



adult secondary education council

# ASEC Spring Conference

*New Possibilities*

**Friday, April 21, 2017**

Neeginan Centre  
181 Higgins Ave  
Winnipeg MB R3B 3G8  
(204) 989-6249

Parking is available street side  
Bus routes #44, 45, 47 to Higgins or 18 to Main and Higgins  
The cost is \$85 for members, including lunch

**Friday, April 21, 2017**

<b>8:00 AM - 8:45 AM</b>	<b>Registration and Refreshments</b>
<b>8:45 AM - 9:00 AM</b>	<b>Welcome from ASEC President</b>
<b>9:00 - 9:45 AM</b>	<b>Student Panel</b>
<b>9:45 – 10:30 AM</b>	<b>Breakout into assigned regional groups to discuss student panel</b>
<b>10:30 – 10:45 AM</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>10:45 – 11:45 PM</b>	<b>Sessions</b>
<b>11:45 – 12:45 PM</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>12:45 – 2:15 PM</b>	<b>Sessions</b>
<b>2:15 – 2:30 PM</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>2:30 – 4:00 PM</b>	<b>Sessions</b>

**8:45 AM**

**Opening Remarks: ASEC President's Report – Kirsti Knight**

**9:00 - 9:45 AM**

**Student Panel**

Students will be given questions to address about what helped them succeed in adult education and will be asked to give some insight on how we can improve our programs.



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**9:45 – 10:30 AM: Breakout into assigned regional groups to discuss student panel**

**10:30 – 10:45 AM: Break**

**10:45-11:45 AM Early Morning Breakout Sessions**

**A: Character based loans; helping skilled immigrants getting back to their profession**

**Presenter:** Sandra Leone

**Description:** Skilled immigrants have the knowledge, education, and work experience needed to find employment in the same or similar field they worked in before moving to Canada. In most cases, skilled immigrants have many barriers to overcome in order to have their qualifications recognized. Learn how establishing a strong partnership between the provincial government, a non-profit organization and a financial institution is playing a key role in successfully delivering character based loans to help skilled immigrants obtain employment accreditation in Manitoba.

**Biography:** Sandra and her family moved to Winnipeg from Argentina 13 years ago. During those years, her career evolved similar to many of other immigrants. First working at jobs not commensurate with her education and experience, but very valuable to help her get settled and later, obtaining a MSc. in Computer Science from the University of Winnipeg. Her experience as immigrant, in combination with her formal education and knowledge of immigrant issues, helped her develop Recognition Counts, a loan program for skilled immigrants to help them get back to their profession or occupation. Sandra is currently the manager of Recognition Counts.

**B: Developing Partnerships**

**Presenter:** Brent Johnson and Anne Grossman

**Description:** A sharing about harvesting partnerships and how they play an integral part in adult learner success.

**Biography:** Brent Johnson is the Adult Education Director for Frontier School Division. He is responsible for 20 Adult Learning Centres serving over 600 primarily Aboriginal adult learners located throughout rural and northern Manitoba.

Brent has been involved in Adult Education since 1990 and has worked with Aboriginal communities in northern British Columbia and Manitoba. He brings a wide range of experience and knowledge of adult learning and the issues affecting northern aboriginal learners and communities.

Through partnerships Brent has been able to increase technical vocational programming and apprenticeships for adult learners and looks for “out of the box” opportunities for adult learners to achieve success.



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### **C: Support Your Students' Learning with Winnipeg Public Library's Literacy Resources**

**Presenter:** Chris Laurie

**Description:** Discover how your students can find the literacy resources to support their learning goals. Learn tips and tricks on how to use the library's catalogue. See a demonstration of our top picks for literacy learners of the library's free, online databases.

**Biography:** Chris Laurie is a Customer Service Librarian at Winnipeg Public Library. He presents to literacy programs within Winnipeg on accessing resources as well as using the library's collections and services.

### **D: Escape Rooms: Adding Puzzles to the Classroom**

**Presenter:** Evan Hawkins

**Description:** The phenomenon of escape rooms has been steadily growing in popularity across Winnipeg and Manitoba. The premise is simple, you are in a room full of puzzles and locks and you are given an hour to try and figure out as much as you can. The ideas found in an escape room have many applications to our teaching and can be used in a variety of creative ways to provide some variety to our lessons and our student's learning. In this workshop we will go over a brief history of escape rooms, discuss ways it can be utilized, and finally participate in a completed escape room created by the students of ACC.

**Biography:** Evan is a Math and Science teacher at the Aboriginal Community campus with a passion for puzzles, games, and the like!

### **E: Meditation, Mindfulness & Self-Love**

**Presenter:** Adeline Bird

**Description:** In this workshop, participants will be introduced to connecting self-love, meditation and mindfulness to the medicine wheel, all while gaining simple tools on how to practice all three using the medicine wheel as a tool.

**Biography:** Adeline Bird is part African and Obijway from Rolling River First Nations, Manitoba. Adeline has a passion for social change and justice, so much so, she immediately went into the profession of social work. Adeline's passion and drive for knowledge, truth and consciousness gave birth to her podcast Soul Unexpected. Which she hosts and produces and can be found at [www.adelinebird.com](http://www.adelinebird.com). Adeline is also the author of the book titled Be Unapologetically You: A self-love guide for women of color. Adeline uses Soul Unexpected and her book to inspire, create awareness, and get viewers to think differently. Subscribe to Soul Unexpected on iTunes, Stitcher, & speaker.com.



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## **F: Career Education**

**Presenter:** Ruth Elizabeth Stargardter

**Description:** In her experience as a Counsellor for 27 years, Ruth believes that career education has the ability to increase resilience in both youth and adults. Her definition of resilience includes the individual and relational perspective.

For Ruth, the path to resiliency/persistence is by helping children, youth and adults understand themselves as well as develop the tools and capacity to find the resources that build their well-being. She believes that as educators, families, communities and government we must help to engage citizens in experiencing activities that create “hope”. One technique for building hope in students is by helping them to see opportunities to make a difference and to set goals to move them in the direction of their goals, dreams and aspirations. We must support people to help them to develop and identify the skills and tools to help them choose the life they want to live and to create the world they want to live in.

Ruth’s piece of the puzzle is to help students to learn about themselves, explore pathways and career options, plus other critical information such as financial literacy (can we really believe in a path if we don't know how we can access the resources we need to get there?) If they find an interest, the “village” around them can reach out to use Manitoba Education and Training resources such as Career Development Life/Work curricula and Career Development credits and resources to help develop that idea and discover multiple paths to that goal.

**Biography:** Ruth is the Career Development Consultant, Instruction, Curriculum and Assessment Branch (ICAB) at Manitoba Education and Training. Ruth worked at the Brodsky Institute as a counsellor and Educational Consultant. She has been a school counsellor for 27 years and was a secondary school counsellor and department head of counselling at St. John’s High School, Kelvin High School, Grant Park High School in Winnipeg School Division and Student Services Department Head for 10 years at Vincent Massey Collegiate in Pembina Trails School Division. Ruth has worked at the Faculty of Manitoba, University of Manitoba as a sessional instructor in Secondary School Counselling and Career Development. Ruth was the Career Development Specialist at Career Trek Inc. for three years.

**11:45 – 12:45 p.m. Lunch**

**12:45 - 4:00 p.m. All afternoon Breakout sessions**

## **G: Adult FASD Learners – Tips, Suggestions and Hope**

**Presenter:** Jim Robson

**Description:** Since the term FASD was coined in the 1980’s there has been much written about and research related to school age children to help teachers, parents and social workers better meet the needs of these students. There has been much less research related to adult FASD victims.



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Eva Marie Silden in her 2004 study entitled [\*Practice and Policy: Fetal Alcohol Syndrome/Fetal Alcohol Effect: Impacted Offences and the Correctional Service of Canada\*](#) states that at least 50% of people afflicted with FASD have been incarcerated while 60% have been involved with the Criminal Justice system. Adult educators often find these students challenging and wonder where to begin. By helping these learners achieve success academically and socially, these learners are less likely to end up in trouble with the law.

This workshop is designed to give adult educators an overview of how FASD impacts on adult learners' behavior and learning. It is intended to provide adult educators with some tips, ideas and hope for assisting these learners in furthering their education, and improve their self-esteem.

**Biography:** Jim Robson has spent 25 plus years in First Nations communities working with and teaching FASD students. He has a Master of Education degree in Special Education. Jim has assisted teachers and parents alike to better understand FASD and to learn strategies to assist these learners in life skills, classroom behavior and academic growth. Jim has presented workshops to school staffs and community members within the Frontier School Division and the Northwind Daycare in South Indian Lake.

### **H: First Nation's Reclamation in the Classroom: Combating a loss of identity**

**Presenter:** Lance Guilbault

**Description:** First Nations people are one of the pillars of North America that has been systematically silenced over the course of the past 450 years. I would like to share some of the activities, projects, and teachings that I share with my students that helps rekindle the fire in that voice.

Black River Adult Education Centre students have the opportunity to smudge every day, at any time that they feel necessary. Through my program, I've found ways to incorporate the community ceremonies, medicine picking and Indigenous vegetable planting.

Within this journey towards reclamation of culture and identity, we need to learn about why it is that we have lost this culture, this identity. These are hard dialogues to have, but very real ones that need to take place. Spirit, healing, ceremony and sharing are integral components to my "relationship building" with students in order to journey through our history of colonization, unfulfilled treaty obligations, Residential Schools, 60's Scoop, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, and NODAPL.

**Biography:** Lance Guilbault is a ceremonial man, a writer, painter and educator. A member of Ochekwi-Sipi Cree Nation, he is a man who believes in his people. He teaches Adult Education in Little Black River Anishinabe Nation with Frontier School Division and is truly inspired by education and the doors it can open. He might say it's our modern day buffalo. We can't eat it, or fashion tools from it, but education will help provide for us with skills, knowledge and a deeper ability to help affect change in our communities.



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### **I: Blanket Exercise**

**Presenter:** Chuck Bourgeois

**Description:** The Blanket Exercise portrays Canada's colonization from the perspective of Indigenous People. As the activity progresses, participants will gain a greater insight into the experiences of Indigenous people in what is now Canada. The Blanket Exercise is an interactive simulation which allows participants to learn a great deal of history in a short amount of time.

**Biography:** Chuck Bourgeois is a proud citizen of the Manitoba Métis Federation and a consultant for the Indigenous Inclusion Directorate of Manitoba Education and Training.

### **12:45 – 2:15 PM Early Afternoon Breakout Sessions**

### **J: Indigenous Knowledges and Perspectives as valid forms of guiding frameworks for planning and implementing Aboriginal/Indigenous adult education programs.**

**Presenter:** Laara Fitznor

**Description:** Participants will hear about the various ways that can learn about educational planning strategies that incorporate Indigenous Knowledges and Perspectives. Participants will examine their own practices and identify the knowledges and practices that may already be reflected with Indigenous perspectives or highlight ways that Indigenous knowledges and practices can be developed. Working from a model of understanding how ideas translate to words that translate to actions and habits is one way to examine and articulate Indigenous knowledges and perspectives to develop adult education programs.

**Biography:** Laara Fitznor, Cree First Nation (with German/Scots ancestry) is a member of the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation in Manitoba, and she was raised in the boreal forests of Northern, Manitoba. She pursued her dream of a university education once she learned that with a university education she was in a position to embrace ways to challenge and counter acts of oppression while advancing Aboriginal/Indigenous knowledge(s), perspectives, histories, experiences, spiritualities, and cultural realities through her career. She assisted professionals (teachers, educators, community workers, social workers, police officers, etc.) to understand the uniqueness of Aboriginal peoples' histories, philosophies, cultures, knowledge(s), the contested Aboriginal-Canadian relationships, and contributions to Canadian society. She incorporates decolonizing and bridging pedagogies in her work where people learn to challenge past wrongs, coexist and collaborate in a way of transformative possibilities toward relevance, respect, reciprocity and responsibility. Laara has served on boards, councils, committees, grassroots and working groups where the focus of the work was to advance principles of diversity, equity, and Aboriginal rights, knowledge(s), and participation/leadership in the culturally appropriate growth of Aboriginal peoples. Laara teaches Aboriginal Education and Cross Cultural Education for the Faculty of Education, University of Manitoba. She also taught at the Ontario Institute for Studies of Education, University of Toronto from 1998-2003.



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Laara's academic publications include: doctoral thesis *Aboriginal Educator's Stories: Rekindling Aboriginal Worldviews*; and book chapters *The Circle of Life: Affirming Aboriginal Philosophies in Everyday Living*; *The Power of Indigenous Knowledge: Naming and Identity and Colonization in Canada*, and *Indigenous Scholars*; and *Writing through Narratives and Storying for Healing and Bridging* (this chapter is published in a book co-edited by Dr. Laara Fitznor and Dr. Joy Hendry titled 'Anthropologists, Indigenous Scholars and the Research Endeavour').

**K: *I Have a Student Who...***

**Presenter:** Heather Kilbrai

**Description:** I have a student who has high school credits from Alberta. I have a student who has an English credit from 15 years ago. I have a student who was home schooled. I have a student who is interested in dual credits. Come for a refresher on credit transfer and the Mature Student High School Diploma, and bring your favourite "I have a student who..." story!

**Biography:** Heather has been a program consultant with Adult Learning and Literacy for 14 years and has gotten lots of "I have a student who..." calls. Before that, she was in the trenches as an adult secondary education teacher in British Columbia and Alberta

**L: Career Cruising**

**Presenter:** Ruth Stargardter

**Description:** Career Cruising is a self-exploration and planning program that helps people of all ages achieve their potential in school, career and life. In this workshop you will learn about how to help your students with their career possibilities and educational pathways by exploring rich, engaging content. A dynamic, actionable plan can be created that outlines the steps needed to achieve career, school and life goals.

**Biography:** Ruth is the Career Development Consultant, Instruction, Curriculum and Assessment Branch (ICAB) at Manitoba Education and Training. Ruth worked at the Brodsky Institute as a counsellor and Educational Consultant. She has been a school counsellor for 27 years and was a secondary school counsellor and department head of counselling at St. John's High School, Kelvin High School, Grant Park High School in Winnipeg School Division and Student Services Department Head for 10 years at Vincent Massey Collegiate in Pembina Trails School Division. Ruth has worked at the Faculty of Manitoba, University of Manitoba as a sessional instructor in Secondary School Counselling and Career Development. Ruth was the Career Development Specialist at Career Trek Inc. for three years.

**2:15 – 4:00 p.m. Break**



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## 2:30 – 4:00 PM Late Afternoon Breakout Sessions

### **M: Entrepreneurship in Adult Education**

**Presenter:** Rene Hince

**Description:** Teaching entrepreneurship within an adult literacy program can support learning in core subject areas and engage students based on their interests, as well as offer them the possibility of generating income.

This workshop will provide educators with an exposure to entrepreneurship philosophy, as well as the principles and practices of small business ownership, including useful tools to investigate (apps, software, websites, gadgets, etc.) and technical skills to consider teaching in the classroom.

**Biography:** Rene Hince has a Diploma in Business Administration, is working towards a Bachelor of Education in Industrial Arts and currently holds a position as a Literacy Instructor at the Neeginan Literacy Centre in Winnipeg, Manitoba. He has previously worked in the field of Economic Development leading workshops for youth which taught entrepreneurship, social engagement and the cooperative business model.

### **N: Smoothing the Transition from Education to Employment**

**Presenter:** Celia Buchok

**Description:** How can we, as adult educators support students making the move from education to meaningful employment? The workshop focuses on the top trending skills demanded by managers today and how we can address the skills gap in the classroom to increase job retention for students. Celia will provide information on employment resources educators and students can access in and outside of Winnipeg to support their students move from school to work.

**Biography:** Celia Buchok is the education coordinator for Youth Employment Services Manitoba, where she works within Winnipeg and surrounding school divisions to create and facilitate workshops for students aged 14-29 on how to find meaningful employment. Celia is a member of the Career Development Professionals Learning Group and has provided professional development to its members on topics such as job search techniques, resume trends and preparing students for the jobs of the future.



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## Conference Information

### Registration

<https://asec.wufoo.com/forms/asec-spring-conference-copy/>

### Conference Fee \$85

Includes

**\*\*\*\*\*NEW** Please send Payment (cheques payable to ASEC) \$85 to **\*\*\*\*\*NEW**

**Adult Secondary Education Council**  
c/o **Stephanie Miller** (ASEC Treasurer)

Social Enterprise Centre  
308-765 Main Street  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R2W 3N5

### Conference Location

Neeginan Centre  
181 Higgins Ave  
Winnipeg MB R3B 3G8  
(204) 989-6249

\*Cancellation policy: Cancel up to one week before conference start date with 25% of payment retained as administrative fee