



# CTA TLC Conference Program April 24, 2026 Chilliwack Cultural Centre

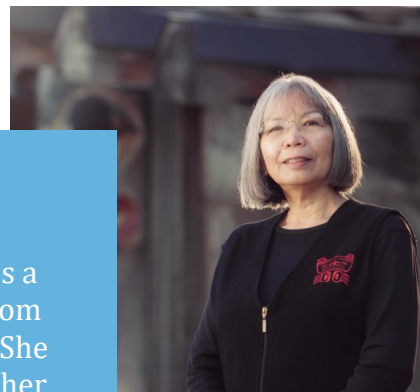
## S'ólh Téméxw - Our Land, Our World



*All of the bus tours and sessions focus on connecting to our land, connecting with our history, and sharing our learning together to inspire cultural and environmental stewardship amongst all of us who share these lands and waters.*

Dr. Jo-ann Archibald OC  
Keynote Speaker

Known as Q'um Q'um Xiiem, Dr. Archibald is a distinguished Indigenous scholar hailing from the Stó:lō First Nation in British Columbia. She also has St'at'imc ancestry and throughout her illustrious career she has tirelessly championed Indigenous education.





**AGENDA**

8:00am Join us for coffee/continental breakfast in the Cultural Centre lobby  
 8:30am Welcome and President's message in the Hub International Theatre  
 8:45am Keynote Address: Dr. Jo-ann Archibald  
 9:30-9:45am Short break and boarding for bus tours  
 9:45am -1:00pm Tours and sessions  
 1:00pm Please enjoy lunch out with colleagues to collaborate.  
 Apply for reimbursement on the 'Lunches Only' form issued in June.

*Please consider car pooling to the Cultural Centre for the keynote and bus tours*

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Bus Tour 3	Dragon Boating & First Nations Paddling History <b>FULL</b>	3
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**To register, please email your first and second choices to: [office@chilliwackteachers.com](mailto:office@chilliwackteachers.com)**

CTA TLC Conference is free for all SD33 teachers.

We will NOT be accepting walk-ins as confirmed numbers are needed for the bus tours.

Registration closes April 17th: tours and sessions have limited space - register early!

The light lunch will be a variety of sandwiches from Gunthers so please let us know if you have any dietary restrictions.

Sandwiches will be sent on bus tours and available for the on-site sessions at the Cultural Centre (11:15am).



01

**Bus Tour #1: Rainbow Falls Tour & Walk/ Harrison River Scenic Tour**

Presenter: Harrison Eco Tours

Explore the Harrison River Valley by boat on our Rainbow Falls tour and walk coupled with a brief visit down Harrison River. Expect light commentary on the ecology of the area as well as touch points in local First Nations history.

*9:45am - Depart by bus from Cultural Centre*

*Light lunch provided. Please bring water and dress appropriately for the weather.*

*1:00pm - Return to Cultural Centre*

**FULL**

02

**Bus Tour #2: Topp's Hops Farm Tour and Ravens Brewery**

Presenters: Aurora McLachlan, Topp's Hops, and Paul Sweeting, Ravens Brewery

Participants will be lead through a tour of the farm, walking through the yearly processes, and in-depth peek at processing equipment and facilities. The tour will focus on the growing cycle, equipment used (wagons, tractor, pesticide sprayers, hop picking machine, cast house, palletizing equipment), hop sensory rub, theory and industry overview. Then travel to Raven's brewing to go into the brewing area and learn about the science and technology that turn these local ingredients to liquid gold.

*9:45am - Depart by bus from Cultural Centre*

*Light lunch provided. Please bring water, dress appropriately for the weather and wear closed toe shoes for the brewery tour.*

*1:00pm - Return to Cultural Centre*

**FULL**

03

**Bus Tour #3: Dragon Boating and First Nations Paddling History**

Presenter: Sudden Impact Paddling Club

This dragon boating adventure is a unique experience on Cultus Lake to promote physical health, fitness, collaboration, teamwork, leadership development, and fun! Led by a team of professional coaches, participants will learn the skills to work together to paddle safely, paddle fast and have tons of fun on these sturdy 20 person boats, all while enjoying the breathtaking beauty of Cultus Lake!

*9:45am - Depart by bus from Cultural Centre*

*Light lunch provided. Please bring water and dress appropriately for the weather. Wear sandals or water shoes, bring towel, optional change of clothes, sunscreen, hat and sunglasses if sunny.*

*1:00pm - Return to Cultural Centre*

**FULL**



# 04

## **Bus Tour #4: Beyond Blankets: A Stó:lō Lands Exercise**

Presenter: Alexis Klassen, UFV Peace & Reconciliation Centre

This is an immersive and transformative learning experience developed by the University of the Fraser Valley's (UFV) Peace and Reconciliation Centre (PARC) in response to a request from Xwiyolemtel (Grand Chief Clarence "Kat" Pennier). Xwiyolemtel wanted an experiential learning exercise that would foster understandings of Stó:lō culture, history, and connection to the land, while highlighting the impacts of settler colonialism and still celebrating Stó:lō resilience. Inspired by a wide range of Stó:lō Elders and Knowledge Keepers (past and present), many of whose voices are quoted in this exercise, Beyond Blankets is thoughtfully designed to help lay a foundation upon which people can begin contributing directly to Stó:lō cultural and political resurgence and genuine Stó:lō-settler reconciliation.

# Cancelled

*9:45am - Depart by bus from Cultural Centre*

*Light lunch provided and please bring water. Participants are advised to wear socks and prepare to actively participate (through reading out loud and taking on roles) in the engaged learning exercise.*

*1:00pm - Return to Cultural Centre*

# 05

## **Bus Tour #5: Wildlife Art and Environmental Discussion Walk at the Great Blue Heron Reserve**

Presenters: John LeFlock and Camille Coray

This walk will educate and inspire people of all ages to understand, protect and preserve nature and wildlife through fun, engaging, and interactive environmental awareness programs. Wetland ecosystems provide a range of ecological goods and services that are essential for human well-being and survival. These services include water purification, flood control, carbon sequestering, erosion control, and habitat for numerous species of plants and animals. Wetlands act as carbon sinks, helping to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, and also play a key role in the global water cycle, storing and releasing water as needed. The value of the goods and services provided by wetlands is often overlooked, and their conservation is essential for the preservation of these critical ecological goods and services for future generations.

*9:45am - Depart by bus from Cultural Centre*

*Light lunch provided, bring water, and dress appropriately for the weather.*

*1:00pm - Return to Cultural Centre*



06

**Bus Tour #6: Spring Foraging Tour**

Presenter: Raeanna Layfield, Foraging with You

Step into spring and experience the forest like never before. Be guided through a vibrant spring foraging location by Raeanna, a Red Seal Chef and professional foraging guide. Discover how to properly identify harvest, process and cook with seasonal wild ingredients while gaining confidence in your connection to the land. This immersive workshop invites you to taste, see, and touch as you learn about wild edible and medicinal plants and fungi on a grounding forest tour. Enjoy a thoughtfully prepared wild food picnic, followed by a lighthearted quiz on the walk back to deepen your learning. Come curious. Leave inspired.

*9:45am - Depart by bus from Cultural Centre*

*Bring a small foraging bag so you can take a few wild treasures home and share your new found knowledge with loved ones.*

*1:00pm - Return to Cultural Centre*

07

**Bus Tour #7: Hike With a Purpose**

Presenters: Maria Gorelova and Katie Dempsey, SD33

Join us for a hike up qoqó:lem, locally known as Vedder Mountain, for an experiential workshop that takes learning outdoors. Rather than simply hiking a trail, we will intentionally observe and engage with the natural environment of our local wild spaces. We will model an activity that you can connect with the learning happening in your own classroom - providing students with opportunities to slow down, notice and intentionally connect with the natural world and curriculum while exploring outdoors.

*9:45am - Depart by bus from Cultural Centre*

*Light lunch provided. Bring water and a device for taking photos. Wear weather appropriate clothing and footwear. Dress to hike a slightly rooty, slightly muddy, bit of rocky trail with some incline.*

*1:00pm - Return to Cultural Centre*

08

**Bus Tour#8: Say Lands**

Presenter: Steve Clegg

Join us in S'ólh Téméxw (our land, our world) for a tour of reconciliation in action. Be welcomed to Skowkale lands by our Culture & Language Department, sit in our new gathering circle to hear from Community Members about Stó:lō world views, stories, and modern cultural integration. Tour recently restored riparian lands to envision how your students can engage in citizen science and be inspired by Indigenous-led stewardship to create new relationships with urban streams.

*9:45am - Depart by bus from Cultural Centre*

*Bring water and weather appropriate clothing as we will be outside.*

*1:00pm - Return to Cultural Centre*



09

**Session #9: Murals and Meaning Walk - from Main Street to Mill Street  
Rooted in Place - An Urban Tree Discovery Walk**

Presenters: Michael Berger and Debora Soutar

**Mural Walk:** Step into an open-air gallery in the heart of Chilliwack. Featuring works from the Chilliwack Mural Festival, this guided walk explores artistic intention, cultural themes, and the power of public art in civic spaces. Perfect experience for educators, creatives and lifelong learners.

**Tree Walk:** Take a closer look at the living infrastructure of our city. This tour explores urban forests, tree identification, and the vital role trees play in climate resilience and community well-being. Designed for curious adults, it's an educational experience that deepens your connection to place.

*9:45am - Meet at the Chilliwack Museum where you will be split into two groups:*

*Group 1 will do the Mural Walk followed by the Tree Walk*

*Group 2 will do the Tree Walk followed by the Mural Walk*

*Light lunch available at the Chilliwack Museum (11:15am). Please bring water, and dress appropriately for the weather.*

10

**Session #10: Experiencing Earth, Fire, Water: First Nations Relationships with the Elements**

Presenters: Stephan Biela, Rick Joe, Valerie Tosoff, Donna Lee Irwin

Participate in two First Nations cultural experiences on the land. One is a sauna-lodge grounded in St'át'imc knowledge. Teachings will be shared in four rounds in a hot wood-fired sauna, infused with the natural smoke of cedar, sage and sweetgrass. In between rounds, participants are encouraged to take a healing cold plunge in the waters next to the sauna. In the second cultural activity you will draw on traditional ecological knowledge to explore how First Nations communities use local plants. On this walk, you will learn that plants serve multiple purposes – including medicines, teas, and dyes – highlighting the interconnected relationship between land, culture, and craft.

*9:45am - Participants must drive and will access private property via a forest service road. Registered participants will receive further details prior to the activity.*

*Light lunch will be available but please bring water. Participants must be able to walk in hilly wooded areas, will need to wear swim wear (or t-shirt and shorts) for the sauna-lodge portion and be prepared for outdoor learning in any kind of weather.*



11

**Session #11: Honouring Our Arts, Honouring Our Stories: Student Voices on Indigenous Cultural Expression**

Presenters: Niki McCall and the Indigenous Student Voice & Agenda Group

In this session, representatives from the SD33 Indigenous Student Voice & Agency group will guide staff through an exploration of Indigenous cultural expressions as they live within their own families, communities, and learning journeys. Through personal stories and examples of cultural art forms—such as weaving, carving, painting, dance, and other creative practices—students will highlight how these expressions are deeply connected to identity, belonging, and place. Participants will also be invited into a hands-on experience led by students, engaging directly in a cultural art form or activity and reflecting on the meaning that emerges through learning by doing.

Students' voices and leadership will be supported by members of the Indigenous Education Department, who will share resources, instructional strategies, and curriculum-aligned ideas for bringing Indigenous cultural expression into classrooms in meaningful, respectful, and relational ways. Together, we will consider how these practices can be honored in schools, how they enrich learning across subject areas, and how educators can create intentional space for diverse cultural voices to be seen, valued, and sustained.

*9:45am - 1:00pm in the Painting Studio at the Cultural Centre  
Light lunch provided. Please bring water.*

12

**Session #12: Interconnected Classrooms: Using Multimedia & Art to Deepen Learning**

Presenter: Maddi Krulicki, local alt pop singer, songwriter, producer “MADDI K”

Maddi creates a mould for the next generation, breaking free from conventional methods of thought and self-expression while simultaneously preserving the vitality of her indigenous lineage. Explore how art and multimedia can bridge subjects, helping students engage emotionally and intellectually with real-world concepts. Using examples from Maddi's music and audio visual projects, participants will see how English, Social Studies, Science and the Arts can intersect to create deep understanding. Through discussion and a hands-on activity, teachers will leave with practical strategies to integrate multimedia, creativity and place-based learning into their own lessons.

*9:45am - 1:00pm in the Choral Studio at the Cultural Centre  
Light lunch provided at 11:15am. Please bring water.*

13

**Session #13: Intro to Stó:lō Art through Lino Print Carving**

Presenter: Maddy Ward

Carving is a prominent art form within Stó:lō territories. Participants will learn about shape form within the art form and use it to design and carve a lino print.

**FULL**

*9:45am - 1:00pm in the Arts & Crafts Studio at the Cultural Centre  
Light lunch provided at 11:15am. Please bring water.*



# 14

## **Session #14: Part 1 - Indigenous Storytelling Performance of Qwalena**

Presenter: Dallas Yellowfly

Indigenous storyteller Dallas Yellowfly brings "Qwalena: The Wild Woman Who Steals Children" to life in this unique and scary theatrical multimedia storytelling performance. The purpose of this performance is to promote anti-racism, create awareness of the Indian Act and the intergenerational impacts of Residential Schools while strengthening communities through education.

In a dark theatre immersed with echoes of a beating drum, Yellowfly tells the scary story of a girl who is born different and bullied by kids in her community. She runs away to the forest where a sense of betrayal builds into rage. Over time Qwalena becomes the wild woman who eerily whistles to hide her movements in the forest and steals children who search for her.

Yellowfly later explains that Qwalena is an allegorical creature representing the Indian Agents who stole Indigenous children from their families and forced them into government funded Residential Schools. Yellowfly's father was one of these children. He vulnerably shares the harrowing story of his father's life experience and then the intergenerational impacts felt later by his family. The graphic story is truthful and important to share.

By blending oral tradition, multimedia, mature content and a bit of humour, Yellowfly hopes to promote an understanding of present day impacts of the Indian Act and how Indigenous Peoples across Turtle Island are trying to break the cycles of oppression it has caused.

## **Session #14: Part 2 - Raven: Interactive Theatre**

Presenters: Dallas Yellowfly and Alysha Collie

Indigenous storytellers Dallas Yellowfly and Alysha Collie bring a light hearted, high energy version of "How Raven Stole the Sun" to life using interactive theatre. Several audience members are brought up on stage to act out the characters in the story. Using improv coaching and gentle positive humour, Yellowfly empowers and encourages participants during the performance to add their own unique element to the story. The performance is crafted with fun and learning.

Throughout the performance the audience will learn some traditional names of locations on Turtle Island using Indigenous words and languages as well as the holistic values of some Indigenous Peoples. Each audience will gain an understanding of Indigenous Oral Traditions, the power of laughter in storytelling and the importance of respecting the environment.

**9:45am - 1:00pm** in Studio A/B at the Cultural Centre

*Light lunch provided at 11:15am. Please bring water.*



15

**Session #15: Indigenous Drumming and Singing**

Presenter: Tiare Laporte

Tiare has spent the past 20 years working in various schools sharing her love of music through singing and drumming to students in K-12. Participants will learn about Indigenous song and drum protocols. There will also be a discussion around the making of Indigenous hand drums and rattles and a 'hands on' opportunities for all participants as they explore songs from across Turtle Island.

*9:45am - 11:15pm in the Toddler Studio at the Cultural Centre*

*Light lunch provided at 11:15am. Please bring water.*

16

**Session #16: Cultivating Curiosity with BC Agriculture in the Classroom**

Presenter: Amy Bawtinheimer, BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation

Join Education Specialist Amy to explore ways to grow your student's curiosity towards learning! This workshop will introduce you to the BCAITC Growing programs and free resources available to educators, with time during the session to explore some hands-on learning activities connected to place-based learning and engaging with growing as a connection to mental and physical health and well-being. Bring your questions and enthusiasm for learning!

*11:30am - 1:00pm in the Toddler Studio at the Cultural Centre*

*Light lunch provided at 11:15am. Please bring water.*

*To register, please email your first and second choices to:*

**[office@chilliwackteachers.com](mailto:office@chilliwackteachers.com)**

*We acknowledge that we are privileged to work, learn and play on the territories of the  
Ts'elxweyeqw, Pil'alt and Sema:th.*

*Thank you to Dr. Archibald for her participation in our event. Thank you to the CTA ProD  
Committee and the CTA Released Officers for their support and encouragement in the  
thematic change to our CTA TLC Conference.*

*Penny Miller  
CTA ProD Committee Chair*

