

Dr. Susan Dion: 2018 Keynote Speaker

Biography



Dr. Susan Dion is a Potawatomi-Lenapé scholar who has been working in the field of education for more than thirty years. Associate Professor in the Faculty of Education at York University, she is Director of the Master of Education Urban Indigenous Cohort. Her research focuses on Indigenizing, Decolonizing and Realizing Indigenous Education, Urban Indigenous Education, Indigenous Student Well-being and Achievement. Dr. Dion is currently principal investigator on a SSHRC Insight Grant titled *nishnabek de'bwe wln // telling our truths*, and is co-investigator

on three SSHRC Partnership Grants. Dr. Dion works in collaboration with the Toronto District School Board Indigenous Education Centre and the Ontario Ministry of Education on research and program development. She is widely consulted by diverse community groups, workplaces, and institutions on developing methods for building more equitable, respectful relationships between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous people.

Abstract

The storytellers are speaking

We are informed by their sounds, transported by their images, and, finally, moved to contemplate the implications of what we have been told. Their words are powerful and persuasive. They are creations that create listeners in the process of the telling. (N. Scott Momaday, 1989, p.78)

Although much is written about Indigenous students' experiences in schools (Deyhle, 1992; Schissel & Wotherspoon, 2003) little research has been produced

that provides Indigenous students, and teachers who live and work in urban environments opportunities to tell their own stories. What do Indigenous people themselves have to say about their experiences of schooling? In what ways might these stories provide stakeholders in Education with the capacity to better respond to Indigenous students'? Exploring their experiences of being Indigenous and being in school the nishnabek de'bwe wIn digital storytellers provide a compelling invitation. Their stories create possibilities for hearing Indigenous voices address questions of identity, survival and schooling. In this talk Dion will focus on the complexities of doing research addressing project design, navigating challenges, learning from and with participants and Knowledge Mobilization.