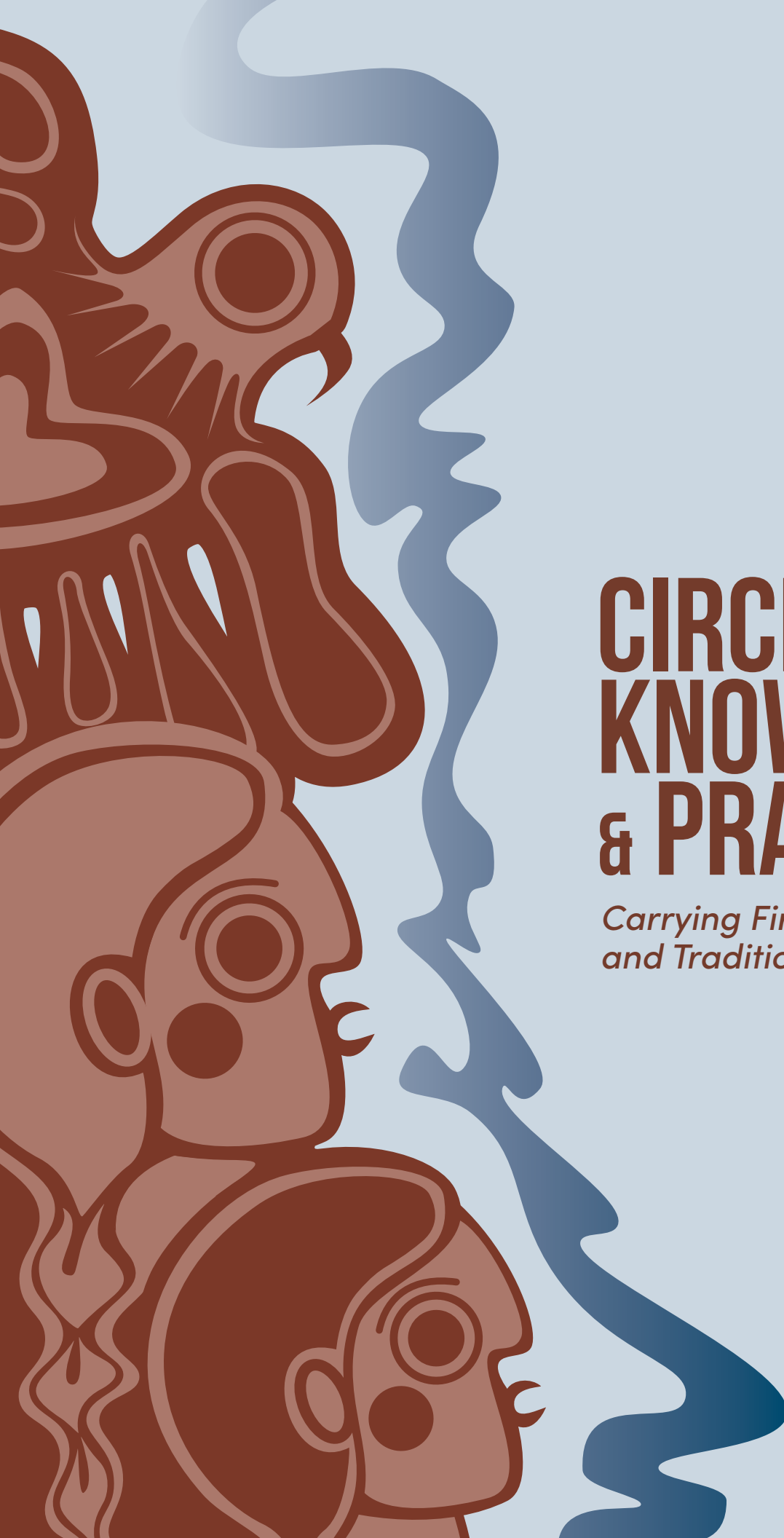




**20
26**
EVENT BOOKLET

**CIRCLE OF
KNOWLEDGE
& PRACTICES**

*Carrying First Nations Futures
and Traditions Forward*

October 8-9, 2026

Victoria Inn Hotel &
Convention Centre

1808 Wellington
Avenue, Winnipeg,
Manitoba

Manitoba 
First Nations Education
Resource Centre Inc.
www.mfnerc.org

Carrying First Nations Futures and Traditions Forward

The theme of the 2026 Circle of Knowledge and Practices conference (#CKP2026), *Carrying First Nations Futures and Traditions Forward*, speaks directly to the mandate of the Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre (Resource Centre).

By providing an education that First Nations youth can use to build their lives and make positive contributions, First Nations schools are inspiring better futures for their communities and the families within them. The Resource Centre is honoured to be a part of this work, supporting First Nations educational and political leadership, administrators, Elders, teachers, and other school staff with holistic resources and services that help create a classroom environment that addresses the diverse needs of First Nations students throughout the province.

The theme *Carrying First Nations Futures and Traditions Forward* may sound simple. But when you realize the rainbow of knowledge and practices needed to meet the goals and challenges of providing quality education and holistic student services and supports in an ever-changing world, the complexity of the task becomes apparent.

With over 50 workshops at #CKP2026, the theme is broad enough to encompass the wide range of educational opportunities offered. From traditional games and sky stories to cutting-edge technology and software seminars, #CKP2026 will give attendees teachings, tips, techniques, and understandings they can take back to the classroom to improve the student experience.

Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre acknowledges that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe (Ojibwe), Anisininewak (Ojibwe-Cree), Dakota Oyate, Denesuline, and Ininiwak (Cree), and homeland of the Red River Métis.

Aaniin/Boozhoo, Wajeeye, Han/Hau, Wotziye/Edlanet'e, Tānsi, Hello!

Message from the Executive Director

Welcome to Circle of Knowledge & Practices 2026!

This year's theme, *Carrying First Nations Futures and Traditions Forward*, reflects the Resource Centre's goal of building positive tomorrows for First Nations.

First Nations teachings, philosophies, and daily life are rooted in the languages and traditions of the people. As the generations currently tending our cultures and languages, we have the responsibility to revitalize and reclaim our voice and traditions. At the Resource Centre, we believe it is crucial that future generations can hear the words, prayers, and songs of their ancestors. We also recognize that learning is a lifelong journey, and we are proud that #CKP2026 features workshops and teachings that promote immersive learning and celebrate First Nations' unique heritages, diverse cultures, and achievements.

The Resource Centre applauds the accomplishments of member schools and the commitment of their leaders, administrators, and staff to carry First Nations futures and traditions into the future. This reinvigoration of First Nations languages and cultures reflects the mandate of the Resource Centre and our passion to help First Nations improve education for all learners seeking a good life.

Thank you for being a part of #CKP2026.

Charles Cochrane
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MFNERC
Ebb and Flow First Nation



Conference Overview

Wednesday, October 7

6:00 pm–9:00 pm – Pre-registration (Centennial 4)

Pick up your name tags and conference kits!

1:00 pm–4:00 pm and 6:00 pm–8:00 pm – Trade Exhibitors Set-Up (Wellington Room)

All Conference

Elders' Room (Embassy E)
Tradeshow (Wellington Room)

Day 1 - Thursday, October 8

8:00 am – Pipe Ceremony, Elder Ed Azure (Teepee, East Foyer)

Registration (Centennial 4)
Breakfast (Centennial Ballroom)
Tradeshow (Wellington Room)

9:00 am – Opening Ceremonies and Grand Entry (Centennial Ballroom)

Drum Group – Tootinaowaziibeeng Youth Drum Group
Opening Prayer – Elder Ed Azure
Master of Ceremonies – Dennis Chartrand

9:15 am – Welcoming Remarks

Charles Cochrane, MFNERC Executive Director
First Nations Leadership and VIPs

9:45 am–10:30 am – Keynote Speaker

Kevin Chief, Minegoziibe Anishinabe

10:30 am–10:45 am – Health Break

10:45 am–12:00 pm – Workshops, Session 1

12:00 pm–1:10 pm – Lunch (Centennial Ballroom)

Entertainment – Jerry Sereda

1:10 pm–2:25 pm – Workshops, Session 2

2:25 pm–2:45 pm – Health Break

2:45 pm–4:00 pm – Workshops, Session 3

Day 2 - Friday, October 9

8:00 am – Pipe Ceremony, Elder Ed Azure (Teepee, East Foyer)

Registration (Centennial 4)
Breakfast (Centennial Ballroom)
Tradeshow (Wellington Room)

9:10 am–10:30 am – Workshops, Session 4

10:30 am–10:45 am – Health Break

10:45 am–12:00 pm – Workshops, Session 5

12:00 pm–1:10 pm – Lunch (Centennial Ballroom)

Entertainment – United Thunder

1:10 pm–2:25 pm – Workshops, Session 6

2:25 pm–2:45 pm – Health Break

2:45 pm – Closing Ceremonies (Centennial Ballroom)

Closing Remarks – Charles Cochrane, Executive Director
Closing Prayer – Elder Ed Azure
Closing Song – Tootinaowaziibeeng Youth Drum Group

Keynote Speaker

Kevin Chief

Thursday, October 8 – 9:45 am–10:30 am (Centennial Ballroom)



Kevin Chief brings a commitment to community and leadership development through his dedication to education, training, and employment. He is the principal of Chief Partnerships Manitoba. Kevin is currently community ambassador for the Southern Chiefs' Organization, chairperson for Neeginan Education, Training and Employment Services, and senior advisor at True North Sports + Entertainment.

Born and raised in Winnipeg's North End, Kevin has considerable public sector and community experience. He served as a member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, representing Point Douglas, and was appointed Minister of Children and Youth Opportunities in 2012, Minister Responsible for Relations With the City of Winnipeg in 2013, and Minister of Jobs and the Economy in 2014. Following public service, Kevin was the vice-

president of the Business Council of Manitoba. He is the co-founder of the Winnipeg Aboriginal Sport Achievement Centre.

Kevin and his wife Melanie have three young sons: Hayden, Kellan, and Daxton. He is a member of Minegoziibe Anishinabe (Pine Creek First Nation) and is also known as a "high steppin'" square dancer with the Norman Chief Memorial Dancers. The name of his memoir is *With a Name Like Chief: Reflections on Recovery and Identity Through the Seven Sacred Teachings*.

Master of Ceremonies

Dennis Chartrand

Dennis Chartrand grew up in Duck Bay, Manitoba, and is deeply connected to Anishinaabemowin, viewing it as a vital source of First Nations expression and cultural identity and a means of healing from colonial impacts. Dennis has travelled and shared varied experiences with communities, organizations, and institutions as a performer (Choom), radio host of NCI FM's Da Minos Music Lodge, and facilitator for the Returning to Spirit program. Dennis loves contributing to the advancement of First Nations languages and wellness. Many have enjoyed Dennis's personal approach, encouragement, style, humour, and interactive creativity.



Drum Group

Tootinaowaziibeeng Youth Drum Group

Opening and Closing Ceremonies

The youth drum group from Tootinaowaziibeeng Treaty Reserve (TTR) started up three years ago with the help of TTR Jordan's Principle, TTR CFS Prevention, and their instructor, Knowledge Keeper Robert Severight. So many boys were interested that the group was split between the teens and the younger boys.

Ten younger boys and ten teens regularly drum, gathering every two weeks to practise their songs. The boys have made three drums with Robert's guidance and help. The older boys' drum group, the Tootinaowaziibeeng Senior (Youth) Drum Group, have travelled as far as Red Lake, Ontario, to drum. They continue to receive invites to drum for special occasions and feel honoured to attend special events to share what they have learned.



Entertainment

Jerry Sereda

Thursday, October 8 – 12:00 pm–1:10 pm (Centennial Ballroom)



Jerry Sereda doesn't just sing country music; he lives the stories he tells. A proud Indigenous artist from Manitoba, Jerry has built a career on a foundation of heart, grit, and an unwavering commitment to authentic storytelling. Fresh off being named the Manitoba Country Music Association's 2025 Indigenous Country Artist of the Year, Jerry is stepping into his most definitive chapter yet.

Jerry's trajectory is marked by a consistent presence at the top of the charts, including multiple number-one singles on the Indigenous Music Countdown and the Canadian Indie Country Countdown. He has shared stages with country titans like Johnny Reid and Jason Blaine, earning a reputation as one of the hardest-working performers on the Canadian circuit.

Beyond the stage, Jerry's impact is felt through his commitment to community and education. Holding a master's degree in education, he is a dedicated mentor, focusing on decolonizing learning frameworks and nurturing the next generation of Indigenous talent. For Jerry, music is more than a career—it's a tool for empowerment, a celebration of heritage, and a bridge between the strength of the past and the promise of the future.

United Thunder

Friday, October 9 – 12:00 pm–1:10 pm (Centennial Ballroom)

United Thunder is a high-energy Indigenous square dance group based in Winnipeg, with roots in the rural Manitoba communities of Sandy Bay, Ebb and Flow, Crane River, Pine Creek, Sagkeeng, and The Pas, as well as Pelican Narrows, Saskatchewan.

Together, the dancers showcase a dynamic blend of traditional Red River jigging and square dancing, infused with modern variations of steps, helping to preserve and celebrate the tradition of jigging.



Trade Show Vendors

Wellington Room

Don't forget to stop in at this year's trade show in the Wellington Room. Explore an impressive collection of art, beadwork, apparel, and educational resources.

Whether you're looking to network with like-minded individuals or discover unique products, there's something for everyone.

Don't miss the opportunity to learn, connect, browse, and support.

Castlemain – First Nations Child and Family Services Jordan’s Principle	MANTiC Indigenous Metaphysical
Convoy–Westcan 3D Printers, Industrial Supplies and Fasteners	Mazinaate Inc.
Cree Craft	Native Souls and Crafts
Dene Cree Designs Inc.	Norma’s Beadwork
Dreamcatcher Promotions	Red River College Polytechnic
Elizabeth Williams	Shoni Cree’s
Free Bird Cree-ations	Silversmith Craft
GoodMinds	Teekca's Boutique
INAC (Indigenous Nations Apparel Company)	TIPI Insurance Services
Indigenous Reflections	Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba
J & B Crafts	WARNGE
Loretta Ross	Wintergreen Learning Materials

Workshops-at-a-Glance

Day 1 – Thursday, October 8

Session 1, October 8, 10:45 am–12:00 pm

- Anishinaabemowin in Fortnite: The Turtle Island Trials, *Centennial 2*
 - Assessment With Purpose: Beyond IQ Scores and Reports, *Embassy A*
 - Baagak, the Flying Skeleton: Building a Heritage Fair Project Board, *Embassy B*
 - CONNECT: QuickStart Essentials for Teachers, *Kensington Room*
 - Getting Ready for UFLI Foundations, *Centennial 1*
 - Indigenous Languages and Cultures Program Funding, Information Session, *Embassy C*
 - The Land as Our Classroom, *Embassy D*
 - Land-Based Kit and Early Learning Land-Based Support Document, *Carlton Room*
 - PowerSchool for Teachers: Basic Training, *Regency Room*
 - Supporting Deaf History, Culture, and Language to Strengthen First Nations Traditions and Futures, *Embassy F*
- ### Session 2, October 8, 1:10 pm–2:25 pm
- Canva for the Classroom: Creating, Assigning, and Engaging Students, *Kensington Room*
 - From Code to Creation: Teaching Robotics and Coding Across Middle School, Junior High, and High School, *Centennial 2*
 - From Framework to Classroom: Bringing the Renewed Manitoba Science Curriculum to Life with AI and First Nations Perspectives, *Embassy B*
 - Healing With the Gifts of Kikawinaw: Mindfulness and Self-Regulation in the Classroom, *Embassy C*
 - Introduction to the New Provincial Grade 9 Math Curriculum and the Two Courses, *Embassy A*

- PowerSchool for Teachers: Basic Training, *Regency Room*
 - Renewing Our Spirits Through Harvesting, *Carlton Room*
 - Supporting Deaf History, Culture, and Language to Strengthen First Nations Traditions and Futures, *Embassy F*
 - UFLI Foundations: Steps 1–3, *Centennial 1*
 - Why Do We Screen? Vision and Hearing Screening Explored, *Embassy D*
- ### Session 3, October 8, 2:45 pm–4:00 pm
- Creating an Inclusive Learning Environment for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students, *Carlton Room*
 - Creating Evaluation Processes for School Administrators, *Embassy D*
 - Culturally Relevant Adaptive Functioning Assessment and Children’s Disability Services in Manitoba First Nations, *Embassy C*
 - From Code to Creation: Teaching Robotics and Coding Across Middle School, Junior High, and High School, *Centennial 2*
 - Gaagiigidodaa Nijjiwaaganak, Let’s Chat, My Friends, *Embassy A*
 - Now You Hear Me, Now You Don’t: The Hidden Learning Barrier of Ear Infections, *Embassy F*
 - PowerSchool for Teachers: Writing Report Cards, *Regency Room*
 - Schools Name Project, *Embassy B*
 - UFLI Foundations: Steps 4–5, *Centennial 1*
 - Wapaskwa Virtual Collegiate and Shaping Students’ Futures With Xello, *Kensington Room*

Day 2 – Friday, October 9

All-Day Workshop (Off-Site)

MFNERC/MFNSS Double Ball Mini-Tournament, *Soccer and Baseball Complex, 3412 Raleigh Street, Winnipeg MB*

Session 4, October 9, 9:10 am–10:25 am

Baagak, the Flying Skeleton: Building a Heritage Fair Project Board, *Embassy B*

Connecting Land and Language Through ASL, *Carlton Room*

First Nations Perspectives in the Renewed Science Curriculum, *Embassy A*

Implementing Reading Eggs in the Literacy Classroom, *Kensington Room*

Planting by the Moon and Ideas for Starting a School Garden Club, Part I, *Embassy F*

PowerSchool for Teachers: Writing Report Cards, *Regency Room*

Renewing Plans: Science Curriculum, *Centennial 4*

Responsive Classroom Morning Meetings: Warm Greetings and Sharing Moments, *Centennial 3*

Speech Sounds for Speech-Language Educational Assistants, *Embassy C*

Student Engagement in MFNSS First Nations High Schools: A Review of Data and Activities to Address Student Attendance and Connection, *Centennial 2*

UFLI Foundations: Step 6, *Centennial 1*

Why Do We Screen? Vision and Hearing Screening Explored, *Embassy D*

Session 5, October 9, 10:45 am–12:00 pm

Building Lifelong Learners Through Inquiry: The Big6 Student Research Model, *Embassy A*

Connecting Land and Language Through ASL, *Carlton Room*

Foundations of Resource Programming, *Centennial 2*

Healing With the Gifts of Kikawinaw: Mindfulness and Self-Regulation in the Classroom, *Embassy D*

Introduction to the New Provincial Grade 9 Math Curriculum and the Two Courses, *Embassy C*

Mathletics – The Differentiated Math Classroom, *Kensington Room*

Planting by the Moon and Ideas for Starting a School Garden Club, Part II, *Embassy F*

PowerSchool for Administrators: Open Q&A, *Regency Room*

Renewing Plans: Science Curriculum, *Centennial 4*

Responsive Classroom Morning Meetings: Group Activity and Morning Message, *Centennial 3*

Schools Name Project, *Embassy B*

UFLI Foundations: Step 7, *Centennial 1*

Session 6, October 9, 1:10 pm–2:25 pm

AI Fundamentals and Prompt Engineering 101, *Regency Room*

Augmentative and Alternative Communication in Action, *Carlton Room*

Bleeding Disorders and Osteogenesis Imperfecta (Brittle Bone Disease): Health Care Planning, *Embassy A*

Embracing the A in STEAM, *Centennial 4*

Exploring and Implementing Curriculum With Occupational Therapists, *Embassy F*

First Nations Perspectives in the Renewed Science Curriculum, *Embassy B*

Foundations of Resource Programming, *Centennial 2*

Healing With the Gifts of Kikawinaw: Mindfulness and Self-Regulation in the Classroom, *Embassy D*

Movement Break and Indoor Recess Ideas, *Centennial 3*

Mathseeds – Engaging the 21st-Century Learner, *Kensington Room*

Safety Planning: Supporting Student Well-Being in First Nations Schools, *Embassy C*

UFLI Foundations: Step 8, *Centennial 1*

Off-Site Workshop

All-Day Session – October 9 – 10:00 am–4:00 pm

MFNERC/MFNSS Double Ball Mini-Tournament

Location: Soccer and Baseball Complex, 3412 Raleigh Street, Winnipeg MB
Presenter(s): Michael Flett
Audience: Physical Education Teachers, All Who Work With Students

Maximum 40 participants.

Participants will explore the First Nations game of double ball and learn how traditional games support the four domains of the learning circle: physical, intellectual, social/emotional, and spiritual. Participants will gain cultural knowledge and develop a greater understanding and respect for the histories, cultures, traditional values, and contemporary lifestyles of First Nations peoples.

The presentation will highlight how First Nations games promote positive self-identity and self-image, pride, and overall well-being among youth. Using a holistic approach that combines a brief presentation with active participation and physical activity, attendees will engage in experiential learning and develop informed perspectives on matters relating to First Nations peoples. This workshop is preparation for the 1st Annual MFNERC/MFNSS Double Ball Tournament to be held next year. It will be open to all Grades 5–9 students in MFNERC/MFNSS schools..

Lunch and beverages will be provided.

Registration: To register please sign up at the information booth located outside Centennial Ballroom.

Transportation: The bus will leave from Victoria Inn at 10:00 am from the back entrance near Centennial Ballroom. The bus will depart the sports complex at 3:15 pm to return to Victoria Inn.

If you have any questions, please contact Michael Flett, MFNERC Land-Based Physical Education Facilitator, michael@mfnerc.com

Workshops

Session 1 – October 8 – 10:45 am–12:00 pm

Anishinaabemowin in Fortnite: The Turtle Island Trials

Centennial 2
Presenter(s): Karl Hildebrandt
Audience: Administrators, Educators

Traditional language education often struggles to engage youth living in digital-first environments. Turtle Island Trials (Manajiiwewin Mino Bemaadiziwin) bridges this gap by embedding Anishinaabemowin learning directly into Fortnite via Unreal Editor for Fortnite. Developed as a flagship initiative funded by the Government of Canada, this weapon-free, story-driven project subverts standard battle-royale mechanics to centre on Indigenous pedagogy and Elder teachings.

In this hands-on workshop, participants will explore how language functions as a core mechanic rather than an added quiz layer. Guided by the Seven Sacred Teachings, gameplay requires players to comprehend spoken audio cues to solve environmental puzzles and restore balance to the land. Attendees will experience a live playthrough of the map, examine the underlying pedagogical design framework, and learn how gaming platforms such as Unreal Editor for Fortnite can be adapted for classroom-based, community-led narrative design.

Assessment With Purpose: Beyond IQ Scores and Reports

Embassy A
Presenter(s): Erin Paupanekis, Tia Nienhuysen, Bernice Rundle-Hotomani
Audience: Teachers

An overview of the psycho-educational assessment process will be explored, including important considerations before, during, and after assessment. Learn how to look beyond IQ scores and reports by using assessment findings to guide meaningful next steps.

Baagak, the Flying Skeleton: Building a Heritage Fair Project Board

Embassy B
Presenter(s): Jason Bone
Audience: All

A heritage fair project board on Baagak (The Flying Skeleton) will be built by using the teacher's workbook available on the Resource Centre's website. Baagak is one of the guardians of the forest. By focusing on relationships between Anishinaabeg (humans) and their environments, stories such as those featuring Baagak illustrate how Anishinaabeg can live in harmony with others, the land, and the spirit world. These stories remind Anishinaabeg how to find help when needed and gain an understanding of what constitutes identity, community, and heritage.

CONNECT: QuickStart Essentials for Teachers

Kensington Room
Presenter(s): Quincy Wai
Audience: Teachers

Join eLearning specialist Quincy Wai for an introductory demonstration of the Resource Centre's CONNECT environment. CONNECT is a central hub that houses all your educational applications and links and lets you use a single username and password for all your work logins. Students and school staff are provided full access to the Microsoft Office 365 app suite and the PowerSchool SIS, which can be accessed anywhere at any time, with internet connectivity. If student devices are equipped with a webcam, they can log in without a username and password using CONNECT QuickCards. Classroom teachers have the added benefit of curating and assigning designated educational apps to their students' CONNECT homepages.

Getting Ready for UFLI Foundations

Centennial 1
Presenter(s): Richelle Lovegrove, Gabrielle Peterson, Margaret Monias, Nadine Hart
Audience: K–3 Educators

Learn about the foundational practices that support effective UFLI Foundations instruction. Participants will explore the Sound Wall, the Getting Ready lessons, and explicit letter formation instruction. Through demonstrations and hands-on practice, participants will learn how these routines build students' understanding of speech sounds, letter-sound connections, and correct letter formation. This session prepares participants for the UFLI lesson routines explored in other conference sessions.

Indigenous Languages and Cultures Program Funding, Information Session

Embassy C
Presenter(s): Barry Bone
Audience: Education Directors, Leadership, Principals

This session will provide practical guidance on how First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities can access funding provided by the Department of Canadian Heritage for Indigenous language and culture initiatives. Learn how the Indigenous Languages and Cultures Program can support community-led language planning and immersion, land-based learning, Elder and Knowledge Keeper involvement, teacher training, curriculum development, documentation, recording, and the creation of culturally relevant resources.

The presenter will guide participants through the funding application process, including program objectives, eligibility, project design, budgets, required documentation, timelines, and reporting expectations. The workshop will help First Nations develop strong, culturally grounded proposals that reflect local priorities and support the long-term revitalization, maintenance, and intergenerational transmission of Indigenous language and culture knowledge.

The Land as Our Classroom

Embassy D
Presenter(s): Melody Dumas
Audience: Educational Assistants, Teachers

Come and explore land-based learning and First Nations ways of knowing. This session goes beyond simple outdoor play to regard the natural environment and traditional territories as active teachers. Instead of simply learning about nature, participants will discover how to guide students to learn from it. The session provides practical, cross-curricular tools like seasonal tracking, outdoor art, and land-based lesson planning. Attendees will leave with a clear roadmap to improve student well-being, build environmental empathy, and integrate meaningful cultural teachings.

Land-Based Kit and Early Learning Land-Based Support Document

Carlton Room
Presenter(s): Diane Powderhorn, Sophie Boulanger
Audience: All

The *Land-Based Kit* and *Early Learning Land-Based Support Document* are resources that revitalize and strengthen our stories through First Nations ways of knowing, being, and doing. Land-based activities in these documents infuse the beliefs and values in First Nation cultures and languages. The spirit in First Nation stories guides practices that build a strong foundation for children, youth, and others who participate in these land-based activities.

PowerSchool for Teachers: Basic Training

Regency Room
Presenter(s): Aimee McDonald, Benjamin Ekaluo, Vanessa Sinclair
Audience: Teachers

This condensed and beginner-friendly session is perfect for teachers new to PowerSchool SIS. Learn how to confidently navigate the system, enter attendance, access key student information, make class lists, and complete report cards. No prior experience is required. If you have a laptop, bring it!

Supporting Deaf History, Culture, and Language to Strengthen First Nations Traditions and Futures

Embassy F
Presenter(s): Vernon Jebb, Emil Easter
Audience: School Staff

Learn about notable events in Deaf history and how they have impacted Deaf people. Discover the richness of Deaf culture and learn how to become a true ally. This session will explore how sign language began and evolved over time on this place called Mother Earth. By understanding Deaf culture and values, teachers can empower First Nations Deaf and Hard of Hearing children to fully access their own languages and cultures. Attend to become an educated ally and help First Nations Deaf and Hard of Hearing children achieve mino-pimatisiwin—the good life.

Session 2 – October 8 – 1:10 pm–2:25 pm

Canva for the Classroom: Creating, Assigning, and Engaging Students

Kensington Room
Presenter(s): Quincy Wai
Audience: Teachers

Learn how educators can fully leverage Canva's education features through the Resource Centre's CONNECT single sign-on environment. Participants will log in to the provided devices and learn how to access classroom-focused tools; design and assign student activities; and manage learning tasks directly in Canva. By the end of the session, educators will understand how Canva supports creativity, saves time, and increases student engagement while fitting seamlessly into their everyday teaching.

From Code to Creation: Teaching Robotics and Coding Across Middle School, Junior High, and High School

Centennial 2
Presenter(s): Michael Li, John McLean
Audience: Teachers

This session explores effective approaches for teaching robotics and computer coding to students from middle school through to high school. Robotics provides an engaging, hands-on pathway for students to develop computational thinking, problem-solving, creativity, collaboration, and engineering skills while connecting classroom learning to real-world applications. The presenters will share age-appropriate strategies for introducing programming concepts, robotics systems, sensors, automation, and engineering design through project-based learning.

Examples of classroom projects, instructional strategies, assessment approaches, and interdisciplinary connections will demonstrate how robotics and coding can support STEM learning while preparing students for future academic and career pathways. Participants will leave with practical ideas for creating engaging robotics and coding experiences that move students from simply using technology to becoming confident creators.

From Framework to Classroom: Bringing the Renewed Manitoba Science Curriculum to Life With AI and First Nations Perspectives

Embassy B
Presenter(s): Alberto Mansilla
Audience: Teachers

Learn how Manitoba’s renewed K–10 science curriculum can be brought to life through the meaningful integration of artificial intelligence and First Nations understandings. Participants will discover practical strategies for connecting the Manitoba Framework for Learning, the curriculum’s five strands, “big ideas” of science, and learning objectives to engaging, inquiry-based classroom experiences. Through classroom examples and AI-enhanced planning tools, educators will learn how technology and First Nations Knowledge can work together to create authentic, inclusive, and future-ready science learning.

Healing With the Gifts of Kikawinaw: Mindfulness and Self-Regulation in the Classroom

Embassy C
Presenter(s): Samantha Brown, Chantell Neff
Audience: Administrators, Educational Assistants, Teachers

Mindfulness is a way to help students de-stress and regulate their nervous system. When their nervous system is regulated, students are calmer and more rational, giving teachers easier access to the students ability to think and learn. First Nations ways of knowing and being have always held the answers to healing ourselves and our people. This session will explore First Nations perspectives on mindfulness and regulation strategies, drawing on the gifts given by Kikawinaw, Mother Nature. Presenters will share practical classroom strategies, including hands-on, activity-based demonstrations, a lesson from MindUP, and other exciting ways to Indigenize mindfulness-based social-emotional learning.

Introduction to the New Provincial Grade 9 Math Curriculum and the Two Courses

Embassy A
Presenter(s): Chun Ong; Rory McIntyre, Curriculum and Assessment Consultant, Manitoba Education
Audience: K–12 Educators

Grade 9 Mathematics is being redesigned to provide students with a full year of math learning through two sequential courses taken over consecutive semesters: Grade 9 Mathematics I and Grade 9 Mathematics II. The new curriculum will undergo pilot and voluntary implementation in the 2026–2027 school year, with full implementation planned for 2027–2028. A major change is the addition of a new financial literacy strand included in both courses. All K–12 teachers are welcome to attend this informational session, featuring a curriculum and assessment consultant from Manitoba Education.

PowerSchool for Teachers: Basic Training

Regency Room
Presenter(s): Aimee McDonald, Benjamin Ekalu, Vanessa Sinclair
Audience: Teachers

This condensed and beginner-friendly session is perfect for teachers new to PowerSchool SIS. Learn how to confidently navigate the system, enter attendance, access key student information, make class lists, and complete report cards. No prior experience is required. Have a laptop? Bring it!

Renewing Our Spirits Through Harvesting

Carlton Room
Presenter(s): M’Shall Daniels, Geraldine Campbell, Michelle Jonasson
Audience: Administrators, Educators, Language and Culture Teachers

Learn strategies for creating meaningful learning experiences by integrating cultural teachings on plant and medicine harvesting through land-based, language, and social studies perspectives. Participants will examine approaches that support student success, including assessment practices that reflect authentic learning on the land. Students should develop the ability to identify traditional plants and medicines in their communities, in part because it fosters recognition of First Nations strengths and gifts. Education is a catalyst for change, and it is essential to collaborate in building an approach that honours culture, language, and First Nations Knowledge.

Supporting Deaf History, Culture, and Language to Strengthen First Nations Traditions and Futures

Embassy F
Presenter(s): Vernon Jebb, Emil Easter
Audience: School Staff

Learn about notable events in Deaf history and how they have impacted Deaf people. Discover the richness of Deaf culture and learn how to become a true ally. This session will explore how sign language began and evolved on this place called Mother Earth. By understanding Deaf culture and values, teachers can empower First Nations Deaf and Hard of Hearing children to fully access their own languages and cultures. Attend to become an educated ally and help First Nations Deaf and Hard of Hearing children achieve mino-pimatisiwin—the good life.

UFLI Foundations: Steps 1–3

Centennial 1
Presenter(s): Bonnie Monias, Richelle Lovegrove, Margaret Monias, Nadine Hart
Audience: K–3 Educators

This session introduces UFLI Foundations, Steps 1–3: Phonemic Awareness, Visual Drill, and Auditory Drill. Participants will see each step modelled and practise the routines. The session will focus on how these short, explicit activities strengthen students' ability to hear sounds in words and connect sounds with letters. Participants will leave with practical strategies they can use during daily UFLI instruction.

Why Do We Screen? Vision and Hearing Screening Explored

Embassy D
Presenter(s): Sarah MacEwan, Christina Valiquette, Emily Dawber, Jeffrey Brightnose, Carter Dyrkacz, Christopher Bushie, Clayton Munroe, Tammy Ducharme, Thomas Sayese
Audience: Teachers, Educational Assistants, Resource Teachers, School Administrators

This presentation combines the educational and clinical expertise of the Blindness and Visual Impairment (BVI) and Audiology teams to highlight the Resource Centre's school screening programs. Presenters will give live demonstrations of both vision and hearing screening, explain the importance of school screenings, and teach attendees how to refer a student for BVI or Audiology Services with MFNERC.

Attendees will learn several key warning signs of vision and hearing loss to watch for in the classroom, as well as essential classroom-based accommodations that can make school accessible to all learners. Through this workshop, attendees will understand the importance of school screenings and become familiar with how the Resource Centre supports students with vision and hearing loss.

Session 3 – October 8 – 2:45 pm–4:00 pm

Creating an Inclusive Learning Environment for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students

Carlton Room
Presenter(s): Godofredo “Gaddy” Padagdag, Francine Jebb
Audience: Educational Assistants, Jordan’s Principle Staff, Teachers

Every student deserves a classroom where they can fully access learning, communicate, participate, and belong. This workshop will empower teachers, educational assistants, school administrators, and Jordan's Principle staff with practical knowledge and strategies for creating truly inclusive and accessible learning environments for deaf and hard of hearing (DHH) students. Participants will explore the various degrees and types of hearing loss and how they may affect speech, language development, literacy, communication, and classroom participation.

The workshop will highlight essential accommodations and practices, including effective communication strategies, and emphasize belonging, equity, and student voice. Participants will learn how to recognize individual communication needs, collaborate with families and support professionals, and empower DHH students to advocate for themselves and their learning. Most importantly, this workshop challenges educators to move from simply including DHH students to creating classrooms where they are seen, heard, valued, and fully included. Small changes in teaching practices can remove significant barriers and create powerful opportunities for every student to succeed.

Creating Evaluation Processes for School Administrators

Embassy D
Presenter(s): Kevin Nabess
Audience: School Administrators

Evaluations are an important tool that all administrators use to measure staff growth and ensure performance remains at a desired high level. School administrators often have to evaluate a wide variety of staff with different positions. Accomplishing this can be a daunting, overwhelming task. This presentation shares a method that eliminates the anxiety evaluations may cause and offers an easy process to follow in preparation for this year and those that follow. Attendance will be taken for later reference for a potential one-hour contact time.

Culturally Relevant Adaptive Functioning Assessment and Children’s Disability Services in Manitoba First Nations

Embassy C
Presenter(s): Erin Paupanekis, Chantal Wiebe, Micheline Viallet, Jennifer Chen
Audience: First Nations Leadership, Education Directors, Principals, Teachers

This session presents research conducted in partnership with the Resource Centre to develop a culturally relevant assessment tool on adaptive functioning for use with First Nations children and youth living in their home communities. The presenters will share clinical considerations for assessing First Nations students and outline practical next steps for culturally relevant assessment of adaptive functioning. The session will also provide information on the expansion of Children’s DisABILITY into First Nations.

From Code to Creation: Teaching Robotics and Coding Across Middle School, Junior High, and High School

Centennial 2
Presenter(s): Michael Li, John McLean
Audience: Teachers

This session explores effective approaches for teaching robotics and computer coding to students from middle school through to high school. Robotics provides an engaging, hands-on pathway for students to develop computational thinking, problem-solving, creativity, collaboration, and engineering skills while connecting classroom learning to real-world applications. The presenters will share age-appropriate strategies for introducing programming concepts, robotics systems, sensors, automation, and engineering design through project-based learning.

Examples of classroom projects, instructional strategies, assessment approaches, and interdisciplinary connections will demonstrate how robotics and coding can support

STEM learning while preparing students for future academic and career pathways. Participants will leave with practical ideas for creating engaging robotics and coding experiences that move students from simply using technology to becoming confident creators.

Gaagiigidodaa Niijiwaaganak, Let’s Chat, My Friends

Embassy A
Presenter(s): Judy Doolittle, Kaitlyn Nenookaasi Rutledge, Marcus Ammesmaki, Zackorion Laronge
Audience: Language Instructors

This session explores grammar and how to move from foundational language learning to conversations as learners work toward second-language acquisition and fluency. Presenters will share patterns that form the core building blocks and explore sentence structure, specifically the orderly arrangement of words, phrases, and clauses for constructing grammatically correct simple sentences. The sentence structure of First Nations languages is distinct from that of English.

Through various activities, presenters will demonstrate an approach that supports children’s prior knowledge and their next steps in learning. Increasing intensity through storytelling activities, interactive games, and the use of props to bring a story to life will support language skills and, most of all, fluency. Scaffold learning supports learners’ cognitive and linguistic development, which is crucial to their language learning. The intent is to support the development of conversational language skills by guiding students through a series of steps to bolster their linguistic learning.

Now You Hear Me, Now You Don’t: The Hidden Learning Barrier of Ear Infections

Embassy F
Presenter(s): Emily Dawber, Sarah MacEwan
Audience: Educators

Ear infections and fluid buildup are common in school-aged children, with rates significantly higher in remote and northern communities. When a child has fluid in their ears, their hearing can change dramatically from one week to the next. These temporary dips in hearing are often mislabelled as daydreaming, behaviour issues, or selective attention. This session helps educators spot the subtle classroom signs of fluctuating hearing loss and understand its impact on academics and speech. The presenters will share simple, immediate classroom strategies to support students, as well as a clear checklist to help educators identify when children should be seen by a nurse or doctor as soon as possible.

PowerSchool for Teachers: Writing Report Cards

Regency Room
Presenter(s): Aimee McDonald, Benjamin Ekaluo, Vanessa Sinclair
Audience: Teachers

In this practical session, teachers will learn how to efficiently complete report cards using PowerSchool SIS. Discover how to enter marks, write personalized comments, and ensure accuracy across subjects and terms. This session will help streamline your reporting process and reduce end-of-term stress. Have a laptop? Bring it, and be ready to work directly in the system!

Schools Name Project

Embassy B
Presenter(s): Andy Thomas
Audience: All

Ever wondered how a First Nations school acquired its name? What is the history of the school's name? The Schools Name Project has explored how First Nations decided on names for their schools. The project is grounded in the concept of community history projects. This session will feature community interviews and the history of how First Nations school came to be named. Attendance at this session can also lead to having your First Nation included in this project.

UFLI Foundations: Steps 4–5

Centennial 1
Presenter(s): Bonnie Monias, Richelle Lovegrove, Margaret Monias, Nadine Hart
Audience: K–3 Educators

This session focuses on Step 4: Blending Drill and Step 5: New Concept. Participants will learn how the blending drill builds accurate, automatic word reading and how new phonics concepts are explicitly introduced. Through modelling and guided practice, participants will experience the routines from the student's perspective and learn how to deliver them clearly and efficiently in the classroom.

Wapaskwa Virtual Collegiate and Shaping Students' Futures With Xello

Kensington Room
Presenter(s): Danton Wilson-Swampy, William Flett
Audience: Principals, Teachers, Educational Assistants

Wapaskwa Virtual Collegiate will demonstrate one of its educational tools, Xello. Xello is software that helps students shape their future through a series of questionnaires. Using the answers provided, the software recommends careers based on geographic location, provides salary estimates, and offers an education plan to achieve the desired job. The salary estimates allow student users to create a budget based on the cost of living and their desired lifestyle.

Session 4 – October 9 – 9:10 am–10:25 am

Baagak, the Flying Skeleton: Building a Heritage Fair Project Board

Embassy B
Presenter(s): Jason Bone
Audience: All

A heritage fair project board on Baagak (The Flying Skeleton) will be built by using the teacher's workbook available on the Resource Centre's website. Baagak is one of the guardians of the forest. By focusing on relationships between Anishinaabeg (humans) and their environments, stories such as those featuring Baagak illustrate how Anishinaabeg can live in harmony with others, the land, and the spirit world. These stories remind Anishinaabeg how to find help when needed and to understand what constitutes identity, community, and heritage.

Connecting Land and Language Through ASL

Carlton Room
Presenter(s): Via Jade Merasty, Destiny Cordell
Audience: School Staff

Learn how to incorporate American Sign Language (ASL) into education and discover practical ways to use ASL when interacting with deaf and hard of hearing students. This training covers land-based vocabulary, including animals and seasons, as well as beginner conversational skills for the school environment.

First Nations Perspectives in the Renewed Science Curriculum

Embassy A
Presenter(s): Rockford McKay
Audience: Administrators, K–10 Teachers

This session provides a comprehensive overview of Manitoba's renewed K–10 science framework with a focus on integrating First Nations Knowledge systems into schools and classrooms. Participants will explore the core structure of the curriculum, including its five strands, 14 “big ideas,” global competencies, and specific learning outcomes.

Meaningful lesson planning that honours Indigenous Peoples' connection to the natural world will be explored. Participants will learn how to weave land-based education and community-based perspectives directly into science units. To streamline this process, participants will learn how to use modern digital tools like MagicSchool AI to efficiently design culturally rich, standards-aligned lessons and assessments. Participants will leave with example strategies that foster inclusive, holistic learning environments for all students.

Implementing Reading Eggs in the Literacy Classroom

Kensington Room
Presenter(s): Melissa Thomas, Evelyn Cameron, Jessica Daniels
Audience: Administrators, K–8 Educators

Teachers who have been to a Reading Eggs introductory session will benefit the most from this workshop. As will administrators who wish to support teachers as they implement Reading Eggs into their classrooms. This session allows participants to convert “practice into practical” as they explore a variety of strategies and review sample lessons that incorporate Reading Eggs solutions in classroom routines.

Planting by the Moon and Ideas for Starting a School Garden Club, Part I

Embassy F
Presenter(s): Shirli Ewanchuk; Danelle Bradshaw, Student Services Teacher, Louis Riel School Division
Audience: All those interested in gardening with students

This two-part workshop is offered during CKP sessions 4 and 5. Part I covers the Indigenous principles of planting by the moon phases and provides ideas and processes for setting up a garden club that meets regularly throughout the school year. Teaching gardening skills is teaching survival skills! We invite you to join us and have fun. No experience is required.

PowerSchool for Teachers: Writing Report Cards

Regency Room
Presenter(s): Aimee McDonald, Benjamin Ekaluo, Vanessa Sinclair
Audience: Teachers

In this practical session, teachers will learn how to efficiently complete report cards using PowerSchool SIS. Discover how to enter marks, write personalized comments, and ensure accuracy across subjects and terms. This session will help streamline your reporting process and reduce end-of-term stress. If you have a laptop, bring it, and be ready to work directly in the system!

Renewing Plans: Science Curriculum

Centennial 4
Presenter(s): Jennifer Garson
Audience: Administrators, Education Directors, Resource Teachers, Teachers

Implementation of the K–10 renewed science curriculum begins this school year. Each workshop participant will receive the Curriculum at a Glance to help them navigate the Framework for Learning site and its grade-level learning outcomes. Participants will see how the curriculum has been reworked to ensure science programs reflect individual First Nations schools and communities.

Responsive Classroom Morning Meetings: Warm Greetings and Sharing Moments

Centennial 3
Presenter(s): Jonathan Courchene, Theresa Henderson
Audience: K–6 School Educators

Start every school day with joy, connection, and positive energy! A Responsive Classroom Morning Meeting is a quick, 15–30-minute space where students and teachers build community, a sense of belonging, and readiness for learning. Each meeting includes four simple steps: (1) A warm greeting, (2) a sharing moment, (3) a fun group activity, and (4) a morning message. This workshop will review steps 1 and 2, with many hands-on activities for educators to participate in.

Morning Meetings are easy to personalize. You can include elements of any subject—math puzzles, science questions, language arts prompts, social studies sparks—and keep learning playful and meaningful. They also offer a wonderful way to honour First Nations languages. You can include greetings, vocabulary, or short activities in the language, helping students feel proud, connected, and culturally grounded. Morning Meetings are simple to run, joyful to join, and set the perfect tone for a great school day.

Speech Sounds for Speech-Language Educational Assistants

Embassy C
Presenter(s): Ashley Courchene, Kiersten Holmstrom, Annie Nienhuysen, Megan Guimond
Audience: Resource Teachers, Speech-Language Educational Assistants

This session equips speech-language educational assistants with the knowledge to support students working toward speech sound goals. Participants will learn basic speech sound anatomy, including the roles of the lips, tongue, teeth, and palate in speech production. The session will share activities that promote high numbers of practice trials. Participants will also learn how to implement three treatment plans and collect data.

Student Engagement in MFNSS First Nations High Schools: A Review of Data and Activities to Address Student Attendance and Connection

Centennial 2
Presenter(s): Charles Fontaine, Kim O’Laney, Kim Martin, Peter Berens
Audience: Educational Assistants, First Nations Members, Guidance Counsellors, 9–2 Teachers, Principals

The irregular attendance of high school students is an ongoing concern. In response to this growing challenge, MFNSS schools, have initiated a student engagement process that includes surveys to determine barriers to regular student attendance. This session will review the survey results and proposed initiatives to support schools going forward.

In addition, a brief review of staff responses thus far will be provided. Approaches from several other educational jurisdictions aimed at encouraging consistent attendance will be covered. This workshop will be interactive with discussion, and participants will be encouraged to share their proactive practices.

UFLI Foundations: Step 6

Centennial 1
Presenter(s): Margaret Monias, Richelle Lovegrove, Nadine Hart, Bonnie Monias
Audience: K–3 Educators

This session focuses on UFLI Foundations Step 6: Word Work, where students apply their phonics knowledge through decoding and encoding. Participants will learn how to use word chains and sound manipulation to help students connect reading and spelling. Through modelling and hands-on practice, participants will explore how changing, adding, and removing sounds and letters strengthen students' understanding of how words work.

Why Do We Screen? Vision and Hearing Screening Explored

Embassy D
Presenter(s): Sarah MacEwan, Christina Valiquette, Emily Dawber, Jeffrey Brightnose, Carter Dyrkacz, Christopher Bushie, Clayton Munroe, Tammy Ducharme, Thomas Sayese
Audience: Teachers, Educational Assistants, Resource Teachers, School Administrators

This presentation combines the educational and clinical expertise of the Blindness and Visual Impairment and Audiology teams to highlight the Resource Centre's school screening programs. Presenters will give live demonstrations of both vision and hearing screening, explain the importance of school screenings, and teach attendees how to refer a student for BVI or audiology services with MFNERC.

Attendees will learn several key warning signs of vision and hearing loss to watch for in the classroom, as well as essential classroom-based accommodations that can make school accessible to all learners. Through this workshop, attendees will understand the importance of school screenings and become familiar with how the Resource Centre supports students with vision and/or hearing loss.

Session 5 – October 9 – 10:45 am–12:00 pm

Building Lifelong Learners Through Inquiry: The Big6 Student Research Model

Embassy A
Presenter(s): Darcy-Anne Thomas
Audience: Teachers

Research skills can and should be developed from an early age. With appropriate guidance, students of all ages can learn to ask questions, find and evaluate information, think critically, and communicate what they have learned. Research develops important thinking skills through a series of connected processes: task definition → information seeking strategies → location and access → use of information → synthesis → evaluation. The knowledge and skills necessary for these processes are embedded in most of the Manitoba curricula. In this presentation, participants will be introduced to a student research model that encompasses the skills students need and presents them in a format teachers can work with.

Connecting Land and Language Through ASL

Carlton Room
Presenter(s): Via Jade Merasty, Destiny Cordell
Audience: School Staff

Learn how to incorporate American Sign Language (ASL) into education and discover practical ways to use ASL when interacting with deaf and hard of hearing students. This training covers land-based vocabulary, including animals and seasons, as well as beginner conversational skills for the school environment.

Foundations of Resource Programming

Centennial 2
Presenter(s): Alma “Orlene” Bernier, Gerald Shaganash, Wanda Einarson, M’Liss Thomas
Audience: Teachers, Educational Assistants, Resource Teachers

Workshop participants will discover practical tools, resources, and foundational materials to implement effective and responsive resource programming. Participants will explore key components of resource programming, including the three tiers of intervention, the school-based referral process, and the roles and responsibilities of educational assistants, classroom teachers, and resource teachers in assisting students with additional support needs. Through practical strategies, templates, and implementation resources, this session will equip educators with the materials and knowledge needed to build a student-centred, inclusive, and sustainable resource program that supports student success.

Healing With the Gifts of Kikawinaw: Mindfulness and Self-Regulation in the Classroom

Embassy D
Presenter(s): Samantha Brown, Chantell Neff
Audience: Administrators, Educational Assistants, Teachers

Mindfulness is a way to help students de-stress and regulate their nervous system. When their nervous system is regulated, students are calmer and more rational, giving teachers easier access to the students ability to think and learn. First Nations ways of knowing and being have always held the answers to healing ourselves and our people. This session will explore First Nations perspectives on mindfulness and regulation strategies, drawing on the gifts given by Kikawinaw, Mother Nature. Presenters will share practical classroom strategies, including hands-on, activity-based demonstrations, a lesson from MindUP, and other exciting ways to Indigenize mindfulness-based social-emotional learning.

Introduction to the New Provincial Grade 9 Math Curriculum and the Two Courses

Embassy C
Presenter(s): Chun Ong; Rory McIntyre, Curriculum and Assessment Consultant, Manitoba Education
Audience: K–12 Educators

Grade 9 Mathematics is being redesigned to provide students with a full year of math learning through two sequential courses taken over consecutive semesters: Grade 9 Mathematics I and Grade 9 Mathematics II. The new curriculum will undergo pilot and voluntary implementation in the 2026–2027 school year, with full implementation planned for 2027–2028. A major change is the addition of a new Financial Literacy strand included in both courses. All K–12 teachers are welcome to attend this informational session, featuring a curriculum and assessment consultant from Manitoba Education.

Mathletics – The Differentiated Math Classroom

Kensington Room
Presenter(s): Melissa Thomas, Jessica Daniels, Evelyn Cameron
Audience: Administrators, Teachers

This session will focus on the difficult task of serving the needs of all types of learners in math classrooms. Teachers will explore actionable strategies to use in content, instruction, product, and environment to strengthen student understanding and retention of concepts. This will be an in-depth look at the value and impact of differentiated instruction for student progress and the strategies needed to design effective instruction using the robust online resources. Teachers who have already received introductory Mathletics training and are looking to use the resource purposefully will benefit the most from this workshop.

Planting by the Moon and Ideas for Starting a School Garden Club, Part II

Embassy F
Presenter(s): Shirli Ewanchuk; Danelle Bradshaw, Student Services Teacher, Louis Riel School Division
Audience: All those interested in gardening with students

This two-part workshop is offered during CKP sessions 4 and 5. Part II offers hands-on techniques to build your comfort and skill level, along with practical tips and ideas to keep students engaged. Teaching gardening skills is teaching survival skills! No experience is required.

PowerSchool for Administrators: Open Q&A

Regency Room
Presenter(s): Benjamin Ekaluo, Vanessa Sinclair
Audience: Administrative Staff, Information Workers, PowerSchool Administrators, School Administrators

Bring any PowerSchool questions and join this interactive open Q&A session for administrators. Whether you're looking for guidance on navigating the admin portal, adding and managing students, creating course sections, scheduling, printing report cards, or troubleshooting day-to-day challenges, this is your opportunity to get answers and share experiences with a trainer. Helpful tips, tricks, and best practices will be discussed to help get the most out of PowerSchool SIS. Rather than a formal presentation, come and enjoy practical conversations, collaborative problem-solving, and the chance to learn from one another.

Renewing Plans: Science Curriculum

Centennial 4
Presenter(s): Jennifer Garson
Audience: Administrators, Education Directors, Resource Teachers, Teachers

Implementation of the K–10 renewed science curriculum begins this school year. Each workshop participant will receive the Curriculum at a Glance to help them navigate the Framework for Learning site and its specific grade-level learning outcomes. Participants will see how the curriculum has been reworked to ensure science programs reflect individual First Nations schools and communities.

Responsive Classroom Morning Meetings: Group Activity and Morning Message

Centennial 3
Presenter(s): Jonathan Courchene, Brett Banfield
Audience: K–6 Teachers

Start every school day with joy, connection, and positive energy! A Responsive Classroom Morning Meeting is a quick, 15–30-minute space where students and teachers build community, a sense of belonging, and readiness for learning. Each meeting includes four simple steps: (1) A warm greeting, (2) a sharing moment, (3) a fun group activity, and (4) a morning message. This workshop will review steps 3 and 4, with many hands-on activities for educators to participate in.

Morning Meetings are easy to personalize. Educators can include elements of any subject—math puzzles, science questions, language arts prompts, social studies sparks—and keep learning playful and meaningful. They also offer a wonderful way to honour First Nations languages. Educators can include greetings, vocabulary, or short activities in the language, helping students feel proud, connected, and culturally grounded. Morning Meetings are simple to run, joyful to join, and set the perfect tone for a great school day.

Schools Name Project

Embassy B
Presenter(s): Andy Thomas
Audience: All

Ever wondered how a First Nations school acquired its name? What is the history of the school's name? The Schools Name Project has explored how First Nations decided on a name for their schools. The project is grounded in the concept of community history projects. This session will feature community interviews and the history of how First Nations schools came to be named. Attendance at this session can also lead to having a First Nation included in this project.

UFLI Foundations: Step 7

Centennial 1
Presenter(s): Richelle Lovegrove, Gabrielle Peterson, Margaret Monias
Audience: K–3 Educators

This session focuses on UFLI Foundations Step 7: Irregular Words. Participants will learn how UFLI explicitly teaches words with regular and irregular spelling patterns. The session will demonstrate how to help students identify the parts of a word they can sound out and the parts they need to learn by heart. Participants will practise the instructional routine and explore ways to support automaticity with irregular words.

Session 6 – October 9 – 1:10 pm–2:25 pm

AI Fundamentals and Prompt Engineering 101

Regency Room
Presenter(s): Aimee McDonald
Audience: Teachers

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is becoming part of everyday life—but how does it actually work? Is it safe? This introductory session explores what AI is, how it functions, and the key benefits and challenges it presents. Participants will learn how to create effective prompts, apply AI responsibly in the workplace, and understand essential considerations for privacy and safety. The session will also offer guidance on choosing reliable, secure AI platforms and is perfect for anyone looking to build a confident, practical understanding of AI.

AI is a powerful tool teachers can use as a timesaver and a creative assistant. This session will explore and demonstrate practical, classroom-ready uses of AI to help support resource and classroom teachers. Learn how AI can help you generate units, lesson plans, activities, rubrics, student-specific plans, and more. The session is geared toward teachers looking to work smarter, not harder.

Augmentative and Alternative Communication in Action

Carlton Room
Presenter(s): Ashley Courchene, Kiersten Holmstrom, Annie Nienhuysen, Megan Guimond
Audience: Educational Assistants, Resource Teachers, Teachers

Augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) is used by individuals who experience difficulty communicating using spoken language. AAC tools range from no-tech options, such as gestures and communication boards, to high-tech speech-generating devices. Through guided activities and demonstrations, this workshop will provide participants with hands-on opportunities to explore a variety of AAC systems and strategies, building their confidence in supporting student communication in the school environment.

Bleeding Disorders and Osteogenesis Imperfecta (Brittle Bone Disease): Health Care Planning

Embassy A
Presenter(s): Marion Boulanger, Shannon Turtle
Audience: Community Health Providers, School Staff

The presenters will provide an overview of the URIS Program, including presentations on bleeding disorders and osteogenesis imperfecta (brittle bone disease). Health care planning strategies and real-life scenarios will be shared. The session will feature a Q&A period and a sharing circle where participants can provide feedback.

Embracing the A in STEAM

Centennial 4
Presenter(s): Jennifer Garson
Audience: Educational Assistants, Teachers

Find out what the A in STEAM could mean for your classroom planning. Using it means applying creative practices—such as design, visual arts, movement, and storytelling—that enable students to explore and understand core science, technology, engineering, and math concepts.

Exploring and Implementing Curriculum With Occupational Therapists

Embassy F
Presenter(s): Gabrielle Peterson, Wesley Flett, Jaylene Miller, Monica Tan
Audience: Educational Assistants, Teachers

Join the Occupational Therapy (OT) team for a workshop focused on implementing strategies from various curricula into the classroom. The session is designed to increase your knowledge of school-based OT, the targeted skills OTs look for, and curricula available to support these skills. Implementing curricula in classrooms can seem difficult, so this workshop will explore user-friendly methods for doing so.

First Nations Perspectives in the Renewed Science Curriculum

Embassy B
Presenter(s): Rockford McKay
Audience: Administrators, K–10 Teachers

This session provides a comprehensive overview of Manitoba's renewed K–10 science framework with a focus on integrating First Nations knowledge systems into schools and classrooms. Participants will explore the core structure of the curriculum, including its five strands, 14 “big ideas,” global competencies, and specific learning outcomes.

Meaningful lesson planning that honours Indigenous Peoples' connection to the natural world will be explored. Participants will learn how to weave land-based education and community-based perspectives directly into science units. To streamline this process, participants will learn how to use modern digital tools like MagicSchool AI to efficiently design culturally rich, standards-aligned lessons and assessments. Participants will leave with example strategies that foster inclusive, holistic learning environments for all students.

Foundations of Resource Programming

Centennial 2
Presenter(s): Alma “Orlene” Bernier, Gerald Shaganash, Wanda Einarson, M’Liss Thomas
Audience: Teachers, Educational Assistants, Resource Teachers

Workshop participants will discover practical tools, resources, and foundational materials to implement effective and responsive resource programming. Participants will explore key components of resource programming, including the three tiers of intervention, the school-based referral process, and the roles and responsibilities of educational assistants, classroom teachers, and resource teachers in assisting students with additional support needs. Through practical strategies, templates, and implementation resources, this session will equip educators with the materials and knowledge needed to build a student-centred, inclusive, and sustainable resource program that supports student success.

Healing With the Gifts of Kikawinaw: Mindfulness and Self-Regulation in the Classroom

Embassy D
Presenter(s): Samantha Brown, Chantell Neff
Audience: Administrators, Educational Assistants, Teachers

Mindfulness is a way to help students de-stress and regulate their nervous system. When their nervous system is regulated, students are calmer and more rational, giving teachers easier access to the students ability to think and learn. First Nations ways of knowing and being have always held the answers to healing ourselves and our people. This session will explore First Nations perspectives on mindfulness and regulation strategies, drawing on the gifts given by Kikawinaw, Mother Nature. Presenters will share practical classroom strategies, including hands-on, activity-based demonstrations, a lesson from MindUP, and other exciting ways to Indigenize mindfulness-based social-emotional learning.

Movement Break and Indoor Recess Ideas

Centennial 3
Presenter(s): Jessica Slimmon, Kayla Matheson, Tina Keeper, Ellen Bautista, Scott Anderson
Audience: Teachers, Educational Assistants, Physical Education Teachers

Physiotherapists will present on the importance of using movement breaks in the classroom, involving trialling of fun, low-organized games with or without equipment. The movement breaks covered can also serve as ideas for indoor recess or when physical education must be conducted in the classroom. Be prepared to move through some fun games you can take back to your classroom and school!

Mathseeds – Engaging the 21st-Century Learner

Kensington Room

Presenter(s): Melissa Thomas, Evelyn Cameron, Jessica Daniels

Audience: Administrators, Teachers

In this session, educators will learn how gamification impacts students through feelings of success and failure, as well as frustration and anxiety. Most well-designed games give pleasure and make players want more. Alternating failure with success is the core concept at the heart of many video games, which is why a growth mindset pedagogy and game-based learning go hand in hand. Teachers will explore the research on how gamification increases student engagement and motivation while nurturing the growth mindset.

Safety Planning: Supporting Student Well-Being in First Nations Schools

Embassy C

Presenter(s): Nicole Pate, Rebecca McIvor, Kerry McBurney

Audience: Teachers, Educational Assistants, Educators, Guidance Counsellors, Resource Teachers

This workshop will explore the importance of safety planning for students at risk of harm and provide guidance on how to complete safety plans in collaboration with students, families, and supports. The information provided will be centred on fostering resilience and care and promoting positive mental health within schools.

Content advisory: This presentation addresses suicide, self-harm-specific discussions, and related topics.

UFLI Foundations: Step 8

Centennial 1

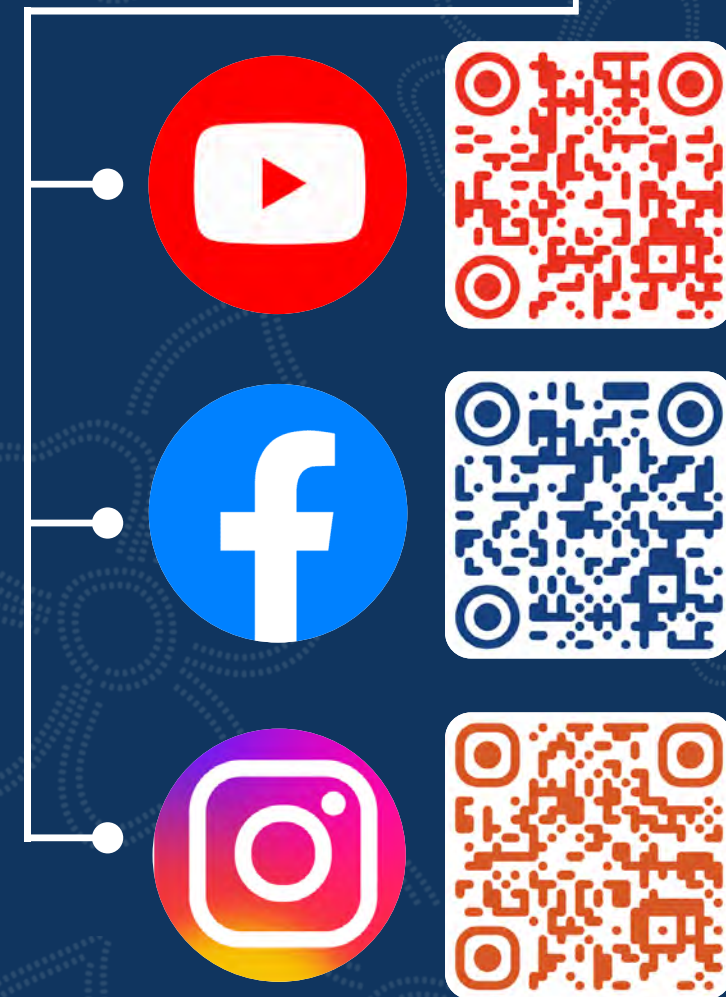
Presenter(s): Bonnie Monias, Richelle Lovegrove, Margaret Monias, Nadine Hart

Audience: K-3 Educators

This session focuses on UFLI Foundations, Step 8: Connected Text and bringing the UFLI lessons together. Participants will explore how students apply the phonics skills they have learned while reading connected text and writing sentences. Through modelling and practice, participants will see how Step 8 supports accuracy, fluency, and comprehension while providing meaningful opportunities for students to apply their developing reading and writing skills.

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Are you a First Nations person living on-reserve who wants to complete your high school education?

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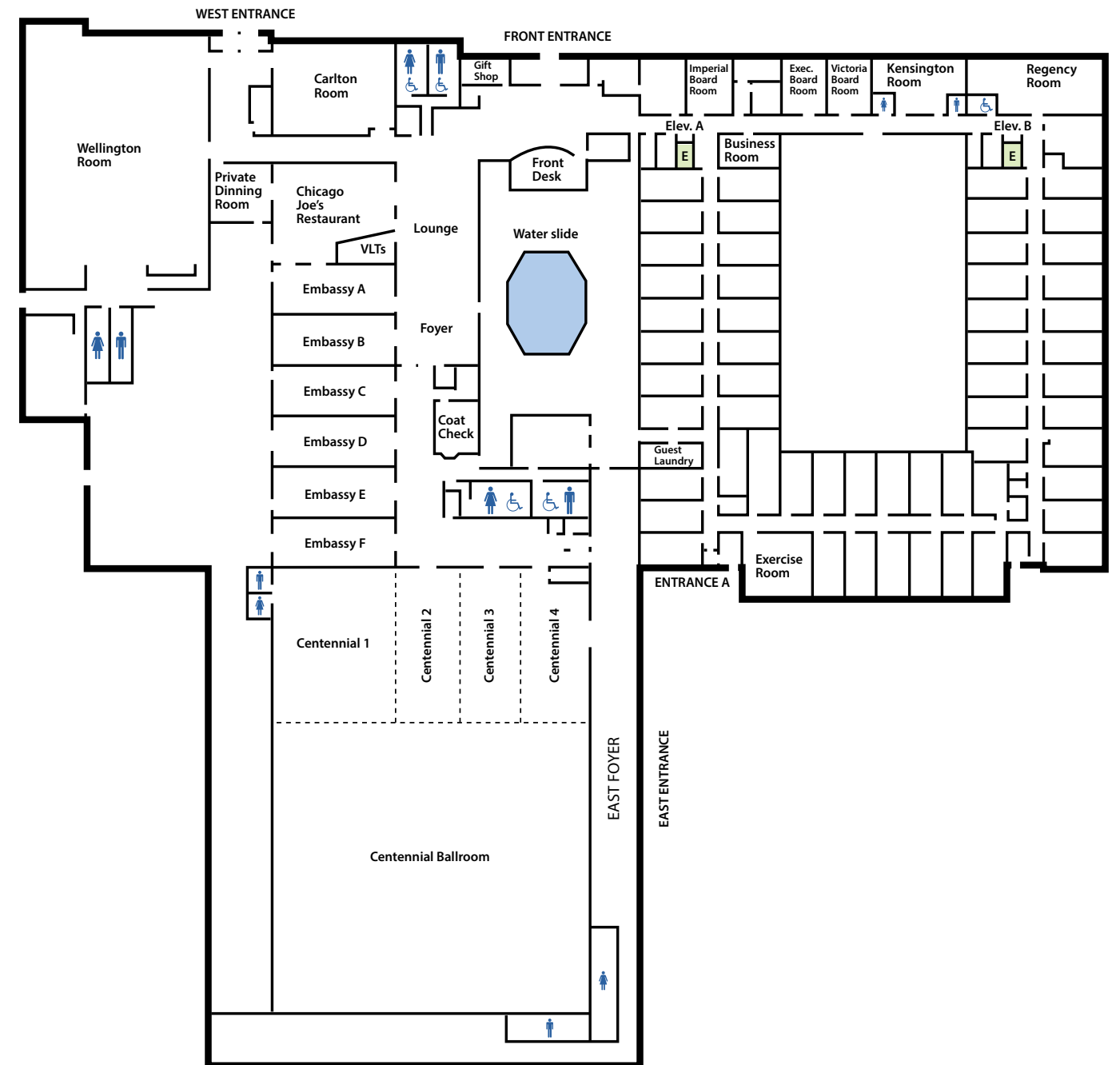
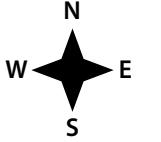
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Map



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