

# Frederick Donald Sawyer (Don)

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## Educational Highlights

**Master of Arts Degree** 1972-1973

*Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan*

Majored in Secondary Education and Curriculum. Cognate in Communication Education.

**Graduate Fellowship** 1969-1970

*University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC*

Awarded fellowship to graduate school and completed one year towards degree in the area of modern Chinese history.

**Bachelor of Arts Degree** 1965-1969

*Michigan State University*

Graduated Cum Laude. Majored in Communication Arts with a strong history minor. Other electives concentrated in humanities, psychology, political science, anthropology, art, English, and philosophy.

### Certificates

British Columbia Permanent Professional Certificate, Category 5.

Newfoundland Permanent Teacher's Certificate, Grade 5.

Michigan Provisional Teaching Certificate

Member, The Writer's Union of Canada.

## Work and Teaching Experience

### Principal

Northern Education Services Associates

2005 to present

*Salmon Arm, BC*

Principal of consulting firm specializing in international development project management, evaluation and implementation; program and interactive curriculum design; instructional skills training; curriculum development and cross-cultural training; in-service and pre-service teacher development; aboriginal education; popular education facilitation and theory; community development; literacy and adult education; strategic planning, and writing services and workshops. Web page: [www.northerned.com](http://www.northerned.com). Recent projects include

mainstreaming Climate Change Education across the Curriculum (MOE, Jamaica); Climate Change Action Training (curriculum for the training of Jamaican youth, ACDI-VOCA/US-AID, Jamaica); New Orleans Youth Worker Training Curriculum (Partnerships in Youth Development, New Orleans); Capital Appeals Strategic Planning (CAP, New Orleans); Askews Foods Marketing Research and Planning (Canada); Africa: Communities in Action (global education video and curriculum guide, CIDA, Canada).

**Director** 2000 to 2004

International Development Centre

*Okanagan University College, Salmon Arm, BC*

Director of Centre devoted to training projects in developing nations. Projects included the West African Rural Development Centre (WARD; The Gambia), University for Development Studies Institutional Capacity Building project (Ghana), Community Development Management Training program (Ghana), and CIDA International Youth Intern Program. Responsibilities included curriculum design, production, and supervision; facilitator training; delivery supervision; project management; staff hiring and supervision; project reporting and proposal writing. Work entailed extensive international travel and cross-cultural skill development.

**Department Chair and International Development Project Coordinator** 1993-2000

Adult Basic Education Department

*Okanagan University College, Salmon Arm, BC*

Adult Basic Education Department Chair 1994 to 2000. Seconded to research, coordinate and complete curriculum, and train African facilitators for Gambia Rural Adult Instructor Training Program (GRAIT) and the Ghana Rural Animator Training Program (GRAT) in West Africa (ACCC). In 1999 seconded as coordinator of AUCC West African Rural Development Centre (WARD Centre) project. Developer and coordinator of OUC's Workplace ABE program (1996-1998).

**Curriculum Director** 1988 to 1993

Native Adult Education Resource Centre

*Okanagan University College, Salmon Arm, BC*

Originated and acted as Curriculum Director for this provincially funded centre affiliated with Okanagan University College. The NAERC provided support services to Native organizations and communities delivering programs for Native adults. Duties included curriculum and program design, development, research, project coordination, curriculum writing and editing, program evaluation, seminar planning and delivery. Designed and delivered parts of Native Adult Instructor Diploma Program and wrote and contributed to numerous curriculum resource books and videos in the areas of life skills, social studies, literacy, language arts, instructional strategies, and community development.

**ABE Instructor**

Adult Basic Education Department

*Okanagan University College, Salmon Arm, BC*

1980-1988

Adult Basic Education instructor in areas of English and social studies. Duties included curriculum development as well as classroom instruction. Elected president, Adult Basic

Education Association of BC for 1983-85 term. Seconded to Ministry of Advanced Education and Job Training 1983-84 (project leader and primary writer, *Native Literacy and Life Skills Curriculum Guidelines*) and 1986-87 (writer and project leader, *ABE English Resource Kit* and *Adult Basic Literacy Curriculum Guide*). English Articulation Committee chairperson, 1987-88.

### **Faculty Associate**

Faculty of Education

1978-1980

*Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC*

Faculty Associate in charge of the North Okanagan Native Teacher Education Program, Enderby, BC, a community-based off-campus program to train Native Indian teachers. Duties included supervision of practice teaching, administration of site, counselling students, and organization and presentation of seminars.

### **Coordinating Teacher**

*Spallumcheen Band, Enderby, BC*

1976-1978

Coordinating Teacher of Adult Basic Education program operating on the reserve administered jointly by the band and Okanagan College that successfully targeted aboriginal adults. Responsibilities included developing curriculum, assembling materials, counselling, program and student evaluation, acting as primary teacher in all subjects, and supervising a staff of three.

### **Secondary Teacher**

*Kumsheen Secondary School, Lytton, BC*

1973-1975

Taught English, guidance, social studies, physical education for grades 9-12 in predominantly aboriginal high school. Acted as learning assistance teacher. Helped develop an integrated program for all grade nine students that featured team teaching and an integration of all main subject areas, and a senior (10-12) English program offering nine options. *Where the Rivers Meet* (Pemmican, 1988) based on this experience.

### **Secondary Teacher**

*Gill Memorial Central High School, Musgrave Harbour, Newfoundland*

1970-1972

High school subject teacher. Taught English, geography, physical education, remedial reading, history and art. Served as school librarian, volleyball coach and sports coordinator. Chaired school board Integrated Studies Committee and organized Newfoundland's first district-wide learners' conference on education. *Tomorrow Is School and I'm Sick to the Heart Thinking About It* (Bendall Books, 1998) chronicled this experience.

### **Related Work Experience**

*Native Education Services Associates, Salmon Arm, BC*

1978 to 2005

Principal in consulting firm offering seminars and consulting services in Native, cross-cultural and adult education.

*Okanagan University College, Salmon Arm, BC*

1985 to present

Delivered various short courses for Continuing Education Department, including Instructional Skills Workshop (ISW), creative writing, CE teacher orientation, and Native education component of teacher aid course.

<i>Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC</i>	1982
Instructor, Education 441: Cultural Differences in Education instructed and developed curriculum for course emphasizing research, methods, and materials relevant to multicultural education.	
<i>Simon Fraser University</i>	1981
Instructor, Education 240: Social Issues in Education.	
<i>Michigan State University</i>	1973-1974
Teaching assistant for Communication 413 (Senior Teaching Seminar), Education 327 (Secondary Teaching Methods), and Education 327-U (Communication Teaching Methods).	
<i>Michigan State University</i>	1972-1973
Research assistant with the Institute for International Studies in Education. Worked in the Learning Effectiveness sector of the Non-formal Education Project.	

### **Selected Publications**

- Sawyer, Don. *Running*. Midway Publications. SA, BC: 2011.
- Sawyer, Don. *Saving Farley's Bog*. Highgate Press: SA, BC, 2010.
- Sawyer, Don. *Hurricane on Grimm's Island*. Highgate Press: SA, BC, 2010.
- Sawyer, Don. *The Lunch Bag Chronicles*. Salmon Arm: Playfort Publishing, 2010.
- Sawyer, Don. *Where the Rivers Meet Teacher's Guide*. Winnipeg: Pemmican Publications, 2010.
- Sawyer, Don (Project Manager). *Africa: Communities in Action Resource Kit (DVD and CD instructor's manual)*. Distributor: Film West, Kelowna, BC. 2008.
- Sawyer, Don. "The Two Buddhas: Karma-free dharma and its discontents". *Briarpatch*. August 2008: 4-7.
- Sawyer, Don. *Miss Flint Meets the Great Kweskin*. Toronto: Chestnut Publications, 2007.
- Sawyer, Don. *The Meanest Teacher in the World*. Toronto: Chestnut Publications, 2007.
- Sawyer, Don and Jan Sawyer. *Miss Flint Stories Teacher's Guide*. Toronto: Chestnut Publications, 2006.
- Sawyer, Don. *Novels for Adult Learners: A Handbook for Instructors*. Victoria: Centre for Curriculum, Transfer and Technology, 1999.
- Sawyer, Don. *Grampa and the Four Brothers*. Winnipeg: Pemmican Publications, 1998.
- Sawyer, Don. *Crocodiles and Rivers; Frozen Tears; The Buckle* (series of novels for adult learners). Victoria: Centre for Curriculum, Transfer and Technology, 1997.
- Sawyer, Don and Wayne Lundeberg. *NESA Activities Handbook for Native and Multicultural Classrooms*, vol. 3. Vancouver: Tillacum Library, 1993.
- Sawyer, Don. *Adventures with Miss Flint*. Saskatoon: Thistledown, 1993
- Sawyer, Don and Carmen Rodriguez. "How Native Canadians View Literacy: A Summary of the Findings." *Journal of Reading*. December 1992/January 1993: 284-93.

- Sawyer, Don. "Native Learning Styles: Shorthand for Cultural Accommodations?" *Canadian Journal of Native Education*, Spring 1991: 99-105.
- Sawyer, Don and Napoleon, Art. *The NESAs Activities Handbook for Native and Multicultural Classrooms*, vol 2. Vancouver: Tillacum Library, 1991.
- Sawyer, Don. *Native English Curriculum Guidelines*. Victoria: Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology, 1991.
- Rodriguez, Carmen and Sawyer, Don. *Native Literacy Research Report*. Victoria: Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology, 1990.
- Sawyer, Don. *Where the Rivers Meet*. Winnipeg: Pemmican Publications, 1988.
- Sawyer, Don. "The Writing Process and Native Students." *Canadian Journal of Native Education*, Fall 1988: 15-21.
- Sawyer, Don. *Donna Meets Coyote*. Kamloops: Secwepemc Cultural Education Society, 1988.
- Sawyer, Don. *ABE English Resource Kit*. Victoria: Ministry of Advanced Education and Job Training, 1987.
- Sawyer, Don and Green, Howard. *The NESAs Activities Handbook for Native and Multicultural Classrooms*, vol. 1. Vancouver: Tillacum Library, 1984.
- Sawyer, Don. *Tomorrow Is School and I Am Sick to the Heart Thinking About It*. Vancouver: Douglas & McIntyre, 1979 (reissued, Mill Bay, BC: Bendall Books, 1998).
- More than 30 op-ed pieces have appeared in most major Canadian dailies. Monthly column writer, "Fair Comment," *North of 50*.
- Poetry has appeared in *Quarry*, *Fiddlehead*, and *Interior Voice*.

## **Selected Workshops and Seminars Presented**

- Mainstreaming Climate Change Education across the Curriculum. Jamaica Ministry of Education: Kingston, 2015
- DACUM (Designing a Curriculum), Jamaica Rural Economy and Ecosystems Adapting to Climate Change (JaReeach): Kingston, 2013.
- Virtual Author Tour, *The Meanest Teacher in the World* (via Skype). Bessborough Drive Elementary and Middle School: Toronto, Ontario, 2010.
- Working with At-Risk Young Adults. New Orleans Providing Learning for All Youth (NOPLAY): New Orleans, LA, 2009.
- Adult Education Principles. Literacy Alliance of New Orleans: New Orleans, LA, 2008.
- Instructional Skills Workshop (ISW). Okanagan University College: Salmon Arm, BC, 1992 to 2004.
- Facilitation Skills for Group Leaders. Canada World Youth: Vernon, BC, 2004.

- *Tomorrow Is School* – Lessons for Beginning Teachers. Lakehead University: Thunder Bay, Ontario, 2002.
- Teaching Native Students. Lakehead University: Thunder Bay, Ontario, 2002
- Teaching Literacy to Native American Adults. Conference on College Composition and Communication: Chicago, 1998.
- International Adult Education. Pushing the Edges: Kelowna, 1997.
- GRAT Facilitator Training. Ghana Rural Animator Program: University for Development Studies: Tamale, Ghana, 1997 and 1998.
- GRAIT DACUM and Program Development Seminar. Gambia Rural Adult Instructor Program: Banjul, The Gambia, 1993.
- Designing Curriculum for At-Risk Students (keynote and workshops). Provincial Resource Programs: Burnaby, 1992.
- Native Learning Styles: Shorthand for Instructional Adaptations. First Nations Education Council: Quebec City, 1992.
- Opening Communication Channels. Bella Bella Community School: Waglisla, BC, 1991.
- Facilitating the Native Adult Instructor Diploma Program (staff training event). Yukon College: Whitehorse, 1991.
- Down and Out in North America: Teaching Writing to Disenfranchised Adults. Popular Culture Association: San Antonio, Texas, 1991.
- Native Learning Styles (teacher aide training program component). Cariboo College: Lillooet, BC, 1990.
- Teaching Writing to Adults. NWT Dept. of Education: Inuvik, Yellowknife, and Rankin Inlet, 1988.
- Native Literacy Instruction. World Conference: Indigenous Peoples' Education: Vancouver, 1987
- Cross-Cultural Relations. Fairmont College: High Level, Alberta, 1987.
- Native Indian Learning and Teaching Styles. National Reading Conference: Bellingham, Wa., 1985
- Cultural Sensitivity in Shaping Adult Education Programs. Adult Education: A Northern Perspective: Whitehorse, Yukon, 1985.
- Indian Education and Curriculum Development. Bella Bella Community School: Bella Bella, BC, 1983.
- Native Education: Perspectives and Strategies. School District: Fort St. James, BC, 1982.
- Child-Centred Curriculum Ideas for the Multicultural Classroom. National Conference on Multicultural Education: Winnipeg, 1981.