



Agenda & Registration Form

Circles of Learning Day

Portage College, Lac La Biche

June 22, 2011

9:00 am – 4:30 p.m.

In honour of Seniors' Week & National Aboriginal Day in June, please join us for a day dedicated to enhancing our Circles of Understanding in Education, Justice, Health and Culture

A- Session Descriptions- Justice Through Education Talks

9:30 AM – 12:00 PM ----
GYMNASIUM

9:30 – 9:45

Welcome

Leona Geller, Public Relations, Portage College
Dr. Trent Keough, President, Portage College
Bill Loutitt/Diane Scoville, President & Vice President, MNA Region 1

9:45 – 10:15

The Myth of Tolerance in Canadian Multicultural Policy and Practice

Dr. Trent Keough

Canada's first multicultural policy (1971) enabled the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* (1982). Today, multiculturalism is immutable law in Canada. Why?

Canada lacks the patriotic identifiers typically associated with singularity of worldview, religion, culture, language, or geography. Canadian national identity was once self-consciously constructed in opposition to the national character and historical practices of the United States (i.e. a home for slavery and birthplace of the cultural melting pot). Since the late 1960s, multiculturalism (i.e. the Canadian cultural mosaic) has been used to define a Canadian national consciousness.

Few Canadians realize that multiculturalism entrenches British cultural dominance in the political and legal infrastructures of Canada. The disconnection between multiculturalism's political intentions and Canada's cultural practices reveals a sordid history of discrimination and racism. The hypocrisy of Canadian nationalism is rooted in:

denial of First Nations peoples as Charter Canadians and the historical rejection of the Métis Nation's undertaking a civil war (e.g. reduced to rebellion).

Too many elder Canadians have lived with multicultural discrimination, experiencing it either as privilege or as victims. Aboriginal Canadians are historically disadvantaged by multiculturalism; and, too few Canadians speak of our discriminatory historical practices.

10:30 – 11:00

The Erasmus Influence: How My Family History Influences My Circle of Understanding

Shelley Jackson – (Portage College PLE Program)

The Erasmus Influence is a legacy which begins with the story of Peter Erasmus (1833-1931) a Metis guide, buffalo hunter, translator, farmer, Indian Agent, and mission worker. He was born in Red River, Manitoba. Erasmus was instrumental as the translator at the Treaty Six negotiations, and witnessed the change from buffalo hunting, to settlements and Reserves. At the age of 87, Erasmus told his life story to Henry Thompson (also a Metis person, and a journalist at the time) who wrote it down. The manuscript found its way to the Glenbow Museum and Archives and was published as *Buffalo Days and Nights* in 1976.

Peter Erasmus was my great-great grandfather, and the legacy he left in western Canada is still with us today. Peter's grandson, Louis Erasmus, was a War Veteran of WWI and WWII and his sons were William Erasmus, an elected Metis Leader who led the Lac La Biche sit-in protest on the closing of Newstart, which was the forerunner of Portage

College. And William's younger brother, the late Peter Erasmus, whose work with then Lac La Biche A.V.C. helped strengthen relations between the Centre and surrounding Aboriginal Communities. Other descendant's include Georges Erasmus, O.C., the National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations from 1985 to 1991. His brother is Bill Erasmus, AFN Regional Chief, Northwest Territories Dene Nation.

Like the Metis sash, the Erasmus legacy is tightly woven into the fabric of western Canada and growing up knowing this legacy has influenced my worldview and guided my personal and work life. There are lessons in aboriginal history, both oral and written that should be honoured and not forgotten as they bind us together, form our identities and inspire us to become leaders who are committed and passionate about good futures for all aboriginal people.

11:15 – 12:00

Human Rights Defender – on the human rights issues pertaining to Aboriginal women, children and families.

Muriel Stanley Venne O.C. (Metis Leader, Activist, Human Rights Path)

Muriel has been a leader in the Aboriginal and Métis communities of Alberta for over 30 years and has an abiding belief in the strength and spirit of Aboriginal and Métis women – a conviction that is reflected in her long-standing commitment to advancing their status. She has worked as a human rights advocate and human rights commissioner, later diversifying her focus to better understand and assist her people. Stanley Venne served on the boards of numerous organizations, including the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation, is a lifetime member of the Canadian Native Friendship

Centre, and was founder of the Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women. Her tireless work has helped to break down stereotypes, fight racism and address the obstacles to equality for Aboriginal women, children and families. In 1996, she spearheaded the production of a publication on Aboriginal human rights and a booklet aimed at Aboriginal youth. She recently established the Social Justice Award to honour individuals who have done outstanding work for Aboriginal women. For her exceptional record of excellence as a human rights advocate, Stanley Venne has received numerous awards, including the Bowden Native Brotherhood Award, the Canadian Merit Award, Métis Woman of the Year, the 1998 Alberta Human Rights Award, the 2002 Queen's Commemoration Medal, the Aboriginal Role Model Lifetime Achievement Award and in 2004, the National Aboriginal Achievement Award for Justice and Human Rights.

In 2005 Stanley Venne received the Governor General's Award in Commemoration of the Persons Case. In June of the same year she was named a Member of the Order of Canada. In February 2007 she was recognized as a Woman of Vision by Global Television. In November 2007 Canadian Ambassador McNee recognized her work at the United Nations citing her as a "Human Rights Defender" of the human rights issues pertaining to Aboriginal women, children and families. On September 2008 she was elected Vice President of the Métis Nation of Alberta. (*The Federation House, Native Leaders of Canada. 2009*)

Portage College Circles of Learning Day is proud to have Muriel join our circle and share her wisdom, insights and work on the human rights issues pertaining to aboriginal peoples.

Afternoon Concurrent Sessions

1:00 – 2:00 PM SESSIONS

2A *Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and the Justice System*

Presenter: Nadine Callihoo, Bearpaw Legal Education & Resource Centre

Join Nadine as she explores: What is FASD? How does it impact people and society? How you can help clients suffering with FASD? Find out this and more at this new Bearpaw workshop, featuring Bearpaw Media Productions' AMPIA Award nominated documentary film "Invisible: FASD and the Justice System".

2B *The Legalities of Privacy in the Digital Age*

Presenter: Shelley Jackson (Portage College Public Legal Education)

We live in an era in which privacy is becoming increasingly difficult to manage; one in which users share their information on Facebook in the context of socializing. Websites like Facebook and Google are monetizing from our personal information by using surveillance technologies to mine data/information for purposes unrelated to social activities. This violates Canadian Privacy legislation. It also brings to mind issues such as how do we teach young people to behave responsibly with online social networks when we as adults are still trying to figure it out?

2C *Can't Resist Getting Stronger*

Presenter: Deb Menard (Portage College Be Fit for Life)

Did you know you lose 3-5% of muscle mass for each decade after the age of 25? Less muscle mass means decreased muscular strength & endurance. Thus, it is imperative that as we age we do strength training exercises to work all major muscle groups to maintain a healthy weight. Learn how to use simple resistance tubing exercises and stretching to keep your body strong and independent through the years.

2D *Aboriginal Arts and Crafts*

Presenter: Barbara Derrick (Portage College Native Cultural Arts)

Learn about the aboriginal culture through aboriginal art! Get great hands on experience in creating a medicine wheel ornament. In Native American spirituality, the Medicine Wheel represents harmony and connections and is considered a major symbol of peaceful interaction among all living beings on Earth. A number of stone Medicine Wheels are scattered across the plains of Alberta and northern United States. Gain this experience through creating your own medicine wheel ornament!

2E *Metis Dance*

Presenter: John Whitford & The Kikino Northern Light Dance Group

Learn the basic steps of Metis dance and do a jig or two! Class taught by the Kikino Northern Light Dancers!

2:15 – 3:15 PM SESSIONS

3A & 4A *Community Justice: Reducing the Criminalization of Aboriginals and other Vulnerable Groups*

Short presentations (and Q&A session)

Presenters:

Lazzare Whiskeyjack, Saddle Lake First Nations on his video "The Things We Do For Love: Inside the Edmonton Maximum Security Prison (spirituality and the Criminal Justice System);

Helen Mulkay, Alberta Justice/Crowns Office

Doris Coulliard, St. Paul Mental Health Diversion Service

Nadine Callihoo, Bearpaw Legal Resource Centre

Tracy Makokis, Victim's Programs for Aboriginal Isolated Communities, Alberta Solicitor General

(Please note this session goes from 2:15 to 3:15 with a short break then resumes and ends at 4:00 p.m.)

3B Seniors Information Services: Seniors Financial Assistance Programs

Presenter: Mary Jane Tkachyk, Northeast Seniors Information Services Office

This session is an overview of the provincial senior's financial assistance programs, such as the Alberta Seniors Benefits, Special Needs Assistance for Seniors, Dental, Optical and Education Property Tax Assistance for Seniors programs.

3C Downsizing

Presenter: Kathleen Boland, Professional Organizer

Join Kathleen as she discusses strategies and solutions to help you discard and downsize items that are keeping you from living a simple and organized life. As you move into the next stage of your lives you are asked to sift through your belongings and choose those you wish to keep and those we are ready to let go. Since your space is a reflection of the life you are living, you need to ask: Are you living in chaos, weighed down by your clutter and belongings? Do you wish you could do more than just cope with the overwhelming responsibility of owning more and more material objects? Is your home a safe and senior friendly space? Are you ready to transition into a lighter living environment? Find out how to make a plan for life emergencies, let it all the clutter go and get ready for living stress free when you learn to downsize.

3D Can't Resist Getting Stronger

Presenter: Deb Menard (Portage College Be Fit for Life)

Did you know you lose 3-5% of muscle mass for each decade after the age of 25? Less muscle mass means decreased muscular strength & endurance. Thus, it is

imperative that as we age we do strength training exercises to work all major muscle groups to maintain a healthy weight. Learn how to use simple resistance tubing exercises and stretching to keep your body strong and independent through the years.

3E Aboriginal Arts Tour

Presenter: Barbara Derrick (Portage College Native Cultural Arts)

Portage College has a wide array of Aboriginal art on display throughout the college. Take a tour of all Portage has to offer. See what local talent has produced and takes pride in producing. Original crafts were locally made here at Portage College through the Native Artisans Program

3F Homecare

Presenter: Tracy Smith (Alberta Health Services)

Have a loved one that requires home care assistance? Need to know who to contact to enhance well being? Lac La Biche health unit provides information to put your mind at ease when it comes to the care of an elder and loved one. Get the know-how and find out what your local health care services provides.

3G Exercise-Zumba

Presenter: Sue LaPierre

Hi Everyone, my name is Sue and I LOVE teaching Zumba! This class incorporates Latin rhythms combined with aerobics to give you an amazing and fun, full body dance workout. You don't even have to know how to dance. Just move your body and follow my lead! Bring your unique style, a bottle of water, and some indoor workout shoes, and your sense of humour!! I am super excited to Zumba with you :)

Su Vida Fitness
AFLCA Group Fitness Specialty
AFLCA Resistance Trainer

Certified Zumba Instructor (Basics 1, 2, Toning, and Circuit)

3:30 – 430 PM SESSIONS

4A Elder Abuse

Presenter: Cst. Megan Purton

Elder Abuse seems to be a rising issue within various and multiple communities. Get an in depth look at what elder abuse is, how to recognize it and the resources available to communities. Local RCMP officer Megan Purton will give an in depth and personal view to her experiences in dealing with elder abuse.

4B Downsizing

Presenter: Kathleen Boland, Professional Organizer

Join Kathleen as she discusses strategies and solutions to help you discard and downsize items that are keeping you from living a simple and organized life. As you move into the next stage of your lives you are asked to sift through your belongings and choose those you wish to keep and those we are ready to let go. Since your space is a reflection of the life you are living, you need to ask: Are you living in chaos, weighed down by your clutter and belongings? Do you wish you could do more than just cope with the overwhelming responsibility of owning more and more material objects? Is your home a safe and senior friendly space? Are you ready to transition into a lighter living environment? Find out how to make a plan for life emergencies, let it all the clutter go and get ready for living stress free when you learn to downsize.

4C Can't Resist Getting Stronger

Presenter: Deb Menard (Portage College Be Fit for Life)

Did you know you lose 3-5% of muscle mass for each decade after the age of 25? Less muscle mass means decreased

muscular strength & endurance. Thus, it is imperative that as we age we do strength training exercises to work all major muscle groups to maintain a healthy weight. Learn how to use simple resistance tubing exercises and stretching to keep your body strong and independent through the years.

4D Career Cruising

Presenter: Lise Warawa (Portage College Student Services)

Don't know if you have a suitable job? Unsure which field of work to go into? Don't know which courses to take to meet a potential job requirement? Career Cruising is a specially designed site to help guide you to the right career choice. Learn how to use the site and all the information it has to offer. This could boost you onto the career path you never knew you had to walk!

"You will have an opportunity to explore careers and look at resources that are available when looking at a career change or picking an occupation that fits for you."

4E Exercise-Zumba

Presenter: Sue LaPierre

Hi Everyone, my name is Sue and I LOVE teaching Zumba! This class incorporates Latin rhythms combined with aerobics to give you an amazing and fun, full body dance workout. You don't even have to know how to dance. Just move your body and follow my lead! Bring your unique style, a bottle of water, and some indoor workout shoes, and your sense of humour!! I am super excited to Zumba with you :)

Su Vida Fitness
AFLCA Group Fitness Specialty
AFLCA Resistance Trainer
Certified Zumba Instructor (Basics 1, 2, Toning, and Circuit)

AGENDA AT A GLANCE

9:30 – 9:45	Welcome
9:45 – 10:15	Session 1A - Justice Trough Education Talks: The Myth of Tolerance in Canadian Multicultural Policy and Practice - Dr. Trent Keough
10:30 – 11:00	The Erasmus Influence: How My Family History Influences My Circle of Understanding – Shelley Jackson
11:15 – 12:00	Human Rights Defender : On The Human Rights Issues Pertaining to Aboriginal Women, Children And Families - Muriel Stanley Venne O.C. (Metis Leader, Activist, Human Rights Path)
12:00 – 1:00	Barbeque Luncheon Fundraiser for Slave Lake (Hosted by WJS Canada) \$5.00 per plate
1:00 – 2:00	Concurrent Sessions 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, 2E
2:15 – 3:15	Concurrent Sessions 3A , 3B, 3C, 3D, 3E, 3F, 3G
3:30 – 4:30	Concurrent Sessions 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E

9:00 am to 4:00 pm-- Information Kiosk in Gymnasium

Confirmed Tables:

- Portage College Public Legal Education
- Portage College Recruitment & Information Support Services
- LLB FCSS
- Little Warriors Society
- Metis Nation of Alberta
- Indian Residential School Project
- LLB Victims Services & RCMP
- WJS Canada
- AHS St. Paul Mental Health Diversion Service
- Alberta Senior Supports

Registration Form

CONTACT INFORMATION

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Organization (no acronyms) _____ Job Title: _____

Address: _____

City / Town: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ Fax: (_____) _____

Email: _____

REGISTRATION FEE

Conference fees are being waived and we are taking pledges for the Town of Slave Lake. If you wish to pledge an amount, please indicate the amount here and you can make the donation on the day of the event. A donation booth will be set up. Thanks!

PLEDGE AMOUNT \$ _____

SESSIONS

<p>Block 1-- 9:30- 12:00 Session 1A</p>	<p>Attending Block 1? Please circle Yes/No</p>
<p>Block 2-- 1:00 – 2:00 Sessions 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, 2E Please indicate Session Preferences →</p>	<p>Preference 1 _____ Preference 2 _____ Preference 3 _____</p>
<p>Block 3 – 2:15 – 3:15 3A , 3B, 3C, 3D, 3E, 3F, 3G Please indicate Session Preferences →</p>	<p>Preference 1 _____ Preference 2 _____ Preference 3 _____</p>
<p>Block 4 – 3:30 – 4:30 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E Please indicate Session Preferences →</p>	<p>Preference 1 _____ Preference 2 _____ Preference 3 _____</p>

There are a few ways you can send in this registration form:

1. Drop form off at Front Desk/Reception, Portage College, LLB.
2. Mail to: PLE Program, Box 417 Lac La Biche, AB T0A 2C0.
3. Fax to: Attention Shelley or Shelby : 780- 623-5519
4. Call 780-623-5680
5. Email scan or mobile photo of registration form to Shelley. Jackson@portagecollege.ca