



With One Another

Engaging in the hope of our calling, by listening to and learning from Indigenous people in humility and gentleness.

April 28-May 1, 2026

Affinity Conference Centre, Brantford, ON

“Led by the Spirit of discernment and motivated by hope, we will engage in the journey of right relations, as Catholic School Chaplains. By listening to Indigenous voices, we will justly and joyfully examine opportunities for meaningful engagement within our ministry.”

The CSCO Conference Planning Team is pleased to invite you to the 2026 CSCO Conference, taking place April 28 – May 1, 2026.

Theme & Inspiration

Our theme is drawn from St. Paul’s Letter to the Ephesians (4:1–6). This year’s gathering calls Catholic school chaplains and educators from across Ontario to deepen their understanding of Indigenous cultures, histories, and spiritualities, and to bring this learning back to their schools and communities.

Purpose

The conference seeks to:

- Educate and inspire chaplains and educators in the ongoing work of Truth and Reconciliation
- Strengthen reciprocal relationships with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples and communities
- Enhance cultural competency and knowledge of Indigenous heritage, history, and spirituality

Highlights

- Keynote Speaker: Dr. Niigaan Sinclair, Professor of Indigenous Studies, University of Manitoba
- Liturgies & Prayer: In partnership with Kateri Native Ministry (Donna Naughton and Fr. Daryold Winkler)
- Cultural Excursions:
 - Tour of The Mohawk Institute and Woodland Cultural Centre
 - Interactive and engaging Community-led experiences at Six Nations of the Grand River and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.
 - Featuring locally catered, traditional cultural tastes and cuisine.
- Experiential Learning: Authentic, land-based education guided by Elders and local knowledge carriers
- This four day, three night conference will give us the time to fully immerse ourselves into the places and spaces we will be visiting. It will also give us the important time to journey with one another and our Indigenous sisters and brothers.

Why Attend?

- Opportunities to learn about Residential Schools, intergenerational trauma, and the resilience of Indigenous cultures
- Experiential activities on-territory, fostering creative connections and authentic encounters
- Practical insights to empower chaplains and educators in serving all students and staff with greater cultural awareness and compassion

CSCO Conference 2026

Tuesday April 28, 2026

- CSCO Annual General Meeting
- Opening Prayer
- Vendors
- Keynote ~ Dr. Niigaan Sinclair

Wednesday April 29, 2026

- Excursion to Woodlands Cultural Centre and Mohawk Institute
- Sharing Circles
- Vendors
- Keynote ~ Dr. Niigaan Sinclair

Thursday April 30, 2026

- Cultural Learning in Community at Six Nations of the Grand River and Mississaugas of the Credit territories in partnership with Rising Stars.
 - including Indigenous games and traditions, community led songs and social activities, traditional performances and showcasing of cultural text forms.
- CSCO Banquet featuring live music with “Descendants of Dunn”

Friday May 1, 2026

- Sharing Circles
- Closing Mass

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

Ephesians 4.1-6

Conference Packages

Full Conference Package

Includes 3 nights accommodation, meals, and all sessions

- **CSCO Member - Double Accommodation:** \$650.00
- **Non Member - Double Accommodation:** \$750.00
- **CSCO Member - Single Accommodation:** \$900.00
- **Non Member - Single Accommodation:** \$1000.00

Commuter Conference Package

Includes meals and all sessions

- **CSCO Member - Commuter:** \$450.00
- **Non Member - Commuter:** \$550.00

CSCO Banquet

**Banquet is included in all of the above conference packages

- **Banquet Dinner only** \$75.00

Registration is now open! Spaces are limited so please complete the registration form found at the link or by scanning QR code below ASAP so as not to be disappointed.

EFT payments can be made to: cSCO.treasurer@gmail.com

Cheques can be mailed to:

St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School
Attn: Aaron Pellerin
1360 Oxford St. W
London, ON
N6H 1W2

** Registration closes on March 6, 2026, no refunds will be issued after this date. Please email Conference Registrar, Stephanie Jarrett (stephanie.jarrett@ncdsb.com) for assistance.

[Register Here](#)



Keynote

Niigaanwewidam James Sinclair

Niigaan Sinclair is Anishinaabe from Peguis First Nation and a professor at the University of Manitoba, where he holds the Faculty of Arts Professorship in Indigenous Knowledge and Aesthetics in the Department of Indigenous Studies. Niigaan is a multiple nominee of Canadian columnist of the year (winning in 2018) and won the 2019 Peace Educator of the Year from the Peace and Justice Studies Association based at Georgetown University in Washington, DC.

Liturgy and Prayer

Donna Naughton, BSW, MSW.

With a Master's Degree in Social Work, Donna has been helping Indigenous communities for over 20 years. In 2016 she became the Executive Director of Kateri Native Ministries in addition to her recurring role as a lead singer. Kateri Native Ministries carries forward the vision of a Church that embraces healing, truth, and reconciliation.

Fr. Daryold Winkler

Daryold Winkler is a priest in the Archdiocese of Ottawa-Cornwall. Born in Chicago, Illinois, he hails from a diverse heritage, with an Indigenous mother and an American father. A proud member of the M'Chigeeng First Nation, Winkler is one of only seven Indigenous priests in Canada, making his role significant in the broader context of the Church's engagement with Indigenous communities.

Fr. Winkler's commitment to his faith and his cultural roots is a central aspect of his identity. He has a deep belief in the importance of dialogue, inclusivity, and listening within the Church and in bringing people together, particularly Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities within the Church

Graphic Design

Sydney Thomas

Sydney Thomas created the Logo for our conference. Sydney is a part of the Mohawk Nation and Turtle Clan. Her traditional name is Gadwhich, which means "she flies high in the sky". She was born and raised on the Six Nation Reserve, where she still lives today. She is also an active member in the 'Group of Six' artist group, who work together to create resources that represent and support their community. Sydney is also independent artist and has a small art business called "Redcloud Crafts", making and selling a variety of different traditional crafts such as beadwork, regalia, and woodwork. Sydney is a full-time student at Six Nations Polytechnic, and is currently in her 3rd year of the Cayuga Language (BAOL) program. She comes from a family that expresses how important it is to learn their cultural teachings and language, so feels very lucky to have it be such a big part of her work and life.

