

## Mnaaji'idiwn: Insights on Respect in Curriculum Creation

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To align with Georgian College's Enhanced Indigenization outcomes, and as part of the curriculum review process, Academic and Career Preparation (ACP) worked with Indigenous Services staff and curriculum advisors to review existing ACP curricula. Criteria included vetting of resources through an Indigenous lens, beginning with Communications materials, to determine if the language and content therein were inclusive and respectful of a diverse classroom. The project was named Mnaajidiwn, after the Anishnaabemowin word for respect, also translated as "when something is done in a reciprocal way, it is 'easy' on one another." I am proposing to conduct a session that will outline the phases of Mnaajidiwn and highlight ways in which ACP materials were updated to be more respectful and inclusive of others. This session will also explore how existing curriculum can unintentionally support cycles of oppression and what educators can do to work with their teams to create more reciprocal content.

**Joanne Pineda** is a faculty member and Coordinator for Academic and Career Preparation at four Georgian College sites: Barrie, Orillia, Owen Sound, and Newmarket. She has spent her career learning about diversity through international teaching, advisement, language assessment, adult upgrading, and ESL/EFL. Currently, Joanne is learning more about decolonization and Indigenization, and overall, she works to create more diverse, equitable, and Inclusive spaces wherever she goes.

Joanne's undergraduate education is in the areas of Integrated Studies, Business Management, Leadership, and Visual Arts while her graduate studies include the fields of Interdisciplinary Studies and Adult Education.

**Madelaine Khan** holds an M.A. in Science & Technology Studies from York University and works as a faculty member at Georgian College. She teaches in multiple program areas including Liberal Arts, Academic and Career Preparation, Dual Credit, and Health, Wellness and Sciences.

Madelaine is passionate about equity, diversity, and inclusion. She has made a commitment to decolonize her curriculum and completed the year-long Decolonization and Indigenization Program at Georgian in June 2020. She has also partnered with Making Change Across Simcoe County (<https://www.makingchangesc.com/meet-our-educators>) to educate her community on recognizing and combating anti-Black racism. Finally, Madelaine also works as a self-employed Learning Strategist ([madelainekhan@gmail.com](mailto:madelainekhan@gmail.com)) where she works with students with accessibility challenges to foster self-advocacy skills and meet goals both in and beyond the classroom.

**Sarah Sandy** is Anishinaabe-kwe from Beausoleil First Nation. She holds a BA in Indigenous Environmental Studies from Trent University in Peterborough, ON and a Diploma in Recreation Enterprise from Langara College in Vancouver, BC and has 20 years' experience supporting Indigenous youth programs with many not-for-profit organizations both urban and rural, in BC and ON.

Sarah is an Indigenous Curriculum Coach and Land-Based Program Design & Development Consultant. She also works as an Associate with the International Institute for Child Rights and Development (IICRD) where she is expanding her work in youth & community engagement, participatory action research, monitoring & evaluation, and decolonizing approaches to education.

She is a member of the Board of Directors for the Outdoor Council of Canada, a national not-for-profit leader in outdoor education and advocacy.

Sarah is committed to lifelong learning and creating pathways, programs and opportunities for Indigenous young people to thrive.