

KWICs' Seeds For Justice Introduces



2015 GYD: Workshop Overview & Facilitator Biographies

MORNING WORKSHOPS

1. KAIROS Blanket Exercise: In Peace & Friendship – A New Relationship with Indigenous Peoples

The Blanket Exercise begins with blankets arranged on the floor to represent Canada before the arrival of Europeans. The participants, representing Indigenous peoples, begin by moving around on the blankets. This participatory, popular education, type of activity which incorporates storytelling is a really great way to learn about the story of this land that we call Turtle Island (North America) and more specifically Nogojiwanong (Peterborough). By involving people in a holistic way, the Blanket Exercise has consistently proven to be effective in helping people to understand how federal government policies and practices impact on and continue to influence the lives of Indigenous peoples in Canada.

The Blanket Exercise is an enormously popular and successful teaching tool that uses participatory popular education methodology to raise awareness and understanding of the history of the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada. Since its creation in 1996 as a creative, innovative, and interactive way to educate Indigenous and non-Indigenous people about the major themes and recommendations of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, the Blanket Exercise has been conducted hundreds of times with thousands of people of all ages and from all backgrounds.

2. Seeing Yourself and the World: Mapping Climate Change

Host: Kawartha World Issues Centres' Seeds for Justice Program

How does our geographical location and the maps we use form the lens through which we see the world? How does this affect our understanding of one of the earth's most pressing issues; climate change?

This participatory, youth-led workshop encourages participants to first identify and reflect on their own personal histories and physical and social locations in the world in order to understand and reimagine climate change on global, local, and personal levels.

The Facilitators Collective is a Seeds for Justice initiative by the Kawartha World Issues Centre. Entirely youth-driven, the Collective's goal is to develop and deliver participatory social and environmental justice-themed workshops in Peterborough and the surrounding areas. Their use of a peer-to-peer model encourages dialogue and an understanding of both local and global issues while inspiring hope and change.

3. Making TRACKS: Relationship-Building & Environmental Education through Knowledge Weaving

Host: Trent Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge Science [Program for Youth]

Alongside TRACKS instructors, participants will explore environmental education from a broader perspective as we look at science from multiple worldviews. Working from Western science disciplines (like biology and ecology) together with Indigenous knowledge systems (Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe), we'll test out some fun TRACKS activities including our Ode'min (Strawberry) DNA workshop and develop valuable skills to add to our leadership toolkits.

TRACKS is a youth program run under the umbrella of the Kawartha World Issues Centre and the Indigenous Environmental Studies/Science program. Our instructors come from a variety of backgrounds rooted in Indigenous traditional knowledge systems, contemporary land-based teachings, Western investigative sciences, and outdoor education. We try to give equal weight to all our voices as we weave our various ways of knowing to create new approaches to hands-on learning and doing!

4. Grounds for Change; Tools for Political Advocacy

Facilitators: Brianna Salmon (Sustainable Peterborough: City and County Climate Change Action Plan) and Matthew Davidson (Ontario Provincial Interest Research Group; Peterborough)

Amazing things happen when students get together to lead change in our community! This workshop will explore the ways that students (high school university, or lifelong) can come together to take action on climate change and other pressing social justice issues. Motivate their friends, find opportunities to change our school and/or our city, and join other students for climate justice!

This workshop will also engage youth in the municipal climate change action plan and allow them to learn about the Climate Change Action Plan project. We will use "Faces and Places": an activity that seeks to identify the people and places impacted by, or seeking to influence, climate change. #FacesForChange is a photo challenge -- Who is taking action already and how? #PlacesForChange is a mapping exercise -- which also looks at where have we or do we anticipate experiencing the impacts of climate change? A great opportunity for youth to be involved in environmental action at the municipal level!

CCAP: Sustainable Peterborough is developing a Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) for the Greater Peterborough Area to reduce local contributions to climate change and prepare the community for present and expected changes that will occur as a result of climate

change. This plan represents an integrated approach to dealing with some of the most important issues related to the sustainability of our diverse region. The overall objectives of this group are to: reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, reduce the use of fossil fuels, lower our energy consumption, and adapt to our changing climate.

OPIRG: Established in 1976, OPIRG Peterborough is a campus-based, community-oriented, non-profit organization committed to research, education, and action on social justice and environmental issues. Each year, OPIRG staff and volunteers organize speakers, films, conferences, publications, and campaigns on a wide variety of topics that fit within our mandate. We also offer skills development workshops and research-for-credit opportunities.

5. An Intro to Youth 4 Global Change & Environmental Zine Making

Host: Youth for Global Change

This workshop will give students an idea of what Youth 4 Global Change does as a group at the same time as facilitating environmentally themed zine-making! Youth 4 Global Change facilitators will introduce the "Inequality-Tree" as a gateway to thinking about the root causes of climate change. Materials will be provided for you to get crafty about solutions!

Jamaican Self-Help has gathered a team of young activists in Peterborough, Ontario who are committed to the eradication of poverty and all forms of inequality. We call this action team Youth 4 Global Change. Youth 4 Global Change has three key principles: anti-Oppression, awareness, and action. A) Anti-Oppression: our group is made up of a diversity of youth who strive to create an inclusive and accountable space that challenges oppression on a systemic level. B) Awareness: using arts based education we will simultaneously work to raise our own consciousness, while expressing ourselves and educating the greater Peterborough public; and C) Action: we will mobilize to create change by addressing policy, community organizing, and participating in creative community-based solutions.

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS

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2. B!KE Art Makerspace

Host: B!KE; **Facilitator:** Tessa Nasca

The B!KE Art Makerspace is a drop-in session that allows participants the opportunity to create up-cycled, earth-friendly art projects. B!KE provides used bicycle parts, recycled tire tubes, tools, and basic jewelry and craft supplies to participants, as well as providing some project inspiration and patterns. Example projects created at past bike-art makerspaces include: sculptures, tire tube mason jarkoozies, jewelry, wallets, mobiles, key chains, and more.

Tessa Nasca is the Youth Program Coordinator at B!KE: The Peterborough Community Cycling Hub. Tessa will be facilitating the bike art makerspace along with a team of youth volunteers from B!KE's Youth Earn-a-Bike program. The bike art makerspace allows you to take a creative break, and make environmentally conscious up-cycled art, jewelry, and accessories, all made from bike parts that have been diverted from the waste stream! The makerspace is also supported by local artists and makers, who are donating their time and expertise to keep you crafting. Stop by for a short project, or come and get in depth with your creation.

3. Learning Justice from the Land

Facilitator: ieiérhes karolyn givogue grant

A locally residing Onkwéhonwe (Indigenous) political activist and traditional planter will be sharing thoughts on learning about justice through responsible interactions with the land, including what land justice in the Nogojiwanong area looks like for her as a queer Kanien'keha:ka Haudenosaunee woman with responsibilities in these territories. Discussions will touch on teachings from Kionhekwa (the Three Sisters or Corn, Bean, and Squash), ecological restoration of the Black Oak Savannah, the destructive consequences of dams (such as the Trent Severn Waterway), and challenging coloniality in dominant environmentalist movements.

ieiérhes karolyn is a mixed-race Wolf clan Kanien'kehaka (Mohawk) and Grant clan Highlander 2-spirit queer woman from the Cornwall area. ik has been living, planting, and organizing against White supremacy and colonialism in Nogojiwanong (Peterborough) for the past decade.

Note: This workshop will take place outside, so please dress accordingly. Food will also be served.

4. Gchi-Nbi – What the Elders Say [about water]

Facilitator: Dorothy Taylor (as part of her work with the Sacred Water Circle)

Through a traditional Anishinaabe water teaching, students will learn about the connection and sacred relationship between humans and water. Students will also have an opportunity to explore their own relationship with water. Dorothy will also share with the youth, her work with The Sacred Water Circle; and how it brings people of every culture, background, and sector together for water solutions with hope and spiritual courage leading the way. The youth will learn some Ojibway Language and the Nbi song about love and respect for water. Participating youth will be able to contribute to the Water Action Plan created by the Circle while empowering themselves to be advocates for water.

Note: [Optional] Youth are asked to bring a vial of water – where we as a group will pray for the water (express our gratitude) and return it to its original place.

Dorothy Taylor is an Ojibwe Anishinaabe kwe and is recognized as a traditional teacher. She is an active member of the Petroglyph Advisory Committee and is asked to share her knowledge with the various organizations within the region such as Trent University, Scugog First Nation, Curve Lake Cultural Centre and the Nogojiwanong Youth Solidarity Initiative. She is a consulting member of the Community Driven Process for Water, a collaborative program with Laurier University, University of Guelph and Nippissing University. Dorothy's current volunteer project is The Sacred Water Circle, a collective of community volunteers (with various faith traditions) with the objective of restoring humanity's sacred relationship with water. She lives in the Curve Lake community with her husband and two boys.

5. Environmental racism, colonialism and allyship: Where do we go from here?

Facilitator: Suha Jarrar

Themes of discussion: What is colonialism? What does being a true ally look like? How can we as youth choose to live in solidarity with Indigenous people and settlers on Turtle Island (aka North America), all while thinking about how this affects our relationship with the environment and climate change? This workshop will delve into these questions and get us thinking about where we can go from here. It will also draw similarities between different colonial practices around the world, specifically Palestine and Turtle Island.

Suha Jarrar is a University of Sussex Alumnus, a researcher and a social justice activist. She was born in Jerusalem, Palestine and moved to Canada in 2008 to pursue her Bachelors of Arts degree in Environmental Studies and Gender Studies at Trent University. In 2013, she obtained her Masters of Science degree in Climate Change Science and Policy from the University of Sussex, United Kingdom. Between 2013 and early 2015, she worked as a Program Coordinator and Gender Officer for a Palestinian agricultural organization in

Ramallah, Palestine. Her research interests are in the areas of climate change adaptation; environmental and social justice; environmental racism, political ecology and gender and racial politics.

6. Healing the Nation

Facilitators: Elisha Arthurs and JeanPaul Mohammad (Heritage Drummers)

Main themes that will be explored and discussed at this session are: What is diversity? Who are we? Who is represented here? How has colonization impacted women? How has colonization impacted African and Caribbean cultures? How can we [and ARE we] healing ourselves and the world through reclaiming and revitalizing our cultures and identities through song, dance, and ancestral rhythms?

In addition to participating in a discussion and choreographed dance as a workshop, Heritage Drummers [**through a presentation after lunch**] will share with us their songs, rhythms, and dances from West African and the Caribbean cultures and the distinct stories that come with each – by knowing them is to feel them; to experience them.

Furthermore, Elisha and JeanPaul will share with us the effects of colonization from a global lens, through its impact on cultures, ways of life, and rhythms as they experienced them as Rastafarians and how this may have impacted their identities.

To Elisha and JeanPaul what's important to remember as OUR life stories moves forward – in a decolonizing fashion, is that despite the many failed attempts of cultural genocide, assimilation, and geographic dislocation we as a peoples still carry these cultural ways, the land carries these ways and our blood memory (or ancestral memory) houses all this knowledge, if only we take the time to be still; to listen and to live them. Elisha and JeanPaul believe that our cultures are what help keep our connection to the source of our strength - to our ancestors. This is part of the re-healing of the Earth. This is the healing of the nation and the drum is what helps brings us back. As proud parents, this is of great importance to be able to pass down these things starting at the womb.

This workshop is highly recommended for dancers, movers, and those interested in exploring ancestral rhythms), in addition to learning about decolonization through picking up our responsibilities to the land, our nations, to one another, and the world.

History is something that has been changed, lost, and rewritten many times in the course of time, and many things have been lost. Through the medium of literacy history has become his-story and as a result many of OUR stories are left untold. Despite the loss of history, land, culture, identity, or names – our heritage is what we have – which comes through from our mother [the land]– i.e.: through our food, our clothing, our way of life and etc... This is what we carry and history cannot change that – so even though our history may be a mystery, our heritage is something we carry and walk with. That is why we call ourselves Heritage Drummers.

As proud parents, Elisha and JeanPaul are from the meeting place; currently based in Toronto. This is where their three beautiful children have been born.

Elisha was born here on Turtle Island (N. America) and has been dancing since 9 years of age and has been trained by a Rasta Elder. Elisha is a trained professional dancer (ballet, contemporary, modern, west African, Caribbean folk dance), an actress, a certified Chi Gong instructor, an established Yogini, an accomplished drummer, and an incredible mother! Elisha's works is interdisciplinary and intercultural in many ways – her main work is also with women of all nations and all ages through her teachings, abilities, and gifts.

JeanPaul was born in Trinidad and Tobago and raised here on Turtle Island. He started playing music at the age of 7 years and started practicing the old ways - the traditional ways - at 14 years of age. As a 17 year old young man JeanPaul moved to Canada and has been connecting with the Rasta, African, immigrant, and Indigenous communities and learning about different spiritual paths ever since. He believes these are all one community– as he has come to understand that our stories are very similar and our struggles are the same. The main line of work and commitment for JeanPaul at this time are building bridges, harmony, unity, and oneness.