

HARMONY

AISES REGIONAL CONFERENCE



REGION 5

Harmony embodies the blend of wisdom, kinship, and sustainability. Our advocacy lies in fostering a deep connection and love for Mother Earth. Historically, settler-indigenous relations were not harmonious, as illustrated by the sacred narrative of Mostos-awasis asiniy (Buffalo Stone Child), highlighting a lack of regard for heritage resources. Today, our focus is to reconcile while advancing the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics by honouring the indigenous roots that nurtured the land before us. Looking forward, our aim is to innovate with consideration for future generations and strive for enduring harmony.

University of Saskatchewan,
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada
May 3-5, 2024



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- BHP
- Métis Nation of Saskatchewan
- University of Minnesota - Duluth
- University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Nutrien
- Western College of Veterinary Medicine
- Hatch
- University of Saskatchewan - College of Nursing
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Dr. Lee Wilson

Lee Wilson, Professor, Department of Chemistry, University of Saskatchewan

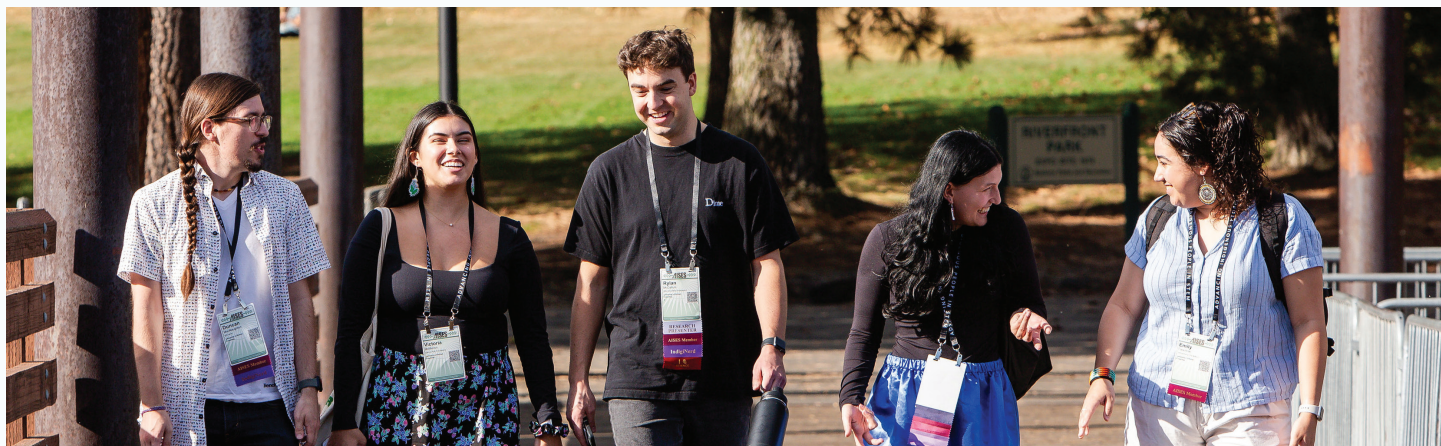
Lee Wilson (Métis) grew up in the small rural community of Lake Francis, Manitoba. He is a professor in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Saskatchewan (USask). After obtaining a B.Sc. at the University of Winnipeg, he completed a Ph.D. at the University of Saskatchewan, followed by Postdoctoral training as an NSERC Visiting Fellow at the Steacie Institute for Molecular Sciences (NRCC, Ottawa). Wilson has established an internationally recognized research program focused on the chemistry of biopolymers and sustainable materials. Current research is focused on understanding structure-function relationships related to sorption processes that are ubiquitous in various physical, chemical and biological phenomena of biomaterials. Wilson has published many peer-reviewed research articles (>300) with an H-index of 55 and an i10-index of 166 with more than 9000 citations. His research group is actively involved in studies focused the modification of biomaterials using green chemistry, and characterization of their structure and physicochemical properties to address a range of fundamental scientific questions and practical problems relevant to sorption processes linked to sustainability of water, food, and energy. He has served as a role model and mentor for Indigenous youth through outreach activities for the past three decades to encourage youth to pursue their goals through education and to use his scientific knowledge to benefit Canada.



Danii Kehler

Danii Kehler is a Plains Cree woman from the Kawacatoose First Nation on Treaty 4 territory in Canada and recently received her Bachelor of Commerce in Business Management at the University of Saskatchewan. She is an Indigenous artist focused on the resiliency of Indigenous people healing from intergenerational trauma by deconstructing colonial structures and reclaiming an Indigenous narrative. Danielle shares stories through her art by showcasing the true beauty and meaning of Indigenous culture and people. Danielle was the “first” First Nations person from Canada to join the 2041 ClimateForce Antarctic Expedition in March 2022 becoming an Ambassador for the Antarctic, charged with making a stand in the fight against anthropogenic climate change. She is also the Manager of SevenGen, an Indigenous youth lead organization aimed at creating space where Indigenous youth and communities are mobilized to advance in the energy and sustainability sector through capacity building, program development, mentorship, and advocacy.

Keynote Speakers



AGENDA

FRIDAY

TIME	EVENT/DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
10:00 am – 3:30 pm	High School Day Activities	Various
4:00 pm	Conference Check-in & Information Desk	Holiday Inn Express & Suites Saskatoon East
5:30 pm – 8:00 pm	Welcome Banquet Dinner - <i>Remarks from Metis Nation Saskatchewan</i> Fiddling from Jordan Daniels Keynote from Dr. Lee Wilson <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Sustainable Chemistry for Achieving Harmony & Water Security</i> 	Holiday Inn Express & Suites Saskatoon East
8:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Networking Event – AISES Professional Chapter	Holiday Inn Express & Suites Saskatoon East

SATURDAY

TIME	EVENT/DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
8:30 am	Conference Check-in & Information Desk	Gordon Oakes Main Floor
9:00 am – 9:30 am	Morning Blessing with Elders	Gordon Oakes Main Floor
9:30 am – 10:00 am	Erin Baril and Azaria Tottenham <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abstract: As two Indigenous STEM students who have been heavily involved in beading circles throughout our university experiences, we have seen the benefits of regularly held beading circles and wish to share how they have impacted us and our community. As an artistic and cultural activity, beading helps as a therapy, a community builder, and a learning opportunity for students across disciplines. Holding a beading space in a colonial university institution deconstructs typical practices and gives a chance for students to connect socially and culturally. We would also like to share tips and ideas for people to bring these practices back to their own university communities. 	ARTS 143

TIME	EVENT/DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
9:30 AM – 10:00 am	<p>Dr. Janet Tootosis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abstract: A brief presentation on the creation of the Department of Indigenous Health and Wellness in the USASK College of Medicine, the first of its kind in Canada. The department will serve as a permanent and formal structure that contributes to a sense of place, both an ethical and relational space (Ermine, 2000) for faculty, staff, learners, and community, best suited to support the work required within our college, university, and health system. The uniqueness and expertise of this unit will reside in its' respectful connection to Indigenous community voices. Community in this context refers to Indigenous Peoples, Knowledge Holders, Elders, and/or Healers. 	ARTS 104
10:00 am – 4:00 pm	<p>Exhibitor Booths</p>	Gordon Oakes Upstairs
10:00 am – 11:00 am	<p>Dr. Steven Rayan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abstract: Powerful new quantum technologies are attracting significant attention from universities, industry, and governments. At the forefront of these is quantum computing. Quantum computers represent a revolutionary new form of computing that leverages quantum physics, novel mathematical ideas, and advanced engineering to achieve results that would be extremely difficult — or even impossible — to obtain through classical computers. In this talk, I will motivate quantum computing as a concept, describe the state of the art, discuss some potential applications, and finally take a peek at what the future may hold in this exciting area. I will mention some of my own research in the process. 	ARTS 143
10:00 am – 11:30 am	<p>Guided tour of NRC research facilities on campus at USask</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abstract: The National Research Council Canada has research facilities located on campus at USask, specialized in the research, innovation, and technology related to aquatic, crop and resource development. The NRC is proposing to host a guided tour of the NRC Research facilities (~60 minutes), where students can engage with NRC researchers and learn more about the NRC and employment opportunities through the NRC Indigenous Student Recruitment program. 	NRC Research Facilities
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	<p>Dr. Jordan Woodsworth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abstract: The Western College of Veterinary Medicine is the veterinary training institution for 3 Western Provinces and Northern Canada. The WCVM is the only veterinary college in Canada with designated seats for Indigenous candidates. The WCVM recognizes the value of Indigenous knowledges and worldviews to the health of animals, people and the environment, and is committed to creating and sustaining good relations with Indigenous communities and individuals through our work. This presentation will address the breadth of animal health professional fields, and link these to the theme of Harmony in the spirit of reconciliation. Requirements for admission to the WCVM will be discussed, along with tips for Indigenous students interested in animal health and welfare careers on how to navigate the path to these fields. Speakers Dr. Jordan Woodsworth (settler, she/her, Director of Northern Engagement and Community Outreach) and Tannicka Reeves (Tlingit, she/her, 4th year DVM student) will highlight the current work being done at the WCVM to create safe and equitable spaces for Indigenous students, and answer questions from attendees about the program and its benefits, challenges and opportunities. Other projects at the WCVM conducted with and for Indigenous communities will also be highlighted. 	ARTS 143

TIME	EVENT/DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	Lunch - <i>Remarks from Nutrien</i>	Gordon Oakes Main Floor
1:30 pm – 2:00pm	<p>Kimberly Lebel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abstract: The face of nature conservation on Turtle Island is changing. From its origins as a mechanism of colonial interests, to today where Indigenous leadership in nature conservation and land stewardship is beginning to take hold. I believe that a more harmonious model of nature conservation is possible by prioritising Indigenous leadership and valuing Indigenous Ecological Knowledge. Conservation of land and animals needs to be about more than economic interests; it must move beyond a perspective of “ownership of resources” and toward a reciprocal, symbiotic relationship with the land and animals. Indigenous peoples are uniquely qualified to be leaders in the transformation of nature conservation on Turtle Island. By educating the public on the importance of this new paradigm of conservation, by increasing Indigenous representation in conservation roles, and by collaborating with government agencies in a meaningful way, Indigenous nations will continue to revolutionise nature conservation. Together we can take action to safeguard a future where true harmony with nature is the norm, for generations to come. 	ARTS 143
1:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Presentation, Pamela Beaudin - Nutrien	ARTS 104
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	<p>Katira Crow Shoe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abstract: This session will be about the Buffalo and how future generations can continue to ensure that Buffalo Ways are carried forward. International Buffalo Relations Institute is committed to the implementation of the articles of the Buffalo Treaty with the objective of raising Buffalo Consciousness. This is done with the intent to create systemic change in the areas of conservation, education, food sovereignty, climate change and holistic wellness. The session will share the importance of Buffalo presence among Indigenous peoples, land, and other species. 	ARTS 143
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	<p>Dr. Mark Bellcourt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abstract: Sacred Space in Science: Our elders teach us that there are many invisible sacred spaces which are not fully appreciated by Western science. Although different, Indigenous understanding of the world is just as legitimate and valid as western knowledge. Some would argue that the inclusion of alternative views can only make science better. Moderated by an educator, researcher, and spiritual advisor, this presentation will be an interactive discussion of the intersection between sacred spaces and western science. We welcome elders, scientists, and students to join in and share a lively discussion of diverse opinions and experiences. 	ARTS 143
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	<p>Lily Desjarlais – Yehew Yoga</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The goal of Yehew Yoga is to bridge the practice of yoga with Indigenous knowledge systems to show people the benefits of yoga, including stress relief, increased self-awareness, and improved mental and physical health. Join Lily for a 1-hour session to unwind and refocus (mats will be provided). 	Gordon Oakes Main Floor
4:00 pm – 5:30 pm	Break	

TIME	EVENT/DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
5:30 pm – 6:15 pm	Exhibit and Traditional Game Tours at Wanuskewin - Shuttle bus leaves from Staybridge Inn and Suites Hotel at 5:00 pm and 5:30 pm, returning shuttle leaves 9:00 pm After the dance performance	Wanuskewin
6:30 pm – 8:30 pm	Banquet Keynote from Danii Kehler the Aunty of Antarctica (7:00 pm – 8:00 pm) • <i>Climate Action in Antarctica</i>	Wanuskewin
8:00 pm – 8:30 pm	Performance by the Wanuskewin Dance Troupe	Wanuskewin

SUNDAY

TIME	EVENT/DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
9:00 am – 9:30 am	Morning Blessing	Gordon Oakes
9:30 am – 10:30 am	Regional Caucus Meeting	Rooms TBD
10:30 am – 11:00 am	Presentation & Send-Off, Dr. Angela Jaime - Vice-Provost, Indigenous Engagement, USask	ARTS 143
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Closing Circle	Gordon Oakes
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Lunch	Gordon Oakes



HARMONY



Thank you Gordon Oakes Red Bear Student Centre and staff for letting us use their facilities and to the University of Saskatchewan's Office of the Vice-Provost, Indigenous Engagement for their support throughout.



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