



**Provincial Social Justice and Aboriginal Education Conference
ReconciliACTION: Witnessing and walking forward together
Workshop descriptions**

Session 1 workshops — Saturday, May 25, 2019, 9:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

SOGI 123: Salish weaving: Counternarrative and Indigenous feminism in K–12

Join us to learn about the personal journey of Peggy Janicki in the creation and gifting of a Coast Salish contemporary swōqw’elh (wool blanket). This Salish weaving was crated as a counternarrative to a school trustee’s personal view expressed on social media about LGBTQ communities and the SOGI 123 curriculum.

Decolonizing

In this session members will engage in conversations around colonialism at many levels. Colonialism systemically permeates education, media, government policy, and our whole society. Creating awareness is essential to understanding alternative value systems and how we are complicit by inaction. Decolonization demands a close look at Indigenous perspectives, ways of knowing and being, and making change in our personal and professional lives.

Aboriginal lens

Workshop participants will unpack the basic tenets of the colonial world view and how it often opposes Indigenous perspectives. Learn about the importance of evolving practice by challenging the current, Eurocentric systems that have silenced other way of knowing and being. This workshop will provide an opportunity to explore Indigenous perspectives, world views, and how to apply them.

Teaching green: Creating climate heroes

Workshop participants will consider barriers to teaching about the climate change emergency and develop solutions to overcome these barriers. Teachers will also learn strategies to support students in using critical thinking skills to approach climate change through a solutions-based approach.

Creating inclusive spaces: Applying an equity and inclusion lens to your local, schools, and classrooms

This workshop will provide teachers with strategies to help contribute to more inclusive environments. Participants will be introduced to several barriers to inclusion based on race, gender identity, sexual orientation, class, and physical ability. They will then explore strategies and resources available on the BCTF Equity and Inclusion webpages to address these

barriers. Through an inquiry model, participants will begin thinking about specific actions they can take in their classrooms, schools, locals, and communities.

Engaging men and boys to prevent gender-based violence

Workshop participants will deepen their understanding of how socialization contributes to the development of oppressive attitudes and behaviours based on gender. Teachers will begin by examining the varying degrees of violence against women. After considering the concepts of gender identity, power, and privilege, participants will reflect on their own values related to these topics and begin to develop a plan to uphold them. Teachers will leave the workshop equipped with a deeper understanding of the role men and boys can play in overcoming violence, along with an enhanced commitment to taking on this role.

Session 2 workshops — Saturday, May 25, 2019, 1:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Sixties scoop

This workshop invites educators to open their hearts and minds to understanding the colonial impact of Canada's history on Indigenous families and their children. Educators will be challenged to unlearn the history taught to them and relearn how to value the lives of Indigenous peoples. Educators will follow the lead of Indigenous educators who may be directly connected to the lived experience of the generations of 'stolen children'.

Indigenous perspectives

This workshop will explore some of the impacts of colonization on Aboriginal/Indigenous education. What is Indigenous education? What are the paradigms, and where can we shift?

The Gladys we never knew: The short life and tragic death of a BC residential school student

Gladys Chapman, a student at the Kamloops Indian Residential School, died of tuberculosis at the age of 12. The spirit of Gladys is at the heart of this workshop that provides a cross-curricular module of lessons for teachers who want more ideas to help meet the Ministry mandate of infusing Aboriginal content and perspectives at the secondary level. Like the intermediate module, participants will have the opportunity to engage with the activities and speak with the module developers. The goal of the session is to provide teachers with the resources, background, and support that will prepare them to take their students to a deeper level of truth and reconciliation education. This is a developing e-book resource.

Strategies for discussing controversial issues

Discussing controversial issues with students is an important part of social justice, the inquiry process, and building the skills for students to become active, engaged, and critically-minded democratic citizens. This workshop provides practical classroom strategies to discuss controversial issues in a respectful manner.

Poverty as a classroom issue

Twenty percent of all BC children live in poverty. This workshop helps teachers to develop an awareness of the issue of poverty and its implication for our students. It will provide challenges for teachers on the assumptions we make about children living in poverty and provide strategies for teachers on how to support children who may be experiencing discrimination at school because of their socio-economic status.

Settler conversations

What does it mean to be a settler in BC and Canada? Asian, European, Latinx, African, and mixed-heritage people all have our own unique relationship to colonialism and Indigenous people in Canada. This session will help fellow settlers of various backgrounds understand their own unique settler identity and relationship to colonialism more deeply and explore how we can act more meaningfully as allies and more deeply pursue decolonization. Because this is work for settlers to do and not for First Nations people to teach us about, this workshop will be run by settlers, for settlers. Come with your questions, uncertainties, and a desire to learn.