

ANISHINAABE INENDAMOWIN (THOUGHT)

Research Symposium



Igniting Our Sacred Fire
Through Storytelling

Biskaakonjigedaa
Dibaajimohiing

Friday, February 11, 2022 | 1-4pm

Keynote Presentations

Mkomose (Dr. Andrew Judge)



Mkomose (Dr. Andrew Judge) is Assistant Professor of Anishinaabe Studies at Algoma University and Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig, and has lectured at Sir Wilfrid Laurier University, The University of Waterloo, and Coordinated Indigenous studies at Conestoga College. He specializes in Anishinaabe cultural knowledge, ethno-medicine, and land-based learning. Mkomose has learned from, worked and consulted with, and served Indigenous Elders and community leaders for over a decade. He has founded several community-led Indigenous knowledge based programs at elementary, secondary, and post-secondary levels and works tirelessly to promote

land-based sustainability practices. Mkomose has delivered over 100 invited lectures related to Indigenous knowledge, with a pointed focus on Anishinaabe teachings. He supports conscious awakening using plant medicines and Anishinaabe cosmovision to respond to the current state of society and has been initiated into both Midewiwin and Mayan Day Keeping societies. Andrew regularly participates in the ceremonial practices of his Anishinaabe ancestors.

Abstract: Inside each of us is a story, a story that connects our mind to our heart, a story awakened through the teachings and practices passed on to us by our Ancestors, a story of activating our waters and our fire. In this presentation Mkomose will remind us of our responsibilities to our relatives, share foundational aspects of Anishinaabe cosmovision that can guide living in the world in good ways, and share part of his story of the inspiration he received from his teachers and Elders to pursue a life of restoring Anishinaabe land and culture based practices.

Dr. Roger A. Boyer II (Ph.D., CHE, FCCHL Candidate)



Until the rivers run dry, the grasses wither and the sun doesn't rise is the original spirit and intent of the balance of living and love between the Anishinabek and the New Comers; North Americans. This balance is known as *mino-biimaadziwin, the fulfilled life*. It is this life, Roger hunts down like his fellow hunter and gathers of the Makwa (Bear) clan members have

and still do. The "hunt" focuses on improvements to Roger's self-actualization, integrated communal experiences over good coffee and pushing his body to the limits every day in order to become the 1% of CrossFit Athletes to compete in the CrossFit Games.

Over the last four-years, Roger has discovered the fulfilled life in the community of CrossFit, Ultra Marathons and now Triathlons. This athletic lifestyle has not been easy. In 2017, he went through a huge personal transformation of weighing in at 398 lbs to losing 150lbs in 26 months. Authenticity, transparency and grit are the fruits of his labour. Roger has taken this same heart and soul into his work to "disrupt" our sick care system; practicing what he has been preaching as a Certified Health Executive of the Canadian College of Health Leaders.

Historically, Roger was born and raised in Hersey, Michigan, USA. Through his father, he inherited his Anishinabek Canadian heritage as a member of the Mississauga First Nation. Growing up north of Grand Rapids with high influences of his mother and maternal grandfather, Roger completed his undergraduate work while playing NCAA football at Ouachita Baptist University. This hunt to be the 1% started young in his life pushing him to graduate to the next level by going to Western University for cellular physiology. Fighting against racism, Roger

continued to complete a Ph.D. in Intercultural Studies with focuses in Medical Anthropology and Cross-Cultural Leadership. These keys of academic success have allowed for Roger to advocate for change and succession in the healthcare system in order to leave a legacy of caring and sharing rather than cutting and sickness.

Throughout the last 17 years, Roger has put his energies into educating the colonial world about the need for diversity, inclusion and equity within both sport and leadership. This passion has him sitting at the tables of the Ontario Aboriginal Sports and Wellness, Ontario Hospital Association, Indigenous Interprofessional Primary Healthcare Council of Ontario and other Board of Director opportunities as the youngest, Indigenous voice opening opportunities for transformations in dignified living bi-culturally and bi-cyclically.

Abstract:

In 1999, the music group Great Big Sea published a song entitled Consequence Free. Here are some of the lyrics:
*Wouldn't it be great, If no one ever got offended?
Wouldn't it be great, To say what's really on your mind?
I've always said, All the rules are made for bending.
And if I let my hair down, Would that be such a crime?
I wanna be consequence free!
I wanna be where nothing needs to matter.
I wanna be consequence free!*

With Metaverse, digital distractions and a conflicting colonial value system of decision making built on being consequence free, how do we find spaces and places to foster and feed our internal fire, *Ishquaday*? It is this question the speaker, Dr. Roger A. Boyer II, will guide his audience through a balanced game plan in order to not only feed one's fire but keep these flames unquenchable by this world's distractions.

Isaac Murdoch (Bomgiizhik)



Isaac Murdoch (Bomgiizhik) is from Serpent River First Nation. He is of the Fish Clan, is Ojibwe and has four beautiful children. He currently lives in the forest at Nimkii Aazhibikoong, an Indigenous community that focuses on Indigenous language, art, and land based activities, north of Lake Huron.

Being blessed with the opportunity, Bomgiizhik grew up in the traditional setting of hunting and gathering on the land. Having

spent many years learning from Elders, he spends a lot of his time as a Story Teller. Many of these stories become his visual art pieces which have become recognized worldwide. Bomgiizhik is also a Singer Song Writer who loves to make music whenever he gets a chance.

You will often find him on the land looking at his favourite plants or gazing into the beautiful night sky.

Abstract: Guided by spirit and in the oral tradition of storytelling and the sharing of his gift through art freely as long as it is used for our Mother Earth. Isaac knows many of our stories because he took the time to visit the Elders and knowledge holders, encouraging others to take the TIME to sit and visit them. He runs by spirit and does this from the heart.

