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***From Community to Classroom: Reimagining Canadian K-6 Teacher Education Through Community-Led Teaching and Learning***

**Short description / Abstract:**

This presentation introduces three newly developed courses within the Keewatinase Indigenous Teacher Education Program (KITEP) at Lakehead University in Ontario, Canada. The courses centre First Nations and Indigenous community-led learning as a foundational pedagogical approach. Organized around seasonal learning that include Dagwaagin (Fall), Biboon (Winter), and Ziigwan/Niibin (Spring/Summer), the courses center Indigenous ways of knowing, seeing, doing, and being by positioning community members, Elders, and Knowledge Keepers as primary teachers. Each course requires a minimum of 24 hours of community-based learning through land-based activities, oral traditions, cultural practices, and local protocols. These courses move beyond theory by immersing teacher candidates in lived, place-based experiences that deepen understanding of Indigenous education, including wholistic approaches integrating mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual dimensions. Emphasis is placed on relational accountability, community context, and honouring Indigenous pedagogies. Teacher candidates also critically reflect on their traditional roles and responsibilities and demonstrate how these experiences inform their teaching practice through lesson planning and pedagogical approaches aligned with provincial curriculum expectations. This presentation outlines course structure, pedagogy, and assessment, and shares preliminary impacts, including increased confidence, cultural responsiveness, and commitment to community-engaged education.