



**SIX NATIONS**  
POLYTECHNIC

Champions  
for Change

# 5th CHAMPIONS FOR CHANGE CONFERENCE

November 14 & 15, 2018

## Honouring Connections

Exploring Notions of  
Indigenous Sustainability

## Conference Program

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Six Nations Polytechnic  
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**#snpc4c**

Cayuga  
Cayogghong’

Mohawk  
Kamen’ behá:ka

Onondaga  
Onpda’ gega’

Oneida  
Onyota’ aika’

Seneca  
Onodowa’ gga’

Tuscarora  
Skarúne’



**SIX NATIONS**  
POLYTECHNIC

November 14-15, 2018

Sge:nq’ Swagwe:ggh

Thank you for joining us at the 5<sup>th</sup> *Champions for Change* Indigenous Education Conference as we move forward in exploring notions of Indigenous Sustainability and honouring our connections while acknowledging all who support these efforts. During our time together we will look at the ways in which Indigenous leaders, learners, educators and institutions can consider the connections we have to the environment, the natural world and one another through the lens of the Hodinohso:ni’ Thanksgiving Address (Ganohonyohk).

We’ve made every effort to make this conference as sustainable as possible and to truly walk the talk when it comes to reducing our collective and individual impacts on the environment. From the durable conference bag and reusable water bottle you received when you arrived, to the biodegradable wooden cutlery and traditional meals, and the breakout workshop sessions, it is our hope that you will take away new ideas and gather inspiration for how to make your life more sustainable. We also hope that you will share your ideas with us.

In addition to the learning and understanding generated by the conference experience, there are very real practical outcomes for SNP learners. Financial contributions and a portion of your registration fee to attend *Champions for Change* has helped make it possible for students to enroll in our Bachelor of Arts in Ogwehohew Languages program. On behalf of the SNP learning community I therefore extend a very special thank you to our sponsors and to all our delegates for your financial contribution and support of SNP’s language revitalization efforts.

As always, we honour our knowledge guardians and pay respect to Lottie Keye (1938 – 2017), James Styres (1929 – 2018) and Betty Henry (1940-2018) who all dedicated their lives to preserving our languages, culture and tradition.

SNP holds a special obligation to the Six Nations community to be the formal post-secondary institute to ensure that our Indigenous knowledge and languages do not disappear from the face of this earth. SNP humbly accepts this responsibility while acknowledging that this is a collective undertaking. On behalf of SNP, I extend sincere thanks to all who continue to support SNP in fulfilling this special obligation. We are honoured and grateful that you have joined us in these efforts.

Nya:weh

Rebecca Jamieson  
President/CEO

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November 15, 2018

Dear Champions for Change Participants:

On behalf of the Six Nations Elected Council, I would like to welcome you to the Six Nations of the Grand River Territory and the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Champions for Change Conference. I would also like to welcome Winona LaDuke to our beautiful community and thank her for her continued advocacy toward the preservation of Mother Earth.

To all the change-makers, I urge you to look to leaders like Winona, to be encouraged to work toward social and cultural change for the benefit of the environment and our Indigenous communities.

Congratulations to Six Nations Polytechnic for their continued dedication to education and the Ojéwéh languages and culture. The Champions for Change conference has become a source of community pride for us at Six Nations. While we are encouraged by the shining reviews we hear from participants, the progress we continue to make in revitalizing and advancing the Ojéwéh languages and ways of knowing makes us particularly proud. Niawen to Six Nations Polytechnic President, Rebecca Jamieson, and all the staff, who continue to raise us up as a community.

To all the participants, we hope you enjoy your time in our community. We hope that you will take time to visit some of our local businesses and organizations, to learn a little bit more about the past and present of Six Nations of the Grand River.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ava Hill". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Ava Hill  
Chief  
Six Nations of the Grand River Territory

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

**Deloitte.**



*Six Nations Polytechnic proudly recognizes all sponsors as supporters of Indigenous education.*



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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### ***Champions for Change Conference Committee***

Sara General, Acting Director of Research and Development

Nichole Martin, Acting Director of Operations and Advancement

Chelsey Johnson, Communications Officer

Stevie Jonathan, Academic Development Officer

Jody General, Special Projects Coordinator

Cara Martin, Financial Controller

Tanis Hill, Assistant Project Coordinator

# AGENDA - DAY ONE

## Wednesday, November 14, 2018

8:15am - 9:00am	Registration & Refreshments
9:00am - 9:25am	Thanksgiving Address  Welcome by President/CEO Rebecca Jamieson, Six Nations Polytechnic  Opening Remarks by Tom Deer, Indigenous Knowledge Guardian
9:25am - 10:35am	Keynote Presentation by Winona LaDuke, Honor the Earth
10:35am - 10:45am	Wellness Break
10:45am - 11:25am	Wampum Belt Presentation by Tom Deer, Indigenous Knowledge Guardian
11:25am - 12:05pm	Presentation by Chandra Maracle, Six Nations
12:05pm - 12:45pm	Lunch Provided
12:45pm - 1:25pm	The Words of Our Grandfathers, Roronhiakehte Deer, Six Nations Language Commission
1:25pm - 2:05pm	Creating Academic Opportunities in Indigenous Sustainability, Kelsey Leonard, McMaster University
2:05pm - 2:20pm	Wellness Break
2:20pm - 3:00pm	Honouring Fish, Birds and Animal Life, Kahentakeron Deer, Kayanase Greenhouse
3:00pm - 4:00pm	Breakout Workshops: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Plant life as Medicine - Oneida Room</li><li>• The Three Sisters &amp; How to make your own seed bag - Cayuga Room</li><li>• Hodinohso:ni' Social Dances &amp; Songs - Mohawk/Seneca Room</li><li>• Our Sustenance: How to make blueberry mush with white corn - Onondaga Room</li></ul>
4:15pm - 4:30pm	Closing Remarks, Sara General
4:30pm - 5:30pm	Networking Reception & Tour of Deyohahá:ge: Indigenous Knowledge Centre Entertainment & light refreshments.

# AGENDA - DAY TWO

## Thursday, November 15, 2018

8:15am - 9:00am	Registration & Refreshments
9:00am - 9:10am	Thanksgiving Address
	Opening Remarks by Sara General, A/Director of Research and Development, Six Nations Polytechnic
9:10am - 9:50am	Conversations with the Creator, Rick Hill, Six Nations
9:55am - 10:15am	Hodinohso:ni' Material Culture Today, Stevie Jonathan, Six Nations Polytechnic
10:15am - 10:30am	Wellness Break
10:30am - 11:10am	Musical Performance by Theresa Bear Fox
11:15am - 12:00pm	Indigenous Stories: Perspectives Matter, Aisha and Joe Restoule-General, Six Nations
12:00pm - 12:45pm	Lunch Provided
12:45pm - 1:25pm	Presentation by Sara General, Deyohahá:ge: Indigenous Knowledge Center
1:25pm - 2:05pm	How Trees Connect to Hodinohso:ni' Cultural Practices, Taylor Gibson, Six Nations
2:05pm - 2:20pm	Wellness Break
2:20pm - 3:20pm	Breakout Workshops: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Plant life as Medicine - Oneida Room</li><li>• The Three Sisters &amp; How to make your own seed bag - Cayuga Room</li><li>• Hodinohso:ni' Social Dances &amp; Songs - Mohawk/Seneca Room</li><li>• Our Sustenance: How to make blueberry mush with white corn - Onondaga Room</li></ul>
3:25pm - 4:15pm	Conference Wrap Up
4:15pm - 4:30pm	Closing Remarks & Closing Address

## PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES



### KEYNOTE: WINONA LADUKE

Winona LaDuke is a renowned environmentalist, political activist, author, and award winner, working on issues of sustainable development, renewable energy and food systems. She lives and works on the White Earth reservation in northern Minnesota. As Executive Director of Honor the Earth, she works globally on issues of climate change, renewable energy, and environmental justice with Indigenous communities.

Winona founded the White Earth Land Recovery Project, one of the largest reservation based nonprofit organizations in the country, and a leader in the issues of culturally based sustainable development strategies, renewable energy and food systems.

A graduate of Harvard and Antioch Universities, she has written extensively on Native American and environmental issues. She is a former board member of Greenpeace USA and is presently an advisory board member for the Trust for Public Lands Native Lands Program as well as a board member of the Christensen Fund. The Author of five books, including *Recovering the Sacred*, *All our Relations* and a novel- *Last Standing Woman*, she is widely recognized for her work on environmental and human rights issues.



### TOM DEER

Arenho:ktha Thomas Deer is a Mohawk of the Wolf clan. Tom is originally from the Kahnawake First Nation near Montreal, Quebec, Canada where he grew up learning the Mohawk language from his mother and father, as well as many relatives who are fluent Mohawk speakers. Since moving to Six Nations Tom has continued his passion for language learning, achieving a high level of proficiency in the Cayuga language, which is one of the languages of the Six Nations.

Tom has been teaching languages in Six Nations for more than 30 years. During that time he has worked as a Mohawk second language teacher at the primary and junior levels, a full immersion language teacher in both the Mohawk and Cayuga languages, and has been a principal and vice principal. As a Faithkeeper and speaker at the Onondaga Longhouse, Tom has been fortunate to learn to conduct the yearly ceremonies, and is a singer and speaker.



## **CHANDRA MARACLE**

Chandra F. Maracle is the mother of four daughters. She was born and raised on the West side of Buffalo and later studied at Cortland College, University of Buffalo and University of Salamanca, Spain. Chandra is co-founder and Nutrition Coordinator of Skaronhyase'ko:wa Tyohterakentko:wa tsi Yontaweya'tahkwa/the Everlasting Tree School. She is currently a Collaborator on The Legacies Project:

An Intergenerational/Intercultural Exchange of People Transforming the Food System through York University in Toronto. She was a collaborator on the Healthy Roots committee and developed the Haudenosaunee Food Guide for the Community Challenge.

Chandra is founder of Kakhwa'on:we/Real People Eat Real Food, exploring links between food, art, people, language and land. She recently completed a second year in the Onkwawen:na Kentyohkwa adult Mohawk language immersion program. Chandra lives on the Six Nations of the Grand River Territory where she is often found on her Stand-Up Paddleboard.



## **KELSEY LEONARD**

Kelsey Leonard currently represents the Shinnecock Indian Nation as the Tribal Co-Lead on the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body of the U.S. National Ocean Council. This planning body consisting of tribal, federal, and state entities is charged with guiding the protection, maintenance, and restoration of America's oceans and coasts. As a Shinnecock citizen and environmental leader,

Kelsey strives to be a strong advocate for the protection of Indigenous waters through enhanced interjurisdictional coordination and meaningful consultation. She has been instrumental in protecting the interests of Tribes with the development of the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Action Plan and building a sustainable ocean future by valuing Indigenous traditional ecological knowledge. This unprecedented partnership with Tribal Nations for regional ocean planning is a testament to tribal sovereignty but also an important step towards ensuring federal trust responsibilities.





## **KAHENTAKERON DEER**

Raised in Six Nations of the Grand River reserve, Kahentakeron developed a strong passion for the outdoors including hunting, fishing, and camping. Kahentakeron's personal connection to the environment, cultural upbringing, and strong education background has led him to his current position of Ecotourism Coordinator at Kayanase, an ecological restoration company located in Six Nations. His primary goal being the development and growth of the Eco and Cultural tourism initiative of Kayanase and the Six Nations community.

Kahentakeron studied at Sir Sanford Fleming College in Fish and Wildlife and graduated as an Environmental Technologist in 2014. His work experience includes; working with First Nations and non-Indigenous consultants in the environmental field, ecological restoration, habitat restoration, teaching, facilitating camps, and educating others about ecology.



## **RICK HILL**

Rick is a citizen of the Beaver Clan of the Tuscarora Nation of the Haudenosaunee at Grand River. He holds a Master's Degree in American Studies from the State University of New York at Buffalo. He is the former Assistant Director for Public Programs, National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution; Museum Director, Institute of American Indian Arts, Santa Fe, NM; and Assistant Professor, Native American Studies, SUNY Buffalo. He recently retired as Senior Project Coordinator of

the Deyohahá:ge: Indigenous Knowledge Centre at Six Nations Polytechnic, Ohsweken, Ontario. Rick is currently working as an interpretive specialist to develop exhibitions for the recently renovated Mohawk Institute, the oldest Indian residential school in Canada.



## **STEVIE JONATHAN**

Stevie is a Mohawk nation, Wolf clan woman from Six Nations of the Grand River. She graduated from Western University in 2016 with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, First Nations Studies, and Psychology and is currently continuing her education in the Master of Professional Education - Educational Leadership program offered in partnership with Western University and Six Nations Polytechnic.

In addition to her studies, Stevie is an Instructor in the Bachelor of Arts in Ogwehóweh Languages program and she is an Academic Development Officer at SNP who also manages the Continuing Education Artisan Series. Stevie has a passion for teaching, researching, and sharing Hodinohsoni History, including Hodinohsoni material culture, in the community.



## **AISHA AND JOE RESTOULE-GENERAL**

Aisha and Joe Restoule-General are educators on the Six Nations of the Grand River territory. Aisha is Mohawk, Turtle Clan of the Six Nations of the Grand River territory. Aisha has a Master's degree in Indigenous Leadership in Education. She has worked in every elementary grade from Full Day Kindergarten to Grade 8. Aisha is currently working

at Six Nations Polytechnic's STEAM Academy and teaching Indigenous Women's Literature: Activism and Empowerment at Brock University.

Joe Restoule-General is Anishinaabe, Muskrat clan, of the Dokis First Nation. He is currently a Learning Resource Teacher for Grade 7/8 at JC Hill School and an AQ course developer, instructor, and tutor at Six Nations Polytechnic on Six Nations of the Grand River territory. Joe has also helped develop resources for the Ontario Ministry of Education, Ontario College of Teachers, Indigenous & Northern Affairs Canada and Scholastic Education. He has contributed to several Ontario College of Teachers initiatives including writing for the OCT magazine, Professionally Speaking. Joe's short story Occupied was published in *Initiations: A Selection of Young Native Writings*.



## **SARA GENERAL**

Odadrihonyanishoh (Sara General) belongs to the Turtle Clan and the Mohawk Nation. She lives in the community of Six Nations by the Grand River on Turtle Island with her husband and daughters. She is a writer, an artist, a language learner and a researcher. She is the Acting Director of Research and Development at Six Nations Polytechnic (SNP) and the Deyohahá:ge: Indigenous Knowledge Centre (IKC).

Sara has a Bachelor of Arts in English and Indigenous Studies, holds a Masters in Educational Leadership and is in the process of completing a Doctor of Education at Western University. Her doctoral research (anticipated 2019) explores the notion of collaboration in the area of Indigenous language revitalization as informed by Haudenosaunee oral tradition. Her research interests include storytelling and oral histories, Indigenous research methodology, and Indigenous language revitalization.



## **RORONHIAKEHTE DEER**

Roronhiakehte (Kehte) Deer, Mohawk, Bear clan, has been involved in language work at Six Nations for his entire career, with experience ranging from teaching, to research, to program and course development and everything in between, including a Master's in linguistics. Kehte currently lives and works at Six Nations of the Grand River, where he continues to learn Cayuga, Onondaga, and Mohawk.



## **TAYLOR GIBSON**

Wahadaidi (He's on a new road) Taylor Gibson belongs to the Turtle Clan and the Cayuga Nation. Taylor attended the Cayuga Immersion program from Kindergarten to high school. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and has worked as an Assistant Researcher at Deyohahá:ge: Indigenous Knowledge Centre at Six Nations Polytechnic where his research activities focused on gathering the

historical collections pertaining to the Haudenosaunee people, and the Six Nations community in particular. Currently, Taylor works as an Archivist for Library and Archives Canada.

## FEATURE PERFORMANCE



### TERESA BEAR FOX

Shekon Sewakwekon, Kenkiohkoktha ionkia'ts wakathahionni, Akwesasne nikiteron.

(Hello everyone, my name is Kenkiohkoktha, this name means I am standing at the back of a crowd of people, or at the end of a long line. I was named after my Grandmother. I live in Akwesasne.)

In the beginning, I began writing in Kanienkeha (the Mohawk Language) for our women's group, called Kontiwennenhawi, which translates to "Carriers of the Words". Our language is struggling to survive right now, so it is important to me, to put our language, into the songs. Many children in the local schools are beginning to sing our songs. I have been writing songs for almost 20 years now, and it makes me very proud to know that in a small way, our women's group and I are contributing to the survival of our language.

## SNP INITIATIVES

### **Deyohaha:ge:**

Deyohahá:ge:, or the Indigenous Knowledge Centre at Six Nations Polytechnic, is more than a comprehensive catalogued repository of Hodinohso:ni materials; it also provides students with a way to apply the knowledge they have learned in class as they find their own path and leave their own mark on the world. In this way, Indigenous knowledge is “alive” because it is about being well, living well and having the kind of relationships that sustains life and makes it all worthwhile. Deyohahá:ge: will work towards becoming the key resource for Indigenous Knowledge to inform, enhance and create sustainable and enduring cultural content in all programs and services directly through its Hodinohso:ni collections archives.



### **SNP STEAM Academy (High School to College)**

The Six Nations Polytechnic STEAM Academy is the first STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) focused school in Canada that will build in both the regular Ontario Secondary School Diploma, as well as a two-year “Computer Software Engineering Technician” college diploma. Although it is a private school, there is no tuition; At SNP, we want to ensure that our program is open and accessible to everyone regardless of their cultural or social background. For more information visit [snpsteam.com](http://snpsteam.com) or call 226-493-1234.

### **Six Nations Campus Language Programming**

In 2015, SNP became the first Indigenous Institution in the world to receive ministerial consent to offer a Bachelor of Arts in Ojwehoweh Languages. As part of our mission to preserve Ojwehoweh language and culture we continue to develop new programs, resources, and opportunities for our community to access.

## SNP INITIATIVES

### Brantford Campus

SNP's Brantford Campus opened in 2016 and offers programs in partnership with other Ontario Colleges including Mohawk College, Canadore College, and Niagara College. The SNP STEAM Academy also operates out of the Brantford Campus and is in its second year of operation. As Brantford's only post-secondary education institution with a trades facility, SNP is uniquely positioned to respond to a local and growing need for skilled trades education and training in the City of Brantford and surrounding communities.

### Achievement Centre

The Six Nations Achievement Centre is a community-based agency that has provided service to the community of Six Nations for over 27 years. The Centre provides free instruction in basic math; English; computer and other digital technology skills to adults who need to increase their independence or academic skills for entry into higher levels of education and/or to obtain employment. For more information call 519-445-0023 or text 226-240-2554.





**SIX NATIONS**  
POLYTECHNIC

## CONTACT US

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