

# Mirror : Le Miroir : Wenjujaqmati : Sgàthan

## Master of Education Newsletter

Summer 2021 VOL 10 NO 3



### Master of Education

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### Fall, Winter, and Spring 2021 – 2022 Registration is now OPEN!!

StFX MEd students can find the fall, winter, and spring course schedules in the Continuing & Distance Education Fall & Winter 2020-2021 Calendar: <http://www2.mystfx.ca/continuing-education/continuing-distance-education-calendars>

**Frustrated  
when courses  
are cancelled?  
Register early  
to avoid  
possible  
cancellation of  
courses!**



As way of introduction, my name is Jennifer Mitton, and I recently became the Chair of the Curriculum and Leadership Department in the Faculty of Education, which is responsible for overseeing the Master of Education program. There has been much change in the Faculty of Education with Dr. Jeff Orr finishing his second term as Dean in June, and with well-known Chairs of Departments, Drs. David Young (MEd) and Dan Robinson (BEd), also coming to the end of their terms. While working in different capacities, all three individuals were persistent and committed to creating opportunities for graduate students as part of their studies in education. Dr. David Young was tireless in his support of graduate students, faculty, and staff. David is presently on sabbatical for the 2021-2022 academic year, and I look forward to his return. Additionally, Dr. Janice Landry, Director of Continuing and Distance Education, and an integral part of the Master of Education program, retired in August, and well-loved instructors, Drs. Joanne Tompkins and Deb Graham, retired at the end of June. During these changes, our new Dean, Dr. Lace Marie, began her term as Dean of Education on July 1. Arriving from Laurentian University, Lace Marie brings with her a wealth of experience and knowledge about schools and higher education, some of which includes her background as a French teacher educator. We are fortunate to have her join and lead the StFX Faculty of Education.

There are also several highlights to report from the summer. To start, in July we welcomed over 200 new students to the program, and we hosted the fourth Educational Research Forum (ERF) on July 26. The ERF showcased StFX graduate students' (M.Ed. and PhD students) original research and included many Nova Scotian teachers. Opening the event was Jane Meader, the *Summer Institute Elder in Residence*. Jane has a long career as a teacher of Mi'kmaw language and culture and is widely sought for her deep teachings on her culture, protocol, and ceremony. Delivering the keynote address at the ERF was *Scholar in Residence* Dr. Ann Lopez (University of Toronto). Dr. Lopez is the well-known author of *Transformative Pedagogies for Teacher Education*. The ERF was an incredible highlight of the summer and my appreciation for the involvement of students, faculty, and staff who made it such an event.

Congratulations are also extended to the cohorts, who completed their program of study this July:

- Culturally Responsive Pedagogy 3
- Early Elementary Pedagogy 6
- Inclusive Education A&P 1
- Inclusive Education C&I 1
- Inclusive Education C&I 2
- Mental Health 8 Toronto Cohort
- Outdoor Education 2

Please note the Inclusive Education cohorts are the first set of students to finish this cohort after it was introduced in 2019.

*Continued on next page*

A Treaty Education Institute was run for teachers in MK and Indigenous school boards in conjunction with the July 2021 EDUC 525: Treaty Education and was completed by 10 Indigenous teachers and non-Indigenous teachers who work with Indigenous students at the elementary level. This endeavour was led by Dr. Jeff Orr in collaboration with StFX Faculty, Simon Sylliboy and Terena Francis.

Towards the end of summer (August 24 to August 26), the first *Black Students Matter Fall Teaching Retreat*, a three-day conference, featuring keynote speaker Dr. Gloria Ladson-Billings was held. Special mention to faculty member, Dr. Wendy Mackey who was heavily involved in the planning and execution of the event.

For those who teach, change is inevitable, particularly in the fall as the summer gives away to cooler temperatures and a return to classrooms. While the excitement of the new year is tempting to dwell upon, I want to pause and consider the work being done across this country to find the graves of the students on the properties of residential schools. The work to locate these souls is a stark reminder of the powerful role all educators play in Treaty Education as we “unlearn, learn, and relearn” a more accurate history of the nation to nation relationship between Canada and Indigenous nations. Certainly, you all have a role to play, continuing in graduate studies, persisting with the completion of your degrees, and acting upon what you have learned to make schools more inclusive and equitable spaces is an important act of reconciliation. Regardless of the cohort in which you are situated, the StFX MEd program goals<sup>1</sup> identify our deep commitment to equity education. As Maya Angelou emphasized, “when we know better, we do better”... this degree is your chance to not only acquire new understandings about content and concepts, it is also the opportunity to acknowledge what you’re already doing to support equity education in your schooling communities, and to also see yourselves in new ways about what you can do next.

As a way of closing, again, I’ll end with the words of author, Shane Lopez (2014), who in the text, *Making Hope Happen: Create the Future you Want for Yourself and Others*, argues:

*Hope matters.*

*Hope is a choice.*

*Hope can be learned.*

*Hope can be shared with others.*

As graduate students, what you pursue as part of your studies, is a hope filled endeavour and can only benefit your schooling communities.

Wishing you a wonderful fall term. Please do not hesitate in contacting me, or Rhiannon Smith, if you have any questions or concerns.

Best wishes,  
Jennifer

<sup>1</sup> **Program Goals of the StFX Master of Education**

1. To develop future leaders to improve education.
2. To prepare leaders for educational change.
3. To engage in critical reflection.
4. To challenge assumptions and introduce new thinking.
5. To cultivate educational inquirers and researchers.

## Technology Tips & Tricks

- A little time before class goes a long way. **Test everything out well in advance.** This allows time for solving problems or even just the reassurance it all works so focus can be on pedagogy.
- When participating in a course via Collaborate, best practice is use Google Chrome as your browser. **PowerPoint or PDF slides can be uploaded days or hours in advance** if needed.
- Breakout rooms could be set up before class starts uploading slides within each group separately. Do not stop breakouts with slides, if you end breakouts, you lose the slides.
- **Test microphone and audio** when you log in the first time. Contact [CDESupport@stfx.ca](mailto:CDESupport@stfx.ca) to arrange a 2-minute audio check during business hours and one of the CDE Support team can join your class to do the test when everything works, it actually takes less than 2 minutes so we encourage people to do this. CDE Support are normally online during business hours. If you are in your Online Classroom, you can email and could possibly have a response within minutes, have someone log in, check your audio, and be done.
- Once you know all audio works and uploading files is fine, we recommend **ignoring all updates** for your computer. Often these are notifications you may receive, and then click yes. If possible avoid updates and use the saying, "If it ain't broke... don't update it". Some updates reconfigure audio or video drivers for mics, speakers or webcams, so it could change how these work... or don't work. Many connectivity problems or audio issues in middle of course happen after updates.
- Many tests take no time at all to fix in advance, but could cause major panic or issues during a class. Please do not hesitate to contact [cdesupport@stfx.ca](mailto:cdesupport@stfx.ca) to do even simple checks. The simple things can be big things that are easily avoidable.
- **Connectivity:** Wifi is not as strong as a plugged-in network jack. Plugging in gives you 100% of your router bandwidth. Best tip is to plug in if possible. If wifi is only option, proximity matters. Know the location of your router, and be as close as possible to it. Wifi signal can drop significantly in as little as 15 feet away. This is even more critical with rural internet.



## Student Handbooks

- Master of Education Student Handbook
- Thesis and Project Guidelines
- Academic Writing <https://www2.mystfx.ca/masters-of-education/handbooks>
- Guide to Graduate Studies
- StFX Academic Calendar

## Library Tips & Tricks



First, let me introduce myself: my name is Meghan Landry and I'm the liaison librarian to Education at StFX! Feel free to contact me regarding your research questions or for help with access to the library's resources.

Contact information:

[mlandry@stfx.ca](mailto:mlandry@stfx.ca)

902-867-4535

Skype: meghan.landry1

If you're a distance student, and you run into problems accessing resources in print or resources that we don't have electronically, but you'd like to request access, you have a few options:

1. If you're located in Nova Scotia, you can sign out and request materials from any Novanet participating university with your **StFX card**.
2. If you're located outside of Nova Scotia, sign up for a **CAUL card**: <http://www2.mystfx.ca/library/caul-cards>. This gives you borrowing privileges at universities outside of the Novanet consortium.
3. Check to see if your local university library allows public users to access their databases in-person via one of their public computers.
4. If you want to place a Document Delivery request, but are located outside of Antigonish, contact the office to see how we can help you: <http://www2.mystfx.ca/library/document-delivery>

Consult the Distance Students page of the Education subject guide for more information:

<http://www2.mystfx.ca/library/library-services-distance-and-continuing-education-students>

## Important Information

- **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:** <https://www2.mystfx.ca/masters-of-education/students-faq>

- How do I register for a course?
- How do I request a transcript?
- How do I request an official receipt for tuition?
- How do I apply to graduate?
- How do I request a letter of confirmation?

And many more...



- **X-RING ELIGIBILITY:** <https://www.stfx.ca/alumni/everything-x-ring/x-ring-information>

- **DROPPING A COURSE:** Please be aware of our refund policy. Dropping a course 2 weeks prior to the start date will result in an automatic charge of \$100.00. (Page 2 of the Continuing & Distance Education refund policy: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PyNFH\\_oOmuxQtN2hc7oxZXAcQaHOnOAJ/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PyNFH_oOmuxQtN2hc7oxZXAcQaHOnOAJ/view))

- **EDUC 569 SELECTED TOPICS:** Students may register for as many 569s as their elective requirements allow, provided the course title for each is different.

- **STUDENT STATUS:** If your student status changes for any reason, please notify the program office at [med@stfx.ca](mailto:med@stfx.ca)

- **ASYNCHRONOUS:** Asynchronous e-learning is an interactive, student-centered approach to learning that is not bounded by geography or time.

- **CORE COURSES:** Non-Cohort students are encouraged to take core courses first. Please visit the FAQ's for a list.

## Congratulations to the July 2021 Completed Cohorts!

- Culturally Responsive Pedagogy 3
- Early Elementary Pedagogy 6
- Inclusive Education A&P 1



- Inclusive Education C&I 1
- Inclusive Education C&I 2
- Mental Health 8 Toronto Cohort
- Outdoor Education 2

## Seats are still available in the following Fall, Winter, and Spring 2021-2022 courses:

- EDUC 532.66 - **Curriculum Theory** (CRN: 56925) Tuesdays, 7-10 pm September 14 – November 30, 2021
- EDUC 508.66 - **Critical Research Literacy in Education** (CRN: 56928) Tuesdays, 7-10 pm January 11 – March 29, 2022 (No class March 15, 2022) Plus 3 hours TBD
- EDUC 510.66 - **Restorative Approaches in Educational Settings** (CRN: 56929) Mondays, 7-10 pm January 10 – March 28, 2022 (No class March 14, 2022) Plus 3 hours TBD
- EDUC 527.66 - **Principles of Learning** (CRN: 56930) Wednesdays, 7-10 pm January 12 – March 30, 2022 (No class on March 16, 2022) Plus 3 hours TBD
- EDUC 529.66 – **School and Teaching Effectiveness** (CRN: 12601) Mondays, 7-10 pm April 4 – June 6, 2022 (No class May 23, 2022) Plus 9 hours TBD
- EDUC 536.66 – **Program Development** (CRN: 12602) Tuesdays, 7-10 pm April 5 – June 7, 2022 Plus 6 hours TBD
- EDUC 562.66 – **Contemporary Issues in Educational Administration Theory** (CRN: 12603) Thursdays, 7-10 pm April 7 – June 9, 2022 Plus 6 hours TBD

[For full descriptions click here](#)

For instructions on how to register  
for a course, please visit our  
Frequently Asked Questions Page:  
[https://www2.mystfx.ca/masters-  
of-education/students-faq](https://www2.mystfx.ca/masters-of-education/students-faq)

## Have you applied for Fall 2021 Convocation?

Saturday December 4, 2021

Instructions on how to apply for graduation:

<https://www.mystfx.ca/masters-of-education/how-do-i-apply-graduate>