

# **Allyson Eamer, PhD**

**Associate Professor, Faculty of Education at University of Ontario Institute of Technology**  
Oshawa, ON, CA

Linguistic expert and educator champions Canada's multilingualism through better understanding and support systems in the classroom

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## **Description**

Linguistic diversity of one of Canada's greatest and most undervalued assets, according to linguistic expert Allyson Eamer, PhD, an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Education. She is making strides to ensure educators and community leaders recognize multilingualism as a resource, rather than a deficit starting in elementary schools. Dr. Eamer was instrumental in launching UOIT's new ESL school, which opened in January 2017 and established a framework for other post-secondary institutions to follow her lead.

Devoted to improving the educational experience for marginalized populations, particularly those with cultural or language barriers to thriving in post-secondary education; her latest research examines the challenges they face in successfully completing their studies and aims to ensure better support systems are put in place at Canadian universities. Another area of her research focuses on developing best practices to support the educational goals of immigrant and indigenous populations with mental illness at psychiatric facilities across Canada.

She is also working tirelessly to revitalize First Nations and indigenous languages in Canada. She collaborated on the development of the Glendon Truth and Reconciliation Declaration on Indigenous Language Policy which calls on the federal government to officially recognize Aboriginal language rights, and enact those rights, as well as establish a federal Aboriginal Language Commissioner, in consultation with Aboriginal language groups.

In 2013, Dr. Eamer was named a Fellow of the Nantucket Project for her role in enabling indigenous elders to teach their languages online in the Plains Cree and Dene Nations. Her research is referenced in a high-profile bibliography of recommended reading by world-renowned linguist Dr. Tove Skutnabb-Kangas. Passionate about mentoring language teachers, Dr. Eamer is also developing online courses to improve English skills among teachers and learners in other countries.

She joined UOIT as an assistant professor in 2008, after teaching English as a Second Language and core French for nearly 20 years. She earned her doctorate in Applied Linguistics from York University, her Master of Education in Applied Psychology at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto (U of T), her Bachelor of Education at York University, and her Bachelor of Psychology from U of T.

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## **Industry Expertise**

Education/Learning, Program Development, Public Policy, Research, Training and Development

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## **Topics**

Aboriginal Language Learning, Bilingualism/Multilingualism in Families, Schools and Communities, Critical pedagogy, English as a Second Language Education, Ethnolinguistics and Sociolinguistics, First-Language Maintenance in Immigrant Families, Language and Multiculturalism, Online Language Learning, Social Class and Education

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## **Affiliations**

The Huffington Post, Endangered Language Alliance Toronto, Facing History and Ourselves, Working Group for the Promotion of Mental Health in Faith Communities

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## **Past Talks**

**Invited Guest Speaker: Immigration, Language Learning and Mental Health**  
SACEM 360° Vision on Mental Health Conference

**Promoting Linguistic Diversity in the Elementary School Classroom**  
International Education Conference

**Participation and Persistence: An Analysis of Immigrant Visible-Minority Students at UOIT**  
European Society for Research on the Education of Adults Access, Learning Careers and Identities Network Conference

**Still on the Margins: English Language Learning and Mental Health in Immigrant Psychiatric Patients**  
Ireland International Conference on Education

**Invited Guest Lecturer: Language Revitalization in Cree and Dene Nations**  
Blue Quills First Nations College

**E-learning for Indigenous Languages: Two Canadian Success Stories, Language, Education and Diversity**  
University of Auckland

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## **Education**

**York University**  
PhD Applied Linguistics

**Queen's University**  
Certificate Teaching Online

**Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), University of Toronto**  
MEd Applied Psychology

**York University**  
BEd Primary/Junior Education

## Accomplishments

### Fellow of The Nantucket Project

The Nantucket Project (September 22 - 25, 2016) celebrates the richness of the human experience through storytelling. Our films, speakers and performers explore the human imagination, creativity, thought-leadership, business values and social change.

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