

- TOP 40 UNDER FORTY - Recognized for Business and Volunteer
- Board of Governors and Board of Directors Experience
- Lead for strategic Indigenous initiatives

LEADERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

Toronto Catholic District School Board

Indigenous Affairs Advisor

September 2023 - Present

As a strategic leader in Indigenous Education at the Toronto Catholic District School Board, my role involves close collaboration with the Leadership Team to oversee and steer the attainment of Indigenization goals as outlined in the Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP) and Equity Action Plan (EAP). Additionally, I take on the responsibility of leading, supporting, and managing all associated Indigenous priorities and specialized projects. This aligns with the Board's commitment to foster culturally responsive learning for staff and educators by continually developing K-12 learning resources rooted in Indigenous Ways of Knowing, supported by Elders, Knowledge Keepers and the Indigenous Education Advisory Council.

Actua

Director of National Indigenous Youth STEM Program

Aril 2022 - June 2023

Incorporated current research and commonly accepted practices in educational pedagogy and Indigenous approaches to education and community engagement. Each year, Actua engages over 35,000 First Nations, Inuit and Métis (FNIM) youth in over 200 communities nationwide through school workshops (K-12), summer camp programs for grades 5-8 and for-credit land camps (9-12).

Algonquin College of Applied Arts and Technology

Board Member of the Algonquin College Board of Directors

2020-2022

Administrative Staff Representative

Director of Indigenous Initiatives

April 2019 - April 2022

Manager of Indigenous Initiatives

July 2016 to April 2019

Manager of Mamidosewin Centre

July 2016 to 2018

Aboriginal Portfolio Manager

September 2013 to July 2016

Marketing Coordinator for Work Place Development

April 2013 to September 2013

My critical role was facilitating Algonquin College's responsibility to improve outcomes for Indigenous learners, address the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and worked closely with the Indigenous Education Council and First Nation communities. Through collaborative processes, I engaged with the Algonquin College Executive Team and Leadership Team to embed Indigenous Knowledge and values throughout the fabric of the College. I was responsible for planning, developing and leading of the Indigenous Strategic Framework, the Indigenous Innovation and Entrepreneurship in the Discovery, Applied Research and Entrepreneurship District (DARE), facilitating a sense of space and place for Indigenous learners within the College community, increasing Indigenous outreach, access and engagement with Indigenous communities, enhancing the Indigenous student journey (i.e., transition, progression, graduation and advancement, and re-engagement). I worked with College's areas to embed goals of the Office of Truth, Reconciliation and Indigenization in respective Business Plans, Learner Driven Plan, Algonquin College Lean Process, and supporting initiatives to provide critical learning opportunities for external organization and partners towards TRC and other Indigenous teachings.

- Managed an annual budget of \$5,000,000, producing comprehensive reports for both funders and the College's Finance Department.
- Directed, managed, and reported on the Ministry of Colleges and Universities Indigenous Student Success Fund totaling \$330K.
- Cultivated and maintained meaningful partnerships across various Algonquin College Leadership Team sectors and departments, focusing on coordinating strategic initiatives for improved educational outcomes.
- Led as project lead to prioritize, integrate, and deliver Indigenous initiatives into respective Area Business Plans, ensuring accountability through comprehensive reporting. Ensured institution-wide engagement and commitment fulfillment.
- Spearheaded Indigenous Innovation and Entrepreneurship initiatives within the DARE District, fostering collaboration with external Indigenous and non-Indigenous entrepreneurs to instill an entrepreneurial mindset in learners, enriched by Indigenous Knowledge.
- Forged strategic partnerships with post-secondary institutions to develop tailored initiatives, training programs, and academic curriculum for Indigenous learners, exemplified by the University of Victoria partnership on an Indigenous-focused Entrepreneurship Program.
- Fostered strong alliances with external partners such as Invest Ottawa to bolster support for Indigenous start-ups and scale-ups.
- Designed initiatives to actively involve Indigenous youth in construction and technical trades, serving on external steering committees focused on Indigenous inclusion in these trades.
- Formulated a comprehensive strategy for engaging with First Nation communities, recognizing the vital role of all team members as ambassadors for Algonquin College.
- Provided leadership and guidance for the College's Learner Driven Plan, Lean Process, DARE District, and Indigenous Education Council.
- Collaborated closely with academic and co-curricular faculty to integrate Indigenous ways of knowing and the impacts of historical legacies into curriculum development, fostering inclusive education.
- Led Indigenous projects funded by governmental agencies and private donors, ensuring successful execution and compliance.

Duties as Manager of the Mamidosewin Centre and Aboriginal Portfolio Manager:

- Supervised support staff, including Indigenous Counselor, Event Coordinator, Pathfinder, student support workers, and part-time project coordinators, overseeing their performance and leading teams through strategic priorities.
- Developed work plans, strategies, action plans, and reviewed Indigenous project proposals, ensuring alignment with organizational goals.
- Managed a budget exceeding \$600,000, optimizing resource allocation to support Indigenous learners' needs.
- Initiated and developed new project initiatives to facilitate Indigenous learners' transition to post-secondary education.
- Cultivated strong internal and external relationships with Indigenous communities, government agencies, and organizations, fostering collaboration and support.
- Established partnerships with external employers to create opportunities for Indigenous learners.
- Represented the institution at government meetings and provincial committees, advocating for the interests of Indigenous learners.

- Orchestrated marketing initiatives to promote and coordinate support for under-represented groups at the College, including Indigenous, Newcomers, First Generation Students, Non-Traditional Career, and Experienced Worker Centre.
- Fostered internal partnerships with college staff, project coordinators, chairs, directors, and deans to ensure holistic support for learners.
- Engaged with community organizations and companies to enhance support services and opportunities for Indigenous learners.

Queen's University - Smith School of Business

Advisor and Coach

August 2020 - 2022

for Master of Management Innovation and Entrepreneurship

One-on-one coaching for post-graduate students in this progressive 12 month Masters of Innovation and Entrepreneurship program

Algonquin College, Facilitator, Indigenous Tourism Entrepreneurship

Fall 2020 - 2021

- Develop Training Modules
- Deliver the 10-week entrepreneurship training to Indigenous people

Canadore College, Part-time Instructor – Graphic Design, 2nd year students

Winter 2005

Canadore College, Part-time Instructor – Graphic Design 110, Visual Elements

Fall 2012

- Curriculum development
- Introduction to graphic design using the principles and elements of design
- Introduction to creative thinking using principles and elements of design
- Visual persuasion and social function of graphic communications; emphasis on the perception and composition of visual elements

BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURIAL EXPERIENCE

Indigenous Consultancy & Studio Eleven17, CEO

Jan 2011 - Present

Studio Eleven17 is a specialized design firm serving corporate companies, Indigenous organizations, researchers, and consultants. With a limited client list, we provide highly personalized services, prioritizing the creative aspects of brand and marketing materials. Our commitment to excellence drives us to be highly selective about the projects we undertake, ensuring each client receives our utmost attention and dedication.

Sofa Communications, Founding Partner

Jun 2005 - Dec 2010

Penney & Company Inc., Graphic Designer

Oct 1999 - Jun 2005

TWG Communications, Graphic Designer

Aug 1997 - Oct 1999

Bond Printing & Graphics, Graphic Designer

May 1995 - Aug 1997

- Branding, design logos and marketing materials
- Develop marketing strategies and websites
- Build strong client relationships
- Networking events
- Prepare all files for printing – traditional and digital printing
- Liaison for all media outlets

EDUCATION

Master of Management Innovation and Entrepreneurship

MMIE Graduate 2019

Smith School of Business, Queen's University, Kingston, ON

The program is specifically for those who will start, grow or drive new ventures whether in a startup or inside a corporation. Development of special skills, strategies and strengths that are needed to turn an idea into a viable and thriving business. Agile Lean Processes, Innovation and Corporate Law.

- Entrepreneurs looking to commercialize an innovative product or service idea or to scale up to the next stage of success
- Corporate Innovators and Intrapreneurs working in new venture or innovation roles within an enterprise
- Adventurers whose passion is to join a startup or scale-up venture and help drive acceleration
- Social Innovators seeking to solve community challenges through a new initiative or solution
- Prepare you for presenting and pitching your ideas, products or services to investors or partners

Algonquin College Leadership Program Level I & Level II

2017

Algonquin College, Ottawa, ON

In support of the College's commitment to provide an opportunity for all employees to develop and grow their leadership capabilities, the Algonquin Leadership in Education Institute focuses on the knowledge and skills related to leadership in higher education and provides opportunities for their application.

Diploma in Graphic Communications Program

1993 - 1995

Canadore College, North Bay, ON

- Corporate identity, branding and advertising

COMMITTEE EXPERIENCE

Current:

Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO): First Nations Collaborative Council

While Working at Algonquin College:

Board of Governors

Algonquin College Leadership Team

Strategic Exercise to Restore Financial Sustainability

Deans, Directors and Chairs Council

College Budget Committee

Forward Planning Marketing Committee

Indigenous Education Council (IEC), Algonquin College

Indigenous Peoples Education Circle (IPEC)

External Committees representing the College:

Indigenous Employment Leadership Table

Public Services and Procurement Canada - Indigenous Benefits Plan

CICan - Programs and services that help advance NEET Indigenous and Newcomer Youth

Past Committees:

Caisse Populaire North Bay, Board of Director

Algonquin College: Chair - Innovation and Entrepreneurship Steering Committee

Algonquin College: Young Professionals Committee, Founding Committee Member

North Bay and District Chamber of Commerce, Board of Director

Rotary Club of North Bay-Nipissing, Board of Director, Public Relations

Youth Justice Committee, Community Volunteer - North Bay