

Program Guide

BRAIDING KNOWLEDGES CANADA 2025 GATHERING

*Reconciliation
through Research*

March 5-7, 2025



BRAIDING KNOWLEDGES CANADA
RENOUER LES SAVOIRS CANADA
braidingknowledgescanada.ca

WITH FUNDING FROM

Canada

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Photos p2-3 from 2022 Land-based learning camp
By Pierre-Emmanuel Chaillon - Épéchile Productions

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Braiding Knowledges Canada (BKC) is proud to be part of a rich history of Indigenous knowledge and culture, including Indigenous ways of knowing, doing and being. We recognize the historical trauma and the triumphs that many different cultures, lands and Nations have continuously faced within Canada.

We acknowledge that we are on the treaty lands and territory of numerous and diverse Indigenous Nations and pay tribute to their heritage and legacy, as we strengthen ties with the communities we serve while taking concrete actions towards meaningful reconciliation. We are grateful to have the opportunity to work with Indigenous communities on this land. We pay respect to all Indigenous people from all nations across Canada, acknowledge the traditional knowledge keepers and honour their leaders.

BKC recognizes and honours the vital role Indigenous knowledge, principles, and ways of being, bring to research, operations, and governance as we work together to develop a better understanding of our shared mountain ecosystems and beyond. BKC commits to braiding ethical space and Indigenous principles in everything we do, emphasizing the interconnectedness of our society, nature and our collective place in the environment.

BKC affirms the rights-based self-determination of Indigenous Peoples and commits to upholding the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) commitments in all BKC Undertakings.



MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

Welcome to the Braiding Knowledges Canada (BKC) 2025 Gathering!

March 5-7, 2025 | Canadian Museum of History, Gatineau, Quebec

Braiding Knowledges Canada (BKC) is honored to host its inaugural Gathering, a milestone moment as we celebrate our transition from the Canadian Mountain Network (CMN) to BKC. This event is a reflection of our commitment to braiding Indigenous and Western knowledges—bringing together distinct ways of knowing to create a stronger, more resilient whole.

Braiding Knowledges Canada advances *Reconciliation through Research* by enhancing the influence of self-determined, place-based, and co-produced knowledge within Canada's science culture such that, over time and on a path towards reconciliation, Indigenous and local knowledge approaches equitably contribute to public policy, decision-making, and the advancement of federal science priorities.

Over the next three days, we will foster connections, share knowledge, and explore collaborative pathways to address pressing environmental and societal challenges. Through dynamic keynote presentations, thought-provoking panel discussions, and interactive sessions, we aim to inspire meaningful dialogue and action.

This Gathering is an opportunity to strengthen relationships among Indigenous organizations, researchers, government representatives, industry leaders, and not-for-profit partners. Together, we will celebrate the progress made through braiding knowledges, honor our collective achievements, and set the stage for a future rooted in respect, reciprocity, and responsibility.

We are grateful for your participation in this journey and look forward to the conversations, learning, and connections that will shape the path ahead. Thank you for being part of the BKC 2025 Gathering!

— The Leadership Team, Braiding Knowledges Canada

BKC leadership



Cece Baptiste
Board Co-Chair



Michel Brazeau
Board Co-Chair



Dr. Monique Dubé
Executive Director



Dr. Paulina Johnson
Co-Research Director



Dr. Murray Humphries
Co-Research Director

GATHERING GOALS

- Foster connections among BKC's community of research teams, collaborators, Indigenous organizations, and broader stakeholders to strengthen relationships and shared understanding.
- Reflect on and celebrate the transition from the CMN to BKC, highlighting the progress, successes, and innovations achieved through the braiding of Indigenous and Western knowledges.
- Highlight the importance of continuing this collaborative work to address challenges and opportunities related to environmental change in Canada and beyond.
- Inspire ongoing efforts and discussions that promote equitable, inclusive, and impactful knowledge sharing for better decision-making.

Useful information

Canadian Museum of History

100 Laurier Street, Gatineau, QC K1A 0M8
(819) 776-7000

Four Points by Sheraton Hotel & Conference Centre Gatineau-Ottawa

35 Laurier St, Gatineau, Quebec J8X 4E9
(819) 778-6111

Event contact:

events@braidingknowledges.ca

Gathering information



BKC Website



braidingknowledgescanada.ca

Spread the word on social media!

Use the hashtag **#BKC2025Gathering** and the following handles to tag BKC, spread the word and share your photos!

Gathering hashtag: #BKC2025Gathering

Follow us on social media:

 Website: braidingknowledgescanada.ca

 Facebook: [@BraidingKnowledges](https://www.facebook.com/BraidingKnowledges)

 Twitter: [@braidingknowldg](https://twitter.com/braidingknowldg)

 Instagram: [@BraidingKnowledges](https://www.instagram.com/BraidingKnowledges)

 LinkedIn: [@BraidingKnowledges](https://www.linkedin.com/company/BraidingKnowledges)

AGENDA – LEARNING DAY

Time	Learning Day – Wednesday March 5	
7:30 - 8:30	REGISTRATION / BREAKFAST / NETWORKING (Riverview)	
8:30 - 9:00	(Riverview) Words of Welcome – Dr. Monique Dubé, BKC Executive Director; Michel Brazeau & CeCe Baptiste, BKC Board Chairs Opening Thanksgiving – Dominique Rankin Perso & Marie-Josée Tardif of Les Enseignements Kisis	
9:00 - 10:00	Morning Session A (Riverview) Learning Day Keynote: <i>Walking together on the sweetgrass road: Parallel journeys, ethical spaces and the role of ceremonies</i> , Dr. Michael Hart, University of Calgary	
10:00 - 10:30	BREAK (Douglas)	
10:30 - 12:00	Morning Session B1 (Douglas) <i>Hard Truths about Reconciliation in Research: Sharing Circle</i> Moderators: Drs. Florence Glanfield & Paulina Johnson, University of Alberta	Morning Session B2 (Riverview) <i>Medicine Wheel Teachings with Karen MacKenzie</i>
12:00 - 13:00	LUNCH (Riverview)	
13:00 - 14:30	Private Session – BKC Board of Directors Learning Event with Lisa Isaac, HR Professional Services (Executive Boardroom)	Afternoon Session C (Douglas) <i>Braiding Knowledges: Guided from the Past, Building for a Present, and Sharing a Future</i> Speakers: Drs. Paulina Johnson & Murray Humphries, BKC Co-Research Directors AND <i>Medicine Wheel Teachings with Karen MacKenzie</i> (Riverview)
14:30 - 15:00	BREAK (Riverview)	
15:00 - 17:30	Private Session – Board Meeting (Executive Boardroom)	Afternoon Session D (Douglas & Riverview) <i>Heart Teachings for Braiding: Hands-On Activity</i>
17:30 - 17:45	Closing Thanksgiving (Riverview) Dominique Rankin Perso & Marie-Josée Tardif of Les Enseignements Kisis	
17:45 - 18:30	BREAK / FREE TIME	
18:30 - 20:30	Gathering Welcome Reception Dinner & Registration (Canadian History Hall) – <i>open to all attendees</i>	

AGENDA – GATHERING DAY 1

Time	Gathering Day 1 – Thursday March 6
7:30 - 8:30	REGISTRATION / BREAKFAST / NETWORKING
8:30 - 9:00	<p>Morning Session A (Theatre)</p> <p>Words of Welcome – Dr. Monique Dubé, BKC Executive Director; Michel Brazeau & CeCe Baptiste, BKC Board Chairs</p> <p>Opening Thanksgiving – Dominique Rankin Perso and Marie-Josée Tardif of Les Enseignements Kisis</p>
9:00 - 10:00	Gathering Keynote (Theatre) – Dominique Rankin Perso & Marie-Josée Tardif of Les Enseignements Kisis
10:00 - 10:30	BREAK (Foyer)
10:30 - 12:00	<p>Morning Session B (Theatre)</p> <p>Panel Theme Area: Braiding of Knowledges in Culture and Governance <i>The culture and governance of science and the influence of the 10 Calls to Action</i></p> <p>Panel Chair: Lawrence Ignace, BKC Board Vice Chair</p> <p>Panelists: Dr. Allison Menzies, University of Calgary ; Rebecca Mearns, Piruvik Centre, Iqaluit ; William Alger, Knowledge Holder ; Noa Caspi, Master's Student, Queens University, Tamara Layden, Mountain Sentinels</p>
12:00 - 13:00	LUNCH – Sponsored by ECO IMPACT 2025 (Foyer)
13:00 - 14:30	<p>Afternoon Session C (Theatre)</p> <p>Panel Theme Area: Braiding of Knowledges in Research <i>Braiding Research and Giving Knowledge Space in Place-based Conservation</i></p> <p>Panel Chair: Dr. Don Carruthers Den Hoed, University of British Columbia</p> <p>Panelists: Dr. Courtney Mason, Thompson Rivers University; Kimmy Houle, Blackfoot Confederacy Tribal Council; Terry Dorward, IISAAK OLAM Foundation; Dr. Murray Humphries, McGill University</p>
14:30 - 15:00	BREAK (Foyer)
15:00 - 16:30	<p>Afternoon Session D (Theatre)</p> <p>Panel Theme Area: Braiding of Knowledges in Research (con't) <i>Indigenous Science and Place-based research to support culture, values and governance</i></p> <p>Panel Chairs: Dr. Paulina Johnson, University of Alberta; Dr. Myrle Ballard, University of Calgary</p> <p>Panelists: K'èdukà Jack, Neilatoo.atsien Allan & Daas.oox Kirby, T'akhu Á Tlèn Conservancy; Carmen Richter, Nîkanêse Wah tzee Stewardship Society; Tanya Condo, Mi'gmaq Wolastoqey Indigenous Fisheries Management Association; Vanessa Luna Celino, University of Florida</p>
16:30 - 17:30	<p>Pipe Ceremony (Grand Hall) – Optional Attendance</p> <p>The ceremony will be led by Dominique Rankin Perso and Marie-Josée Tardif of Les Enseignements Kisis.</p> <p>As part of the Knowledge Gathering, Elder and Hereditary Chief Dominique Rankin Perso extends his heartfelt invitation to Pipe Keepers who wish to join him in a Pipe Ceremony that will be open to all Gathering participants.</p>
18:00 - 19:00	Knowledge Braiders Cocktail Hour & Poster Session (Haida Gwaii and Grand Hall)
19:00 - 22:00	<p>From the Canadian Mountain Network to Braiding Knowledges Canada: a Celebration (Haida Gwaii and Grand Hall)</p> <p>Ribbon Cutting & Awards Gala Dinner / Formal Announcement of Knowledge Braiders Award Recipients</p>

AGENDA – GATHERING DAY 2

Time	Gathering Day 2 – Friday March 7
8:00 - 9:00	REGISTRATION / BREAKFAST / NETWORKING
9:00 - 9:15	<p>(Theatre)</p> <p>Words of Welcome – Dr. Monique Dubé, BKC Executive Director; Michel Brazeau & CeCe Baptiste, BKC Board Chairs</p> <p>Opening Thanksgiving – Dominique Rankin Perso & Marie-Josée Tardif of Les Enseignements Kisis</p>
9:15 - 10:15	<p>Morning Session A (Theatre)</p> <p>Panel Theme Area: Braiding of Knowledges in Knowledge Mobilization <i>Mobilizing Knowledges to Influence Decision-Making</i></p> <p>Panel Chairs: Dr. Emily McAuley, BKC Board Member; Dr. Kyle Bobiwash, University of Manitoba</p> <p>Panelists: Dr. Myrle Ballard, University of Calgary; Dr. Monique Dube, BKC; Mike Sutor, Yukon Government; Andrew Applejohn, POLAR Canada</p>
10:15 - 10:45	BREAK / KNOWLEDGE BRAIDERS POSTER SESSION (Foyer)
10:45 - 11:45	<p>Morning Session B (Theatre)</p> <p>Panel Theme Area: Braiding of Knowledges in Nurturing Talent & Growing Capacity <i>“Never too early, Never too late”: Braiding knowledge as life-long learning</i></p> <p>Panel Chair: Dr. Jamie Snook, Cloudberry</p> <p>Panelists: Ola Anderson, Torngat Wildlife Plants and Fisheries Secretariat; Jared Gonet and Nika Silverfox-Young, Yukon Salmon Culture and Knowledge Hub; Steve Alexander, Mitacs Science Policy Fellow & Science Advisor, Fisheries and Oceans Canada; Leon Andrew, Sahtú Renewable Resources Board</p>
11:45 - 12:45	LUNCH – Sponsored by ECO IMPACT 2025 (Foyer)
12:45 - 14:15	<p>Afternoon Session C (Theatre)</p> <p>Panel Theme Area: Braiding of Knowledges in Nurturing Talent & Growing Capacity <i>Ways of Learning: Indigenous partnerships and collaborative knowledge sharing</i></p> <p>Panel Chair: Dr. Adam Gaudry, University of Alberta</p> <p>Panelists: Dr. David Borish, Cloudberry Connections; Dr. Pam Shaw, Vancouver Island University, Anna Marie Sanchez, Environmental Stewards of Indigenous Lands; Drake Worth & Sharaya Hill, Univeristy of Alberta</p>
14:15 - 14:30	<p>(Theatre)</p> <p>Launch of the Indigenous Research Methods and Learners Network. Lawrence Ignace, BKC Board Vice Chair & Dr. Kyle Bobiwash, University of Manitoba</p>
14:30 - 15:00	<p>(Theatre)</p> <p>Closing Comments & Next Steps – Dr. Monique Dubé, BKC Executive Director; Michel Brazeau & CeCe Baptiste, BKC Board Chairs</p> <p>Closing Thanksgiving – Dominique Rankin Perso and Marie-Josée Tardif of Les Enseignements Kisis</p>
15:00 - 17:00	<p>Explore the Museum! Tickets included in registration</p>

THANKSGIVING ADDRESS & GATHERING KEYNOTE



Dominique Rankin

Grandfather T8aminik (which is how Dominique's first name is spelled in the Anicinape language) was born in the forests of northern Quebec, into a family that had managed to preserve the nomadic lifestyle of its ancestors. At the age of 7, he was chosen to succeed his father as hereditary chief.

Traditionally, the role of chief had to be accompanied by that of medicine man. And so, from his earliest childhood, he was placed on a long path of apprenticeships and initiations not only with the elders of his community, but also with various renowned guides in Canada, notably the late William Commanda, whose close apprentice he was for many years. In 2006, Grand-father T8aminik in turn became an Elder fully recognized by his peers. His real name is Kapiteotak ("He who can be heard crying from afar"), and he now devotes himself to the role of teacher and spiritual leader for which he was destined.

A survivor of the terrible residential school era, he gives a vibrant account of forgiveness and reconciliation in *They called us Savages*, written by Marie-Josée. and first published in French under the title *On nous appelait les Sauvages*.

Once Grand Chief of the Anicinape First Nation, T8aminik often jokes that he is now "cured of politics".

With Marie-Josée, he founded the non-profit organization Kina8at in 2013, then the Dominique Rankin Foundation in 2020, both with the mission of fostering healing and cultural reconnection among First Nations, as well as promoting reconciliation and the sharing of Indigenous cultures with all. T8aminik and Marie-Josée's work together has led them to take action both nationally and internationally.

Member of the Order of Canada, Knight of the Ordre national du Québec (the highest honours in Canada and Québec), Grand-father T8aminik is also the recipient of the medals of the Lieutenant-Governor of Québec, the Québec National Assembly and the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II.

Grand-father T8aminik regularly takes part in major events for world peace, the environment and reconciliation between peoples. He sits on various national and international committees.

THANKSGIVING ADDRESS & GATHERING KEYNOTE



Marie-Josée Tardif

For over 15 years, Marie-Josée has worked in the media world as a news anchor for major TV and radio networks such as Radio-Canada, RDI, LCN and Radio Rock-Détente. She has held positions in Quebec, Western Canada (Saskatchewan and Manitoba) and Great Britain.

Gradually, she felt the need to discover new horizons. She then turned her career as a journalist and author towards issues related to human potential. She contributed to *Vivre Magazine* and hosted a program on Radio Ville-Marie for many years. She has met and interviewed such world luminaries as H.H. the 14th Dalai Lama, Eckhart Tolle, Arnaud Desjardins, Don Miguel Ruiz, Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt, Jean-Yves Leloup, Albert Jacquard, Matthieu Ricard, Eileen Caddy, Jay Naidoo (minister in Nelson Mandela's government), James Redfield, Gregg Braden and Marianne Williamson.

Trained for 15 years by the French specialist in mindful communication, David Ciusi, Marie-Josée soon devoted most of her time to working with groups and individuals, helping them learn how to communicate more constructively and humanely, based on the principles of self-presence.

In 2007, her life turned upside down when the Elders of the Anicinape (Algonquin) First Nation presented her with her first sacred pipe. It was a great mark of respect and recognition, but one that required her to embark on a long journey of learning the language, philosophy and traditional medicine of this age-old people. That's why Marie-Josée regularly teaches alongside Anicinape hereditary chief T8aminik (Dominique) Rankin. Together over the years, T8aminik and Marie-Josée have helped thousands of people find their way back to joy, confidence in life and love of self and others.

With T8aminik, Marie-Josée founded the non-profit organization Kina8at in 2013, followed by the Dominique Rankin Foundation in 2020, whose missions are to enable healing and cultural reconnection among First Peoples, and to foster reconciliation and the sharing of Indigenous cultures with all. Marie-Josée and T8aminik work together on both the national and international scenes.

Marie-Josée is the author of the best-seller *On nous appelait les Sauvages*, published by Éditions Le Jour (translated into English as *They called us Savages* and published by Vidacom) and *La Leçon de Sitar ou l'Art de vibrer de toutes ses cordes*. Alongside T8aminik Rankin and Marie Caiazzo, she has also co-written a boxed set of beautifully illustrated medicine cards, including a comprehensive booklet entitled *La Médecine des Animaux*, published by Éditions Vega.

Marie-Josée sits on various national and international committees. She is also a regular participant in major events for world peace, the environment and reconciliation between peoples.

LEARNING DAY KEYNOTE



Dr. Michael Hart

Dr. Michael Hart is the vice-provost (Indigenous engagement). He was appointed for a five-year term (renewable), effective June 1, 2018.

He serves as a key champion and advocate for the Indigenous Strategy, *ii' taa'poh'to'p*, at the University of Calgary, which was formally launched on Nov. 16, 2017. Dr. Hart is a strong and visible role model for everyone, but in particular for our Indigenous scholars and students.

Michael Anthony Hart is a citizen of Fisher River Cree Nation. As a father of two teenage boys who are exploring the world and figuring out how to reach their dreams, he sees the need for and is deeply committed to, creating greater opportunities for Indigenous people. While he spent much time on reserve with his grandparents and extended family, he was raised in Winnipeg at a time when the population of Indigenous peoples was small and stereotypes of the people were numerous.

He personally understands the challenges that come with such a context, but also knows and supports the resurgence of Indigenous ways of being and knowing. His life's work has focused on providing support and direction to his sons, creating space for people to reach their dreams and deepening his understandings of Indigenous ways of life in today's context.

Michael has been supported throughout his life journey with the guidance of Elders from various nations and has spent several decades learning about his own peoples' traditional values, beliefs and practices.

Dr. Hart's career has been focused on Indigenous Peoples and ways of helping that will enable the University of Calgary to realize its goals for indigenization on its campuses. His approach is about connecting with and learning from Indigenous Elders and Traditional Knowledge Keepers to explore how these philosophies can guide us, transcend boundaries and take incremental steps to change the conversation between different cultures.

Since 2012, Dr. Hart has held a Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Knowledges and Social Work through the University of Manitoba. He has also held the role of acting director of the Master of Social Work in Indigenous Knowledges program at the University of Manitoba.

For the past 17 years, he has been a board member for the Aboriginal Social Workers' Society in Manitoba and was a founding committee member. His work has spanned across Canada, including Manitoba, Quebec and Yukon.

Hart holds a BSW, MSW and PhD in Social Work from the University of Manitoba, as well as a BA in Psychology from the University of Manitoba.

Among a number of accountabilities in his role, Dr. Hart strives to: build meaningful partnerships and collaborations with faculties, units and Indigenous communities in Alberta; foster mentorship, research and scholarships and support services for Indigenous students, faculty and staff; and design, develop and implement relevant programming for non-Indigenous students and campus community members.

SPECIAL HOST



Karen Mackenzie

Karen Mackenzie is a proud Cree-Métis woman whose family comes from Grouard, Alberta in Treaty 8. She lives in Treaty 6 and works across Turtle Island. She is the Co-Founder and President of MacKintosh Canada, an Indigenous owned, international consulting company.

Karen brings her traditional knowledge of Indigenous ways into the contemporary workplace as this wisdom and way of being reflect “wise practices of purpose driven individuals, communities and organizations.” She is committed to the “Calls to Action” from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and is an advocate for the United Nations Declarations on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). This approach supports the cocreation of a healthy and safe workplace that is inclusive, engaging, and respectful of the land, culture, and aspirations of all but particularly Indigenous peoples.

Karen is honoured to be part of the Elder in Residence Program for Indigenous Services Canada. She sits with the Circle of Elders for Edmonton Catholic Schools, heralded as a wise practice across Canada enabling greater success rates for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis learners. She sits with the Circle of Matriarchs for the City of Edmonton. Karen is an Elder/Knowledge Keeper for the Edmonton Police Service.

She was appointed as an “Expert Panel” member for the Canadian Centre for the Purpose of the Corporation and as a Senior Advisor to Navigator. She is a former member of the Community Safety and Well-Being Task Force for the City of Edmonton and is also a past member of the Edmonton Police Commission.

Karen is a Senior Advisor and mentor to the Indigenous Women in Community Leadership, Coady Institute, St. Francis Xavier University. She was appointed as one of two members for Alberta to the Independent Advisory Board for Senate Appointments. Karen was recognized as an Albertan SHEInnovates leader under the Global Innovation Coalition for Change (GICC). She is a past board member of “Honouring Indigenous Peoples” a national Rotary initiative. Karen is a mother to six children and grandmother to two. She is a member of the Métis Nation of Alberta.



The Medicine Wheel provides land-based teachings that reflect the interconnectedness of the natural world and how we are all related. The Indigenous worldview is found in these teachings and include leadership, governance, change, to name a few. Everything has meaning and the lessons serve as a guide for living a purposeful life.

Thank you for joining us at
our inaugural Gathering!



Braiding Knowledges Canada Leadership Team & Staff



Photos from the 2023 Knowledge Sharing Summit

