

Michael Etherington is an Indigenous Relations Consultant with career highlights that include: TEDx Talk Speaker, appearing in the Globe and Mail, Toronto Star, CBC, CTV Breakfast Television, TVO, BBC Scotland, Maori TV and Season 1 feature interviewee on APTNS TV show Future History. Influenced by his northern upbringing, Michael has always stayed connected to community, spending much of his personal time volunteering through *Passages Canada* as a speaker to schools, colleges, and universities. This, along with his prior experience as Cultural Program Manager of the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto, and trainer for the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres, have garnered Michael the personal and professional recognition as a valued speaker. He has completed his first book which is to be published by Summer 2020 titled 'Finding Your Voice, Finding Your Story: In the Era of Reconciliation' which is a depoliticized approach to moving beyond rhetoric and building meaningful relationships in Canada through his eyes with practical lived experience.

With family roots and heritage from James Bay, ON, Etherington is a proud representative of his background as an Ojibwe-Cree. Michael attributes his speaking messages to experiences growing up both on-reserve and off-reserve.

Michael's late great-aunt was the oldest residential school attendee in Canada at 111 years of age attending St. Annes in Fort Albany, ON – and in 2008 was one of four invited attendees to House of Commons to hear Stephen Harper's formal apology to Canada. When asked about her legacy Michael's great-aunt said 'poonenamok' – (forgiveness). Today, Michael strives everyday to honour his late great-aunt's wishes, in every presentation he delivers.