

41ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Guiding the Next Generations

October 28 – 29, 2026
Water Tower Inn, Sault Ste. Marie



Conference Day 1

Wednesday, October 28, 2026

7:00 AM REGISTRATION & COFFEE

7:30 AM BREAKFAST

8:30 AM SMUDGE

9:00 AM Wellness Room in Courtyard Room
– **4:00 PM** All Day, Open to all for breaks, networking,
and professional work space.

**9:00 AM Opening Remarks and
Opening Activities**

Elder: Peter Beaucage

Drum Group: Big River

President's Welcome

Leadership Remarks

**9:30 AM Keynote Address: "Guiding
the Next Generations"**

George Couchie, *Redtail Hawk Training
& Consulting and Retired OPP Officer*

10:30 AM NUTRITION BREAK

**10:45 AM Learning from the Land: Exploring
Trapping, Traditional Knowledge,
and Connections to the Classroom**

Stan Sabourin, *Trapping Instructor and Elder*
East Hall

**Supporting Indigenous Students
with Disabilities Through the
Postsecondary Transition**

Beth Pollock, *PhD., C.Psych, Clinical Director of
the Regional Assessment Resource Centre (RARC)*

Julia Moreau, *PhD Candidate,*
Queens University

West Hall

**Indigenous Anti-Human Trafficking
Training Program**

Erin Robineau, *Transition and Housing Manager –
Nakehndan (Knowing Your Truth)*

Centre Hall

Concurrent Workshops

**Concurrent Workshops
Continued...**

**OSAP Unpacked: What's Changed
and What Students and Education
Counsellors Should Know**

*Curtis Radey, Manager, Student Awards, Fees
& myLaurentian Hub, Laurentian University
Library*

**Honouring the Past, Strengthening
the Present, Shaping the Future:
Evaluation Findings from the Native
Counsellor Training Program**

*Krystine Abel M.Ed. MSW, RSW, Founder and
Operator, White Feather Wholistic Consulting
and Counselling Services
C-Nergy*

12:00 PM LUNCH

1:00 PM North-East District
East Hall

**District Discussions
& Rep Selections**

North West District
Centre Hall

Southern District
West Hall

Life Members (& Students)
Library

**2:00 PM District Discussion De-Brief and
Representative Announcements**

2:30 PM NUTRITION BREAK

2:45 PM Fitness Break *with Special Guest*

**2:50 PM Plenary Session: Neurodivergence:
Understanding to Develop Strengths**
*Michelle Irvine, FASD Aakziiwin Ezhinikaadek
E-niigaanziik'ki-dang (Program Manager),
Anishinabek Nation*

3:50 PM Day 1 Wrap-Up

6:30 PM 80's Halloween Soirée
- 10:00 PM Featuring Classic Roots

*Come Dressed in your best 80's
Themed Costumes!*

Presidential Nominee Speeches

7:00 PM Dinner



Conference Day 2

Thursday, October 29, 2026

7:00 AM BREAKFAST

8:30 AM SMUDGE

9:00 AM Wellness Room in Courtyard Room
– **4:00 PM** All Day, Open to all for breaks, networking, and professional work space.

9:00 AM Opening Activities

Elder: Peter Beaucage

Sponsor Remarks

9:30 AM Engagement Session –
Supporting Indigenous Students
through Helping: Exploring the Role
of Native Education Counsellors
and Ensuring the NCTP Supports
Professional Needs

Joyce Hunter, *NCTP Manager*

10:15 AM NUTRITION BREAK

10:30 AM Ontario Indigenous
Education Updates

Nick Bertrand, *Director, Indigenous*
Education Office, Ministry of Education
East Hall

Indigenous Services Canada

Christina Buzzi, *Sr Education Program Officer /*
Children, Families and Learning / Ontario Region,
Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)
West Hall

Update on the First Nations
Resource Development Scholarship

Indigenous Education Branch

The Student Financial Assistance Branch,
Ministry of Education

C-Nergy

Telemental Health

Rhonda Doxtator, *Telemental Health*
Coordinator, Southwest Ontario Aboriginal
Health Access Centre

Library

ONECA's New Dew Credit Program

Gail Lafleur, *First Nation Partnerships Officer,*
ONECA

Centre Hall

Breakout Sessions
with Indigenous Education Partners

Repeat of prior sessions

Breakout Sessions
with Indigenous Education Partners

11:15 AM

**Ontario Indigenous
Education Updates**

Nick Bertrand, *Director, Indigenous Education
Office, Ministry of Education*
East Hall

Indigenous Services Canada

Christina Buzzi, *Sr Education Program Officer /
Children, Families and Learning / Ontario Region,
Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)*
West Hall

**Update on the First Nations
Resource Development Scholarship**

Indigenous Education Branch

The Student Financial Assistance Branch,
Ministry of Education

C-Nergy

Telemental Health

Rhonda Doxtator, *Telemental Health
Coordinator, Southwest Ontario Aboriginal Health
Access Centre*
Library

ONECA's New Dew Credit Program

Gail Lafleur, *First Nation Partnerships Officer,
ONECA*
Centre Hall

12:00 PM LUNCH

1:00 PM

**Keynote: "Guiding the
Next Generations"**

Leslee White-Eye, *Governance Director,
First Nations with Schools Collective*

2:00 PM

ONECA Updates & Looking Forward

Natalie Fletcher, *President, ONECA and Alicia
Cameron, Executive Director, ONECA*

2:30 PM

NUTRITION BREAK

2:45 PM

Fitness Break with Special Guest

2:45 PM

Conference Evaluation

3:10 PM

**Learning Session & Interactive
Discussion – Cultural Perspectives
with Elder Peter Beaucage: Taking
Care of the Helpers that are Taking
Care of the Next Generations**

4:00 PM

Closing Activities and Wrap-Up

4:30 PM

Elder's Closing & Drum Song

Elder: Peter Beaucage
Drum Group: Big River