

JOY OF CHILDHOOD CONFERENCE

2025

Land-based Pedagogy and Indigenous Knowledge.

When:

November 8th, 2025

Location:

Kortright Centre for Conservation

9550 Pine Valley Dr, Woodbridge, ON L4H 4Z2

SCHEDULE

9:00am - 10:00am :
Registration & Breakfast

10:00am - 11:00am:
Welcome & Keynote
Dr. Kiera Brant-Birioukov

11:00am - 11:15am:
Break & Transition to Breakout Session

11:15am - 12:15pm:
Breakout Session

12:15pm - 12:30pm:
Break & Transition to the Theatre

12:30pm-1:00pm:
Closing Remarks
Door Prizes

To Register click below:



Scan to visit the Child and Family Collaborative Website



Please bring your own water bottle - a refill station is available

Meet our Keynote Speaker



Dr. Kiera Brant-Birioukov PhD, MA, BEd, BA, OCT
Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

Born and raised on the Ridge Road in Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory, Dr. Kiera Brant-Birioukov is a Mohawk educator, researcher, and co-founder of Ridge Road Training & Consulting, Inc. She is a recognized expert in Indigenous education, specializing in curriculum development, professional learning, and reshaping how we understand Indigenous knowledge in educational spaces. Drawing on Haudenosaunee teachings and community-based research, Kiera brings a passion for meaningful dialogue, ethical practice, and transformative learning.

“More than Words”

Using land-based metaphors to make Indigenous knowledge feel personal.

As educators seek to incorporate Indigenous knowledge into their practice, metaphor is often used as an entry point—whether through symbolism in legends or programs inspired by ancestral animal teachings. While valuable as an introductory practice, metaphor has its limitations. In this keynote, Haudenosaunee educator and researcher Dr. Kiera Brant-Birioukov explores the role metaphor can play in our practice and identity as educators, while reflecting on its ethical considerations. Drawing on Haudenosaunee teachings and the Creation Story, Dr. Brant-Birioukov examines the place of metaphor in curriculum development, professional identity, and educational discourse.

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Choose 1 of 5 breakout sessions
(you will choose at registration table at the conference)

Workshop #1: ***Using the First Peoples Principles of Learning to ground land-based pedagogy and Indigenous knowledge.***

Delivered by: Dr. Anton Birioukov-Brant (settler)

Workshop #2: ***Finding your metaphor: Identifying imagery, symbols, and language to frame your responsibility to Indigenous peoples' knowledge in your educational practice.***

Delivered by: Dr. Kiera Brant-Birioukov (Haudenosaunee)

Workshop #3: **Crafting your own Land Acknowledgement with Children**

As community educators, we have a responsibility to elevate indigenous voices and incorporate indigenous perspectives in our programs. Join us for an interactive workshop and learn how to craft your own personalized land acknowledgement. Together, we'll delve into the importance of land acknowledgements in recognizing the Land and fostering truth and reconciliation, while gaining practical tools to create authentic and meaningful land acknowledgements that resonate with our unique experiences.

Delivered by: Tisha Tan

Workshop #4: **Nature Walk - Outdoor Activities in an Urban Environment**

This session will empower you to take your early childhood learners outside to play and explore, in even the most urban setting. Leave with ideas for ready-to-go, creative activities that your children will love, and that you will have fun teaching. We will provide practical tips and strategies for teaching outside along with some set activity instructions.

Delivered by: TRCA Staff



Workshop #5: **Moccasin Identifier™**

A groundbreaking Indigenous-led initiative dedicated to weaving a deeper understanding of Canada's rich Treaty history into the fabric of our nation. Through the symbol of Indigenous moccasins, we aim to connect all Canadians—rooted and newly planted—to the land beneath our feet and the Treaties that bind us. Our vision is to Cover Canada in Moccasins, each pair a testament to our shared responsibilities and the steps we must take toward reconciliation -"We are all Treaty people". At the heart of the Moccasin Identifier™ is education and place-knowing, designed to engage Canadians of all ages. Our educational workshops are crafted to be age-appropriate, covering vital topics such as Treaty rights, Indigenous territories, and our collective relationship with the land. The moccasin stenciling activity we offer connects you to the land and allows you to participate in an act of Treaty as you recognize whose land and Treaty territory you are on.

Delivered by: Jennifer Ouimette, a certified Moccasin Identifier educator who, though not Indigenous, has been trained to respectfully share and uphold the program's teachings.

**Breakout Sessions will be outdoors.
Please come prepared with appropriate
clothing!**

