



Confident Learners

Honouring our Partners

In 2012, a partnership between 32 First Nation schools and the University of New Brunswick's Canadian Research Institute for Social Policy (CRISP) set out with the vision to increase the capacity of teachers, parents, and volunteers to help ensure all Indigenous children become confident readers and learners. The core of the Confident Learners program is a direct result of this research collaboration, initially supported by Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC), and ultimately brought to full realization by The Learning Bar Inc. This document acknowledges key contributors to the Confident Learners research initiative, which laid the program foundations.

Thank you.

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Founding Partner Schools

Dene Tha' Community School

Chateh

Sister Gloria School

Little Red River Cree Nation

Fox Lake Elementary School

Little Red River Cree Nation

John D'Or Prairie School

Little Red River Cree Nation

Chief Tallcree Elementary

Tallcree Tribal Government

Sturgeon Lake School

Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation

Eel Ground School

Eel Ground First Nation

Wulastukw Elementary

Kingsclear First Nation

Metepenagiag School

Metepenagaig

Mushuau Innu Natuashish School

Natuashish

Sheshatshiu Innu School

Sheshatshiu

Mamawamatawa Holistic Education Centre

Constance Lake First Nation

Kikendawt Kinomaadii Gamig

Dokis First Nation

Lakeview School

M'Chigeeng First Nation

Biidaaban Kinomaagegamig

Sagamok Anishinabek

Kinomaugewgamik Elementary

Shawanaga First Nation

St. Joseph's Anishnabek

Sheshegwaning First Nation

Laura McKenzie Learning Centre

Temagami First Nation

Wasauksing Kinomaugewgamik

Wasauksing First Nation



Shawanosowe School

Whitefish River First Nation

John J. Sark Memorial Elementary

Lennox Island First Nation

Chief Gabriel Cote Education Complex

Cote First Nation

Cowessess Community Education Centre

Cowessess First Nation

Fishing Lake School

Fishing Lake First Nation

Chief Kahkewistahaw Community School

Kahkewistahaw

Asinew-Kisik Education Centre

Kawacatoose

Keeseekoose Chiefs Education Complex

Keeseekoose

Muskowekwan School

Muskowekwan

Ocean Man Education Centre

Ocean Man First Nation

Kakisiwew School

Ochapowacen First Nation

Goose Lake School

Sakimay First Nation

White Bear Education Complex

White Bear First Nations

Founding Advisory Circle Members

Lori Aliche, Director of Education and Child Development
North Peace Tribal Council

Bob Atwin, Executive Director
First Nation Education Initiative Inc.

Lou Byrne, Assistant Director of Education Programs
Manu Tshishkutamashtuau, Innu Education Inc.

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Kenjgewin Teg Educational Institute

Neil Debassige, Principal
Lakeview School

Neil Forbes, Education Director
Lennox Island First Nation

Allan Gillis, Director of Education
Mi'kmaq Confederacy of Prince Edward Island

Judy Kim-Meneen, Program Advisor
North Peace Tribal Council

Cheryl Mantei, Superintendent
Treaty 4 Education Alliance

Daryl Morrison, Education Specialist
First Nation Education Initiative Inc.

Lori Whiteman, Executive Director
Treaty 4 Education Alliance

Research Team

Project Leadership

Dr. J. Douglas Willms, Principal Investigator
Professor at the University of New Brunswick (UNB), founder and retired Director of the Canadian Research Institute for Social Policy (CRISP). Dr. Willms is President of the International Academy of Education, a Member of the US National Academy of Education, and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. He held the Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Literacy and Human Development for 14 years. Dr. Willms has developed the Educational Prosperity framework over the course of his career, which is used by jurisdictions in their capacity-building efforts and the development of educational policy. The model has been adopted by the OECD for PISA for Development, an initiative aimed at building capacity for low- and middle-income countries to monitor progress towards nationally-set targets for improvement. Dr. Willms is President and CEO of The Learning Bar Inc.

Dr. Robert Laurie, Project Director
Adjunct Professor with UNB and CRISP, former Director of Assessment and Evaluation for the NB Department of Education, serving in key roles in assessment programs such as the Pan-Canadian Assessment Program (PCAP) and OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA).

Program Framework

Dr. Gene Ouellette, Literacy Skills Advisor
Director of the Language and Literacy Learning Lab and Head of Psychology at Mount Allison University, and Associate Editor of the Journal of Experimental Child Psychology.

Dr. Ana Paula Do Vale, Literacy Skills Advisor
Professor of Language and Cognition specializing in reading, spelling, and dyslexia, and co-author of the award-winning BAL Reading Assessment Battery.

David Riddle, Experiential Education Advisor
Specialist in inclusive and experiential education with over 30 years of education experience as a teacher, principal, consultant, superintendent, and education director.

Dr. Lucia Tramonte, Assessment Advisor
Sociology Chair and Co-Director of CRISP at UNB; lead analyst for the Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) Successful Transitions project.

Dr. Kevin O'Connor, Project Advisor
Assistant Professor in Education and Schooling at Mount Royal University, and experienced teacher and educational administrator responsible for integrated experience science programs.

Instructional Framework

Dr. Ariana Loff, Instructional Framework Lead

Specialist in predictors of oral reading fluency, contributor to the Enhancing Literacy Development in European Languages (ELDEL) project at the Centre for Reading and Language at the University of York, and experienced literacy intervention teacher.

Allyson Haley, Literacy Specialist

Graduate researcher in language & literacy development, psycho-educational assessment, social determinants of educational outcomes, and intervention program development.

Assessment

Norma Barron, Assessment Specialist

Graduate researcher and career teacher, teacher mentor, Assistant Principal, and evaluation consultant with the Department of Education in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Professional Development

Robert Dunn, School Improvement Specialist

Experienced education administrator having most recently retired from his role as Superintendent of Education with the York Region District School Board and Principal of Compass for Success.

Karen Branscombe, Professional Development Specialist

President of East Coast Education Leaders Inc., a school improvement consultancy, and experienced teacher, principal, and superintendent.

Hélène Devarenes, Professional Development Specialist

Graduate researcher with experience as an Education Director, School Principal, Coordinator of Innovative Educational Funds, Provincial Literacy Specialist and University Lecturer.

Dr. (Victoria) Moon Joyce, Community Resource Lead

Interdisciplinary university instructor, educator, cultural worker, artist and organizational coach.

Rick Hutchins, Community Resource Specialist

Interdisciplinary consultant and university instructor, specialized in community problem-solving and social policy.

Bob Sharp, Community Resource Specialist

Educator specialized in experiential education and field studies.

Paul Lang, Videographer

Principal of Icon Media Productions Inc., responsible for filming, editing and producing the Confident Learners videos.

Instructional Resource

Peter Cullen, Learning Activities Coordinator

Homeroom and English second language teacher in the K-4 grades, and communications and event management professional.

Matthew Gwathmey, Activity Specialist

English second language, English first language, with a graduate degree in English Language and Literature.

April Rodgers-Sahib, Activity Specialist

Teacher specializing in literacy instruction for the K-2 age range.

Catherine Boyle, Activity Specialist

Elementary teacher with English second language experience.

Rosemary Gratton, Activity Specialist

Teacher specializing in literacy instruction in the elementary grades.

Tobi McCarthy, IT Integration Specialist

Elementary teacher, literacy tutor, and certified SMART board trainer.

Tracey O'Reilly, Activity Specialist

Director of Education, Kingsclear First Nation

Research Assistants

Anne Laurie, Graduate Student

Agnes Flanagan, Graduate Student

João Pereira, Graduate Student

Brandi Riddoch, Graduate Student

Community Members and Staff

A special thank-you to all community members and school staff who contributed to the initiative's success. In particular, we would like to acknowledge the following individuals:

First Nation Education Initiative Inc., New Brunswick

Gabriel Atwin, Chief, Wulastukw First Nation

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Jim McGregor, Former Chief, Whitefish River First Nation

Franklin Paibomsai, Chief Shining Turtle, Whitefish River First Nation

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M'Chigeeng First Nation

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Nation

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