

SICC FNLKC Abstract

Workshop Title: Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey Education in Mi'kmaq Language Development

Name of Presenters: Blaire Gould, Yolanda Denny

Blaire Gould is a Mi'kmaw from Eskasoni First Nation and is currently employed at Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey (MK) as the Mi'kmaw Language Early Literacy Coordinator. She has been working in the area of language revitalization and survival of the Mi'kmaw language with MK communities and partnership organizations such as Nova Scotia's Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, Tripartite, Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq, Cape Breton University, and St. Francis Xavier University. She works closely with a group of Mi'kmaw Advisors, a team of community representatives who all hold great knowledge combined with current and retired teachers and specialists in the Mi'kmaw language. They value their success in achieving goals with a work-plan. As an app developer, her team successfully published over 15 apps in two years.

Yolanda Denny has been working at Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey since graduating from St.FX with her B.Ed in 2005. She started as a Mi'kmaw Language Specialist, then joined the FNSSP team as the Mi'kmaw Language Consultant in 2009.

Abstract: This session will discuss what Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey has done in the efforts of revitalization, preservation, and continuation of the Mi'kmaq language to educators, community members, and students. The session will share highlight of projects that specifically involve Mi'kmaq language. Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey continues to work on improving the quality of education for our people, while remaining vigilant in maintaining and revitalizing our Mi'kmaq language. Armed with the inspiration from our youth, and the guidance and leadership from our Board of Directors, education directors, schools, staff, and partnerships, MK has forged ahead, exploring new opportunities for academic excellence, and re-visiting and enhancing existing operations and programs. Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey continuously strives for academic excellence in its students and communities, and continues to make great strides in its efforts to empower youth, and in turn, empower the Mi'kmaw nation.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this workshop, participants will:

- Learn about the Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey people
- Learn about the programs, practices, and resources developed by Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey for the Mi'kmaw Language.