

# Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Indigenization Coalition

## Year in Review Report: 2023

Faculty of Education, Wilfrid Laurier University



### Land acknowledgement

We acknowledge that Wilfrid Laurier University and its campuses are located on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe, Hodinohsyó:ni (Haudenosaunee), and Neutral peoples. This land is part of the Dish with One Spoon Treaty between the Hodinohsyó:ni and Anishinaabe peoples and symbolizes the agreement to share the land, protect our resources, and not to engage in conflict. Wilfrid Laurier University Brantford and Waterloo, as well as the Kitchener location, are also located on the Haldimand Tract, which was the treaty signed in 1784 that granted the Haudenosaunee Confederacy 10 km on either side of the Grand River, from mouth to source. Today, this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit from across Turtle Island. We recognize, honour, and respect these Nations as the traditional stewards of the lands and water on which Laurier is now present. *We are grateful to have the opportunity to live, learn, work, and play on these lands.*



**Mission Statement for Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Indigenization Coalition (EDI&I):**

Disrupt, question, advocate, and create change through dialogue, collaborations, partnerships, events, and resources to advance the work of equity diversity, inclusion, and indigenization as a collective coalition within the Faculty of Education and in the larger community.



# EDI&I Coalition

EQUITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION & INDIGENIZATION  
Faculty of Education

**Message from the Chair of the EDI&I Coalition**

On behalf of the Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Indigenization (EDI&I) Coalition, we are honoured to share our second "Year in Review Report" summarizing various events, initiatives, and partnerships that took place throughout 2023. The Coalition was initiated and established in 2020 as a platform to make the Faculty of Education and the larger community more equitable, diverse, and inclusive. The process has been student-led from finalizing the name of the Coalition and creation of the logo to the scope of the work in terms of focus areas. Members include faculty, staff, teacher candidates, alumni, and community members.

The Coalition is a brave space where ideas are shared, exchanged, and developed to challenge systemic inequities and injustices. We started out small in 2020 but with the growing numbers and better recruitment strategies we have expanded to include a consistent core of 30+ members as part of the movement.

Through the EDI&I Coalition, we hope to continue our advocacy and activism about issues that matter to us and inspire us to care and take personal and collective action.

With love, respect, and gratitude,

Dr. Ardavan Eizadirad (he/him/his)

Chair of the EDI&I Coalition



**LinkTree:** <https://linktr.ee/laurieredii>

**Instagram Account:** [@LaurierEdu\\_EDII](https://www.instagram.com/LaurierEdu_EDII)

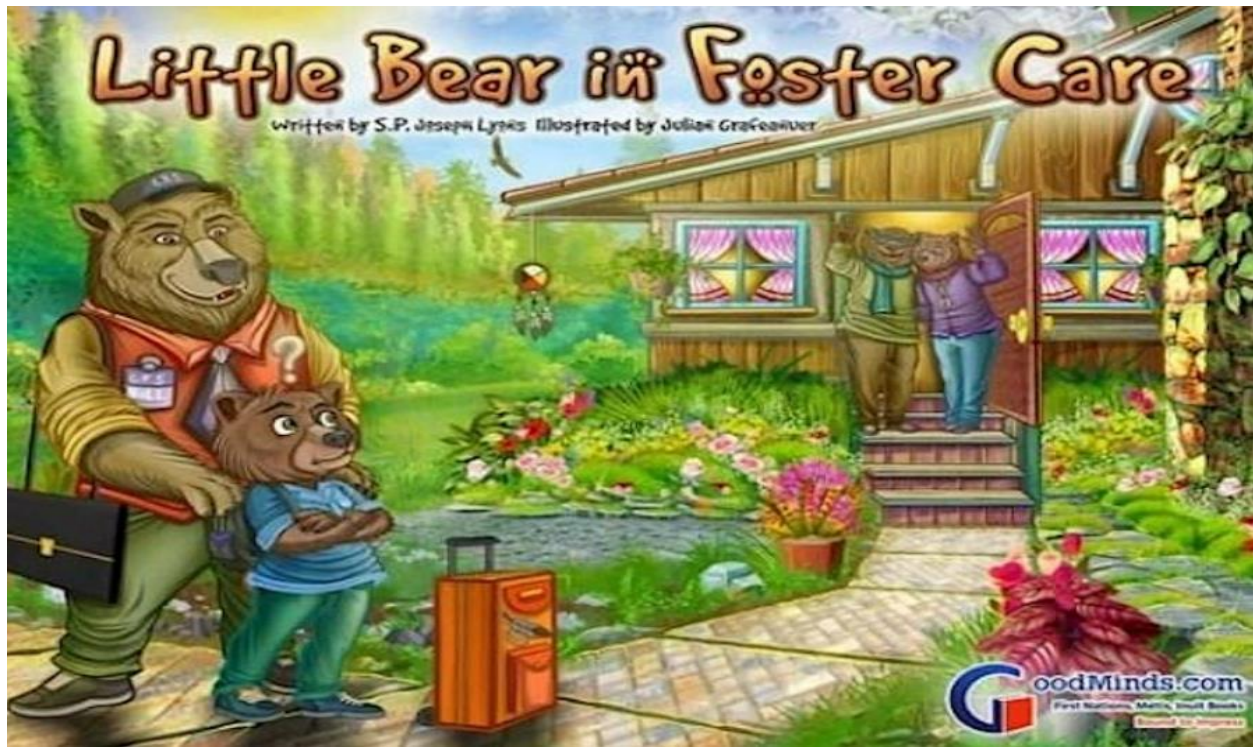
**EDII Email:** [ediilaurier@gmail.com](mailto:ediilaurier@gmail.com) and [ediilaurier@wlu.ca](mailto:ediilaurier@wlu.ca)

**Resource Bank Webpage:**

<https://www.wlu.ca/Academics/faculties/faculty-of-education/assets/resources/edi-resources-for-educators.html>

### **January 2023**

This free, in-person workshop was hosted on Monday, January 16 2023 from 5 to 7 pm. It was led by **S.P. Joseph Lyons**, an Anishinaabe Algonquin children's author and Indigenous education advocate, with the support of Laurie Minor, a Métis sharing circle facilitator. They highlighted and discussed the importance of Indigenous-authored literature in decolonization and how to meaningfully center it in classroom practices. Through a circle pedagogy practice, they facilitated new perspectives and engaged workshop attendees in compassionate dialogue. Participants received a free copy of S. P Joseph Lyons' award-winning children's book **Little Bear in Foster Care**. This event was generously sponsored by Laurier's Faculty of Education Advancement Committee. Goodminds Bookstore also attended with a selection of Indigenous-authored books for sale.



**February 2023**



**EDI&I Coalition**  
EQUITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION & INDIGENIZATION  
Faculty of Education

# Screening of The School to Prison Pipeline in Ontario

We hosted an online film screening of *The School to Prison Pipeline in Ontario* (47 minutes and available to watch at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s3mD7Dyf6bY&t=1212s>) with post discussion on Tuesday February 7 2023 from 6 to 7:30 pm EST. See link below for the event page: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/screening-of-the-school-to-prison-pipeline-in-ontario-tickets-522143714907>

## **May 2023 Event**

On Wednesday May 31, 2023 we hosted an online panel event from 6 to 7:30 pm EST titled “Creating Continuity of Care between Schools & Non-Profits in KW”. The objective of the panel event was for teacher candidates as well as others in the community to become familiar with various local organizations and their programs and services. As well, the panel facilitated discussions on how community organizations and agencies can work collaboratively with schools to meet students’ needs. Panelists within this event will be asked questions regarding their organization’s services and programs.

The banner features a purple and white color scheme. On the left, the text 'CREATING CONTINUITY OF CARE BETWEEN SCHOOLS & NON-PROFITS IN KITCHENER WATERLOO' is written in large, white, sans-serif capital letters. Above this text is the logo for the EDI&I Coalition, which includes a stylized figure and the text 'EDI&I Coalition EQUITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION & INNOVATION Faculty of Education'. On the right side, the text 'PANELISTS CONSISTING OF' is positioned above three logos: 'camino Wellbeing + Mental Health' (a circular logo with green, blue, and purple segments), 'Adventure4Change' (a logo with a red figure jumping over a blue '4' and the word 'Change' in red), and 'canvas arts action programs' (the word 'canvas' in blue with a vertical line, followed by 'arts action programs' in smaller blue text). In the bottom right corner, the event details are listed: 'WEDNESDAY, MAY 31 FROM 6 TO 7:30 PM EST VIRTUAL (REGISTER BELOW)'.

### **Below is the information for the organizations who were part of the panel:**

[CANVAS Arts Action Programs](#) is an Ontario-based charity that provides empathy-based education on consent and 2SLGBTQ+ inclusion for youth and youth-serving adults. Their interactive training programs equip teachers and youth workers with trauma-informed approaches to support queer youth and survivors of violence, build classroom spaces that are inclusive and promote healthy relationships, and integrate 2SLGBTQ+ stories and consent education into curricula.

### **Link to their resource page that is open access:**

<https://www.canvasprograms.com/teacherinclusionlesson1>

[Adventure4Change](#) is a registered Canadian charity organization that addresses issues related to poverty and inequity for children, youth, and families. They use an asset-based approach to development and encourage all of efforts to be directed by local leadership and community residents. They believe that change comes about as individuals and communities are enabled to take greater responsibility. Their success is measured by how they prepare and equip people to live lives characterized by vitality and contribution.

Camino Wellbeing + Mental Health unites the work of Carizon Family and Community Services, KW Counselling Services, and Monica Place all under one umbrella. Together they aim to create a more cohesive system that brings greater impact to the community's growing wellbeing and mental health needs. They are here to provide tools, resources, and services that help people reach their full potential as they walk the path to achieving their best wellbeing and mental health.

### **June 2023- Advocacy and Solidary Letter Submission to Trustees of Waterloo School Boards**

As a coalition, we co-constructed and submitted a letter to Waterloo public and Catholic school board trustees taking a stance against the exclusion experienced by members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. Below is the wording of the letter.

### **Letter of Support and Solidarity for the 2SLGBTQIA+ Community and Advocates**

It is our duty within the coalition to speak up about EDI&I issues and to shine a light on the significance that it plays within our community. Silence is complicity!

### **Summary of Events:**

On January 23rd, 2023, a delegation from the Waterloo District School Board brought forward the issue of book banning and the impact that it has on our school community as well as the students within them. The issue refers to talks about the mental and physical well-being of students within our region and what must be done for all students to live and feel like they live in a protected, well-represented environment. Concerns were raised about the type of language and ideologies used within a specific book, the appropriateness of such content, and the extent it was accessible to students of various ages at schools through libraries.

### **The Stance of the Coalition:**

The Laurier Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Indigenization (EDI&I) Coalition seeks to “Disrupt, question, advocate, and create change through dialogue, collaborations, partnerships, events, and resources to advance the work of equity diversity, and inclusion as a collective coalition within the Faculty of Education and in the larger community.” As such, the coalition is in line with the views outlined in the WRDSB’s letter to parents. It is important to protect the human rights of marginalized groups, and, as a community, it is important to acknowledge that the students that come into our classrooms come from such diverse backgrounds with intersectional identities and lived experiences. Creating an environment where every student feels safe, included, and is able to engage in their learning is an ideal that should be at the forefront of public education. As outlined in the letter, many of the concerns surrounding available books come as veiled attempts to attack 2SLGBTQIA+ children and families. Many of the books are chosen for appropriate grade levels according to the guidelines set out by the Ministry of Education and supported by Ontario Certified Teachers and other professionals working in schools and with schools. If these guidelines are followed, it is then important to have books in schools that may speak about more difficult topics as it will help in allowing students from underrepresented groups feel as though they matter and belong to the school-community. Having reading materials reflective of the communities served by schools is critical in creating safe learning spaces. Such divisive rhetoric is counterproductive in various stakeholders working to make schools more inclusive. Access to information and culturally reflective curriculum

content is a human right. As such, we advocate for teaching critical thinking skills, so that students can explore different perspectives and understand various lived experiences different than their own. This is essential for creating a more equitable and just society for schools in Ontario and in Canada.

### **How Can People Support:**

People can support by educating themselves on the importance of creating a library that is inclusive and diverse. Just as students have the option to learn about various different topics, they should have the option to learn about 2SLGBTQIA+ identities, Indigenous ways of being and knowing and lived experiences of Black, Indigenous and Racialized communities. By learning more about how all books in the library follow the Ministry of Education guidelines, people can further support children and youth learning. All learners deserve to have access to a variety of books that can help them learn and grow. All people are encouraged to use different resources to learn about the importance of an inclusive library. Also, as allies and in solidarity, it is important not to be complicit by not speaking up. Silence and neutrality benefits the oppressor.

For more context, please see “An Open Letter in Response to WRDSB Parent Concerns” published on January 20th, 2023 by the school board:

<https://www.wrdsb.ca/blog/2023/01/20/an-open-letter-in-response-to-wrdsb-parent-concerns/>

Get your ETFO-WR Brave Space Poster this Spring:

[https://www.etfowr.ca/get\\_your\\_etfo\\_wr\\_brave\\_space\\_poster\\_this\\_spring](https://www.etfowr.ca/get_your_etfo_wr_brave_space_poster_this_spring)

Additional Resources: 2SLGBTQ+ INCLUSION IN CLASSROOMS Teachers Guide

<https://www.canvasprograms.com/teacherinclusionlesson1>

## Fall 2023 Campaigns

1) **EDI&I e-Calendar:** The coalition created a yearly e-calendar outlining key significant dates supplemented with resources. See infographic below on how to access it.

### STEP 1.



laurieredu\_edii [Follow](#) [Message](#) [+R](#) [...](#)

51 posts 177 followers 57 following

**Laurier Faculty of Ed EDI&I**  
Education  
Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, & Indigenization Coalition in affiliation with WLU's Faculty of Education. Email Ardavan to join! [ardavanzadeh@wlu.ca](mailto:ardavanzadeh@wlu.ca)  
[linktr.ee/laurieredii](https://linktr.ee/laurieredii)

### STEP 2.

Resources

Shareable EDI&I Coalition Google Calendar (Open Soon!)

### STEP 3.

Google

Sign in

Use your Google Account

[Forgot email?](#)

Not your computer? Use Guest mode to sign in privately.  
[Learn more](#)

[Create account](#) [Next](#)

### STEP 4.

Add calendar

EDI&I Coalition Calendar  
<76bea0ddb52b916d02449f5c9947c007a44a514bb8f0397...>

[Cancel](#) [Add](#)



## **2) 60 Seconds Video Challenge: “My Why” for Becoming an Educator**

The coalition encouraged teacher candidates to create a video recording, up to 60 seconds, explaining why they decided to become an educator. We are still in the process of promoting this initiative and creating a compilation video. We would use this as part of orientation week for incoming teacher candidate cohorts and encourage folks to add it to their digital portfolios.

The coalition will create a final video with all the submissions and email it to all participants and everyone in the faculty at a later date in 2024.

"What is Your Why" Campaign by the EDI&I Coalition Exemplar Video:

<https://youtu.be/fjk2v6lByug>

Video submissions can be made via the following link: <https://forms.gle/MfQKVnuqJxhDz7Aw7>

## **3) EDI&I Brave Conversations Series for 2023-2024.**

Wilfrid Laurier University’s [Faculty of Education](#) and the [Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Indigenization \(EDI&I\) Coalition](#) is hosting a Brave Conversations series with a range of speakers/presenters throughout 2023-2024. The series will cover a range of topics to promote discussion, honest dialogue about opposing perspectives/viewpoints, and critical reflections regarding Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Indigenization topics. This is in alignment with the mission statement for the EDI&I Coalition which is to “Disrupt, question, advocate, and create change through dialogue, collaborations, partnerships, events, and resources to advance the work of equity diversity, inclusion, and indigenization as a collective coalition within the Faculty of Education and in the larger community.”

### **Survey Link for Guests to Express Interest as Presenters:**

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScZE78G2CjhiI4uooct3JilleGIGV37Fcykt\\_3KpEUs2bDPIg/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScZE78G2CjhiI4uooct3JilleGIGV37Fcykt_3KpEUs2bDPIg/viewform?usp=sf_link)

### **Fall 2023 Presenters:**

- Jenna Spiers- Year 2 Teacher Candidate (September)
- Sarrah Beemer- Instructor in the Faculty of Education (November), and
- Dr. Raghad Ebied- Instructor in the Faculty of Education (December)

## **September 2023- Using Drama to Spark Dialogue about Allyship: A Workshop by Year 2 Teacher Candidate Jenna Spiers**

On Thursday, September 21, the Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Indigenization (EDI&I) Coalition had the opportunity to kick start the first workshop from our Brave Conversation Series. You may ask what is a brave space? *Brave Space* is a classroom/interactive environment that acknowledges the challenges that students, faculty, and others have when attempting to have discussion around difficult or challenging topics such as race, power, privilege and various forms of oppression for the purpose of learning.

We had the pleasure of welcoming Jenna Spiers who led a workshop to launch our Brave Conversations Series for 2023-2024. Jenna Spiers is a Year 2 Teacher Candidate at Wilfrid Laurier University with a focus in the primary/junior streams. Having a strong background in the dramatic arts, Spiers created a workshop that educates about the value of using drama to spark dialogue about allyship. In this interactive workshop, Spiers co-created the meaning of a Brave Space with the attendees. This was followed by a variety of games, activities, and conversations that brought allyship into a new light. Spiers challenged attendees to work in groups to create a tableaux that would be representative of two key words. Highlighting the ideas of pain, realization, and many others key words, attendees were able to discuss and innovatively show them in a more meaningful way.

“A wonderful opportunity to learn many strategies to engage my future students and colleagues in difficult conversations using the arts,” said James, a Year 2 Teacher Candidate at Wilfrid Laurier University.

Alongside the strategies, resources and activities, Spiers showed us the importance of having these difficult conversations to promote change and action.



*Image of Jenna Spiers and attendees following the first workshop.*

**November 2023- Workshop by Sarrah Beemer on the topic of "Culturally Responsive, Relevant, and Sustaining Pedagogy"**

With over 17 years as an educator, Sarrah Beemer (she/her) is the K-12+ Equity and Inclusion Curriculum Leader for the Upper Grand District School Board. Previous to this, Sarrah worked at a rural high school teaching Special Education, English, and Indigenous Studies. Her focus is on integrating inclusivity into the curriculum by utilizing her background and incorporating diverse perspectives. Much of her classroom experience was influenced by time spent as the department head of Special Education. She believes that the holistic wellness of each student is integral to learning and a life well-lived. For that reason, she also supports student mental health with social work training and models a healthy lifestyle, fostering a love of fitness, yoga, and meditation for her own wellness. Sarrah is an avid traveler and enjoys spending time with her husband, and the rest of her family. Sarrah loves being active and is a keen reader. She has a lifelong passion for leading educational change.

This workshop explored the topic of Culturally Responsive and Relevant Pedagogy and Culturally Sustaining Pedagogy. These concepts recognize that all students learn in ways that are connected to background, language, family structure, and social or cultural identity. It is important to apply an equity lens to important social justice and human rights issues within the classroom.

Below is the recording of the workshop:

[https://wilfrid-](https://wilfrid-laurier.zoom.us/rec/share/GG4pTP25UhudJLeSkXshwpGVNjZEKMkv8kFOyt_QUTLJtVW90_XxFPgM32VRBsy.pPi2gbL6D1FVYeIQ)

[laurier.zoom.us/rec/share/GG4pTP25UhudJLeSkXshwpGVNjZEKMkv8kFOyt\\_QUTLJtVW90\\_XxFPgM32VRBsy.pPi2gbL6D1FVYeIQ](https://wilfrid-laurier.zoom.us/rec/share/GG4pTP25UhudJLeSkXshwpGVNjZEKMkv8kFOyt_QUTLJtVW90_XxFPgM32VRBsy.pPi2gbL6D1FVYeIQ)

Passcode: i#z!w&a3

**November 8, 2023- 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Increasing Teacher Diversity Event - Inspiring Next Generation of High School Students to Become Teachers: An Initiative to Diversify the Teaching Force**

EDI&I Coalition  
EQUITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION & INDIGENIZATION  
Faculty of Education

LAURIER  
Inspiring Lives!

# INCREASING TEACHER DIVERSITY

To inspire secondary students from equity-seeking groups to pursue university, specifically teaching as a career.

Faculty of Education @LaurierEdu  
EDI&I Coalition @LaurierEdu\_EDII

Sun Life  
CENTRE FOR HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Ontario Principals' Council

Windsor Catholic District School Board

STEM

On Wednesday November 8, 2023 the EDI&I Coalition from the Faculty of Education at Wilfrid Laurier University welcomed approximately 100 high school students from equity deserving groups from the Waterloo public and Catholic district school board to participate in the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual “Increasing Teacher Diversity” event. The objective was to inspire the next generation of high school students to become teachers. The event provided a campus tour and encouraged meaningful discussion with faculty, staff, and current teacher candidates to learn more about university life, equity initiatives within the Faculty of Education, and what it means to be a teacher.

We opened the day with a panel with our teacher candidates to discuss their experience in education discussing their “why” for becoming a teacher, challenges and barriers they have experienced, and how they plan to use equitable and diverse pedagogies in their teaching. The students then had the opportunity to participate in various athletic activities at the Laurier Athletic Complex as well as going on a campus tour led by the teacher candidates. The tour highlighted available campus resources such as the library, Indigenous Student Centre, Accessible Learning Centre, and prayer rooms. We finished the day with the students engaging in a human library activity where they got to more intimately learn about life experiences of various faculty, staff, and teacher candidates. Through this activity, the students had the opportunity to ask deeper meaningful questions about teaching and the various education programs offered at Wilfrid Laurier University.



This is the second year that this event has taken place and each year we are seeing more interest. This would not be possible without event sponsors and partners which include the Faculty of Education, Sun Life Centre for Healthy Communities, Wilfrid Laurier University's EDI Office, Ontario Principal's Council, STEMovation, and the FSL Challenge Fund.

You can read about the highlights from the October 2022 event below where we hosted approximately 45 students: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/kitchener-waterloo/waterloo-region-wilfrid-laurier-university-teacher-diversity-1.6621737>

The Cord, the WLU campus newsletter, recently published an article covering the November 2023 event. The article was also in the December print issue of the newsletter.

See the link below for the article:

<https://thecord.ca/the-second-annual-increasing-teacher-diversity-event-held-on-the-waterloo-campus/>

Learn more about the vision for the event at:

<https://www.wlu.ca/news/news-releases/2023/nov/diverse-representation-matters-laurier-hosts-second-annual-increasing-teacher-diversity-event-nov-8.html>



## **December 2023- Workshop by Dr. Raghad Ebied on the topic of "Compassionate and Culturally Proficient Leadership Amidst Global Unrest"**

The last workshop of the year was hosted on December 7, 2023 at 11:30 to 12:30 pm online via Zoom on the topic of "Compassionate and Culturally Proficient Leadership Amidst Global Unrest".

*Workshop Description:* Amidst times of global unrest and great suffering, how can we support staff, students, and colleagues with compassionate and culturally proficient leadership which fosters empathy to cultivate equity, inclusion, and a sense of belonging? What is the difference between cultural safety, cultural humility, and cultural proficiency? How can we understand the impact of power and privilege on our decision making as leaders and educators? The workshop addressed these questions and presented compassion as a necessary individual and collective approach in response to the high levels of suffering we are encountering. Important tools to engage in culturally proficient leadership and an understanding of how attitudes, relationships, policies and practices shape equity and inclusion were discussed.



**Dr. Raghad Ebied**

Compassionate Leadership  
and Intercultural  
Proficiency Amidst Global  
Conflict

**Virtual Session -  
Zoom**

Thursday  
December 7th  
from 11:30am -  
12:30pm EST

 **2023 Brave Conversation Series**

*Dr. Raghad Ebied* is a faculty member of Wilfrid Laurier University's Center for Leading Research in Education and Faculty of Education where she has taught courses on global educational philosophies, research, and practices as well as developed and delivered a course on anti-discriminatory education offered for the first time in Fall 2023. She is an education and training consultant, author, and emerging scholar in the field of compassionate leadership and resilience-based approaches to support equity, inclusion, intercultural fluency, and a sense of

belonging in educational institutions, organizations and communities. She completed her PhD in Critical Policy, Equity and Leadership Studies at the Faculty of Education at Western University as an Ontario Graduate Scholar with a research focus on supporting refugee students through a compassion and resilience-based approach. She is a contributing author to "**Leading for Equity and Social Justice: Systemic Transformation in Canadian Education**" published by University of Toronto Press (2022). She also developed an audio course on **Intercultural Leadership** for professionals with Prodio. Her experience includes over 15 years of working with government, non-profit, schools, and universities in program development and management, teaching and teacher training, community development and education, equity, diversity, inclusion, and intercultural leadership in Canada and the Middle East.

### **Equity Initiatives within the Faculty of Education and in Partnership with School Boards**



**STEMovation Website:** <https://www.stemovation.org/>

**Instagram:** @stemovation\_edu

**Twitter:** @STEMovation

### **STEMovation Mission into Action**

The STEMovation mission is to create access to high-quality STEM programming for children and their families from groups who are under-represented in STEM education and careers. In May 2023, Wilfrid Laurier University's Faculty of Education, in collaboration with the Waterloo Region's two school boards, led family-friendly, in-community outreach focused on hands-on STEM learning. Our successes in 2023 have led to plans for expanded reach in 2024 and we look forward to growing new partnerships across southern Ontario.



At each event, families were able to try out up to twenty engaging activities that drew on STEM skills, attitudes, and knowledge. Participants of all ages enjoyed navigating a robot around obstacles on the lunar surface, using Indigenous star science to make a constellation viewer, programming and playing a piano made of bananas, and learning about skin and the

electromagnetic spectrum with UV-sensitive materials. Free food, a catchy soundtrack, and the Laurier ‘purple and gold’ motif created a welcoming, fun-filled ‘vibe’ that was extremely well received in every community we visited. Each family took home a ‘STEM-to-go’ takeaway bag which contained materials and instructions for five additional activities so the learning and fun could continue at home. [To get a bird’s eye view of a STEMovation event, click here.](#)

Research into Practice: Fostering a community-wide interest in STEM can promote access to the flourishing STEM economy of our Region. However, employment rates in STEM fields for women, Black and Indigenous populations are disproportionately lower than other Canadians. These figures persist despite studies showing improved creativity, problem-solving and financial performance in diverse workforce teams. Research indicates STEM outreach that is engaging, involves families, and occurs in-community can have a significant impact on children's sense of efficacy, perseverance, and motivation in STEM. In turn, STEMovation involves free of charge, in-community and in-school activities to support equitable access for all children and their families.

Through partnership with Laurier's Faculty of Education’s *Centre for Leading Research in Education*, we are evaluating the 2023 program impact and reach. Participating adult family members were invited to participate in research to assess the impact of family-focused, in-community STEM outreach. This analysis will inform future iterations of the program over three years with a focus on scalability and transferability. In addition, an inquiry into the impact of the STEMovation experience on future teachers’ self-efficacy as STEM educators will engage Laurier students in the research process.



Our projections indicate that over the three-year funding period, the program will reach 1,000+ families and hundreds of pre-service and practicing teachers. The response in 2023 from school Principals, attending families, and the facilitation team was so overwhelmingly positive. We are



now looking to extend our reach in 2023-24 to involve other school boards including those served by Laurier's Brantford campus. We are also exploring additional delivery models including classroom visits, professional learning for teachers embedded in the school day, and training and mentorship for high school student volunteers.



### **More Information**

For more information and to find out how you can get involved in STEMovation, please contact our Project Lead at Laurier's Faculty of Education, Dr. Avis Beek [abeek@wlu.ca](mailto:abeek@wlu.ca).

### **FSL Challenge Fund**

FSL Challenge Fund Website: <https://fslteachers.ca/>

This project is sponsored by The Ministry of Colleges and Universities (MCU) which supports Faculties of Education that offer English-language programs. The project relates to the provision of French as a Second Language (FSL) teacher education. As part of our recruitment efforts to increase the number of FSL teachers in the province of Ontario, our team shared how our research project encourages those from French Immersion programs, Core French programs, and those who perhaps already speak French to consider a career in teaching French. We offered QR code water bottle stickers to students which linked to French resources and shared some of the supports offered on campus to improve French skills. We also shared the links to our [fslteachers.ca](https://fslteachers.ca) website which offers many engaging resources for those interesting in a career teaching French!




Table. 1.0 QR code to [fslteachers.ca](https://fslteachers.ca)

**FSL  
Challenge  
Fund  
Grant**

- Our Goals
- Learning French
- The Benefits of Learning French
- FSL Survival Guide
- Further Reading
- FSL Challenge Quiz
- CEFR and What Level Am I?
- Ressources en sciences et la technologie
- Extra Content

## Empowering Teachers and Students For A Brighter Future

## Responsabiliser les enseignants et les élèves pour un meilleur avenir



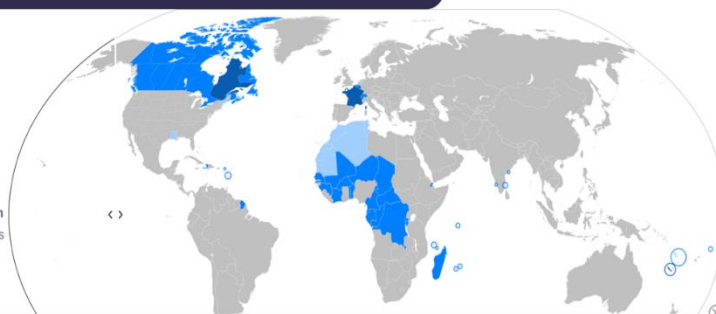
### Join The Challenge!

Are you interested in taking part in risk free French lessons?

- Each lesson is one-on-one with a qualified French instructor; results are not shared with Boards or Wilfrid Laurier.
- Each tranche reflects 20 lessons each being 30 mins and classes can be grouped to 1-hr lessons.
- Lessons can be booked at your convenience 24-hrs a day (due to instructor time zones).

[Iboux Sign Up](#)

As the mother tongue of 29 countries and ranked within the top 10 most-spoken languages around the world, it's no wonder the French language boasts an immense community of over 340 million speakers!



*The Coalition is grateful to the leadership and assistance of Ricky Zhao, Christina Chiarenza, and Maher Khan who supported many events and initiatives led by the Coalition as part of their alternative placement.*