Welcome and Keynote Address

We are all Leaders: How a Bus Driver showed us anything was Possible
Kevin draws on his personal and professional experiences from growing up as an Indigenous youth in Winnipeg’s North End, to his work in the community, education and business fields. As a former member of the Legislative Assembly and Minister in the Manitoba Government, he is able to share stories of seeing potential and possibility, overcoming barriers, and creating opportunities out of challenges.

Concurrent Session 1A

Building Relationships: A Conversation about Reconciliation
As a follow up to the keynote the break out session includes a series of questions about reconciliation that allow people to share their experiences and ask about things they are unsure of in a comfortable setting.

Kevin Chief is Senior Advisor for Indigenous Relations with the Office of Inclusion at the Bank of Montreal, Mentor in Residence with Seven Oaks School Division, and Partnership Development Lead with the Centre for Aboriginal Human Resource Development.

Born and raised in Winnipeg’s North End, he has considerable public sector and community experience. He was Vice President at the Business Council of Manitoba, spent six years as a member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, representing Point Douglas, and previously worked in the field of education, training and employment of youth.

Kevin and his wife Melanie have three young sons: Hayden, Kellan, and Daxton. He is also known as a high steppin’ square dancer as part of the Norman Chief Memorial Dancers.

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Concurrent Session 1B

Cannabis: The Fundamentals
An informative session to provide you with an understanding of: basic cannabis terminology, cannabis and its effects, how to recognize signs of cannabis impairment, the differences between THC and CBD, federal and provincial regulations surrounding medical and recreational cannabis, potential negative consequences associated with cannabis use, potential health benefits of cannabis, and more!

Dr. Shelley Turner, MD CCFP, Chief Medical Officer is a proud member of the Pimicikamak First Nation in Cross Lake, MB. Dr. Turner is regarded as a trailblazer in the medical cannabis community, specializing in cannabinoid therapies for addiction, sleep and mood disorders, and chronic pain. With over 17,000 patient interactions and a growing patient database, she is a leading clinical participant in McMaster University’s cannabinoid Consumption & Study (DATAcANN), and spearheaded the inaugural post-secondary Cannabis 101 curriculum development at Red River College’s School of Indigenous Education. Committed to serving rural and underserved populations, and
a harm and pharma reductionist, Dr. Turner provides a differentiated science and heart-based approach to patient care. She presently serves on the board of Hope for Health, an independent registered charity dedicated to providing compassionate coverage of medical cannabis costs in Canada. Dr. Turner is an Associate Professor at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine and is a graduate of the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine at McMaster University.

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Karen Debroni, MPA, BA, Chief Experience Officer is an innovative, customer-oriented professional with a far-reaching network of national and international contacts Karen brings over 25 years of executive level leadership & general management experience to Ekosi Health as a result of running her own small business enterprise as well as from her tenure in senior positions at public sector, private and publicly traded organizations. Since 2014, Karen was instrumental in the building of commercial-scale cultivation and sales licensed Cannabis Company, fulfilling a plethora of roles to assure the company’s licensure. Recognized for integrity and delivering results, Karen is also active in the community, volunteering and serving on the boards of several professional and charitable organizations including the Biosciences Association of Manitoba and the Women’s Enterprise Centre of Manitoba where she is Chair of the Board. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Manitoba and a Master’s in Public Administration degree from the University of Winnipeg.

Evan Loser, Manager, IT & Operations is an individual with an incredibly diverse skill set, Evan possesses a passion for the promotion of mental health and harm and pharma reduction. He has worked many years in the medical cannabis industry, most recently at National Access Cannabis, where he held progressively senior positions at both the branch and head office locations. Prior to being in the medical cannabis industry, Evan held a variety of roles within the Government of Manitoba’s Protective Services Department where he earned two awards of distinction - the Director’s Commendation and Outstanding Contribution to the Branch. Dedicated to actively participating in the global community in which he lives, Evan has volunteered in multiple psychiatric (Forensic and Schizophrenic) wards at the Health Sciences Centre and contributed, as a Member of the Canadian Students for Sensible Drug Policy (CCSDP) Board of Directors, at the 2016 United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on the world drug problem. Evan is presently completing his Bachelor of Science in Applied Computer Science at the University of Winnipeg.

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Concurrent Session 2A

Strategies to Help Students on the Spectrum
Join Anne and two Level IT Up candidates as they present an informative and interactive workshop on supporting students with autism spectrum disorder in post-secondary education. Learn about how ASD can impact your students in many different ways, and how you can help in promoting their skills and abilities.

Anne Kresta is a parent, disability advocate and has been trained in various platforms offering assistance to those with autism spectrum disorder as they transition from school to post-secondary education and work through The Ability Hub/The Sinneave Family Foundation in Calgary, AB. Anne has two adult sons with ASD, one of whom currently works in the tech sector of Winnipeg and the other within the Health Care sector. She has experience as a project manager, inclusive education and autism consultant and networks within Winnipeg’s business and social services communities to advance the interests of those with ASD and their families. She is currently President and CEO of Level IT Up, a social enterprise promoting the mutual benefits of employing those with ASD within Manitoba’s tech sector.
Concurrent Session 2B

*Develop your Personal Advising Philosophy*

Take some time to reflect about advising. Why are you doing what you’re doing? The presenters will guide you through the development of your own advising philosophy, having recently had the experience of developing advising philosophies for two unique purposes. We may feel there isn’t enough time in our day-to-day lives to reflect and write, but this interactive workshop will give you an opportunity to develop a personal advising philosophy. Prior to the conference, we recommend that you read one or two articles about academic advising to prime your thought processes. While you’re reading, think about the following questions and jot down your thoughts and ideas about advising (developed by C. Chando and G. Cortens):

- What are the values, goals, and missions of your academic unit?
- What are your strengths as an advisor?
- What advising skills do you want to work on?
- What advising approaches do you use?
- What topics do you want to learn more about?
- What projects do you want to work on?
- What personally motivates you as an advisor?
- What do you find rewarding about advising?

**Brigitte Wiebe** is an Advising Services Coordinator at the University of Manitoba, a role she entered in 2014 after a long career as a Faculty-based academic advisor. As a recipient of the 2019 NACADA Certificate of Merit - Outstanding Academic Advising Administrator, she prepared a personal advising statement as part of the nomination process.

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**Chiedza Chando** is an Academic Advisor at the University of Manitoba, First Year Centre (University 1). While competing for her current position, Chiedza developed her own Personal Advising Philosophy and now applies these concepts in everyday academic advising in support of undergraduate students’ success. Chiedza has had the opportunity to share these techniques with her colleagues to encourage personal philosophies which align with the First Year Centre mission and goals.

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Concurrent Session 3A

*Wellness Workshop*

This trauma-informed, interactive workshop will explore the various domains of well-being through self-assessment and self-regulation. It will explore chronic stress, while offering practical tools to help you take your self-care to another level.

**Lisa Dumas-Neufeld** is an educator rooted in Manitoba, Canada. She writes, speaks, teaches, and facilitates workshops centered on transformation, trauma, wellness and reconciliation.

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Concurrent Session 3B
Academic Coaching
Have you ever wondered what exactly Academic Coaching is? Is it any different from Academic Advising? How can coaching enhance an advising session? This session will provide an introduction to coaching as a practice as a whole, and into the structure of a coaching conversation and how it can be used in an advising context, followed by three essential (and practical) coaching tools that can be immediately implemented.

Sherry Peters is an Academic Coach at St John’s College at the University of Manitoba. Sherry trained as a coach through Erickson College. Outside of her work at St John’s College, she is the author of three novels and two coaching books: “Silencing Your Inner Saboteur” and “Blueprint for Writing Success”, and is a Writing Coach

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