

# Living Tradition

Using storytelling to understand the past and shape the future

**Wednesday, June 19, 1:30 pm to 2:50 pm**  
**Law Centre (LC) 197**



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Manager, Operations & Client  
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Writer and Storyteller

Student

Father and Husband

Volunteer



# Learning Outcomes

**Understand a little bit more about storytelling**

**Get a little bit better at storytelling**

**Recognize at least one way to utilize storytelling in your personal or professional life**

# How did I connect with stories and storytelling?

“Life is a collection of events and interactions.” – Lorne Ellingson (2010)

What Kind of Story Are You Writing? (2012)

Master of Education (2018)

Professional Integration (2019)

I Know What I'm Talking About



“Ann, you can see by the number of books I have behind me that I know what I'm talking about.”

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# What is storytelling?

**“The word storytelling pretty much speaks for itself. Storytelling is about telling stories.”**  
– Marieke van de Rakt

**Ancient**

**Powerful**

**Learning**

**Ubiquitous**

**Connecting**

**Influential**

**Revealing**

**Sense making**

**Interactive**

**Efficient**

**Emotional**

**Sticky**

# What happens when we tell stories?

We experience stories  
We understand through stories  
We remember stories  
We synchronize with the storyteller  
We learn through stories

We activate the brain  
We make sense of things  
We set the tone  
We create a safe environment  
We make connections

# True Story

**Get into groups**

**Each person will receive a card**

**Each card has a story prompt or idea**

**Using your card, tell a story to your group**

# Stories help us understand

## The Past

- Norms and values
- Understand irregularities
- Experience
- Successes and failures

## The Future

- Stories we tell
- Stories we allow to be told
- Decision making
- Leadership and vision



# How to use storytelling in our workplace

To make decisions

To build relationships

As a vehicle for quantitative data

For unlearning

To create a safe environment

**“If accounting and finance are the backbone of organizations, then the stories which permeate all organizations of any size are their lifeblood” – Ralph Hummel**

# How to use storytelling in our lives

Leadership

Relationships

Parenting

Sense making

Optimization

**“Individually and collectively, stories help us make sense of our past and understand possible futures.”** – Deborah Sole and Daniel Wilson

# Thank you!

Questions?

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