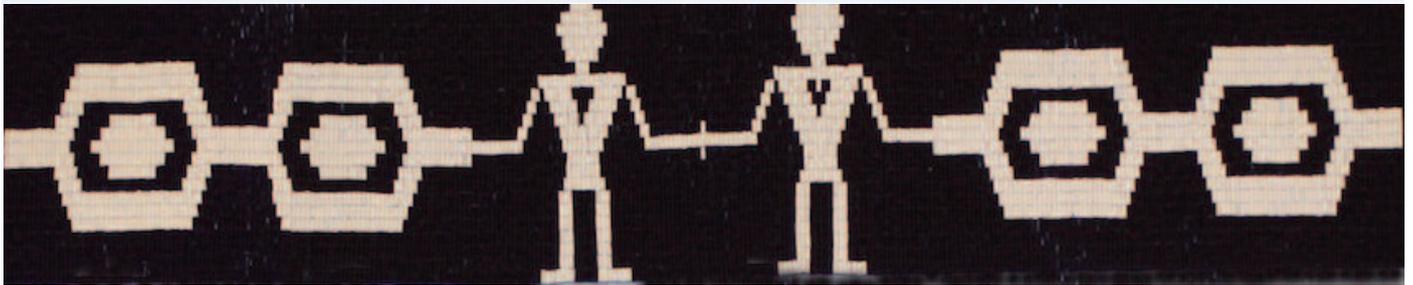


SPRING COLLOQUIUM

Indigenous voices in Quebec heritage  
**Reconciling History**

Presented by the  
Quebec Anglophone  
Heritage Network



**Saturday, April 4, 2020**  
Salle Petit Fort  
**Royal Military College**  
15, rue Jacques-Cartier Nord,  
St. Jean-sur-Richelieu



This colloquium is made possible by  
the generous financial support of the  
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## MORNING PROGRAM

**Salle Petit Fort, Royal Military College**

April 4, 2020

8:45 – 8:55 a.m. Doors open

9:00 – 9:05 a.m. Welcome words

*Grant Myers, president, Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network (QAHN)*

9:05 – 9:40 a.m. Ceremonial address

*Ka'nahsohon Kevin Deer, vice-president, Academics, First Nations Technical Institute*

### **Indigenous Paths to Knowledge:**

Ways of Knowing, inhabiting and honouring the world in First Nations culture

9:40 – 10:20 a.m. Presentation

*Eric Pouliot-Thisdale, independent researcher, Université de Québec à Montréal*

### **Mohawk Warriors and the War of 1812-14**

New findings tracing veterans to their historic communities of origin

10:20 – 10:30 a.m. Break

Networking and refreshments

10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Presentation

*Darren Bonaparte, director, Historic Preservation Office, Saint-Regis Mohawk Tribe*

### **Wampum Chronicles**

Reading history and diplomacy in the Haudenosaunee art of wampum belts and strings

11:30 – 11:55 a.m. Questions and Discussion

*Speakers' Panel*

12:00 – 12:55 p.m. Lunch Break



## AFTERNOON PROGRAM

### Salle Petit Fort, Royal Military College

April 4, 2020

1:00 – 1:40 p.m. Presentation

*Paul-Conrad Carignan, métis Anishnabe and Huron-Wendat, Eastern Townships*

#### First Peoples

Indigenous presence from the last Glacial Maximum to the Historic Period

1:40 – 2:15 p.m. Presentation

*Dr. Avril Aitken, professor and chair, School of Education, Bishop's University*

#### From Partnerships to Relationships

Lessons on seeking to work ethically with Indigenous communities

2:15 – 2:25 p.m. Break

Networking and Refreshments

2:30 – 4:00 p.m. Group Exercise

*Dwane Wilkin, QAHN, session facilitator*

#### Reconciling History:

Indigenous heritage and collaborative learning for museums and classrooms

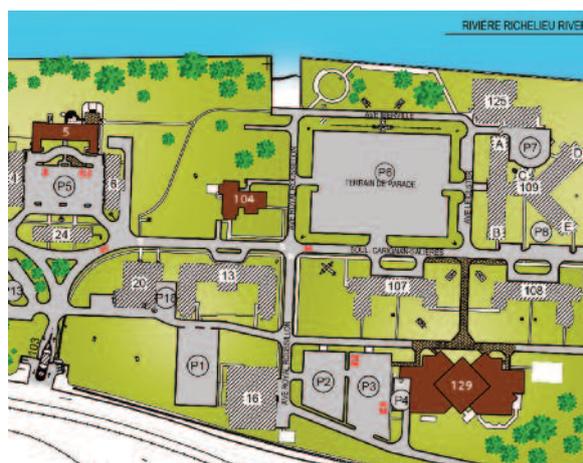
*Participants share ideas for exhibits and learning activities that tell about Aboriginal people in Canada's past and present.*

4:00 p.m. Closing remarks

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#### Directions

Salle Petit Fort is in Dextraze Pavillion, shown as building number 129 on the site map. Enter from rue Jacques Cartier through the main gate (bottom left), take the first right and follow signs for the P2-P3 parking area. Entrance to the building is straight ahead along a paved walking path leading to the building's main entrance, Door number 1.



## PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS

### Indigenous Paths to Knowledge

Ka'nahsohon Kevin Deer

The deep history of Indigenous culture and traditions defies expression in conventional historical narratives. Many words and phrases in Kanien'kéha, the Mohawk language, help paint a richer, more comprehensive portrait of the Mohawk people's origins and beliefs. In this presentation, elder and Kanien'kéha speaker, Ka'nahsohon Deer, decodes the meaning of key concepts that are central to a traditional Mohawk world-view. He will discuss aspects of the ancestral "upper world" and the obligations placed on *Onkwehon:we* (original peoples) in the "lower world" that must be fulfilled to sustain the circle of life. Participants will come away with a better understanding and appreciation for the Indigenous teachings of Turtle Island, a wisdom tradition that offers guidance for confronting the current climate crisis, repairing our flawed economic system, rooting out corruption and nurturing a revival of Indigenous spirituality. Prepare to be enlightened.

### Mohawk Warriors and the War of 1812-14

Eric Pouliot-Thisdale

The War of 1812-14 was a turning point for many Indigenous peoples in British North America. Not only was it the last military conflict in which their participation was crucial for Canada, within a generation of war's end, colonial settlers far outnumbered First Nations groups in their own land. Mohawk Warriors fought many battles against the Americans alongside British and Canadian allies, but their contributions have attracted scant attention from scholars. Eric Pouliot-Thisdale shares new findings from his analysis of census records and parish registers from Akwesasne, Kahnawake and Kanehsatake, tracing veterans of the War of 1812-14 to their precise community of origin. This presentation includes an account of how the Warriors' battalion was organised and explains why a relatively small number of volunteers were recruited from Kanehsatake.

### The Wampum Chronicles

Darren Bonaparte

The Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) use of wampum belts to record and teach about the past is a fascinating aspect of Indigenous culture in North America. For centuries, key teachings and events, from the Creation story to the Great Law of Peace and contact with European traders and settlers, have been preserved and communicated to future generations through this traditional art form. At the dawn of the 17th century, wampum became the interface between native and colonist. When great leaders delivered speeches at the council fire, they held wampum belts and strings in their hands as a symbol of past events and the most solemn of commitments. Mohawk storyteller, author and artist Darren Bonaparte has been sharing his knowledge of wampum since he wove his first belt in 1999. In this talk, which incorporates more than two dozen handmade belts and strings, the workings of a typical treaty council and the oral traditions behind each wampum are vividly brought to life. What unfolds is a unique narrative that will inspire new ways of teaching about Indigenous people in Canadian history.



## Indigenous Presence from the last Glacial Maximum to the Historic Period

Paul-Conrad Carignan

Archaeology has unearthed evidence of human presence in what is now southern Quebec dating back to the end of the last Ice Age, 11,000 years ago. The exact origins of these ancient people, known as Paleo-Indians, has not been firmly established, and current scholarship differs as to which route or routes they might have travelled.

This presentation examines four theories, all of which contradict traditional Indigenous beliefs about the peopling of their world prior to European contact. These include: migration from Asia across the Beringia land bridge; journey by boat across the Pacific Ocean; overland migration from the south following the retreat of the glaciers; and even a theory of pre-historic migration from Europe across the Atlantic Ocean. Paul Carignan discusses what ancient artifacts can tell us about the life-ways of Quebec's first human inhabitants, as reflected in changing tool technologies, from the Archaic through the Woodland periods.

## Lessons from Seeking to Work Ethically with Indigenous Peoples

Dr. Avril Aitken

The word *partnership* is often used in policy documents that provide frameworks for funding or to encourage organizations to represent the interests and voices of diverse groups. Significantly, the word *partnership* is often ill-defined in such texts, and is often used interchangeably with the word *relationship*. Since the release of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) findings in 2015, increasing numbers of civil-society organizations in Canada have answered the TRC's calls to action by seeking partnerships with Indigenous peoples. What would it mean for these partnerships to be grounded in ethical relationships? Taking into consideration the current nation-wide interest in building projects with Indigenous groups and communities, this presentation takes a look at the significance of Kirkness and Barnhardt's four Rs – Respect, Relevance, Reciprocity and Responsibility – as a framework for such initiatives.

## Reconciling History

Dwane Wilkin

Many of the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission's* (TRC) calls to action relate to Canada's past and how it gets framed and transmitted. These include making room for Indigenous traditional knowledge in classrooms; developing learning tools for teaching about Aboriginal peoples; and encouraging museums and archives to adopt policies and practices that respect the rights of First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities. How can local heritage and cultural organizations respond to these calls constructively? One way is by working with Indigenous educators to design learning activities in our communities that honour Indigenous historical perspectives, stories and culture. In this session we will work in small groups to generate ideas for heritage exhibits, lesson plans, cultural presentations and other initiatives that raise public awareness of Canada's First Peoples.



## ABOUT OUR GUEST SPEAKERS

**Ka'nahsohon Kevin Deer** is member and elder of the Kahnawake Mohawk First Nation who has been deeply involved in Mohawk language education in his community for more than three decades. He enjoys sharing his knowledge of Iroquois (Haudenosaunee) history, philosophy and spirituality and is currently serving as Acting Vice President of Academics at the First Nations Technical Institute (FNTI). Ka'nahsohon is also a Faithkeeper at the Mohawk Trail Longhouse, which involves knowing and passing on to future generations sacred songs, dances and rituals that are an intrinsic part of First Nations cultural heritage.

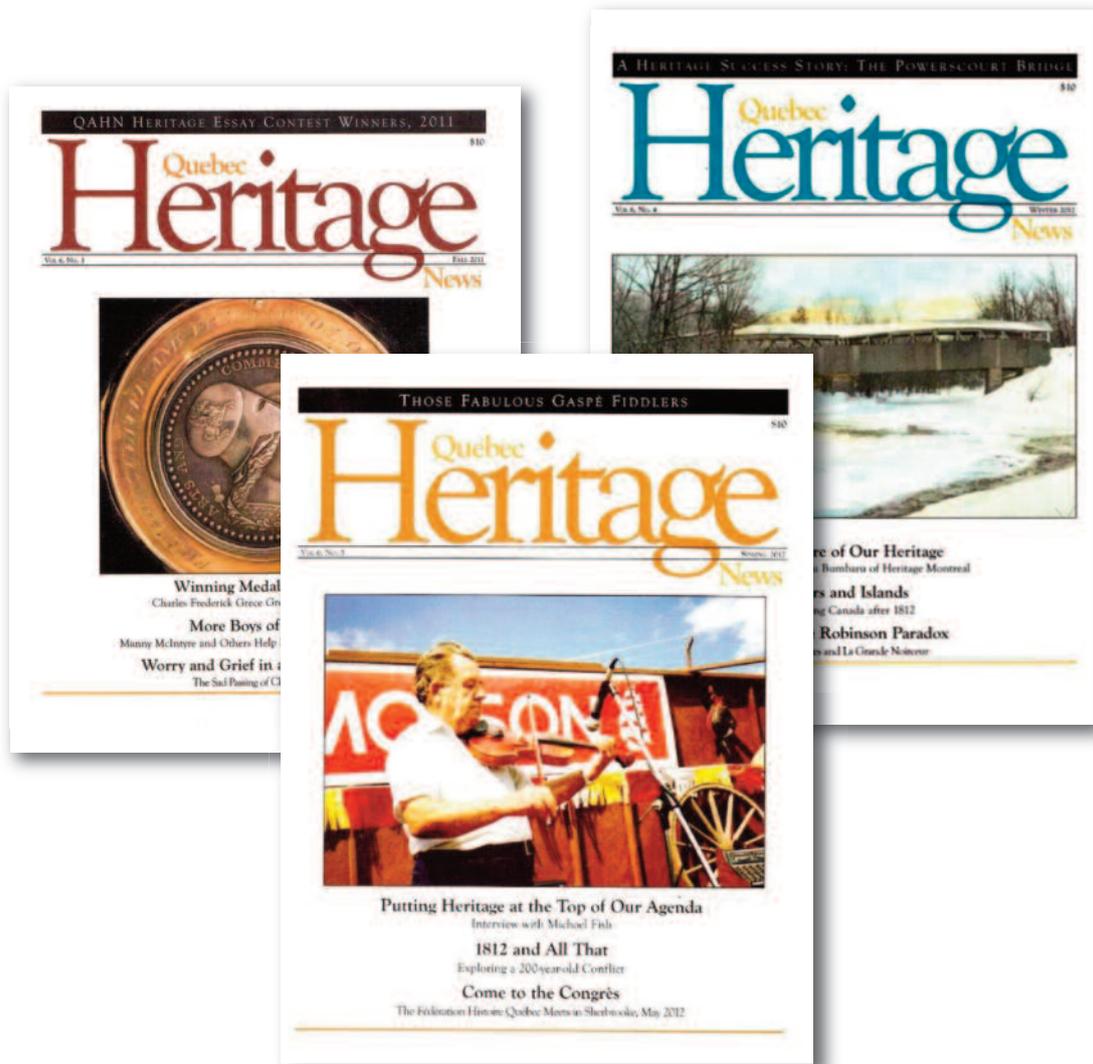
**Eric Pouliot-Thisdale** is an historian and researcher of Mohawk-Innu ancestry with 20 years' professional experience. His past work has focused on military and demographic archives and his skills and knowledge are frequently called on by First Nations leaders to support land-claims and genealogical research. Author of numerous published articles and academic papers, Eric developed a methodology for analysing demographic data that has yielded new information about the historical identity of military veterans from Indigenous communities. Much of his work may be found on the website of Library and Archives Canada and on their publications website, *Voilà*. He is currently completing a degree in history at the Université de Québec à Montréal (UQAM).

**Darren Bonaparte** has lectured and published extensively on Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) history and culture over a long career that has included jobs in radio, newspaper journalism, public relations and museum management. Author of two books, Darren served as historical consultant for the PBS television miniseries, *The War that Made America* and for the documentary, *Forgotten War : The Struggle for North America*. In 2018 he penned the libretto for the McGill Chamber Orchestra's musical tribute to Kateri Tekawitha, the first Indigenous person to be declared a Catholic saint. Darren is currently director of the Tribal Historic Preservation Office of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe.

**Paul-Conrad Carignan** is a métis Anishnabe (Algonquin) and Huron-Wendat. He is franco-Ontarian by birth, but has lived in the Eastern Township for almost 40 years, exploring his French and Indigenous ancestry. Over the years, he has learned a great deal about his Indigenous heritage from elders in various First Nations communities, and he now shares these teachings with others, from his farm near Magog.

**Avril Aitken** is a settler scholar from the School of Education at Bishop's University in Sherbrooke, Quebec. Her research and teaching focus on how future educators can be prepared to promote equitable, inclusive and sustainable communities through their practice. This work has been influenced by her long-term relationship with members of the Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach (NNK), through which she participated in community efforts to grow the place and presence of Naskapi language in the local school. Most recently she has been involved in efforts at Bishop's to understand what it means to act ethically in relationships with Indigenous students, partners and communities.





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