



## **FNLKC Conference Workshop Presenter**

**Workshop Title:** Land Based Elder Driven Curriculum

**Presenters:** Sylvia Weenie & Noella Mitsuing-Moccasin

**Biography:** Sylvia Weenie from Sweetgrass First Nation is an educator, administrator, coordinator, kokom, wife, parent, and student. She is currently employed at the Treaty Six Education Council in North Battleford as the Treaty Language Culture Coordinator. In 40+ years, Indigenous education has regressed and children are rapidly losing their Indigenous identity. Mainstream education has not placed importance on First Nations culture therefore; First Nations languages are currently at a critical state of extinction. Without language, culture and identity vanishes. Traditional knowledge gained from Elders coupled with experience and insight of the western educational system inspired Sylvia's work. Creating a structure to include indigenous ideologies for our First Nation's children and combining the two worldview pedagogies, would ensure success required for survival in today's society. To date, the most positive change that has occurred is a result of the involvement and collaboration with Elders in the communities, to promote and encourage traditional teachings and ways of knowing.

**Biography:** Noella Mitsuing-Moccasin from Makwa Sahgaiehcan First Nation, Treaty 6. She is married with one child. She has a B.Ed. and M.Ed. and has taught five years in the middle grades in and around the community. Also, she was in administration for four years, vice principal for three years and one year as the principal. She has always been passionate about learning and gaining the knowledge and the teachings from our Elders and was very fortunate to be given that opportunity throughout my experiences and within her career. Currently, she works as the Treaty Language and Cultural Coordinator for the Treaty Six Educational Center in North Battleford.

**Abstract:** The Treaty Six Education Council (TSEC) provides second level support services to member Nations that enhances the education systems at the First Nation level. Recently, TSEC has developed a year-long land-based cultural curriculum. This curriculum is Elder driven and infused with Indigenous knowledge. The outcomes of this curriculum will meet the Saskatchewan provincial curriculum and likely exceed them. This is an ongoing curriculum process that is about the child's identity first which parallels Indigenous way of knowing and being. An update will be provided on the progress since last year's conference.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of this workshop, participants will:

- Be introduced to the land based and Elder driven curriculum
- Emphasize the benefits of Elders teachings and understanding their connection to land and language
- Rethink and approach the provincial curriculum differently