

## WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2012 CONFERENCE DAY I "Because I Belong..."

7:30 – 8:30 a.m.

**CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST / REGISTRATION**

8:30 – 8:40 a.m.

**QUEST STUDENT ENTERTAINMENT  
TBA**

8:40 – 8:45 a.m.

**GREETINGS AND WELCOME SONG: THE CHIPPEWAS OF  
GEORGINA ISLAND**  
Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux, Dawn Sillaby-Smith and Penny Trumble

8:45 – 9:00 a.m.

**WELCOME TO QUEST 2012: DAY I**  
Ken Thurston, Director of Education, York Region District School Board

9:00 – 9:15 a.m.

**WEDNESDAY CO-ANCHOR SESSION I**  
Jennifer Abrams, Educational Consultant, USA  
Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux, Nexen Chair in Aboriginal Leadership at The Banff Centre and Assistant Professor in Aboriginal Studies, University of Toronto

9:15 – 10:15 a.m.

**OPENING KEYNOTE**  
Michael "Pinball" Clemons, Community Leader, Former Toronto Argonauts Coach and Player  
Title: TBA

10:15 – 10:45 a.m.

**REFRESHMENT BREAK**

10:45 – 11:45 a.m.

**WORKSHOP SESSION A**

**A01: Breaking the Code of Silence: Student Solutions**

Recent research tells us that school staff sees only about 4% of bullying and inappropriate behaviours. Students only report about 30%-40% of what they see. How can we ensure learning environments that are safe, equitable respectful and caring if we're unaware of so much of what happens? The York Region District School Board Stand Up Speak Up Student Conference asked 120 students what they saw as effective practices and barriers to reporting. Join us in looking at the strategies and ideas generated by the students

**Jan Kielven**, Positive Climates for Learning and Working Specialist, York Region District School Board,

**Sandra Sardone**, Vice-Principal, York Region District School Board



Ken Thurston



Jennifer Abrams



Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux



Michael Clemons

- A02: Creating a Positive Space: The “Artful” Design of Safe Spaces**  
There is a reciprocal relationship between giving students time and space to create, and the establishment of a positive climate. For over 20 years the York Region Arts Camp has been building and refining this relationship. Through changes in faculty, students, and context, the constant has been a safe space for students.  
**Robyn Ecclestone**, Teacher, York Region District School Board  
**Brenda Weafer**, Vice-Principal, York Region District School Board
- A03: Sutton Public School Future Navigators iPad Journey**  
The Sutton iPad project has increased student engagement and improved literacy and numeracy skills in a data supported environment. Using the iPad allowed our students to facilitate real life connections through our unique curriculum content, hands on experiments, digital conversations and pathways field trips.  
**Roxanne Hibberd**, Principal, York Region District School Board  
**Alton Johnson**, Teacher, York Region District School Board
- A04: The Journey to Excellence**  
The Journey to Excellence is a multifaceted vehicle for teaching learners of any age about well-being, inclusivity and equity. Workshop participants will be introduced to the 7 Life Skills (Uniqueness, Intuition, Reflection, Visualizing, Goal-Setting, Mentors and Community Service), and then will be shown how these skills naturally weave into the existing curriculum. At the end of the workshop, participants will take away a package of teaching materials including the 7 Life Skills posters and teacher’s guide.  
**Amy Evans**, Teacher Librarian, York Region District School Board  
**Kelly Karalis**, Administrative Support Teacher, York Region District School Board
- A05: What Does it Mean to Belong?**  
Belonging means a multidisciplinary team working together to develop shared understanding of how to develop and implement programs that empower students and build their skills of self-advocacy. Equity and inclusion are not policies or programs, rather an ethos that is fostered when educators have a shared vision, teach with conviction and harness resources to provide safe, caring and supportive learning environments for all students.  
**Kelli Cote**, Principal, York Region District School Board
- A06: Who Am I... Finding a Sense of Belonging**  
If my environment dictates who I am, and the environment itself is changing, then who am I, where do I belong? By exploring Inuit histories and culture, we learn more about others, which in turn teaches us about ourselves. This workshop will provide secondary Arts-rich “Minds-on” activities to be used as springboards to embed First Nations, Métis and Inuit content across-curricular areas. Student voice and work samples will be shared.  
**Dawn Sillaby-Smith**, First Nations, Métis, Inuit Teacher Leader, York Region District School Board  
**Cathy Stanley**, Curriculum Consultant, York Region District School Board
- A07: High School to College: The Journey of a Black Male with Developmental Delays (repeated in B07)**  
A young, black male student with developmental delays and a passion for success will share his story. The strategies he used to navigate his way through Ontario’s school system to college surpassing all expectations. Participants will reflect on how these strategies might work in their schools to support students with similar needs.  
**Orlena Broomes**, Lecturer, School of Education University of the West Indies, St. Augustine
- A08: One Person CAN Make a Difference (repeated in B08)**  
Shayne Smith opens the workshop with his life story and examples of how one by one people have had positive and negative influences on his life. Along with his

co-presenter, he will facilitate a conversation on how to use three strategies to overcoming barriers—Attitude, Persistence and Networking.

**Shane Smith**, Career Compass Foundation

**Oliver Howey**, Executive Director, Career Compass Foundation

**A09: Ontario's Student Voice Initiative: Speak Up (repeated in B09)**

Join Ontario's Student Voice team and MSAC students for an overview of the Student Voice initiative. Discover: SpeakUp projects trends; SpeakUp in a Box forum recommendations and outcomes from the Students as Researchers Conference. Consider enablers of student voice and whose voice is heard in the acoustic of your school.

**Jean Courtney**, Education Officer, Ontario Ministry of Education

**A10: Recognizing Value and Realizing Potential: Dealing with Difference (repeated in B10)**

This workshop will involve participants in active exploration of the Spirit of Enniskillen Trust's (SOE) work with secondary school students in Northern Ireland, with particular focus on how SOE enables young people to listen, value difference in culture and identity, and develop their sense of belonging as cooperatively engaged citizens both locally and globally.

**Michael Arlow**, Director, Spirit of Enniskillen Trust, Northern Ireland

**Maeve Grimley**, School Support Worker, Spirit of Enniskillen Trust, Northern Ireland

**A11: Speak Up: The Power of Student Voice (repeated in B11)**

Experience the power of student voice transformed into student action. Students will showcase their Ontario Ministry supported Speak Up projects that focus on equity/inclusion and through their stories share the impact their learning has had on their school community.

**Mary Lawlis**, Curriculum Administrator, York Region District School Board

**Pam Turnbull**, Curriculum Coordinator, York Region District School Board

**A12: What is Resiliency Really? Building Human Capital in "At-Risk" Students (this workshop will be continued in B12)**

Many schools and school boards have gone to great lengths to identify 'at-risk' students. But student wellness is about a lot more than risk. Using an approach developed through a collaboration between two school boards, this workshop provides a method for identifying and mobilizing assets in at-risk students.

**Dan Fister**, Superintendent of Education, Greater Essex County District School Board

**Scott Milne**, Field Researcher, York Region District School Board

**A13: Who I Am Not...Who I Am! A First Nations, Metis and Inuit Journey to Finding Identity (repeated in B13)**

"Who I am, not Who am I"! First Nations, Metis and Inuit teen shares her journey of finding self and identity. Participants will hear a riveting story of life as a urban teen. The First Nations teacher will share her journey of finding self and identity in teaching Native Studies and how this is changing her life and her practice. This presentation will change your way of knowing and being.

**Joyce Crone**, Aboriginal Support Teacher, Waterloo Catholic District School Board

**A14: Who is Responsible? The Community, The School, the Service Provider? (repeated in B14)**

This workshop will share promising practices that create inclusive and equitable ways to build on strengths in communities (faith-based institutions, clubs, family) as well as utilize community agencies (not-for-profit) and services. The presenters will highlight the role key stakeholders, institutions, and services play regarding prevention and overall well-being. Presenters will share ways that educators can better assist students/service-users from a community well being perspective.

**Aamna Ashraf**, Director, Peel Newcomer Strategy Group

**Lisa Leoni**, Vice Principal, York Region District School Board

**A15: The Struggles You Won't See: Street Level Views on Youth in Crisis and Student Wellness (this workshop will be continued in B15)**

For educators, one of the biggest obstacles to engaging marginalized students is understanding how struggles occurring beyond the school can impact student wellness within it. In this workshop, front line staff and street involved youth take participants through an activity that connects service access in the community to wellbeing in the school.

**Chandra Newman**, Street Outreach Worker, Street Outreach York Region  
**Tom Pearson**, Chair, Poverty Action for Change Coalition (PACC)

11:45 – 12:30 p.m.

**LUNCH**

12:30 – 1:45 p.m.

**WORKSHOP SESSION B**

**B01: Busting Barriers Using Wii**

Using Wii, participants will be shown how they can break down barriers and provide meaningful physical education instruction for students with physical disabilities through mindful planning and individualizing physical goals. In addition, participants will witness how Wii and other “fun” technologies can be strategically employed in building social skills for students diagnosed as being on the Autism Spectrum.

**Rita Boyd**, Special Education Department Head, York Region District School Board  
**Shirley Ander**, Special Education Asst. Department Head, York Region District School Board

**B02: Capturing Student Voice and Actions: High Yield Strategies that Impact Student Well-Being and Achievement**

In this engaging workshop, the Student Work Study teachers will share the high-yield strategies that they have observed to have an impact in moving students forward in their learning. Participants will engage in activities that highlight the instructional strategies that yield increases in student engagement, achievement and well-being. A resource package will be provided to participants to support the use of these strategies.

**Jennifer Branch**, Student Work Study Teacher, York Region District School Board  
**Kirsten Leonardo**, Student Work Study Teacher, York Region District School Board

**B03: eConnect: Developing a Culture of Success through Emotional Intelligence**

Students and staff of Sutton District High School will share how they are developing a positive school climate through increased emotional intelligence. Fun and engaging hands-on activities of introspection and self-awareness help staff and students recognize and manage their own emotions and become aware of the emotions of others.

**Shane Poupart**, Teacher, York Region District School Board  
**Elena Kontozis**, Teacher, York Region District School Board

**B04: Girls' Night Out**

Intermediate girls play a powerful role in the school life within an elementary school setting. Come to see how a group of concerned Grade 8 girls harnessed the power of positive actions to combat the ever-pervasive girls' social bullying.

**Tanya Jonker**, Teacher Librarian, York Region District School Board  
**Marla Robinson**, Special Education Resource Teacher, York Region District School Board

**B05: Heartspeak Inspires Youth to Create a Better Future**

Heartspeak amplifies the voice of youth—featuring lessons learned & strategies that support student wellbeing and success. Following the screening of a Heartspeak documentary designed for Quest, students share how Heartspeak's Give Your School A Hug Day empowers the entire student body to make a difference in their school community.

**Shelley Steele**, Founder, Heartspeak  
**Olgo Cioci**, Teacher, York Region District School Board

**B06: “I Am...”**

This interactive workshop walks participants through a highly effective process for using the "I AM..." video/kit to create “aha” moments among students as they recognize their shared humanity with young people of very different intellectual ability. The kit includes activities that are designed to help create an inclusive school culture. Curriculum Service Canada recommended for Gr. 6-12.

**Beth Porter**, Director of Educational Initiatives, L’Arche Canada

**Jessica Vorstermans**, Doctoral Candidate in Disability, York University

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**Lisa Leoni**, Vice Principal, York Region District School Board

**B15: The Struggles You Won't See: Street Level Views on Youth in Crisis and Student Wellness (continuation from A15)**

1:45 – 2:30 p.m.

**YOUR MASK...MY SHADOW: THE ABILITIES I WISH YOU COULD SEE**

A multimedia production that builds on the "Hear Me Now!" youth performance of Quest 2011, Your Mask...My Shadow will explore issues related to the hidden potential and abilities of marginalized youth. A brief facilitated discussion will follow the performance. Your Mask...My Shadow is produced by Award Winning Director Luther Hansraj

2:30 – 3:45 p.m.

**QUEST STUDENT PANEL: TBA**

3:45 - 4:00 p.m.

**CO-ANCHOR SESSION 2 - CLOSING COMMENTS**

**Jennifer Abrams**, Educational Consultant, USA

**Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux**, Nexen Chair in Aboriginal Leadership at The Banff Centre and Assistant Professor in Aboriginal Studies, University of Toronto

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2012  
CONFERENCE DAY 2**

7:30 – 8:30 a.m.

**CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST / REGISTRATION**

8:30 – 8:45 a.m.

**QUEST STUDENT ENTERTAINMENT  
TBA**

8:45 – 9:00 a.m.

**WELCOME TO QUEST 2012: DAY 2 AND 3**

**Ken Thurston**, Director of Education, York Region District School Board

**Mary Jean Gallagher**, Chief Student Achievement Officer, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ontario Ministry of Education



**Mary Jean  
Gallagher**

9:00 – 9:15 a.m.

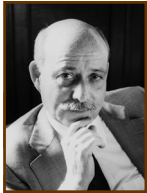
### THURSDAY CO-ANCHOR SESSION I

**Jennifer Abrams**, Educational Consultant, USA  
**Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux**, Nexen Chair in Aboriginal Leadership at The Banff Centre and Assistant Professor in Aboriginal Studies, University of Toronto

9:15 – 10:15 a.m.

### OPENING KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Jeremy Rifkin**, Author, Senior Lecturer: Wharton School's Executive Education Program, University of Pennsylvania, President: Foundation of Economic Trends, Washington, DC  
**Title: TBA**



Jeremy Rifkin

10:15 – 10:30 a.m.

### REFRESHMENT BREAK

10:30 – 11:15 a.m.

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Tricia Okoruwa**, Director of Education, Hackney, London England  
**Expecting Quality for Equality: From Classroom to System Leaders**



Tricia Okoruwa

11:15 – 11:45 a.m.

### CO-ANCHOR SESSION 2

**Jennifer Abrams**, Educational Consultant, USA  
**Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux**, Nexen Chair in Aboriginal Leadership at The Banff Centre and Assistant Professor in Aboriginal Studies, University of Toronto

11:45 – 12:45 p.m.

### LUNCH

12:45 – 2:15 p.m.

### WORKSHOP SESSION C

#### **C01: Diverse Leaders Leading Differently**

Leadership is a moral activity therefore systemic inequity can be significantly ameliorated by courageous leadership. As school leaders and educators navigate an ever evolving educational landscape, who we are, what we stand for and what we perceive our purpose to be are crucial. This workshop will explore the importance of diversifying leadership in order to impact on organizational cultures, structures and processes, such that they are experienced by all, as being more inclusive, respectful and enhancing of all of our rights and dignity.

**Rosemary Campbell-Stephens**, Education & Leadership Consultant, UK

#### **C02: A Revolution in a Decade 10/10**

Hackney is the poorest school district in London and England. In 2002, after years of school failure, the Government gave The Learning Trust a ten year contract to turn the schools around. Find out how The Learning Trust enabled Hackney schools to perform above national averages by 2012. Learn how high poverty schools can also be high performing.

**Alan Boyle**, Director, Leannta Education Associates, England

**Salli Humphreys**, Director, Leannta Education Associates, England

#### **C03: Faith in Schools: Understanding Intersections of Religious Views and Secular Values in Classroom Conversations**

With religion becoming a central part of youth identities, teachers need to be prepared to facilitate conversations when strong religious views are expressed. Using Muslim students as a case study, this workshop will provide a framework for understanding faith perspectives that conflict with secular values and even moderate religious views.

**Nadeem Memon**, Instructor, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education/University of Toronto

#### **C04: Engagement with Staff/Students/Communities: Generating Equity of Opportunity and Outcome**

A workforce census, a student survey and a multi-stakeholder Diversity and Inclusion Taskforce are proven tools used by the Ottawa-Carleton District

School Board to engage and to get to know its employees, students and diverse communities. Relevant and valuable information gathered have helped to shape and fulfill the District's strategic well-being, learning and leadership priorities, including the development of a customized framework that aligns, integrates and measures diversity, equity and inclusive education initiatives across the District.

**Walter Piovesan**, Associate Director, Ottawa -Carleton District School Board,  
**Janice McCoy**, Superintendent of Human Resources, Ottawa-Carleton District School Board

**C05: I Feel It in My (He) Art: The Arts and Social Justice Education**

In this interactive workshop, participants will learn to make their curriculum practices more inclusive by embedding the arts across all subject areas, and to explicitly address issues of social justice, equity, and inclusive education through the arts. Examples from Kindergarten to Grade 8 will be shared.

**Robyn Ecclestone**, Teacher, York Region District School Board,  
**Sarah Hill**, Teacher, York Region District School Board

**C06: Intellectually Disabled Yet part of the Working Community**

Students with intellectual disabilities in the Netherlands were in the past placed in a daycare facility or sheltered employment after their school career. The 'VSO de Hoge Brug' in Rotterdam has changed this and places students into a full-fledged working places. Curious about policy and practice? Come and see!

**Paul Meeuwsen**, Teacher, Netherlands  
**Dina Kuiper**, Principal, Netherlands

**C07: Moving Beyond Our Walls: A Road Map for School-Based Collaboration**

All schools engage in varying forms of community engagement. For those prioritizing student and staff wellness along with equity and inclusion, higher forms of school-community collaboration are required. In this workshop, community agency representatives join educators in presenting a framework for school-community partnership that will greatly benefit students and staff alike.

**Dennis Bailey**, Director, Community Legal Clinic of York Region  
**Naila Butt**, Executive Director, Social Services Network

**C08: Nurturing Resilience Among Practitioners**

This workshop will address the impact of possible strategies that build resilience among human service providers. Conventional models of self care no longer fit the complex needs of the human service sector. This collaborative workshop will include multiple voices in outlining more relevant pathways of resilience to support the wellbeing of communities.

**Radha Bhardwaj**, Executive Director, AIDS Committee of York Region  
**Jeewan Chanicka**, Vice Principal, York Region District School Board

**C09: Ottawa Crown Ward Education Championship Team: Partnering for Success, Unlocking Dreams, Opening Doors**

The Ottawa Crown Ward Education Team is a tri-ministerial team that has developed a strategy to help encourage Crown Ward student success. This work has resulted in innovative ideas which include:

- provision of experiential learning opportunities for Youth with Crown. Ward status with employment, education, and training organizations that allow youth to explore career pathways and provide future references and contacts.
- the development of a "roadmap to success" for each student with Crown Wardship status.

**Jill Bennett**, Superintendent of Learning Support Services, Ottawa Catholic District School Board

**Debbie Clark**, Student Success Leader, Principal, Pathway for Success, Ottawa Catholic District School Board

**C10: Better Together: How Schools Collaborate to Promote/Account for Equity, Equality and Achievement (repeated in D10)**

No school can claim to have all the answers. This interactive workshop will explore how schools may learn from one another at the levels of the student, the teacher and the school or system leader to make a proven difference to the achievement and wellbeing of each individual student.

**Tony Glover**, Head Teacher and National Leader of Education, The Becket School, Nottingham, England

**C11: Teachers' Burden: The Expectations and Roles of Minority Teachers**

Through the frames of Inclusive Education and Student Success, education continues to call for greater diversity of its teaching population. But how do these calls help or hinder minority teachers in their practice? How do minority teachers experience teaching? This workshop interrogates these questions and their implications for educational practice.

**Kimberley Carter**, Department Head of English, York Region District School Board  
**Co-presenter: TBA**

**C12: Unleashing the Inner Genius of Every Student (repeated in D12)**

Participants will have the opportunity to discuss specific case studies and detailed implementation strategies for implementing Consciousness-Based education into schools.

**Dr. Ashley Deans**, Executive Director, Maharishi School, Fairfield, Iowa

**C13: You Can Help Change Our World - A Provincial Safe @ School Initiative (repeated in D13)**

Interested in helping create safe, strong and free school environments? COPA (Centre Ontarien de Prévention des Agressions), an award-winning provincial non-profit organization invites participants to learn about the tools, resources and practical strategies from Safe@School. Resources are designed to foster equitable and inclusive schools from a unique empowerment based approach. All participants will receive a copy of Promoting Equity and Inclusive Education in Schools: A Teacher's Guide along with a newly published guidebook on bullying intervention and prevention.

**Mohini Athia**, Phase 4 Safe@School Coordinator, COPA (on secondment from Toronto District School Board)

**Co-Presenter: TBA**

**C14: You Can Make a Difference! Supporting Students with Learning Disabilities (repeated in D14)**

Foundational to the equity framework of "good for all, necessary for some and essential for a few", this workshop highlights:

- the perspectives and needs of students with Learning Disabilities;
- evidence-based practical strategies to engage and empower students with Learning Disabilities and their families; and
- student voice through self-advocacy strategies.

**Lynn Ziraldo**, Executive Director LDA-YR, Vice Chair SEAC, LDA-YR,  
**Janet Porter**, Principal of Student Services, York Region District School Board

**C15: Creating Critical Classrooms (repeated in D15)**

Today's educators have the challenge of teaching the curriculum through a critical lens and with a focus on real world situations and events. This can result in high levels of student engagement, achievement and the development of responsible global citizens for the 21st century. This workshop models a three part lesson that focuses on teaching an Instructional Model of Critical Literacy used to work through a rich task in mathematics.

**Dr. Lisa Walsh**, Student Achievement Officer, Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat, Ministry of Education

**Mary Fiore**, Math Coordinator, Peel District School Board



2:15 – 2:20 p.m.

## **TRAVEL BREAK**

2:20 – 3:50 p.m.

## **WORKSHOP SESSION D**

### **D01: Diverse Leaders Leading Differently (repeated in E01)**

Leadership is a moral activity therefore systemic inequity can be significantly ameliorated by courageous leadership.

As school leaders and educators navigate an ever evolving educational landscape, who we are, what we stand for and what we perceive our purpose to be are crucial.

This workshop will explore the importance of diversifying leadership in order to impact on organizational cultures, structures and processes, such that they are experienced by all, as being more inclusive, respectful and enhancing of all of our rights and dignity.

**Rosemary Campbell-Stephens**, Education & Leadership Consultant, UK

### **D02: An Integrated Board Approach to Realizing Safe, Equitable and Inclusive Schools**

Through a panel presentation involving system leaders, participants will learn more about how the Thames Valley DSB provides an integrated approach to promoting safe, equitable and inclusive school environments. Various programs and supports for students will be highlighted around the themes as follows: mental health, FNMI, engaging Mennonite students, LGBT, supporting ELL's and newcomer families, and religious accommodations.

**Laura Elliott**, Executive Superintendent, Program Services, Thames Valley District School Board,

**Lynda Pressey**, Learning Supervisor, Languages, Thames Valley District School Board

### **D03 Competing Human Rights Claims in Education**

As people better understand and exercise their human rights, these rights may come into conflict with others. In this interactive, case study-based workshop, participants will learn about the Ontario Human Rights Commission's new policy framework for reconciling competing rights and how it can help parents, educators and community members address competing rights situations.

**Cherie Robertson**, Senior Policy Analyst, Policy, Education, Monitoring & Outreach, Ontario Human Rights Commission

**Shaheen Azmi**, Acting Director, Policy, Education, Monitoring & Outreach, Ontario Human Rights Commission

### **D04: Does Gender Matter: Gender Pedagogy Applied in Early Childhood Education**

In Nordic countries gender pedagogy aims to remove inequalities, hierarchies and divisions related to gender in education. The effort has given much focus over recent years. Swedish-speaking early childhood education units and schools in the city of Espoo, Finland, have through different actions worked with issues related to gender and equity. Through gender pedagogy educators have become more "gender-conscious" and driven to create more equal learning opportunities for all. Join us to share our successes.

**Outi Saloranta-Eriksson**, Superintendent of Education, City of Espoo, Finland

**Marika Lostedt**, Planner, City of Espoo, Finland

### **D05: Empowering Student Voice in the Digital Classroom**

We will explore the impact that technology, including iPads and Apple TV, Voicethread and Google apps, can have in discovery of student voice. We will share how our students have used their voice and the impact that it has on their learning. This workshop will facilitate discussions in the home schools regarding how educators can effectively use technology to create student voice and best use their technology budget.

**Kevin Sebastian**, Teacher, York Region District School Board

**Jonathan Lewis**, Teacher, York Region District School Board

**D06: Re-Viewing Engagement and Inclusivity Through Digital Learning (repeated in E08)**

Re-view inclusivity and engagement through the lens of Ontario's provincial e-learning strategy, an initiative based on equalizing opportunities for all learners, regardless of location, ability, need, or interest. Discover how traditional barriers are eased as students and teachers gain access to tools and content they might not otherwise.

**Rose Burton-Spohn**, Education Officer, e-Learning Ontario, Ministry of Education

**D07: Homophobia Hurts Everyone**

Homophobia has a negative impact on LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Questioning) students. What we may not realize is that homophobia can also jeopardize the achievement and well-being of students who do not identify as LGBTQ. In this workshop, participants will have an opportunity to explore the ways in which heterosexual students can be impacted by homophobic attitudes, language and behavior and to learn strategies to help create safer and more inclusive schools.

**Kevin Bray**, ESL and Careers Studies Teacher, York Region District School Board  
**Carolyn Albanese**, Head of Guidance, York Region District School Board

**D08: Journey With Network Inquiry-Based Learning - The Road to Increased Student Achievement and Well-Being**

The Trudeau Learning Network has worked to develop a common understanding of Inquiry Based Learning that held equity, inclusion and student engagement at the forefront. Using distributive leadership, technology, programming, co-planning, co-teaching, co-debriefing, co-reflecting and innovation we motivated and inspired a community of learners while the ultimate goal was to create equitable, inclusive and engaging classrooms.

**Lori Higgins**, Vice Principal, York Region District School Board  
**Debbie Linkewich**, Principal, York Region District School Board

**D09: Leading in Diverse Contexts: The Leading for Equity Approach**

Leading for Equity is an innovative program that seeks to mobilize current and aspiring visible minority and Aboriginal educators into leadership positions. Funded by CODE this program brings together cutting-edge research, theory and practices that support leadership in diverse contexts. Explore various leadership paradigms, strategies and competencies as they relate to the Ontario Leadership Strategy for practical approaches to Leading for Equity in all schools.

**Herveen Singh**, Associate Professor, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education  
**Camille Logan**, Principal, Inclusive School and Community Services, York Region District School Board

**D10: Better Together: How Schools Collaborate to Promote/Account for Equity, Equality and Achievement (repeated in C10)**

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**Tony Glover**, Head Teacher and National Leader of Education, The Becket School, Nottingham, England

**D11: Early Primary Collaborative Inquiry: Professional Learning Rooted in the Needs of Students**

The purpose of the Early Primary Collaborative Inquiry (EPCI) initiative, featured in this moderated symposium/panel discussion, is to improve student learning across the Kindergarten to grade 2 continuum. The educator teams work through a collaborative inquiry based-professional learning model that focuses on evidence-informed instructional approaches in practice. The presentation team will discuss their experiences with collaboration, transformational shifts in practice, inquiry learning and utilizing a responsive pedagogy of listening to support student learning.

**Robin Bethke**, Student Achievement Officer, LNS, SAD, Ministry of Education  
**Lynn Strangway**, Student Achievement Officer, LNS, SAD, Ministry of Education

**D12: Unleashing the Inner Genius of Every Student (repeated in C12)**  
Participants will have the opportunity to discuss specific case studies and detailed implementation strategies for implementing Consciousness-Based education into schools.

**Dr. Ashley Deans**, Executive Director, Maharishi School, Fairfield, Iowa

**D13: You Can Help Change Our World - A Provincial Safe @ School Initiative (repeated in C13)**

Interested in helping create safe, strong and free school environments? COPA (Centre Ontarien de Prévention des Agressions), an award-winning provincial non-profit organization invites participants to learn about the tools, resources and practical strategies from Safe@School. Resources are designed to foster equitable and inclusive schools from a unique empowerment based approach. All participants will receive a copy of Promoting Equity and Inclusive Education in Schools: A Teacher's Guide along with a newly published guidebook on bullying intervention and prevention.

**Mohini Athia**, Phase 4 Safe@School Coordinator, COPA (on secondment from Toronto District School Board)

**Co-Presenter: TBA**

**D14: You Can Make a Difference! Supporting Students with Learning Disabilities (repeated in C14)**

Foundational to the equity framework of "good for all, necessary for some and essential for a few", this workshop highlights:

- the perspectives and needs of students with Learning Disabilities;
- evidence-based practical strategies to engage and empower students with Learning Disabilities and their families; and
- student voice through self-advocacy strategies.

**Lynn Ziraldo**, Executive Director LDA-YR, Vice Chair SEAC, LDA-YR,

**Janet Porter**, Principal of Student Services, York Region District School Board

**D15: Creating Critical Classrooms (repeated in C15)**

Today's educators have the challenge of teaching the curriculum through a critical lens and with a focus on real world situations and events. This can result in high levels of student engagement, achievement and the development of responsible global citizens for the 21st century. This workshop models a three part lesson that focuses on teaching an Instructional Model of Critical Literacy used to work through a rich task in mathematics.

**Dr. Lisa Walsh**, Student Achievement Officer, Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat, Ministry of Education

**Mary Fiore**, Math Coordinator, Peel District School Board

3:50 – 4:50 p.m.

**QUEST RECEPTION**

5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**QUEST STUDENT ENTERTAINMENT  
TBA**

5:30 – 8:00 p.m.

**QUEST DINNER**

**Speaker: Mawi Asgedom, President, Mawi Learning  
Refugee Camp to Harvard University**



**Mawi Asgedom**

# FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2012 CONFERENCE DAY 3

7:30 – 8:30 a.m.

**CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST / REGISTRATION**

8:30 – 8:45 a.m.

**QUEST STUDENT ENTERTAINMENT  
TBA**

8:45 – 9:15 a.m.

**PREMIER/MINISTER OF EDUCATION (to be confirmed)**

9:15 – 9:30 a.m.

**FRIDAY CO-ANCHOR SESSION I**

**Jennifer Abrams**, Educational Consultant, USA

**Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux**, Nexen Chair in Aboriginal Leadership at The Banff Centre and Assistant Professor in Aboriginal Studies, University of Toronto

9:30 – 10:15 a.m.

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

**Anthony Muhammad**, President, New Frontier 21 Consulting, USA

**Transforming School Culture: Creating Healthy Learning Environments for All**

10:15 - 10:45 a.m.

**REFRESHMENT BREAK**

10:45 - 12:15 p.m.

**WORKSHOP SESSION E**

**E01: Diverse Leaders Leading Differently (repeated in D01)**

Leadership is a moral activity therefore systemic inequity can be significantly ameliorated by courageous leadership.

As school leaders and educators navigate an ever evolving educational landscape, who we are, what we stand for and what we perceive our purpose to be are crucial.

This workshop will explore the importance of diversifying leadership in order to impact on organizational cultures, structures and processes, such that they are experienced by all, as being more inclusive, respectful and enhancing of all of our rights and dignity.

**Rosemary Campbell-Stephens**, Education & Leadership Consultant, UK

**E02: Anti-Bullying Education: Are We Doing Enough?**

Ensuring safe and inclusive learning environments for all students requires looking beyond bad behaviors to address systemic disparities in power that contribute to exclusion and bullying. This workshop will provide participants with the tools to examine and challenge the causes of systemic inequity and become leaders for social change.

**Helen Anderson**, Manager, Curriculum and Research, Harmony Movement

**Roz Espin**, Manager, Diversity Programs, Harmony Movement

**E03: Data Collection, Equity, and Public Education: Challenges and Opportunities**

This workshop will share insights gathered through a multi-school board/university initiative that explores demographic data that support the goals identified in the Ministry's Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy. There are clear challenges to collecting, using and reporting needed data. York Centre for Education and Community, Ottawa-Carleton District School Board, Peel District School Board, Toronto District School Board, and York Region District School Board are collaborating on this KNAER project.

Workshop participants will explore challenges related to the collection of demographic data, as well as the opportunities and benefits it might provide towards student equity.

**Carl James**, Director, York Centre for Education and Community, York University

**Chandra Turner**, Manager, Research, York Region District School Board



**Anthony  
Muhammad**

**E04: Dealing With Difference, Making a Difference-Learning Leadership Together**

This workshop from Northern Ireland focuses on how the Spirit of Enniskillen Trust (SOE) enables secondary school students to explore, in open and inclusive environments, challenging issues related to personal and cultural diversity, and to grow as future societal leaders. Attention will be given to ways in which SOE facilitates teachers' professional learning.

**Maeve Grimley**, School Support Worker, Spirit of Enniskillen Trust, Northern Ireland  
**Dr. Denis Stewart**, Director / Trustee, CELT Associates / Spirit of Enniskillen Trust, Northern Ireland

**E05: Developing a Summer Learning Strategy**

A comprehensive summer learning strategy can not only improve student's summer learning experiences, but have a positive impact on school year achievement. This workshop will explore the key elements of an effective system-wide summer learning strategy.

**Drew McNaughton**, Principal, Community and International Education Services, York Region District School Board  
**Administrators**, York Region District School Board

**E06: Heartspeak Inspires Youth to Create a Better Future**

Heartspeak amplifies the voice of youth featuring lessons learned & strategies that support student wellbeing and success. Following the screening of a Heartspeak documentary designed for Quest, students share how Heartspeak's Give Your School A Hug Day empowers the entire student body to make a difference in their school community.

**Shelley Steele**, Founder, Heartspeak  
**Rhonda Polisuk**, Principal, York Region District School Board

**E07: Hiring, Curriculum and Student Achievement**

There is a hidden and explicit curriculum that operates in schools. Using a critical lens to unpack the impact of hiring and curriculum on student achievement is crucial to understanding the role these play. Who we hire impacts how curriculum is deconstructed which in turn affects student achievement and well-being

**Jeewan Chanicka**, Vice Principal, York Region District School Board  
**Co-presenter: TBA**

**E08: Re-Viewing Engagement and Inclusivity Through Digital Learning (repeated in D06)**

Re-view inclusivity and engagement through the lens of Ontario's provincial e-learning strategy, an initiative based on equalizing opportunities for all learners, regardless of location, ability, need, or interest. Discover how traditional barriers are eased as students and teachers gain access to tools and content they might not otherwise.

**Rose Burton-Spohn**, Education Officer, e-Learning Ontario, Ministry of Education

**E09: How Quality First Teaching Enables Equity in the Classroom**

England's Hackney Districts journey has been breathtaking – in all national test results Hackney students are achieving at or beyond their peers nationally, against the back drop of high poverty. Our focus on teaching and learning has been a significant part of that improvement.

This workshop will explore how to reduce school variation and to align typically within effective teaching and learning by exploring the use of a summative teaching profile tool, to ensure equity for all students.

**Jon Abbey**, Head of School Performance, Hackney Learning Trust  
**Michelle Thomas**, Executive Principal, Grazebrook Primary School  
**Tricia Okoruwa**, Director, Hackney, London, England

**E10: Recognizing and Naming Multiple Impacts of Low Socio-Economic Status on Students**

Poverty has become a living reality for an increasing number of residents in York Region. This workshop explores the impacts of poverty on our learners including discrimination, deprivation and isolation, regardless of where they live. Poverty is the new "ism" without a name, which carries stigma and threatens the well-being and potential of students.

Join us for an exploratory workshop that will discuss successful, collaborative practices and the evolution of a new framework for understanding poverty that will increase our capacity to realize optimal outcomes for all students.

**Linda Aihoshi**, P+ Program Facilitator, York Region District School Board

**Camille Logan**, Principal, Inclusive School and Community Services, York Region District School Board

**E11: Sutton Public School - Our Future Navigators iPad Journey**

The outcome of the Sutton iPad project has increased student engagement and improved literacy and numeracy skills in a data supported environment. Using the iPad has allowed our students to facilitate real life connections through our unique curriculum content, hands on experiments, digital conversations and pathways field trips.

**Roxanne Hibberd**, Principal, York District School Board

**Alton Johnson**, Teacher, York District School Board

**E12: The Courage to Lead: Moving People Out of Their Comfort Zone**

This session will address the importance of ethical leadership. Together we will examine why we should put kids first and how strategies that send that important message can achieve favorable results. We will study four important areas of leading: creating purpose, capacity building, collaboration, and accountability. Participants who attend this session will leave with theoretical frameworks and abundant practical strategies to improve their leadership effectiveness.

**Anthony Muhammad**, Ph.D. President, New Frontier 21 Consulting, USA

**E13: When Faith Accommodations and Religious Rights Collide**

In Ontario's increasingly diverse school communities the relationship between the 'school' and 'home' is becoming increasingly strained. This presentation will engage participants in a conversation around the intersections of faith, culture and schooling. Through the legislative context, and interactive opportunities we will address the 'fears,' bias and assumptions that may lead to misunderstanding.

**Kurt McIntosh**, Coordinator and Instructor, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto

**E14: Excellence and Equity: Making It Happen**

In this workshop, participants will identify what needs to happen in districts, schools and classrooms to realize the promise of achieving both excellence and equity. Participants will share their stories and experiences working with diverse populations. Research-informed, high impact strategies to raise the bar, and close achievement gaps for designated groups will be discussed. The notion that poverty need not determine destiny will also be explored.

**Dr. Avis Glaze**, President, Edu-quest International Inc., Former Chief, Student Achievement Officer of Ontario

## **E15: Responding to Religious Accommodation Requests: Resources and Conversations That Support Students/Communities**

Educators often wonder how to have respectful conversations with students and parents to support requests for religious accommodation. This interactive workshop will highlight York Region resources that support administrators, teachers, parents and students and share their experiences when providing religious accommodations for our communities. YRDSB's process will be of interest to school boards implementing Ontario's Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy.

**Kevin Merkley**, Vice Principle, York Region District School Board

**Rummana Virji**, Community and Cultural Liaison Community, York Region District School Board

12:15 - 1:15 p.m.

### **LUNCH**

1:15 - 2:15 p.m.

### **QUEST PANEL**

**Nada Aoudeh**, Teacher, York Region District School Board

**Rosemary Campbell-Stephens**, Education & Leadership Consultant, UK

**Jeewan Chanicka**, Vice Principle, York Region District School Board

**Mary Jean Gallagher**, Chief Student Achievement Officer, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ontario Ministry of Education

**Camille Logan**, Principal, Inclusive School and Community Services, York Region District School Board

**John Malloy**, Director of Education, Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board

**Uzma Shakir**, Equity Officer, City of Toronto

2:15 - 3:00 p.m.

### **CLOSING KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**

**Dr. Ben Levin**, Canada Research Chair, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education

**Dr. Avis Glaze**, President, Edu-quest International Inc., Former Chief, Student Achievement Officer of Ontario

3:00 - 3:30 p.m.

### **CO-ANCHOR SESSION 2**

**Jennifer Abrams**, Educational Consultant, USA

**Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux**, Nexen Chair in Aboriginal Leadership at The Banff Centre and Assistant Professor in Aboriginal Studies, University of Toronto

3:30 - 3:45 p.m.

### **CLOSING COMMENTS**

**Ken Thurston**, Director of Education, York Region District School Board

3:45 - 3:50 p.m.

### **TRAVEL SONG: THE CHIPPEWAS OF GEORGINA ISLAND**

**Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux, Dawn Sillaby-Smith and Penny Trumble**



**Dr. Ben Levin**



**Dr. Avis Glaze**

Notes:

