## Professional Development Committee



## Discovering Empathy for Students-with Gayathri Shukla

In an educational landscape marked by demographic shifts and cultural diversity, empathy has become a crucial skill for fostering understanding and connection. This workshop offers a safe and inclusive space for teachers to explore the nuances of empathy. Through engaging discussions and interactive activities, participants will gain practical tools to cultivate empathy in the classroom, nurturing an environment where every student feels seen, heard, and valued.

This interactive session is based on a method of storytelling called guided autobiography, which encompasses self-reflection, deep listening, and sharing supportive feedback. It is a unique way of acknowledging one own's strengths, while also being invited into the lives of others to strengthen relationships. Included as part of this workshop are thoughtfully-crafted practice scenarios, conversation prompts, and guided facilitation by Gayathri Shukla, a certified instructor in this method. Please note, prior writing experience is not necessary, and you may share only what you are comfortable within the group discussion. Come as you are to experience connection and community.

Gayathri Shukla is the founder of Campfire Kinship, a social enterprise providing advisory, story-based training, and creative media to help teams foster an inclusive culture. She holds an electrical engineering degree from the University of Calgary and an MBA from Queen's University. She has over 17 years of engineering and leadership experience in the energy and mining sectors. Certified in an innovative method of storytelling called guided autobiography, Gayathri empowers individuals to cultivate their authentic voice and build empathy skills. She is author of the bestselling anthology Landed: Transformative Stories of Canadian Immigrant Women, radio and podcast host of Hearth 2 Heart, and co-creator of Telus TV docuseries, unlikely Friends. Gayathri recently served as a Fellow for Economic and Financial inclusion at the Public Policy Forum, and was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal in recognition of her community leadership.

Location	The Glenmore Inn & Convention Centre 1000 Glenmore Ct SE, Calgary AB T2C 2E6
Time/Date	<i>Tuesday, November 28 2023</i> 1:00pm – 3:00pm (lunch at 12:30pm)
Audience	Grades K − 12 Teachers & Administrators
Registration	Registration is limited to 50 participants.  This event has an attendance deposit of \$11.98 (including Eventbrite fees so \$10.00 +\$1.98). Attendance deposit will be refunded on verification of attendance.  Registration will open Sunday November 5 at 7:30pm on Eventbrite and is first come, first served.  Once the tickets sell out, Eventbrite will provide a waitlist option.  One ticket per participant. Please do not register for others.

 $\textbf{Register at:} \ \underline{\textbf{https://DiscoveringEmpathyforStudents.eventbrite.ca}}$ 

