

Thought Leaders Podcast Weekly Discussion & Resource Guide

Background

The connective, inclusive nature of the Alliance is focused on removing barriers and establishing a strong cross-disciplinary network of relationships between scientists, experts, practitioners and professionals across multiple sectors within our Region - but we don't want to sing to the regular choir we want to actively include and engage those who aren't usually singing with us. And that's where you and this podcast come in...

The Thought Leaders podcast features locally based conversations that flowed out of world leading expert conversations. We hope you are inspired to keep the conversation going - at your workplace, within your community and with friends and family.

We'll provide a couple of conversation starters for each episode (a full series discussion guide will follow). Use these or come up with your own based on your knowledge and life experience:

Podcast Series Conversation Starters

- What are some of the biggest challenges that are facing the children in our community and their families today?
- Are there any that are specific/unique to the community you serve?
- How do these challenges/issues intersect with one another?
- How might conversations impact the work you do?
- Who is missing or would add value to your conversations?

Episode Specific Conversation Starters

 **Thought Leaders Podcast**
bringing big ideas home



The Way of the Human Being
Episode Drops May 1st
Listen, get inspired & continue the conversation

brought to you by 

Episode #1 *The Way of the Human Being*

- How might our connections to one another, to nature and to the past and future change the way we are in the world right now?
- What is our responsibility (morally, ethically, culturally) to not only support the most vulnerable children in our community, but to help them thrive? Is it okay to keep enforcing a system that doesn't help everyone belong and live their optimal lives?
- The proverb about having 2 ears and 1 mouth and that they should be used in that proportion came up often in these talks - how would listening more effect change in your organization?
- Mohawk birth ceremony has parents/family member introduce their newborn to the air, the sun, the water & all of creation - to all of the elements of the earth to connect the baby to nature and nature to the baby. Have we lost that link? Could we rebuild it?
- How can we evolve our thinking on what education means and what it looks like? What if schooling starts before a child is born? What if teachers aren't the experts, but are partners with parents, families, communities and elders? Is that what collective wisdom looks like? Is that what education can be?

Diving Deeper:



Mohawk Elder Tom Porter
& **Dr. Jean Clinton**

Thomas R. Porter (Sakokwenionkwas, meaning “The One Who Wins”) is the spokesperson and spiritual leader of the Mohawk Community of Kanatsiohareke (Ga na jo ha lay gay) in the Mohawk Valley near Fonda, New York, which he founded in 1993. He is a member of the Bear Clan of the Mohawk Nation at Akwesasne. He is married to Alice Joe Porter, who is Choctaw. They have six children.

http://www.fourdirectionsteachings.com/mohawk_bio.html

<http://www.mohawkcommunity.com/tomscorner.html>

<https://www.amazon.ca/Grandma-Said-Iroquois-Teachings/dp/1436335655>

Dr. Jean Clinton of McMaster University is one of four renowned experts to advise the Ontario government on bold reforms to the province’s publicly funded education system.

The clinical professor of psychiatry and behavioural neurosciences of the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine is a specialist in child psychiatry. Her expertise is in the development of young minds and she is recognized internationally as an advocate for children’s issues. Her special interest lies in brain development, and the crucial role relationships and connectedness play therein.

She has authored papers on early child development and poverty, infant neglect, children’s mental health, resilience, and on adolescent brain development.

Dr Clinton holds a Bachelor of Music Degree in Education and a medical degree and Fellowship in Psychiatry from McMaster University. Jean’s greatest accomplishment is being the mother of 5 great kids who range in age from 21-31 years.

<https://drjeanclinton.com>

‘Love Builds Brains’ by Dr. Jean Clinton

<https://tallpinepress.ca/products/love-builds-brains>



jeewan chanicka

jeewan chanicka, Director of Educations, Waterloo District School Board
My goals are best reflected in my philosophy about education. I seek to work in environments that work to or that reflect these: I am a life-long learner, passionate about Education. Our role in school systems and educational institutions must be transformational in nature, based on moral purpose with a clear focus on well-being, achievement and equity. School Improvement and Effectiveness must be accomplished through Equity. Equity must be understood as a Leadership Competency.

<https://jeewan.ca/>

<https://www.therecord.com/local-cambridge/life/2022/04/20/your-voice-against-racism-jeewan-chanicka.html>

<https://www.therecord.com/news/waterloo-region/opinion/2022/04/04/king-of-all-the-principals-a-force-for-positive-change.html>



Charity Fleming

Psychotherapist, CEO Qualia Counselling Services, Faculty at Wilfrid Laurier University

Charity is a cognitive behaviour therapist with many years' experience specializing in CBT for trauma, Indigenous populations and children and adolescents. She is president and COO of Qualia Counselling Services, which has CBT clinics across Southern Ontario, and partners with Wilfrid Laurier University to offer the entire Cognitive Behavioural Therapy program. Charity is passionate about working with priority populations, especially using CBT in flexible ways to deliver mental health interventions that result in real change. Charity is Anishinaabe from Wabauskang First Nation and is passionate about and focuses much of

her CBT work and training on helping indigenous people heal from historical trauma.

<https://qualiacounselling.com/>

https://www.thestar.com/sponsored_sections/2020/07/07/training-to-meet-the-need-for-trauma-focused-therapy.html

As referenced by Charity in the discussion
Etuaptmumk: Two-Eyed Seeing | Rebecca Thomas

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bA9EwcFbVfg>