



Keynote: James Rowinski

A-01: 9:00 - 10:00 am

New Brunswick Students' Understandings of the Interplay of Racialized and Ethnic Identities and Experiences with School History: Implications for Canadian Social Studies and History Education



James Rowinski is a PhD Candidate in Instruction and Curriculum Studies in Education at the University of New Brunswick. The recipient of a SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship, and O'Brien Fellowship, his areas of research include social studies and history education, historical thinking, historical consciousness, student voice, and critical research methodologies. Over the past decade, he has worked in New Brunswick as a social studies and history teacher and curriculum consultant with the Department of Early Education and Childhood Development. He has published in *Historical Encounters Journal (HERMES)* and has a new book publication, *In Perpetuity* (2023), through Goose Lane Editions, the product of a four-year historical inquiry school-community project with New Brunswick middle school students and teachers.



Keynote: Tara Francis

A-02: 9:00 - 10:00 am

Identity



Tara Francis is a Mi'kmaq Artist from Elsipogtog First Nation. Considered a Master quillworker, she also creates silk scarves and paintings. She studied at the New Brunswick College of Craft and Design, where she has also taught the traditional Mi'kmaq style of Porcupine Quillwork. Tara brings a contemporary edge to her quillwork that has elevated her to international recognition. Tara's Spiritual and artistic journeys have gone hand and hand throughout her career as she incorporates her connection to her ancestry into her pieces, she has also found a way to weave the issues that deeply affect her people and the environment into her work as well. Her work can be found in public and private collections around the globe, including the Beaverbrook Art Gallery, the Smithsonian Affiliated Abbe Museum and most recently a commission from the Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick that was gifted to his majesty King Charles III. Tara is the Chair of Mawi'art: Wabanaki Arts Collective, dedicated to advancing artists and art styles of Wabanaki Territory. Tara has taught quillwork throughout Atlantic Canada and Maine. She has also received several grants and has had her writing published in art magazines. She was featured in the APTN Documentary series Wabanaakik and more recently Wabanaki Modern and Shining A Light Indigenous Art in Atlantic Canada. Tara continues to push the boundaries of Traditional Indigenous Art while staying true to her Mi'kmaq roots.



Keynote: Big Daddy Tazz

B-01: 10:30 - 11:30 am

Out of my Mind



Equal parts comedian and mental health advocate, Tazz educates, enlightens, and inspires! After thirty years of denying he had the mental illnesses that were controlling his life, Big Daddy Tazz realized that being a manic-depressive, attention-deficit, socially anxious dyslexic could either destroy or enhance his life... the choice was his. For the last twenty years, Big Daddy Tazz has brought forth light and laughter for those living with mental illness (whether it's their own or that of someone they love) by raising awareness of how stigma affects us all. This father of two believes in educating, embracing, and empowering everyone so that we can all stand tall and give stigma a bad name.



Keynote: Vanisha Breault

B-02: 10:30 - 11:30 am

Identity: Who Are You?



Vanisha Breault is the founder of Terminator Foundation, a charity organization that has harnessed the transformative power of athletics to revolutionize the lives of individuals impacted by addiction and mental health. Vanisha Breault has been dubbed a 'Social Justice Warrior', CTV News called her a 'Champion for many' through her work across Alberta and within Terminator Foundation.

Vanisha is the author of an Amazon Best seller, 'Ordinary Courage: One Woman's Story of Overcoming Insurmountable Odds.'

Breault has spent over two decades as a crusader for issues concerning mental health, addiction, and domestic violence. She's an advocate and speaker who pushes the boundaries of vulnerability, introspection, and everyday courage while shifting the paradigm of judgment towards one of compassion.

Her personal story of domestic violence and addiction is the motivating force behind her dream of breaking down the shame and stigma surrounding mental health issues. She continues this important work as the podcast host of the notable show, Ordinary Courage, found in the Top 100 Relationship Podcasts in Canada.

Vanisha holds a B.A. (with honours) in Counselling/Psychology, as well as her Certified Life Coach training (CCF) and Certified Triathlon Coach training (NCCP).

Vanisha's impact in the community has been acknowledged by several awards, most recently the recipient of the Universal Women's Network, 'Difference Maker Award'. She has supported and advised on various boards in Alberta and Canada.

Breault resides in Calgary, Alberta with her four grown children and grandchildren. When she's not having sword fights with her grandkids, or cheering on Terminator's athletes, you will find her running. Forever running.



Keynote: Hughie Batherson

C-21: 1:00 - 2:00 pm

L'importance de l'humour dans les écoles



En plus de travailler à son Alma mater à l'Université Sainte-Anne, Hughie ouvre en tant que conférencier de motivation. Ses présentations humoristiques et inspirantes font de lui un individu très convoité, ayant présenté à travers le Canada. Sa présentation porte sur l'avantage d'inclure l'humour dans la vie professionnelle et personnelle. Hughie a adressé la parole à plus de 100 000 individus et il était le sujet d'article dans : 25 ans de défis, 25 ans de succès (ACPI-CAIT 2004), The State of French Second Language Education in Canada (CPF 2000) et MacLean's Magazine en 2013. Hughie est un ancien enseignant du système scolaire publique et professeur universitaire qui détient une Maîtrise en éducation. Sa recherche porte sur le sujet de l'humour en situation de salle de classe. Hughie est également lauréat du Prix Camille-Antoine Richard, décerné par la Société Nationale de l'Acadie, pour son inspiration auprès de la jeunesse acadienne. En 2022, Hughie a reçu le Prix du Lieutenant Gouverneur pour sa contribution à la francophonie de la N-É.



Keynote: Nikki Payne

C-01: 1:00 - 2:00 pm

Nikki Payne – A Story



You might remember her from MuchMusic's *Video on Trial* or NBC's *Last Comic Standing* before she ran into the wilds of New Brunswick to live with the woodland critters. After being bitten multiple times and covered in ticks she has re-emerged. Her love of comedy could not be suppressed, but mostly her bathroom needs a reno. If you're easily offended, you probably want to skip this one!



Keynote: Mi'kmaq Elder Dr. Albert Marshall

C-02: 1:00 - 2:00 pm

Mi'kmaq Language Is Our Identity



Dr. Albert Marshall is a Mi'kmaq Elder from Eskisoni First Nation in Unamaki, one of the seven Mi'kmaq districts in Mi'kma'ki. Elder Albert embodies the teachings of his Mi'kmaq ancestors from all natural and spiritual forms; he is a catalyst ensuring these teachings are shared with Mi'kmaq and non-Mi'kmaq to create a sustainable, equitable and healthy present and future for all. Throughout his life he has actively engaged in environmental activism, preserving, and strengthening the Mi'kmaq language, perspectives, and way of life. Etuaptmunk or Two-Eyed Seeing is a concept he and his late wife, Murdena Marshall, created through their work in STEM. Etuaptmunk or Two-Eyed Seeing is a concept of utilizing a collaboration of Indigenous knowledge

and other cultural areas of thought in STEM. However, across various fields the concept has been adopted as a guiding focus for working together to strengthen and sustain communities and individual lives and livelihood.



Keynote: Sam Demma

D-01: 2:30 - 3:30 pm

One Teacher Away



Sam Demma is a best-selling author and keynote speaker. He delivered two TEDx talks, co-founded PickWaste — an organization that mobilized volunteers to pick up over three thousand bags of litter — and was awarded the prestigious Queen's Platinum Jubilee Award for his exceptional national contributions. Sam's multimedia platform The High Performing Educator has spot-lit over 250 educators, and his best-selling debut book, *Empty Your Backpack*, has been called "a must-read for young dreamers." Sam's keynote, "One Teacher Away," is inspiring, reminding you that your actions matter, you make a huge impact, and, like a gardener, you plant seeds and water them but often don't get to see them flourish.



Keynote: Mark Black

D-02: 2:30 - 3:30 pm

The Resilience Roadmap



Mark Black is a Heart and Double-Lung Transplant Recipient – turned – 4- Time Marathon Runner.

A resilience expert, coach, and author, Mark helps people break through limitations and develop resilience so they can thrive through challenge and change.

Mark doesn't just teach resilience, he embodies it. Born with a life-threatening heart defect, Mark underwent two open-heart surgeries before the age of one. He battled his condition and its limitations for twenty-two years until he was forced to deal with the biggest obstacle of his young life. His doctor informed him that his heart was failing, and without a rare and dangerous heart and double-lung transplant, he would not see his 25th birthday.

In 2002, Mark was fortunate that a suitable donor was found. He not only survived the surgery, but less than 3 years later, Mark became the only man in history to run a marathon with someone else's heart and lungs. Then he did it three more times.

Mark is a Certified Speaking Professional, a designation held by less than 1500 speakers in the world. He has inspired more than 175,000 people in more than 750 presentations and has worked with global brands including ExxonMobil and Mercedes Benz, as well as many national and regional associations.

Mark lives in Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada where he spends as much time as possible with the most important people in his life: his wife Marise and their three children, Emma, Matteo, and Caleb.