT GREEN,
Berens River School,
"Fierce"

Crafts, Grades 11 & 12



1ST NEEPIN COOK,
Grand Rapids School,
"Winter Festival Crowns"



2ND KAYLE SIMPSON-APETAGON,
Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw
Education Resource Centre,
"River Table w/LED Lights"



3RD KAYLE SIMPSON-APETAGON,
Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw
Education Resource Centre,
*"Cutting Board - Showing Optical
Illusion"*

Digital Photography, Grades 7 & 8



1ST ROSA MOOSE,
West Lynn Heights School,
"Power"



2ND KAITLYN ROLLES,
Joseph H Kerr School,
"Frozen Waterfall"



3RD SAGE DUMAS,
West Lynn Heights School,
"Little Girl"

Digital Photography, Grades 9 & 10



1ST ALEXIS ETTAWACAPPO,
Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw
Education Resource Centre,
"Cart"



2ND SERENITY SULLIVAN,
Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw
Education Resource Centre,
"Moon"



3RD LEAH QUESKEKAPOW,
Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw
Education Resource Centre,
"Sunset"

Digital Photography, Grades 11 & 12



1ST ALEXANDER MUSWAGON,
Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw
Education Resource Centre,
"Sunset Clouds"



2ND KERRI-LYNN CLARKE,
Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw
Education Resource Centre,
"Spider"



3RD TYSHAUDRE
SINCLAIR-COLOMB,
West Lynn Heights School,
"Frostbite"

Enhanced Photography, Grades 7 & 8



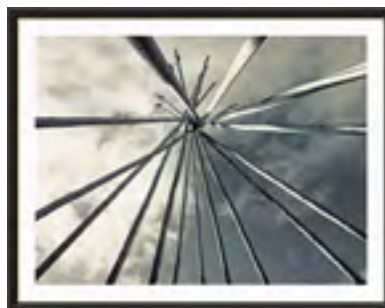
"Beautiful artwork."

1ST ROSA MOOSE,
West Lynn Heights School,
"Fallen"

Enhanced Photography, Grades 9 & 10



1ST ALEXIS ETTAWACAPPO,
Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw
Education Resource Centre,
"Sunflower"



2ND LEAH QUESKEKAPOW,
Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw
Education Resource Centre,
"Sticks"



3RD KIARRA IWANKO,
Falcon Beach School,
"Snow Dog"

Enhanced Photography, Grades 11 & 12



1ST ALEXANDER MUSWAGON
Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw
Education Resource Centre,
“*Flowers*”



2ND COLTON ROBERTSON,
Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw
Education Resource Centre,
“*Nature Growing*”

Animation, Grades 7 & 8

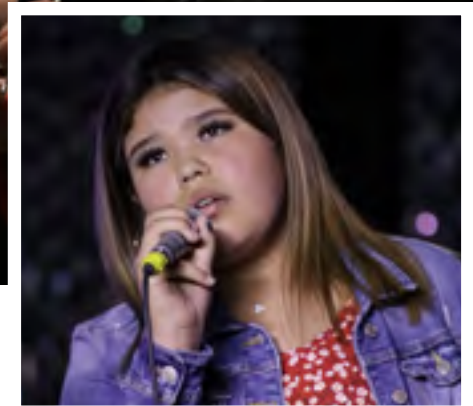


1ST
ROBERT GEORGE DUMAS,
West Lynn Heights School,
“*Street Racing*”

Animation, Grades 10 & 11



1ST
ADDISON LAMAONTAGNE MILLER,
Joseph H Kerr School,
“*Crossing The Street*”



FRONTIER'S GOT TALENT

Our 10th annual student showcase, a fabulous celebration of our talented students

Frontier's Got Talent gives students the opportunity to showcase their talents. Open to all students of all ages, it's truly a celebration of the diversity and skill of our community. Participating in Frontier's Got Talent builds students' confidence and self-esteem.

Last fall, we went to schools requesting submissions of all forms of entertainment. Then our selection committee had the arduous task of choosing from incredible video submissions from across the division. With such a talented student body, we encourage everyone to keep practicing their talents and submit again next year!

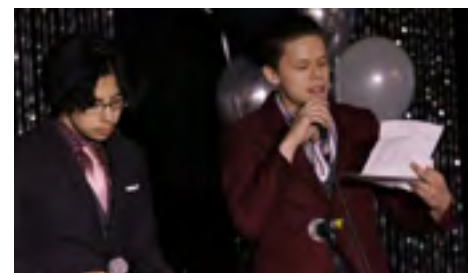
This year, we live streamed for an online audience.

Student hosts Nicko Cook and Hayden Peebles from Wanipigow School did an amazing job introducing the entertainment and keeping the program rolling with efficiency and humour. Thank you, Nicko and Hayden!

We couldn't have done it without Music Teacher, Roy Duffenais from Wanipigow School who provided his expertise running sound for the event, making the Student Showcase successful on and offline.

The tradition continues, as we welcomed the Frontier Fiddlers plus, a special performance by FSD Fiddle instructors! Well-known across Manitoba, the Frontier Fiddlers are selected from schools across the division and always deliver an electrifying performance.

"Beautiful evening, I really enjoyed the Pow wow dancer and loved the singers."



"Always an entertaining evening. We have so many talented youths within our Division."

DIVISIONAL RECOGNITION

Each year at our conference, we are proud to recognize those people who have made outstanding contributions that motivate the rest of us.



Frontier Achievement Award

The Frontier Achievement Award was established in January 1998 to recognize and honor the achievements of Frontier's graduates as well as those who have attended a Frontier school.

We are proud to present the 2022 Award to Jessica Marcellais Saunders.

Jessica grew up in Cranberry Portage where she attended both Cranberry Portage Elementary School and Frontier Collegiate. She graduated with honours and received the Governor General's Award of Excellence.

Jessica was active in many sports and service clubs and showed leadership in volunteering at school and community events.

After graduating from high school Jessica went on to the University of Manitoba to study Law.

Jessica's achievements include membership of the Law Society of Manitoba, Manitoba Bar

Association, Canadian Bar Association and Indigenous Bar Association.

Jessica was called to the Bar in 2011 and practices primarily in the areas of Indigenous law and child protection law.

She was appointed to the following: the Law Society of Manitoba's Equity Committee in 2016, the Law Society of Manitoba's Complaints Investigation Committee in 2018, Chair of the Law Society of Manitoba in 2019 and 2020. She held positions as Chair of the Law Society's Equity Committee, Vice Chair of the Complaints Investigation Committee and Chair of the Public Interest Law Centre Advisory Committee. On July 20, 2021, the Law Society of Manitoba announced a new Indigenous Advisory Committee with The Honourable Murray Sinclair as Chair and Jessica as Vice Chair.

Jessica was one of eight lawyers on the Families First Pro Bono Team who received the 2015 Pro Bono Award from the Manitoba Bar Association for their work to address the issue of Missing and Murdered

Indigenous Women and Girls. She has presented and lectured on Indigenous child welfare and Indigenous rights to community organizations, the law school, conferences, high schools, and the media. She is a true leader in the law community and is well-respected.

We would like to acknowledge the 2021 recipient of the Frontier Achievement Award, Melanie MacKinnon.

Melanie grew up in Wabowden and attended Mel Johnson School. She graduated through the Home Placement Program from Grant Park High School. She is a member of the Misipawistik Cree Nation.

Melanie graduated from the University of Manitoba in 1996 with a Bachelor of Nursing degree. She is currently the Executive Director for Ongomiizwin Clinical services at the University of Manitoba.

Since the COVID pandemic, Melanie has taken an additional role in establishing the Manitoba First Nations Pandemic Response team with the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs. She and her colleagues mobilized rapid response teams to communities with outbreaks.

Melanie is a proud Indigenous woman who follows traditional teachings of the elders and her ancestors. Her work and life experience make her very deserving of the Frontier Achievement Award!

LONG-STANDING SERVICE AWARDS

The following staff were recognized for their long-standing service to Frontier School Division.

The time and energy these individuals have given to Frontier School Division, specifically for the good for our students is invaluable. This year, we are pleased to present the Frontier Service Award.



2022 School Committee Long Service Awards

Presented at the May 2022 Annual School Committee Conference or during presentation of service awards at the recognition lunch on May 18, 2022.

10 Years

Blaine Smith, D.R.
Hamilton School Committee

Cindy McIvor,
Mel Johnson School Committee

Kenneth Moneyas,
Wanipigow School Committee

Annabell Campbell,
Frontier Mosakahiken School Committee

15 Years

John Neapew,
Minegoziibe Anishinabe School Committee

20 Years

Rachel Michaud,
Rorketon School Committee

David Olson,
Peonan Point School Committee

Elizabeth Burton,
Ministic School Committee

Fred Schurko,
Rorketon School Committee

25 Years

Deliah Linklater,
Thunderbird School Committee

Cynthia Devaney,
Matheson Island School Committee

Dora Bland,
Ministic School Committee

30 Years

Darryl Tye,
Cranberry Portage Elementary School Committee

Gertrude Meikle,
Norway House School Committee

35 Years

Linda Ballantyne,
Grand Rapids School Committee

2021 Service Awards

The following individuals were acknowledged on receiving service awards in 2021.

15 Years

Annette Cordelle,
Pikwitonei School Committee

Melody Bouchie,
Wanipigow School Committee

Tanya Friesen,
San Antonio (Bissett) School Committee

Margaret Wastesecoot,
Stevenson Island School Committee

Dennis Hatch,
Cold Lake (Sherridon) School Committee

Kathleen Ettawacappo,
Norway House School Committee

Margaret Nielson,
Norway House School Committee

25 Years
Marvin Catcheway,
Skownan School Committee

30 Years

Linda Benson,
Falcon Beach School Committee

Margaret Imrie,
Falcon Beach School Committee

SCHOOL COMMITTEE OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION AWARD

The Outstanding Contribution award is presented to school committee members who show truly outstanding participation and personal investment. Criteria includes volunteerism, executive duties and responsibilities, meeting attendance, long service and responsiveness to community and school concerns.

This year we were proud to recognize two recipients.

Rachael Michaud, Rorketon School Committee

Rachael has been an active member of the Rorketon School Committee for 20 years. She currently serves as chairperson and Area Advisory Representative. She volunteers her time for many school activities and is always in the school kitchen when events are taking place, helping feed students, staff and volunteers.

Rachael is an amazing individual with a kind personality, she worked hard supporting programs for the students at our schools. Her number one priority is always the education and safety of each and every student that has come through the doors.

Darryl Tye, Cranberry Portage Elementary School Committee

Darryl has been an active member of the Cranberry Portage Elementary School Committee for 30 years. He has held the role of Vice-Chairperson and Chairperson over the years and currently sits on the Frontier Collegiate Advisory School Committee. He is an active volunteer in the school at carnival, potlucks, barbeques and other functions.

An enthusiastic, positive and dedicated school committee member, Darryl's commitment to both schools and the community of Cranberry Portage is commendable. It's resoundingly clear through everything he does, that students come first in his world.

Pearl Dumas, Lakefront School Committee (2021 recipient)

Pearl Dumas, has been a member of the Lakefront School Committee for 13 years. During that time, she has served as Chairperson, Treasurer and Area Advisory Representative.

She is very active in school events and activities. She always looks for ways to fundraise for the school committee so that they are able to provide the students with gifts and treat bags at Christmas and gifts at graduation.

Pearl is very community-minded and has served on the local MMF as chairperson for almost 15 years. In this capacity, she was able to start Winterfest in conjunction with O-Chi-Chak Ko Sipi First Nation and fundraise at this event for the School Committee. She has also worked as store manager for the First Nations store.

She enjoys attending the School Committee and Area Advisory meetings to keep up to date on the education of the students in her community and beyond. She also attends the Annual School Committee Conference yearly to network with others. She never misses a session or a meeting!

PRESENTATIONS



Reconnection: building a foundation of authentic relationships

One of north America's top psychologists, Dr. Jody Carrington, spoke about the capacity for reconnection as the foundation to every healthy authentic relationship. She says we are not born with the ability

to repair ruptures; we have to learn how to do this as we build strong cultures. These relationships are the foundation of a successful team or community.

on what it means to master the art of reconnection and shared her approach to helping people solve their most complex human centered challenges.

Dr. Carrington brought her unique and hilarious take

"I look forward to sharing with staff and other school committee members. Such a great message and I felt like I had a professional counselling session and feel ready to lead our school staff and students into reconnecting and relaxing."

The Treaty Relationship

This presentation from lawyer and Frontier School Division alum, Jessica Saunders, examined the treaty relationship and its foundation to both Indigenous laws and Canadian law. She gave a historical overview of the events that led to Treaty 5, including perspectives of treaty negotiators, the leaders and people.

Saunders presented a case for reframing our understanding of treaties as being based in relationships to truly honour the spirit and intent of our treaties.

"Awesome young woman - her story must be heard in elementary to inspire students to further their education."





Manitoba Metis Federation

A handful of representatives from Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) including David Beaudin, Associate Minister of Education, and Sharon Parenteau, General Manager of Louis Riel Institute, were present at our conference. They shared information on many of their educational programs.

Frontier School Division is proud of the ongoing relationship we have with the MMF. The work we do together is always focused on the students our organizations serve. The work of our teachers is strengthened through the many resources MMF makes available in support of education.

“Very good information. Did not know that there was all this financial support and resources for us.”

“Informative presentation on the options available to Metis students – these initiatives go a long way to help students in need.”



Dauphin River School Language Project

Elder Mary Stagg and Principal Lalaine Tugade shared information on the Dauphin River School language program and book project. The project was born out of the deep commitment by Elder Stagg to maintain her Indigenous language.

They talked about how the program will help students be proud to speak their language and of their First Nation heritage. They reminded us of the power of education and offered updates on this important initiative.

“Great work with the language books. Elder Mary spoke and provided so much guidance. All our languages need to be taught this way.”





FSDnet.ca