

MIGHTY PEACE TEACHERS' CONVENTION

March 9 & 10, 2017

Thursday Opening Keynote: Richard Wagamese

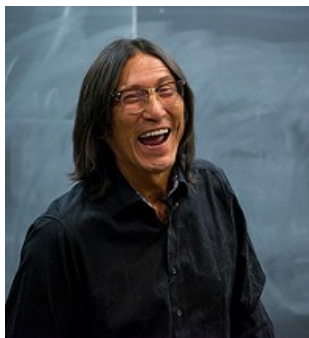
Richard Wagamese is a well-known Canadian Truth and Reconciliation Speaker and Native Storyteller. Born in Northwestern Ontario to Ojibway parents whose own horrific residential school experiences left them unable to care for their son, Richard Wagamese grew up in foster homes before being adopted into an abusive household. He left at 16 and spent many years homeless, consumed by drugs and alcohol.

Language and libraries provided his only escape. He carried a notebook and diligently wrote out passages by Thomas Wolfe, William Faulkner, and Eudora Welty, studying how those masters constructed each sentence.

A celebrated Canadian author, journalist, and Native story teller, Richard Wagamese has an impressive body of work which includes six novels, a book of poetry and five non-fiction titles, including two memoirs and an anthology of his newspaper columns.

Richard has garnered a number of awards in different fields over the course of his career. Most recently, in 2014, he received his second Honorary Doctor of Letters degree (this one from Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, the first from Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops) and in 2015 he won the Matt Cohen Award in celebration of a writing life. In 2016 it was announced that his book *Indian Horse* was being turned into a Movie.

Picture credit Queens University Flickr



Friday Opening Keynote: Jennifer Buchanan

A trail blazer in the field of music therapy, Jennifer Buchanan has spent over two decades inspiring audiences on how music fosters connections, focus, and feeling better. Bridging the gap between academic research in the area of music medicine and the public, Jennifer has spoken internationally to a wide variety of education, healthcare, government, small business and corporate audiences.

In addition to her extensive healthcare and education experience, Jennifer has pursued her MBA in Social Entrepreneurship to continue growing her 25 year, award winning business that is based in partnerships, connections, and networks. Jennifer's combination of wit, story-telling, high level content and an engaging, interactive style resonates with anyone wanting to feel inspired and educated.

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[Mighty Peace Teachers' Convention](https://www.facebook.com/MightyPeaceTeachersConvention)

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The 2017 Program is Only on SCHED

For the last two years the program has only been available online, through the SCHED site and we will be using this site again this year.

SCHED does not register you for sessions and adding a session to your schedule does not commit you to that session. In fact, you can have multiple sessions that are in the same time slot on your schedule. It simply allows you to search through the program as a database and build a schedule of sessions you are interested in.

We are expecting the program to be ready and online at mptc2017.sched.org by Feb. 1, 2017.

When teachers create accounts and build their tentative schedules on SCHED, the program committee can see the number of teachers who are planning on attending those sessions. Having this information prior to Convention allows the program

committee to make changes to rooms and even add sessions if possible. Another great feature of SCHED is that we can email all the teachers who have added that session to their schedule with any updates or cancellations, keeping our teachers informed.

If you are not familiar with sched.org please check out the support section of their site which is dedicated to showing Convention attendees how to get the most from the features they offer tinyurl.com/schedsupport.



Build your schedule on your computer and with the mobile web app.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Teachers are obligated, professionally and legally, to attend and participate in teachers' convention. Section 78(1)(d) of the School Act defines "teaching day" to include the two days per year on which teachers' conventions are held. These days are for attending sessions at the convention authorized by the Alberta Teachers' Association. Convention days are, by law, teaching days for which teachers receive pay.

- **If you are sick (or cannot attend convention for other personal reasons)** then the provisions in the collective agreement apply and you must follow the same procedures for obtaining sick leave (or other forms of leave) that you would if it was a normal teaching day.
- **Any teacher wishing to engage in other professional development activity** during teachers' convention must complete the Alternate PD application form from the MPTCA website (mptca.teachers.ab.ca). Based on specific criteria set out by the provincial ATA, the attendance committee will make a judgment regarding the request. Requests to be absent from the Mighty Peace Teachers' Convention for **reasons of alternate professional development** are to be made prior to **January 15, 2016**.
- **Part-time teachers** are being paid "only for the time the teacher teaches" (*School Act* (Section 103(b))). Your teaching assignment is your *shift*, which is a defined time. Any addition to or adjustment of time must be done with your agreement and proper compensation. In simplest

terms, whatever is consistent with your assignment for that day is your obligation. Notwithstanding all of the above, part-time teachers **aren't prevented from voluntarily attending sessions**.

- **Any teacher required to coach at an ASAA Provincial Finals Event** during teachers' convention must complete the form available on either the ASAA or MPTCA website (mptca.teachers.ab.ca) and send it to the attendance committee chairperson of the convention board. Teachers are not excused from Convention to coach zone events.
- **Substitute teachers can attend Convention!** As soon as a substitute teacher teaches for one day in any of our member locals they are an Associate Member of the ATA and are eligible to attend Convention at no cost. Substitute teachers can register on Wednesday between 1 - 5:00 p.m. or on Thursday or Friday during regular convention hours. Proof that they have taught during the current school year is required. Since adult supervisors do not hold an Alberta teaching certificate they are not entitled to Convention privileges.

School boards have the right to deduct pay from teachers absent from convention without legitimate reason, and in fact, have done so. A charge of unprofessional conduct under Association discipline bylaws may also be lodged against a teacher who fails to attend and participate in teachers' convention.

More Great Speakers ...

Thursday - Ron Canuel (@RonCanuel)

Ron Canuel is one of Canada's leading authorities on innovation in teaching and learning. Ron was the architect of Canada's first and only district-wide one-to-one computing environment for students and teachers. This initiative had two main strategic themes: Enhance the teaching environment and engage the students in their learning.

The results were fantastic including improved academic results, drastically reduced dropout rates, a positive culture of change that was leading the integration of technology in education, improved attitudes of educators regarding the use of technology in the classroom. The initiative proved that when students are engaged in their own learning and are active participants in the design of such learning contexts, results go up, significantly, motivation goes up and drop-outs go down! Ron has received numerous awards in recognition of this ongoing initiative, as well as for his overall leadership and ability to lead change management.

Friday - Brock Tully

Brock Tully is an internationally known speaker and author of 9 books, selling 140,000 copies. He has one goal when delivering a keynote presentation: To offer a heart-warming, thought-provoking, multi-media presentation that will make audiences leave caring, thinking and smiling.

"Kindness" is Brock's passion and his purpose. He touches lives, instilling joy and planting seeds that help develop everyone's own ability to give and act with compassion in their own communities, schools and workplaces.

Brock's simple, profound message empowers and "reminds" audiences of how their own journey can be more exciting and fun! He weaves magic with reflection, bringing love into the hearts of audiences by shifting moods and perspectives.

