

MSSTA MTS PD Day - October 25, 2024

“Environmental Changemakers: From Awareness to Action”

Description:

Young people are fearful for the future of the planet. Most students, even our younger students, recognize the phrase “climate change.” It is a phrase they encounter at various times throughout their education. Moreover, through social media and online platforms, youth are inundated with headlines, images, video clips, and even live recordings of intense storms and droughts, dying animals, mounds of trash, and continual destruction, ultimately presenting a dire and insurmountable problem that can leave youth feeling helpless and defeated. While we certainly have a professional duty to teach students about climate, environment, and sustainability in order to counter disinformation and misinformation, we must go beyond awareness to action-oriented climate education, especially if we are to curb growing anxieties. As educators, it is our job to help our students develop skills that generate inspiration and hope. We must provide opportunities for our students to witness and enact real change.

This year’s MSSTA MTS PD Day is being delivered in partnership with Educators for Climate Action Manitoba (ECAMB). ECAMB is a group of Manitoba educators who are passionate about climate action. They promote climate action through advocacy, professional development, and developing a professional community among educators. ECAMB aims to empower and support educators implementing climate action in their classrooms, schools, and communities. We are also pleased to welcome our keynote speaker Clayton Thomas-Müller, a member of the Treaty #6 based Mathias Colomb Cree Nation and author of *Life in the City of Dirty Water*. Clayton is an award-winning film director, media producer, organizer, public speaker, and dedicated defender of Indigenous rights and environmental and economic justice.

Fees:

	Before October 1st	Starting October 1st
Full Day Conference & Membership	\$85	\$110
Half Day Conference & Membership	\$70	\$95
Full Day Conference (Non-Member)	\$100	\$125
Half Day Conference (Non-Member)	\$85	\$110
Education Students, MSSTA Executive Members, Presenters and Volunteers (Approval Required)	\$20	\$20

Schedule

Registration, Coffee & Displayers

8:00-9:00 a.m. - Main Foyer

Welcome, Introductions & Keynote Address

9:00-10:15 a.m. - Theatre

Morning Break & Displayers

10:20-10:45 a.m. - Common Area

Concurrent Session #1

10:50-11:40 a.m. – Various Classrooms

Lunch & Displayers

11:45 – 12:45 p.m. – Gym

Concurrent Session #2

12:50-1:40 p.m. – Various Classrooms

Afternoon Break & Displayers

1:40-2:00 p.m. - Common Area

Concurrent Session #2

2:00-2:50 p.m. – Various Classrooms

AGM & Prizes

3:00-3:30 p.m. - Theatre

Presentation Descriptions

Keynote Address – 9:15-10:15 a.m.

Climate change has had a devastating impact on Indigenous communities and ways of life. In this keynote address, author Clayton Thomas-Müller will discuss climate change and how it has affected the land from an Indigenous perspective. In addition to speaking to the harms and challenges specific to Indigenous peoples and communities, Clayton will share his perspectives as an Indigenous rights defender and climate action activist, including how educators can inspire and involve students in climate action.

Clayton Thomas-Müller is a member of the Treaty #6 based Mathias Colomb Cree Nation also known as Pukatawagan, located in Northern Manitoba. His national bestseller, *Life in the City of Dirty Water*, ties together the realities of intergenerational trauma faced by Canada's First Nations peoples and frontline activism in the face of environmental injustice, exploring Clayton's personal experiences of survival and healing.

In addition to being an author, film director, and media producer, Clayton has campaigned across Turtle Island (North America) to support Indigenous Peoples in defending their territories against the fossil fuel industry, including Canada's tar sands and pipelines. His activism has garnered him recognition as a Climate Hero by *Yes Magazine*, as well as being featured as one of ten international human rights defenders in the Canadian Museum for Human Rights.

Concurrent Session #1 - 10:50-11:40 a.m.

Please Note: MSSTA makes every effort to ensure that sessions are consistent with their values; however, decisions on session offerings are made based on brief descriptions supplied by presenters. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us directly.

1.01 – Follow Up Q & A to Keynote Presentation	
Clayton Thomas-Müller Manitoban Author; Indigenous rights and environmental justice activist	This session is a continuation of the Keynote address with Clayton Thomas-Müller.
Grade Levels: Early, Middle & Senior Years	
1.02 – Social Studies "Matters"	
Linda Connor & Kelly Hiebert Manitoba Education	As the Manitoba Social Studies Curriculum is slated for renewal, this session will enable participants to reflect on the "raison d'être" of our discipline. During the session, participants will have the opportunity to go beyond content, by collaborating and sharing their knowledge and understanding of Social Studies through an analysis of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is Social Studies important? • What could be the guiding principles? • How could Social Studies support MB Education and Early Childhood Learning vision?
Grade Levels: Early, Middle & Senior Years	
1.03 – Teaching a Truth and Reconciliation Class to Middle School Students	
Katherine Abra & Jennifer Wiebe Teachers, Winnipeg School Division	Ecole River Heights School (Grade 7 & 8) has been teaching a Truth and Reconciliation class to all Grade 7 students for 7 years. Students participate once per cycle throughout the year. How do you teach tough concepts age appropriately to twelve- and thirteen-year-olds? Join our session to learn how!
Grade Levels: Middle Years	
1.04 – Exploring the Great Outdoors	
Jonathan de Groot & Julia de Groot Forest Nature Educators, Groot Outdoors	Join us as we explore hands-on learning in nature! Be ready to engage in group learning experiences, participate in inquiry invitations, and walk-away with a wealth of resources to implement outdoor learning in your classroom and school! A portion of our session will take place outdoors weather dependent. Please dress appropriately for the weather.
Grade Levels: Early & Middle Years	

1.05 – Creating and Maintaining Pollinator-Friendly Spaces	
<p>Rene Hince & Salem Roby Director & Team Lead, Beez Please</p>	<p>When we say “All Our Relations”, we must take this to include even the smallest. Our fates are intertwined. Dwindling populations of native pollinators place ecosystems under tremendous stress or even threat of collapse. In response, new and innovative approaches are crucial to drive necessary change. We invite you to learn about local pollinators in Manitoba, the current threats, and how to nurture thriving ecosystems better adapted to climate change, that support native wildlife. Additionally, we will explore habitat restoration as a valuable teaching tool, and as a vehicle for decolonizing our spaces and ensuring the health of our communities.</p>
<p>Grade Levels: Middle & Senior Years</p>	
1.06 – Outdoor Learning: Tools to teach climate, and mitigate climate anxiety	
<p>Barret Miller Manager of Education, Assiniboine Park Conservancy</p>	<p>This session will focus on a few best practices for moving learning into the outdoors around your school community. It will equip you to use outdoor learning to both spark care and concern for the climate, and help students feel empowered to make change.</p> <p><i>Please note: This program will have an outdoor component, please dress accordingly.</i></p>
<p>Grade Levels: Early & Middle Years</p>	
1.07 – Teaching Children in the Era of Climate Collapse	
<p>Mike Link Associate Professor, University of Winnipeg</p>	<p>In this workshop, we will discuss how teachers can provide opportunities for children to develop a reciprocal relationship with the natural world and build the skills for civic engagement. We will share practical activities to help children connect with nature and develop the abilities needed for collective action.</p>
<p>Grade Levels: Early & Middle Years</p>	
1.08 – Understanding Our Carbon Footprint	
<p>Ayesha Shekh Teacher, Avicenna Academy</p>	<p>This session will introduce teachers to resources and activities that help students understand the carbon footprint concept and how human activities impact the environment. This includes activities where students list and describe common activities and behaviours contributing to their and their households' carbon footprint, as well as tools and methods for estimating their carbon footprint and creating an action plan to reduce it.</p>
<p>Grade Levels: Early & Middle Years</p>	
1.09 – Eco-Warriors - Growing Climate Action in your School	
<p>Darryl Reilly & Lori Barber Teachers, Seven Oaks School Division</p>	<p>James Nisbet Community School has gone through an amazing transition over the past year as we've seen an explosion of climate activism in our building and on our grounds. Our session will detail how a small group of motivated educators and an amazing group of students have taken a school with very little climate awareness and turned it into a leader of climate activism in our division.</p>
<p>Grade Levels: Early & Middle Years</p>	

1.10 – Teaching Global Issues for a new Breed of Student	
Greg Shedden Retired Teacher	Although the Global Issues course is not that old, the technologies and issues of today demand new strategies and present new challenges.
Grade Levels: Senior Years	
1.11 – Our Shared Future: An experiential activity on the climate emergency	
Marta Bunnett Wiebe Program Coordinator, Mennonite Central Committee Manitoba	This experiential activity explores actions individuals and communities can take to survive extreme weather, lessen the impacts of climate change, and build just communities. It highlights that our potential to address the climate emergency is tied to our ability to collaborate and to take a diversity of climate actions.
Grade Levels: Senior Years	
1.12 – Cause and Consequences, Continuity and Change: Holodomor genocide, current ecocide as a weapon of war in Ukraine and Climate Education	
Valentina Noseworthy & Orysa Petryshyn National Holodomor Education Committee Members	A genocide begins with the killing of one person, not because of what he has done, but because of who he is. - KOFI ANNAN Secretary General of the UN, 2001 This workshop will address the best practices in the areas of inquiry, collaborative learning strategies, land-based learning, and how to scaffold students' learning while introducing you to the new <i>The Historian's Craft Lesson on Human Rights and the Holodomor</i> written by Valentina Kuryliw, Director of Education for the Holodomor Research and Education Consortium (HREC). The book is designed for various grade levels and teaching contexts and provides well-organized and effective strategies and clear content for teachers to incorporate directly into their classrooms.
Grade Levels: Senior Years	
1.13 – Water Wonderings	
Kathryn Laframboise & Sabrina Ferraz Teachers, Seven Oaks School Division	This session will explore the practicality of water testing and data management to develop students' connection, care, and respect for our water systems. We will also discuss launching hands-on, meaningful projects in the school, such as a "Thrift Store," with a focus on how it all connects to water.
Grade Levels: Middle & Senior Years	
1.14 – Essentials to engaging students in Climate Change	
Susan Lindsay Climate Change Connection	This session will provide you with the confidence and knowledge to launch or expand climate change education in your classroom. We will provide you with the background, resources, ideas, and community connections to engage and inspire your students in climate action. We believe all classrooms and all subjects can embed climate change education and we can do this by focusing on solutions, modelling environmental behaviours in classrooms, empowering students, and understanding best practices.
Grade Levels: Early, Middle & Senior Years	

1.15 – Explore energy efficiency resources for your classroom	
Erin Dueck Efficiency Manitoba	Discover Generation E, an exciting Efficiency Manitoba education initiative that brings the conversation about energy efficiency and sustainability to Manitoba classrooms. In this session, you'll have the opportunity to explore Generation E's activities and free resources, learn how you can incorporate them into your lessons, and share your insights.
Grade Levels: Early, Middle & Senior Years	
1.16 – The Impacts of Hydropower: A Manitoba Case Study	
Derek Eidse - Teacher, University of Winnipeg Collegiate & Ellen Cook - Language Instructor, University College of the North	Ellen Cook will present on the historical and present impact of hydroelectric power in Northern Manitoba, and Derek Eidse will guide participants through a 1-2 week-long interdisciplinary unit of study he's developed in collaboration with Ellen and the Interfaith Council on Hydropower.
Grade Levels: Middle & Senior Years	
1.17 – Connecting Climate Action with Curriculum	
Sarah Reid & Bethany Damon Manitoba's Climate Action Team	Communicating climate change in a world full of information overload can be challenging and overwhelming - but the good news is that strategies exist to make talking about the crisis easier, and you don't need to be a scientist to do it. In this presentation, Manitoba's Climate Action Team will share climate communication tips in an effort to help educators connect existing curriculums with the climate action message. The presentation will include examples from our climate resiliency work in communities around Manitoba to help educators take climate action into conversations beyond the classroom with fellow educators, trustees, and parents.
Grade Levels: Early, Middle & Senior Years	
1.18 – FREE Lessons and Resources: Indigenous History in Canada, Deciphering Online AI and Misinformation, and more curriculum based lessons!	
Jason Wiens Teacher, Western School Division	Kids Boost Immunity (KBI) offers Indigenous lessons on Pre-Contact, Contact, Treaties, Colonialism and The Indian Act, as well as special teachings, co-developed by Manitoba Indigenous educators and Elders, linked to the Manitoba curriculum. KBI also offers lessons and tools to help students address ways that personal biases are exploited by makers of misinformation/disinformation. In this interactive workshop, teachers become students and experience the engaging learning format that includes audio, images, videos, and quizzes that link learning to helping others, as a score of 80% or higher earns life-saving vaccines (polio, diphtheria, tetanus and measles) for others around the world in need. There is also a teacher-led option where a class can still earn vaccines to help others without being online.
Grade Levels: Middle Years	

1.19 – Visualizing Climate Education: Collaborate Art Project by Manitoba Teachers

Riane Kandia
Teacher, Winnipeg
School Division

Grade Levels: Early, Middle
& Senior Years

Each educator carries the emotional weight of the climate crisis in different ways and self-expression through art can be a powerful tool for channeling these feelings. This session is being organized in collaboration with Dr. Bruno de Oliveira Jayme from the University of Manitoba, and by the end of the day, a piece of collaborative art will be produced by Manitoba educators. It is our hope to produce a similar student-made piece of collaborative art at the UNESCO schools conference later this year and display the two pieces side-by-side.

Concurrent Session #2A - 12:50-2:50

Please note, sessions designated with an "A" (i.e. 2A.01 to 2A.08) will take place from 12:50-2:50 with a short break mid-way through. If you choose one of these sessions, you will not select a second afternoon session.

2A.01– Digital Citizenship for Educators	
Bea Basaran Education Coordinator, Manitoba Association of Rights and Liberties	In an age where technology is deeply integrated into our lives, it's crucial to understand the human rights principles of digital citizenship to make informed decisions and contribute positively to the online community. This workshop is designed to empower individuals with the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate the digital world responsibly, ethically, and safely. It covers skills in fact-checking, ethical dilemmas, and socialization through digital medias. This workshop aims to equip educators in guiding students to become ethical digital citizens.
Grade Levels: Early, Middle & Senior Years	
2A.02 – The Key to Sustainable School Transportation	
Ian Walker Teacher, River East Transcona School Division	Many of our students arrive at school by car, contributing to noise pollution, air pollution, and greenhouse gas emissions, all of which negatively impact our community. Unlike those who actively commute, children who are regularly driven to school and other activities become more dependent on adults, which affects their physical and mental health. Research has shown that increasing walking, biking, and cycling can help reduce pollution and promote a healthier population. The question is, how do we achieve this? Join Ian Walker, a parent, elementary school teacher, bike advocate, and LRSD school trustee, as he shares his firsthand experience leading a bike bus, running a community bike hub, and advocating for separated bike infrastructure and 30 km/h residential speed limits.
Grade Levels: Early, Middle & Senior Years	
2A.03 – 3 ways to get students outside year round	
Amanda Lake Teacher, Louis Riel School Division	Learn all about Wilderness Wednesdays, the Jack Frost Challenge and Polar Bear Recess in this session with tips and tricks for those who are new or want to learn more about taking students outside year-round. The second half of this session will be outdoors, rain or shine, so—as we tell our students—please come prepared.
Grade Levels: Early & Middle Years	
2A.04 – Mitigoog, Ditibitwabishkiganag, Miikana minawa Gikinoo' Amaadiwigamigag (Trees, Bikes, Trails and Schools)	
Anders Swanson Winnipeg Trails	A wide-ranging presentation touching on the intersection between sustainable transport, outdoor learning, planting, Indigenous languages and culture shift in cities and schools. A practical introduction to reimagining school spaces with real world examples of how to get youth involved. Learn about the major projects of Winnipeg Trails, especially LittleTrails, FutureForests, and Plain Bicycle, and how to apply them.
Grade Levels: Early, Middle & Senior Years	

2A.05 – Teaching about Rocky Cree History and Culture with Picturebooks and Picturebook Apps

Melanie Braith, Audrey Barkman-Hill, Connie Wyatt Anderson, Dr. Doris Wolf & Mavis Reimer

University of Winnipeg

Grade Levels: Early, Middle & Senior Years

The Six Seasons Series is a collection of historical picturebooks, apps, and teacher's guides telling the stories of the Rocky Cree as they move through the year and around their territory in northern Manitoba. In this session, participants are introduced to the materials and get to try out the apps.

2A.06 – Mashkiki Babaamose: Medicine Walk at The Leaf

Barret Miller & Chandra Petti

Assiniboine Park Conservancy

Grade Levels: Early, Middle and Senior Years

Learn about the four Sacred Medicines, and many other plants that are culturally significant to Indigenous peoples on these lands and how they have been used since time immemorial. Good conversation and delicious refreshments inspired by and sourced from the gardens and biomes at The Leaf will follow.

This satellite location will take place at **The Leaf at Assiniboine Park from 1:30-3:30**. An additional \$25 per registrant will be added to your registration fees and transportation to and from the park will be the responsibility of registrants. Please note: This program will have an outdoor and indoor component, please dress accordingly.

2A.07 – A Fighting Chance -Teaching for Just Transition

Marianne Cerilli
Change Agent

Grade Levels: Middle & Senior Years

Learn about a framework and tools for a just transition—a move away from growth economics and the politics of division necessary to avoid collapse due to converging challenges of climate change, mass extinction, growing inequity and concentration of wealth, austerity, reduced capacity of government, increased trauma, militarism, war and authoritarianism. The framework includes making sense of political, economic, ecological, social and cultural aspects, with tools for strategizing and organizing around 4 main tasks: building solidarity, developing awareness or critical consciousness, creating alternatives, and disrupting and stopping more harm. As we leave the world in a mess for youth to clean up, we are obligated to teach them skills, knowledge, attitudes and tools so they have a fighting chance at success and survival. This includes ways to embrace complexity to make systemic changes and not be overwhelmed by the challenges.

2A.08 – Sustainability Education in the Classroom

Amanda Benson MCIC, Education Specialist	MCIC's vision is a just world, and our educational programs aim to grow the next generation of global citizens. We provide teachers and students with the tools that they need to learn about and teach topics related to sustainability by focusing on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and linking them back to MB curriculum topics. Climate Change is connected to many other sustainability topics including access to clean water, poverty, hunger, biodiversity, and more. MCIC offers workshops and lesson plans that deal with these topics and help bring sustainability education into the classroom in a way that is engaging and interactive, and leaves students feeling empowered to make change. Some examples include learning how the fashion industry impacts people and the environment in our new board game about Fast Fashion, exploring how climate change affects urban communities in Designing for the Future, and thinking about the ways that climate change affects hunger and poverty rates in Building a Good Life. Learn about these and more at our booth and in our session.
Grade Levels: Middle & Senior Years	

Concurrent Session #2 - 12:50-1:40

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2.01 – Co-Anxiety: Supporting the Mental Health of Young People in the Climate Crisis	
Scott Durling Teacher, Seven Oaks School Division	A 2023 Canadian study found nearly 4 in 5 young people feel the climate crisis impacts their mental health, with over 50% feeling sad, anxious, and powerless. This workshop aims to share curriculum and resources to support students' mental health, develop emotional-literacy, and address eco-anxiety.
Grade Levels: Early, Middle & Senior Years	
2.02 – Introducing the Holocaust to Middle Years Students	
Scott Templeton Teacher, St. James Assiniboia School Division	Teaching students about the Holocaust is a difficult but vitally important task that faces all educators. Arguably, one of the greatest obstacles is knowing how to responsibly introduce the Holocaust in the classroom. In this presentation, I plan to use my early and middle years teaching experience combined with my history background to create methods for introducing and teaching the Holocaust to middle years students.
Grade Levels: Early & Middle Years	
2.03 – Teaching for Climate Change with the Manitoba Curriculum	
Will Burton University of Winnipeg	What is climate change education? How does it align with the Manitoba Education and curriculum documents? This session will provide an overview of climate change education and offer entry points and examples of it that align with the K-12 curriculum.
Grade Levels: Early, Middle & Senior Years	
2.04 – Honouring Indigenous Veterans	
Dale Watts & Ervin Gerbrandt The Service Battalion Senate	Thousands of Indigenous veterans served in world wars to support Canada and Great Britain. These individuals were treated mostly equitably while serving, but did not receive recognition or benefits upon returning home. The CSS Museum at Minto Armouries created a feature display to acknowledge and to honour Indigenous veterans.
Grade Levels: Senior Years	
2.05 – Polio Epidemics and the Consequences for Young People	
Harriet Zaidman Writer	How polio epidemics terrified society, affecting children especially in the first part of the 20th century. Using my award-winning novel, <i>Second Chances</i> , I show that the issues about vaccines and conspiracy theories during the polio epidemics were the same as during the Covid pandemic. Relates also to the expropriation of the Métis community of Rooster Town in Winnipeg in the 1950s.
Grade Levels: Middle & Senior Years	

2.06 – Why Indigenous Communities Matter in the Fight Against Climate Change

Pamela Schoen
Teacher, Louis Riel
School Division

Grade Levels: Early,
Middle & Senior Years

In a world that Terry Teegee, Regional Chief of the British Columbia Assembly of First Nations, calls "out of balance", why is it important that knowledge from the Métis, First Nations, and Inuit people be included in the fight against climate change?

Indigenous communities are, at their core, connected to the land. Climate change is affecting our relatives from coast to coast. Our lived reality and our indigenous knowledge needs to be respected and reflected in the dialogue surrounding climate education.

What can we do, as educators, to put this knowledge and these perspectives into action in our classrooms?

2.07 – Social polarization leading to extremism and violence: a guide for the educators

**Dr. Kawser Ahmed &
Linda Mldozinski**
ERIM

Grade Levels: Early,
Middle & Senior Years

This workshop is designed for K-12 teachers. It focuses on equipping educators with strategies to identify and address social polarization in their classrooms, thereby preventing the rise of extremism and violence. Educators play a crucial role in fostering inclusive environments, promoting critical thinking, and encouraging respectful dialogue among students. This workshop, supported by ERIMCA's comprehensive resource toolkit, provides practical tools and methods for teachers to effectively counteract extremist ideologies.

2.08 – Climate Change Simulation

Nathan Boulanger
Teachers, Hanover
School Division

Grade Levels: Senior
Years

Play a whole-class climate change simulation! This interactive workshop introduces you to a simulation in which students take on the role of various global stakeholders whose goal is to reach the Paris Agreement target "to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels."

2.09 – Get to Know an NGO: Exploring Sustainability and Collaborative Action

<p>Suzanne Simpson Teacher-Librarian, Louis Riel School Division</p>	<p>This session will feature two Manitoba-based local NGOs and introduce resources/services they provide to schools. Past collaborations between the NGOs and students will be highlighted, and teachers will network with employees from the NGOs as the group brainstorms future action projects that would fit their individual school context.</p>
<p>Grade Levels: Early, Middle & Senior Years</p>	<p>This session will highlight Green Action Center and Green Kids Inc.</p> <p>Green Action Center's primary areas of work are green commuting, composting and waste reduction, sustainable living, and resource conservation.</p> <p>Green Kids Inc. is a live theatre company dedicated to environmental education through performance. They explore environmental science through theatre, allowing participants to imagine, empathize and laugh, all while understanding the serious issues we face.</p>

2.10 – The Effects of Weather on Recess: Climate Change in Physical Education and Health, Children's Activities, and Connections to Social Studies

<p>Chloe Stimpson Teacher Candidate, University of Winnipeg</p>	<p>This presentation will take a health geography lens on weather and climate change. Health geography is a subfield of geography and can be used to understand and interpret geographic issues. Using a health geography lens by examining inequality and injustice related to environmental exposures. At the end of the session, participants will understand how various weather conditions impact children's play behaviours and how social studies can connect with health and physical education to educate students on climate change.</p>
<p>Grade Levels: Early & Middle Years</p>	

2.11 – Social Studies "Matters"

<p>Linda Connor & Kelly Hiebert Manitoba Education</p>	<p>As the Manitoba Social Studies Curriculum is slated for renewal, this session will enable participants to reflect on the "raison d'être" of our discipline. During the session, participants will have the opportunity to go beyond content, by collaborating and sharing their knowledge and understanding of Social Studies through an analysis of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is Social Studies important? • What could be the guiding principles? • How could Social Studies support MB Education and Early Childhood Learning vision?
<p>Grade Levels: Early, Middle & Senior Years</p>	

2.12 – Bearing Witness: Using the Witness Blanket and survivor testimony as texts to teach about residential schools

Graham Lowes
Manager, Education
and Program
Development,
Canadian Museum for
Human Rights

The Witness Blanket is a large-scale work of art containing hundreds of items reclaimed from residential schools, churches, government buildings, and both traditional and cultural structures from across Canada. The Witness Blanket invites visitors to explore objects from the blanket and hear directly from survivors about their experience.

Grade Levels: Middle &
Senior Years

This session will introduce participants to the Witness Blanket and witnessblanket.ca and discuss how to incorporate a trauma-informed approach when bringing voices of residential school survivors into the classroom. Additionally, educators will learn how to walk alongside their students in taking the next steps on their pathway of reconciliation.

The Witness Blanket will be available for visitors and students to experience beginning on September 20, 2024.

2.13 – Visualizing Climate Education: Collaborate Art Project by Manitoba Teachers

Riane Kandia
Teacher, Winnipeg
School Division

Each educator carries the emotional weight of the climate crisis in different ways and self-expression through art can be a powerful tool for channeling these feelings. This session is being organized in collaboration with Dr. Bruno de Oliveira Jayme from the University of Manitoba, and by the end of the day, a piece of collaborative art will be produced by Manitoba educators. It is our hope to produce a similar student-made piece of collaborative art at the UNESCO schools conference later this year and display the two pieces side-by-side.

Grade Levels: Early,
Middle & Senior Years

Concurrent Session #3 – 2:00-2:50

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3.01 – Remembrance Day - Keeping it Meaningful	
Kevin Szajkowski, Timothy Parker Louis Riel School Division	Social Studies teachers are often called upon to lead or help organize school-wide Remembrance Day ceremonies. This session will provide a forum for participants to share practical ideas and past practices with the goal of providing logistical and creative ways of organizing meaningful, contemporary and educational assemblies. The presenters have designed a series of Remembrance Day presentations over the years and will be sharing one of their favourite ones with participants. (Bring a memory stick!)
Grade Levels: Early, Middle & Senior Years	
3.02 – 1919 Winnipeg General Strike - Through the Eyes of Young People	
Harriet Zaidman Writer	A description of the conditions leading up to and during the Winnipeg General Strike - the impact on society then and the ripples through the decades. Using my novel, <i>City on Strike</i> , I show how working class immigrant children were affected by the deep poverty and social situation.
Grade Levels: Early & Middle Years	
3.03 – Climate Change Challenges: Educators Exploring The Opportunities	
Kim Hartikainen Teacher, River East Transcona School Division	Climate change is the most complex challenge facing humankind today. Explore climate change and learn how to prepare students to meet the challenges of climate change as confident, solutions-minded citizens, now and into the future. The session will include an overview of research, strategies, and resources for climate change education, and include opportunities for teachers to share ideas on how best to support and engage their students in climate inquiry and action. This session will highlight LSF's newest resource, <i>Empowering Learners in a Warming World</i> (climatelearning.ca).
Grade Levels: Middle Years	
3.04 – Online Resources for Manitoba Educators	
Nancy Girardin Librarian, Manitoba Education & Early Childhood Learning	An overview of the online resources available to educators and students through Manitoba Education's ORME site (https://mbcsc.edu.gov.mb.ca/onlineresources) will be presented with a particular emphasis on the theme of climate education.
Grade Levels: Early, Middle & Senior Years	

3.05 – Bird Detectives: Hands On Field Work to Foster Lifelong Environmentalism

Alex Froese

Teacher Candidate & Wildlife Biologist

Grade Levels: Early, Middle & Senior Years

Come work with Alex, an experienced wildlife biologist and founder/program director of the Manitoba Burrowing Owl Recovery Program, to learn about a hands-on eco-system appreciation program she has developed! This program can easily be adapted to work for Grade 2-12 and to meet environmental curricular standards. One of the best ways to encourage students to develop a lifelong love of sustainability is to help them better connect with the environment around them! A portion of this session may take place outdoors, weather permitting. Please dress appropriately for the weather.

3.06 – Dealing with Controversy in the Classroom

Michael Zwaagstra

Teacher, Hanover School Division

Grade Levels: Middle & Senior Years

Social studies teachers have to address many challenging topics in their courses. This session will give teachers some strategies they can use with students when controversial topics come up in class. It will also provide strategic advice for dealing with concerns from parents and other community members.

3.07 – Camp Hughes: Prelude to Victory

Dale Watts

The Service Battalion Senate

Grade Levels: Senior Years

Camp Hughes was a military training site near Carberry, MB from 1909 - 34. During the First World War approximately 38,000 prairie soldiers trained there for overseas service with the Canadian Expeditionary Force. Many of these soldiers went on to fight in some of the major Canadian battles of the Great War (documentary).

3.08 – Building Relationships with the Land

Carly Gray

Environmental Educator, Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society

Grade Levels: Early, Middle & Senior Years

In this workshop, CPAWS MB Environmental Educator Carly Gray will share her experience with conducting a meaningful land acknowledgment, engaging students in environmental stewardship through Indigenous Pedagogy, environmental inquiry in the classroom, and how CPAWS Manitoba supports Indigenous-led conservation initiatives in Manitoba (and how your students can too!).

3.09 – Student Ideas into Community Action: Caring for Our Watersheds

Kandra Forbes
Educator, Caring For
Our Watersheds (Oak
Hammock Marsh)

Grade Levels: Middle &
Senior Years

Learn about how free workshops and access to funding can help turn your students' ideas into community solutions. Young minds often hold the key to amazing innovations that can protect and improve our environment. Caring for Our Watersheds is more than just a classroom assignment. The program teaches students real life skills including researching, planning, budgeting, and written and verbal communication. Most importantly, the program teaches students that they CAN make a difference. Students are encouraged to implement their ideas and have access to funding.

3.10 – Get to Know an NGO: Exploring Sustainability and Collaborative Action

Suzanne Simpson
Teacher-Librarian, Louis
Riel School Division

Grade Levels: Early,
Middle & Senior Years

This session will feature two Manitoba-based local NGOs and introduce resources/services they provide to schools. Past collaborations between the NGOs and students will be highlighted, and teachers will network with employees from the NGOs as the group brainstorms future action projects that would fit their individual school context.

This session will highlight **Climate Change Connection** and **Wilderness Committee**.

Climate Change Connection is working to educate Manitobans about climate change and facilitate climate change solutions.

Wilderness Committee envisions a Canada where wilderness and wildlife thrive for the benefit of all. They are united to protect life-giving biological diversity through strategic research, community mobilization, and grassroots public education.

3.11 – Bearing witness to October 7 and combating antisemitism in our schools and classrooms

**Kelly Hiebert
& Naama Samphir**
Teachers, St. James
Assiniboia School
Division & Gray
Academy

Grade Levels: Middle &
Senior Years

In this session, presenters Naama Samphir and Kelly Hiebert share their experience and insights from their participation in the Binat Halev educational seminar. The seminar took us to various parts of Israel and the Gaza envelope to see the aftermath of the October 7 massacre committed by Hamas terrorists. We had the privilege to meet with and hear from survivors, families of victims and hostages held in Gaza, Israeli and Arab educators, and high school students from a school in Sderot. We walked through the remnants of the Be'eri kibbutz, and the Memorial erected at the Nova Festival site. This presentation aims to bring facts, that are not sufficiently reported in Western media, to light and to clearly convey the message that we must speak up as Antisemitism and other forms of hate have no place in society.

3.12 – Taking Action for Human Rights: Student showcase at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights

Graham Lowes
Manager, Education
and Program
Development,
Canadian Museum for
Human Rights

Grade Levels: Middle
Years

This session will introduce educators to the *Be an Upstander* program and discuss how students can share their work in the Museum gallery spaces as a part of the annual Upstander showcase. Be an Upstander uses project-based learning to support students in taking action for human rights. Students examine human rights issues, then use their unique strengths to create exhibits or artifacts to tell others. Students also develop and implement an action plan for creating change. During the session, participants will learn about resources, hear from educators who have implemented the program in their classes, and learn how to create and participate in showcase events where students can share their learning with authentic audiences.

3.13 – Cycling Education in Schools – the BEST program

Peter Obendoerfer
BEST Coordinator,
Seven Oaks School
Division

Grade Levels: Middle
Years

Active transportation is part of the solution in taking action on climate change. Peter Obendoerfer, BEST (Bicycle Education and Skills Training) Coordinator for Seven Oaks, will explore how cycling education and promotion could add an exciting and important component to your school division.

This presentation will explain how the program has developed in Seven Oaks, highlighting the content and logistics necessary to prepare Middle Years students to safely bike for safety. It will also discuss how the program has expanded in Manitoba, including how non-profit organizations like the WRENCH, Bike Winnipeg, and the Green Action Centre are supporting and helping to accomplish the expansion of BEST.

Beyond introducing the program itself, this presentation will include a discussion about the successes and challenges of cycling for transportation in Winnipeg and how BEST is contributing to the progress being made.