

Fig 0.1 Pulling Together: A Canoe Journey

# Indigenizing the Curriculum

**PAGC Education will be hosting a two-day workshop on how First Nations can Indigenize the Saskatchewan Curriculum.**

Since 2016, the Education Transformation has prompted First Nations to take control of their own education systems. Almost nine years after the transformation of education systems, how well have Indigenous knowledges, languages and histories been integrated into the curriculum? PAGC has invited one tribal council from northern Alberta who has 'Indigenized' their provincial curriculum by using teachers, frontline workers, curriculum developers, and most importantly elders and knowledge keepers to Indigenize the Alberta Curriculum.

By working together and "sharing the deer," Education leaders, teachers, knowledge keepers, political representatives can decolonize their current systems by integrating land-based programs, tribal ecological knowledge, and histories of the Indigenous peoples of this land.



**Dr. Daphne Mai`Stoina**  
Superintendent  
Kee Tas Kee Now  
Tribal Council

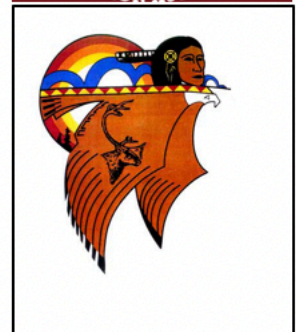
**Dr. Abdullah Al Mamun**  
(Science Advisor to  
PAGC)

**Dr. Rose Roberts**  
University of  
Saskatchewan

**Rosalie Tsannie-Burseth**  
PhD (ABD) University of  
Saskatchewan

**Vince Brittain, EdD (ABD)**  
PAGC, Third-Level  
Consultant

**Edward Mirasty, PhD**  
(ABD) PAGC, Director of  
Education





# PRINCE ALBERT GRAND COUNCIL

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## Indigenizing the Curriculum

March 25-26<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Saskatoon Inn

### Agenda

**Tuesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025.**

- 9:00 am**      **Opening prayer (Elder TBD)**  
**Opening Comments (PAGC Education)**
- 9:15**            Dr. Daphne Mai`Stoina  
Superintendent  
Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Council Education Authority
- 10:30 am**      Break
- 10:45 am**      Dr. Daphne Mai`Stoina  
Superintendent  
Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Council Education Authority
- Noon**            **Lunch Provided**
- 1:00 pm**        Dr. Abdullah Al Mamun  
Science Advisor to PAGC
- 2:15**            **Break**
- 2:30 pm**        Dr. Abdullah Al Mamun
- 4:00 pm**        Close

**Indigenizing the Curriculum**  
**March 25-26<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**Saskatoon Inn**

**Agenda**

**Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025.**

**Day 2**

9:00 am      Rosalie Tsanni-Burseth, PhD (ABD)  
Language & Culture

10:30 am      Break

10:45 am      Rosalie Tsannie-Burseth, PhD (ABD)

**Noon              Lunch Provided**

**1:00 pm**      Dr. Rose Roberts

**2:15**              Break

**2:30 pm**      Closing Comments/Elder Prayer

## Biography of Presenters



**Dr. Daphne Mai'Stoina**

Dr. Daphne Mai'Stoina is the Superintendent of Education for Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Council Education Authority and has been in the education system for over 34 years serving in various capacities such as a special education teacher, vice principal, acting principal and assistant superintendent, superintendent, instructional specialist and province-wide Special Education Director. She is from the Siksika Nation and has strong cultural ties with Siksika traditions. Daphne has a Masters Degree in Educational Leadership/Administration (University of San Diego) and a Doctorate of Education (University of Calgary). She has served on various bodies representing First Nations over the years. Daphne has presented at local, provincial, national and international conferences on topics that include special education, Indian Control of Indian Education and inequities in First Nation Education.

She has received numerous awards & recognition for her achievements, including the Dr. Olive Dickason Award. She has been blessed with three beautiful children and 9 grandchildren and one great-grandchild, that make her life complete.

### **Dr. Abdullah Al Mamun (Science Advisor to Prince Albert Grand Council, SK)**



Dr. Abdullah Al Mamun, known by the Cree nickname "Seeseep" (meaning "duck"), was born in a rural village in southern Bangladesh, where livelihoods were traditionally based on hunting, gathering, and farming. With over 20 years of experience in community-engaged conservation and academic partnerships, he focuses on empowering rural and Indigenous communities through innovative research and education in Canada and Bangladesh.

Dr. Mamun integrates traditional ecological knowledge with scientific expertise to advance land-based learning for climate and ecosystem monitoring, wildlife recovery, habitat restoration, nature-based solutions, green energy projects, and climate adaptation strategies. His work includes Indigenous-led initiatives such as chronic wasting disease monitoring, species at risk programs (featuring woodland caribou, monarch butterflies, and wolverines), and the creation of Indigenous Protected Areas in Saskatchewan.

He has also contributed to the net-zero housing and greener homes initiative, which focuses on retrofitting homes to generate employment opportunities for Indigenous youth. Dr. Mamun sees these initiatives as critical to advancing reconciliation and fostering self-determination among Indigenous communities.

Dr. Mamun earned a Ph.D. in Geography, specializing in environmental management through community engagement, from the joint program of the University of Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier University. He also holds a Master of Natural Resources Management from the



University of Manitoba, focusing on local and Indigenous knowledge, and a Master of Science in wildlife biology and aquatic ecology from Jahangirnagar University.

### **Dr. Rose Roberts**



Rose Roberts is a Nihithow Iskwew originally from the community of Stanley Mission and a member of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band. She was raised speaking the Nihithow language and playing in the rocks, water and trees of the Precambrian shield – until she was sent to residential school at the age of 6. As part of her healing journey she has reclaimed her trapping, hunting and harvesting heritage. She is a licensed trapper and runs a trapline at Hickson Lake, SK.

She was the Secretary/Treasurer of the Northern Saskatchewan Trappers Association for 6 years. Rose Roberts has an undergraduate degree in Nursing, master's and doctoral degrees in Community Health and Epidemiology, all from the University of Saskatchewan. She has held faculty positions at the College of Nursing and School of Public Health at the University of Saskatchewan. She also held the position of Educational Development Specialist in Indigenous Education and Engagement at the Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching and Learning at the University of Saskatchewan until she retired in 2022. Although challenging at times, she walks in both worlds, attempting to be a bridge that creates understanding and sharing between cultures.

### **Synopsis: Storytelling is Indigenization**

This presentation will look at how telling stories, whether legends, myths or everyday heroes can be a method of indigenization. Indigenization is the reclamation of our cultures, our languages and our traditional ways of knowing. Stories are the traditional means of sharing cultural norms, mores and values. Language is how we know the world and who we are. Our stories need to be at the forefront of indigenizing curriculum.

### **Rosalie Tsannie-Burseth, PhD (ABD)**



Rosalie Tsannie-Burseth is a distinguished leader in education, boasting 37 years of experience as a teacher, principal, and Director of Education. Her journey, characterized by resilience and determination, serves as a beacon of hope and inspiration, particularly for those committed to preserving Indigenous language and culture. As a survivor of the residential school system, Rosalie has faced significant challenges, including enduring mockery and restrictions on her language. Her courageous stand against these cultural barriers has not only shaped her life but has also inspired countless women in her community, demonstrating that it is possible to rise above adversity.

Rosalie's steadfast dedication to education and research is highlighted by her impressive academic accomplishments. After graduating from Nortep in 1987 and earning her Bachelor of Education in 1990, she continued to pursue her aspirations, completing a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Regina in 2001. Currently, she is a Ph.D. candidate in Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies at the University of Saskatchewan, focusing on

the Dēnesūlīnē language, culture, and history. This relentless pursuit of knowledge reflects her deep commitment to education and the preservation of Dēnesūlīnē heritage.

As a proud member of the Hatchet Lake Dēnesūlīnē First Nation, Rosalie has not only sought education but has also worked to enrich her community. From 1987 to 2007, she played a crucial role in the Hatchet Lake Education Program within the K-12 system. Her influence continued at the Prince Albert Grand Council Education from 2009 to 2020, where she served as Associate Director of Education in the language and culture department. Moreover, Rosalie's leadership was evident during her tenure as Chief of the Hatchet Lake Band from 2007 to 2009. With decades of experience in teaching and educational administration, she has consistently empowered students and educators, emphasizing the importance of education in cultural preservation. Currently, Rosalie teaches aspiring Dene teachers as a sessional lecturer, ensuring the continuity of the Dēnesūlīnē language and cultural programming for Father Megret schools in her home community of Wollaston Lake.



Edward Mirasty, PhD (ABD)

Edward Mirasty is a Cree member of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band and has been involved in education for over thirty-two years. He has been married for over thirty-three years to his high school sweetheart, Melanie. They both enjoy camping, fishing and outdoor activities with their little girl named Lilly-B. He has worked at the Prince Albert Grand Council as Director of Education for over fifteen years, focusing on K-12 education. As a graduate of the Indian Teacher Education Program (ITEP) in 1994, he completed his Master of Education in 2006 (Education Administration). He taught sessional courses to university students at the First Nations University of Canada, northern campus. That experience prompted him to pursue higher

education, and he is currently completing his Interdisciplinary Ph.D. at the University of Saskatchewan.



Vince Brittain, EdD (ABD)

Vince Brittain is a James Smith Cree Nation Band member who grew up and attended Bernard Constant Community School. He has been married to his wife, Connie, for over twenty-four years. They have two boys. The eldest, Merit, is in his last year in Education through the First Nations University of Canada. His youngest, Merik, is in his second year at the First Nations University of Canada in Education. Vince has been involved in education for over 27 years and is finishing his last year of a Doctor of Education at the University of Saskatchewan.

He works at the Prince Albert Grand Council as their Third Level Specialist. He believes in honesty, integrity, and trustworthiness, which leads to solid relationships. Vince's parents believed in education and strongly supported him in his educational journey. They would be proud of him as he continues his academic journey and helps empower communities as they move forward.