

French, English & Religion Secondary Teacher

Nathalie McDermott

Peterborough, Ontario



Salut! I have been teaching for 26 years at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. I currently teach Grade 9 & 10 English and Core French in Peterborough, Ontario, Canada.

Did you know that I carry my Kobo everywhere? It is always in my purse, just in case I have a few minutes to sneak in a chapter or two. I have a membership at 3 public libraries. I am a member of a worldwide book club, *The Gloss*; that I attend once a month. Lastly, I frequently exchange my books with colleagues, friends and family. I am truly passionate about reading!

I will always be a student at heart. I still love to learn. I attend as many extracurricular workshops and take a new course any chance I get. In the last five years, I have taken two Senior Division Qualification courses; French As A Second Language and First Nation, Métis, Inuit Studies. I

have attended many seminars on mental health and anti-racism such as Culturally Responsive and Relevant Pedagogy (CRRP) Equity Training and Anti-Racism Seminars. I absolutely love book studies. **Seven Fallen Feathers** by Tanya Talaga, **Braiding Sweetgrass** by Robin Wall Kimmerer and **The Universal Christ** by Richard Rohr are just to name a few of the books I have studied.

French is my first language and I am very passionate about immersing students in culturally diverse opportunities. I became a *Diplôme d'Étude en Langue Française* certified examiner to be able to properly prepare students for their *DELFL* French reading, writing and oral communication exam to become certified as bilingual. I have attended OMLTA (Ontario Modern Language Teachers Association) conferences to increase my knowledge and strategies. Finally, I am a member of CPF (Canadian Parents for French) where I support and promote bilingualism as well as create opportunities for students to learn and use French.

On a personal note, I have been married to my wonderful husband, Tim, for 23 years and I have 2 beautiful daughters, Charlize and Keilenna. One of my favourite pastimes is to sit in my lakeside cabana with my two dogs, enthralled in a gripping book, reading for hours on end.

With the help of this grant, I will be able to create a diverse collection of enticing novels for my classroom library. So many students don't read anymore. I want to inspire my young students to become lifelong readers. Thank you, *Book Love Foundation*, for helping me show students the value of books!
