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In the Loop

The newsletter from the
[Centre for Teaching Excellence](#)
at the University of Waterloo

MAY/JUNE 2025



UPCOMING WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

[Engaging Students Through PebblePad Workbooks](#) (CTE7526)

Friday, May 2 - 1:00pm-2:00pm, Online

The PebblePad Users Group is an opportunity to hear how your colleagues across campus are using PebblePad to engage students and support teaching and learning. In this session, Sandra Lopez-Rocha (Intercultural Learning Specialist, [International Experience Centre](#)) will share how she designed a PebblePad Workbook to engage students throughout the various components of the GLIDE (Global Learning, Intercultural Development, and Engagement) Certificate.

[LEARN for TAs](#) (CTE6650)

Monday, May 12 - 10:30am-12:00pm, Online

This workshop is a Question & Answer (Q&A) session focusing on the effective use of LEARN for TAs.

[Accessibility Reading Group Part 1](#)

Tuesday, May 13 - 2:00pm-3:30pm, Online

This reading group is intended for people with any level of accessibility confidence and a desire to have deeper discussions about accessible education.

[Getting Ready to Facilitate Online Courses: TA Training](#) (CEL 0610)

May 26 – June 20

This 4-week, online certificate course is suited for current or future TAs wishing to build skills and knowledge of best practices in facilitating fully online courses.

Registration deadline: May 20

[Juggling Institutional Priorities: Strategies for Instructors](#) (CTE 7700)

Thursday, June 19, 1:00pm-2:30pm, Online

Are you feeling overwhelmed by the need to address multiple institutional priorities in your courses, such as mental wellbeing, Indigenization, and accessibility?

This series aims to provide a supportive community for instructors, offering a space for discussion and sharing of best practices. By learning from peers and building connections, we hope to make the task of juggling institutional priorities more manageable and less overwhelming. We envision holding these sessions once a term for the next year.

In our first session, [Brenda Lee](#) will showcase how she has made strategic changes to her course delivery that address multiple institutional priorities simultaneously. By sharing practical examples of how one change in her teaching approach has effectively connected to several institutional goals, we hope to begin a discussion on the types of changes you might consider making to address multiple priorities. Making strategic, incremental changes on an ongoing basis can be more manageable than trying to address all institutional priorities at once. Learning about ways to do so in community can help make the change process less overwhelming.

LEARN MORE ABOUT ACCESSIBLE TEACHING THIS SUMMER!

Accessible Education Reading Group

- Part 1: Tuesday, May 13, 2:00pm– 3:30pm (Online)
- Part 2: Tuesday, June 24, 2:00pm – 3:30pm (Online)

Fill out the Registration Form: [Accessible Education Reading Group](#).

Integrated Accessibility Retreat

Save the date: Thursday, July 17 - 9:30am – 3:30pm, in person

Prepare your course for Fall term with accessibility in mind, in a supportive environment of Centre for Teaching Excellence, Centre for Extended Learning, and AccessAbility Services facilitators.

Enhancing Accessibility in Teaching and Learning Series

In case you missed it: [find series installments 1 through 4 on CTE's YouTube Channel](#) (goes to playlist)!

LITE SEED GRANTS DEADLINE: JUNE 2

[Learning Innovation and Teaching Enhancement \(LITE\) Grants](#) fund projects that investigate innovative approaches to enhancing teaching and fostering deep student learning at Waterloo. Each grant is valued up to \$7,500. The application deadline for this term is **June 2 at 4:00pm**, but applicants must meet with one of the grant program managers ([Annik Bilodeau](#) or [Brianna Bennett](#)) no later than **May 16 at 12:00pm (noon)**.

LITE SEED GRANTS PROGRAM – CALL FOR REVIEWERS

[The Learning Innovation and Teaching Enhancement \(LITE\) Seed grants program](#) is seeking reviewers to assess proposals for these upcoming June and October 2025 competitions. We are looking for two (2) reviewers for each round.

To sign up to be a reviewer, [please complete this short Qualtrics Form](#) by May 5, at 9:00am.

See more details on our website news item: [LITE Seed Grants Program – Call for reviewers](#).

Reach out to lite-grants@uwaterloo.ca if you have any questions!

NEW AND/OR TIMELY RESOURCES

Reminder about CTE Teaching Tips

CTE has more than 150 [Teaching Tips](#) outlining ideas and strategies to support effective teaching and learning. We recently improved the search function by adding updated and relevant tags for each tip sheet. If you have any questions or feedback about the Teaching Tips, please contact us at cte@uwaterloo.ca or reach out to your [CTE Faculty Liaison](#) for support.

Did you know?

We have a number of Registrar classrooms that have been recently renovated as flexible with

configurable furniture (B2 350, PAS 1229 and PAS 1241) and our most recent completed renovation an active learning classroom [PHY 235](#) with 8 pods complete with computers and screens. Department scheduling reps can make the room request for you. To view the request forms for active or flexible classrooms visit the [Registrar Resources page](#) (authentication required). Contact your [CTE Faculty Liaison](#) for consultation about effectively designing your course for active learning.

Explore the newly created [Student Support Section](#) in the [SLICC Toolkit](#) - a resource designed for both students and instructors interested in exploring and/or adapting the SLICC framework.

The SLICC framework is an experiential and reflective learning and self-assessment tool that can be integrated into various courses and programs, including practicum, capstone, major project-based courses, e-coop, entrepreneurship courses, and those involving volunteer work, service-learning, self-directed learning, internships, work experiences, and research projects.

This framework offers students the opportunity to become effective, self-regulated learners by engaging in learning experiences that develop essential skills for navigating the complexity, ambiguity, and unpredictability of today's world. Contact [Katherine Lithgow](#) for more information.

NEWS

CUT Award Recipient

Congratulations to Christine Eagles (PhD candidate in Pure Math), recipient of the 2025 [Certificate in University Teaching \(CUT\) Award](#)! The award is given annually to a graduate student who shows strong commitment to teaching development and demonstrates the highest achievement in the CUT program.

CUT Participants present their projects

Four Certificate in University Teaching (CUT) participants will be presenting their completed CUT projects at the Graduate Students in Teaching Conference, an annual conference hosted by UBC.

The four doctoral students are from different departments and their names and topics are listed on the conference program: [GSiT 2025 Program | Graduate Students in Teaching Conference](#)

One of the presenters, Mojdeh Shahidi, was recently a CTE TA Workshop Facilitator.

SKENNENKÒ:KEN:

"Do you carry the great peace (in this digital, constantly plugged-in world)... how do we find it?"

A message from Madison Hill, Educational Developer, Indigenous Knowledges, CTE:

June 21st is National Indigenous History Month & National Indigenous People's Day. It is only

fitting that this day is celebrated on the summer solstice, the longest day of the year. A day that feels well deserved after a long winter and some years (like this one), an extra-long spring. I have shared with a few folks at CTE, that in kanien'kéka (mohawk) you ask someone "how many winters have you seen?" "To nitisá:ien?" when you ask them how old they are in the language. During the winter months, it does really feel like a major accomplishment to survive the winter. Now that we are coming out of our winter hibernation, I have the following musings to share centered on the upcoming Solstice, getting into our "Good Mind" and National Indigenous People's Day.

The law of great peace and the teaching of the Good Mind was shared at a time when there was a lot of fighting going on between nations. Maybe a time very similar to now. Peacemaker was sent by the Creator to spread the Kariwio (Good Mind). With the help of Hiawatha, the Peacemaker taught the laws of peace to the Haudenosaunee. Travelling from community to community they both succeeded in persuading the Chiefs of each nation to join in the Great League of Peace and founded the only government with a direct connection to the Creator.

Check out this beautifully made video to learn more: [The Peacemaker's Journey & The Great Law of Peace](#) (YouTube video)

This concept of peace can mean varying things to different people. Right now, I am learning that carrying peace or "finding" peace is trying to live as close to the way our Creator intended us to. Waking up with the sun, being on the land, growing my own medicines & being in connection with each other and our other relations (animals, spirit beings & plants). These acts were once such a central part of life for Haudenosaunee people and many Indigenous peoples and now they are feeling like more of a luxury than anything else.

Peace and carrying peace at this time in my life is looking a lot different than it has, being that I am parenting a toddler for the first time (If You Know You Know)!!! Small "pockets of peace", I have heard coined before, exist in my daily rhythm of life. Daily coffee watching the sunrise with my husband, successfully completing a task that my son insists he must help with and spending an hour just chatting with my grandparents. I am getting older now, so I have started to recognize how fleeting this experience on Mother Earth is.

Rick Hill teaches that good mindedness, meaning we'll be honest, trustworthy. We're going to be respectful to each other. We're going to solve our problems without resorting to violence. We are going to make amends when our people do hurt one another. All of this is centered around connection with all of our relations. We are being called to remember our teachings and make time for each other.

I encourage us all to unplug and get connected. What feels like a lost art these days, I encourage you to do just that. Do nothing but chat. Our souls and beings crave it.

WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS

CTE bids a fond farewell to the following students, who are completing their terms with us:

- Graduate Educational Developers **Lia Tennant** and **Rodrigo Curty Pereira**
- TA Workshop Facilitators **Harshina Brijlall** and **Mojdeh Shahidi**
- **Charley Potter**, Special Projects Assistant, Curriculum & Assessment. They have been part of our team for three work terms, and we are grateful for their energy and dedication!
- **Gwyneth Davies**, Special Projects Assistant, Workshops, Reception and Green Office.

And we welcome the following students to our team:

- Graduate Educational Developers **Toben Racicot**, **Blessing Medon**, and **Humaira Shoaib**
- TA Workshop Facilitators **Giana Tomas**, **Karen Hock**, **Megan Goar**, and **Hajr Hameed**
- **Julia Cockburn**, Special Projects Assistant, Workshops, Reception and Green Office
- **Sonia Mehta**, Special Projects Assistant, Curriculum & Assessment.



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