



Dr. Sean Lessard

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6.0 Service Dossier

6.1 Service Statement

The service commitments are ongoing as an Indigenous Scholar and community member. I am writing this as it has a different responsibility attached to it, as I am working collectively and on behalf of community members often in my life. I am asked weekly to work with communities both formally and informally as a child advocate as well as the main research and writer for Bill C 92 legislation which is connected to child welfare sovereignty. In many of the communities the capacity is not fully developed so my role as a writer, researcher, teacher and advocate is called on regularly. I feel compelled that this is a service that I must continue to provide, it is my service to my communities who have provided the opportunity for me to study and become a professor and academic.

I am surrounded by communities who have significant challenges so my service is a weekly commitment. Weekly I volunteer at schools and tutor/counsel First Nation youth in several subjects. Every Friday I make the commitment to show up to a public school and spend the day with children. I have a certified Alberta Education number and I am a de-facto school, working with high school youth in particular on various subjects. I perform this act of service 7 days a week in person and or through online visioning and coaching sessions. My service commitments extend to communities who have experienced trauma and suicide impacts with children and families. My background in Educational Psychology and the

courses around trauma informed practices and suicide first aid, bring me to communities across Canada to work with children and families that have been impacted. I am currently spending time with the community of James Smith First Nation as they consider justice and wellness practices to re-engage children and families with school. I do this service as part of my practice and part of a process that is guided literally by the ideas of mitho-waskaywin or “moving well” in relation. My philosophy is directly connected to move well alongside children, families and community and this service is just part of my everyday nuanced living. I do not count ceremonies, helping elders, picking medicines, walking the trap lines as service in my life, these also take time but they balance me out in good ways to continue the work in my life.

My favourite practice is spending time with elders in Enoch Cree Nation where I go out on the weekends and drop food off, mow the grass and in winter shovel their sidewalks. I do this as part of a community service and for my own wellness, but to also keep the connections and grow my roots. I do this so my children can see other possibilities within me and within community connections, it changes the way we interact and think of each other. A reciprocal part of this process is that they have provided me opportunities to directly connect my work at the University of Alberta through the Aboriginal Teacher Education Program as well as my classes having the opportunity to travel to and learn directly from the community and Elders. I have listed some of the service commitments that I have engaged with. I have used these opportunities as service and engage in them with communities with the understanding my service will lead to wellness initiatives such as purchasing shoes for children and elders or buying bikes for community members. I have also started a scholarship fund as part of my service as a University of Alberta professor and community member.

6.2 Service to the Broader Community

Enoch Animated Season 1 & 2

It is the first ever animated series developed for Enoch Cree Nation youth, children and families. The 24 set series are short animated films of elders stories within Enoch Cree Nation. I co- designed all elements and wrote with a team to develop accompanying curricular resources. I had all the animated shorts made into Cree and co-facilitated the elder interviews and used community- based research methodologies and practices to ensure culturally responsive approaches. The cartoons have 1 million to 1.5 million views and shares and have been featured on CBC Morning Show and viewed internationally.

Click the visual below to see the Enoch Animated series.



Re-Design Nakoda 10-20-30 Language Curriculum

I co-wrote the first ever Nakoda Language Curriculum Developed in provincial/national history. I spent over 1000 hours of volunteer work to meet requirements and hit deliverables. The community had a large ceremonial presentation where I was honoured in Treaty 4 territory. Thunderchild First Nation pre k- 5 Land Based Curriculum
I wrote collaboratively and interviewed elders and knowledge keepers to help the community develop their own program of studies that combines wellness, land, language and culture.
Reflections on Research: volunteered over 100 hours to complete task

First Pre -K to 12 Land Based Curriculum in Canada - Wellness Lens. Volunteered Project Lead

Interviewed elders and youth to develop conceptual map
Reflections on Research: Ongoing collaboration volunteered over 500 hours since Feb.
Description: Pre K - 12 Landbased Curriculum Enoch Cree Nation/ Project Lead Researcher (Cree Syllabics, Cree and English) Lead collaborative approach - Piloting Sept 21' Ministerial Approval April 1, 2022.

Adult Education Model Conceptualization and Handbook

CANDO - National organization Community Development Framework
Collaborative and Volunteer Lead - Overarching Vision and Design

Whitebear First Nation/ Treaty Education Alliance Youth Transitions Research Project

4 month case study approach to identify gaps in systems delivery education. Collaboration with University of Regina and Treaty 4 Chiefs. Lead Researcher - Foundational Document for community developed. Policy implications on equity.

Ille La Crosse Research Summer Experience

Model based on model research conducted and implemented by Dr. Sean Lessard. Replication of a model that I initiated in communities. Micro and Macro intervention experiences within communities. Reflections on Research: Volunteered to track and reverse engineer the experience through research conversations with youth and teachers.

Master of Ceremonies Indigenous Strategic Plan MC

Volunteer Substitute Teach

I volunteer to substitute teach weekly and work counseling youth and mentoring teachers and principals. I also volunteer in jail to work with Indigenous inmates

Dr. Sean Lessard Scholarship

I have started and funded 5 university scholarships in teacher education and Indigenous studies as well as 2 high school scholarships in local schools around Indigenous leadership (more info below).

Sahkotowin Elders Abuse Project

I meet with youth and elders on the Enoch Cree Nation. We volunteer and create gifts of reconciliation and love between youth and elders. We help with lawns, snow removal, cooking, technology teaching and collaborations out of love.

Child Advocate

I am the child advocate for 2 First Nation Communities in Saskatchewan and Alberta. This is a volunteer commitment acting on their behalf in cases of physical and sexual abuse.

Service to the Broader Community (Continued)

Name of Service: Board Member

- ❖ Lakeland College, Everactive Schools, Spirit North, Growing Young Movers, Change Health

Name of Service: Sahkotowin Project

- ❖ This is a service I commit to every Friday. It's ongoing and requires intensive connections to local elders. It's purely voluntary, and over 25 youth are part of this project that teaches elders how to use technology and negotiate the fast-paced world around them. We make food, construction projects, bring flowers and, most recently, dropped off over 100 pairs of running shoes to start an elders track club.

Name of Service: School District & Other Speaking Engagements

- ❖ My speaking load has included over 15 engagements with an audience reach of over 5000 combined, as I am continually asked to speak to large school districts about the design of Indigenous spaces in schools. My service passion has not diminished and I have used other outlets to engage with youth across Canada.
- ❖ I speak to high school, university, college, graduate students, elders and adult learners across Canada on a bi-weekly basis to encourage their journey.

Name of Service: Piloting Indigenous Pathways Course

- ❖ Taught high school students a new course and tracked their progress throughout.

Name of Service: Curriculum & Course Development

- ❖ I have spent thousands of hours in the last calendar year writing, composing, designing, editing and creating curricular documents for communities and school systems so they can engage with their own local contexts.
- ❖ Developed 6 online webinars on land based education for the Principals of Ontario. In kind donation to keep the work moving forward and develop work.
- ❖ I have volunteered in developing the first land based curriculum in Alberta that is pre-K to grade 12. I have written it in Cree and syllabics with the help of local Elders.

Name of Service: Outdoor Classroom Initiatives

- ❖ We have created over 20 learning spaces in the forests around the city of Edmonton. I do this on a volunteer basis.
- ❖ Work with young men who have anger issues to build outdoor classrooms for the daycare and headstart programs. We chop wood, make logs for chairs, and hang crystals in the trees to make it a positive learning space for children.

Name of Service: Bike & Runners Donation

- ❖ I have personally provided 500 bikes for Indigenous youth and over 1000 pairs of running shoes for elders and Indigenous youth in the past calendar year as a way to create opportunities for youth impacted by foster care systems.

Name of Service: River Walks

- ❖ I volunteer to do the river walks counting and counseling homeless folks in the river valley every other week. Many of the folks are Indigenous and have been displaced. I do this because my mother was homeless in her life. I do it quietly without writing this ever down on a form or paper.

Name of Service: Community Arts Showcase

- ❖ Designer and collaborator for community arts showcases. 3 full Indigenous hip-hop era productions have been created for the broader community. Indigenizing the arts and teaching Cree through drama. Wellness Initiative includes all parts of design and implementation.

Name of Service: Teaching

- ❖ I teach online Aboriginal Studies to 3 different communities weekly. I volunteer, do the marking and the teaching as an act of reconciliation and more importantly to prevent suicide and ill effects of mental health.

Name of Service: Outward Bound Canada

- ❖ Helped develop a critical friends group that informs programming and responds culturally to Indigenous youth engaged in land based programs nationally.

Name of Service: Integrated Arts Hub Enoch

- ❖ Integrated Arts Hub is a multidisciplinary approach to infusing arts-based practices within an Indigenous context.



6.3 Service to the University of Alberta

Name of Service: Mentor for the Summer Institute

- ❖ I taught courses for the Summer Institute for the purpose of mentoring two colleagues in teaching and assessing graduate courses.

Name of Service: Enoch Cree Nation Course

- ❖ I wrote and received a grant so that Dr. Dwayne Donald could teach a full-year graduate course in Enoch Cree Nation. This course was so successful with graduate students that it will be repeated again.

Name of Service: Interim Director - Centre for Research Teacher Education Development

- ❖ I volunteered to be the transitional interim CRTED Director until the time would come to move it forward in a different strategic direction.
- ❖ I hosted weekly 2-hour research conversations every Tuesday for undergraduate and graduate students.

Name of Service: Partnership Agreements - U of A x Country Alumni

- ❖ I developed a partnership agreement with U of A x country alumni where Enoch Cree Nation sponsored the track team for 10, 000 students. Students at the U of A country alumni worked together in a newly formed alliance called #sameteam.

Name of Service: Diversity Equity and Respect (DER) Committee

- ❖ I am a member of the Diversity Equity and Respect committee for the University of Alberta, which focuses on initiatives to support students.





Service: Funded Scholarships

- ❖ Dr. Sean Lessard Award- Montreal Lake Cree Nation Graduation Scholarship \$1,500 yearly
- ❖ Dr. Sean Lessard Award-Lakeland College Indigenous Education Scholarship \$2000 yearly
- ❖ Redworn Runners Inc. (Shoes for youth across Saskatchewan)
- ❖ Ecole Greenfield School (\$1000 FNMI related books)
- ❖ Name to Place Inc. (Ontario Youth Leadership Wolfpack FNIM Student Success) \$2000
- ❖ Growing Young Movers Youth Development Inc. (\$150,000 + bursaries and work related experiences)