



Dr. Margaret Brigham

March 24, 2022

With heavy hearts we announce the passing of my dear mother Dr. Margaret Arletta Brigham on Thursday, March 24, 2022 at the age of 72. She will be greatly missed by her son Spencer Shawano Brigham and her siblings Bernita Brigham-Jacobs (Alan), Eugene Brigham and the late Marian Brigham, Alice Brigham and Clarence Brigham. Aunt of Benjamin Brigham (Carly), Sean Hoogterp, Graham Hoogterp (Phyllicia) and great aunt of Vance Brigham, Talen Brigham, Benjamin Brigham-Kewayosh, Shaawnonoo Altiman, Wahwatessa Altiman, Zeebing Altiman. Margaret is the daughter of Simpson Lewis Brigham and Lorraine Jessie Tooshkenig.

Dr. Margaret Brigham (Ojibwe) is from Walpole Island First Nation in southern Ontario. The oldest in a family of six children, she has a son of her own. Margaret's work includes experience as a classroom teacher, First Nation school principal, private sector consultant on diversity and equity issues, sociology professor and college administrator. She served on the City of Toronto Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee, and the Provincial Aboriginal Postsecondary Education Policy Working Group.

Dr. Brigham spoke on "Aboriginal Women in the Trades" at the Aboriginal Apprenticeship Board of Ontario Conference, Thunder Bay, Ontario. She was a conference presenter on a "Signature Pedagogy for Global Citizenship Education at the World Universities Forum, Rhodes, Greece. She has also

presented workshops on the pre-existing gaps in college readiness among Indigenous students and workplace issues. Working with tribal groups in Canada and the U.S., she wrote and produced seven video case studies on "American Indian/Anglo Patterns of Difference".

Margaret taught preservice teacher education courses in Education and Society and Cross-Cultural Counseling at the University of Toronto. Graduate seminars included Indigenous Knowledge and Decolonization; Aboriginal Communication and Leadership; and Indigenous Women's Voices. She was also the Dean of Centennial College's Institute for Global Citizenship in Toronto. Most recently, her interest was in Indigenous Storytelling and she was writing a non-fiction book on the history of the Great Lakes Anishinaabe.

Dr. Margaret Brigham was a proud board member of the Rec4Youth charity—an organization empowering youth to make positive life change through sports and recreation activity in the Mississauga and surrounding area. For many years, she supported the good work carried out by director and long-time family friend, Joanna Williams. In meetings, her passion for getting youth both indigenous and non-indigenous up on their feet shone through. She contributed guidance on direction, culture, global citizenship, and was most recently working to establish resume-writing workshops featuring career inventory assessments. Her son Spencer Brigham currently serves as a youth board member. Donations are appreciated and can be found at the link below.

Website:

<https://rec4youth.wordpress.com>

Donate Here:

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/50158>

Cremation has taken place and a memorial service to celebrate her life will be held at a late date.

Shared stories and tributes may be left on her tribute wall at www.CavanaghFuneralHome.ca

Tribute Wall

DV

“ Margaret was one special lady
I learned a lot from her and loved her subtle sense of humor. You
are in the arms of the creator now. Thanks for all those wonderful
times we spent together sharing knowledge and philosophising
Denis Viri. Tucson AZ

Denis Viri - June 07 at 11:59 AM

JP

“ Oh boy. Wow, I feel very much behind the times on this. I was
chatting with a former colleague from Centennial College, where
Margaret worked for a period a number of years ago. We were
discussing how much we enjoyed our time with her and what a
kindred spirit she was. I approached Margaret when she was the
dean of the equity department (or what ever it was called back then)
about developing an Indigenous studies course. As a white person,
I wasn't sure how she'd take my suggestion, but all I can say is she
went out of her way to support my pursuit. She supplied me with
topicals from when she was a prof in Arizona. She was like my
confident as I worked through the development of that course,
which was the first time such a course had been developed at
Centennial. And then she left, leaving a significant gap at the
College. I am so sorry to have lost touch with her after she left. My
condolences, as late as they are, are extended to her family. She
was a brilliant mind, and a kind heart. The world needs more people
like her.

Jared Purdy - December 31, 2025 at 06:29 PM

NB

“ Oh my goodness. I worked under Dr. Brigham for 3 years. She taught me so much. In stories, she taught me the ins and outs of working with merit and intent in environments that aren't always receptive to such upheaval. My heart is in sorrow only now learning of her passing. I've come to know this by looking her up in hopes of professional guidance and personal betterment. To her son, Spencer, who I met only a couple of times, but who so clearly lives his life with his mother's spirit: my condolences. This is shocking and absolutely disheartening news. The world was a better place with Dr. Margaret Brigham in it. Love to her family and friends.

Nickesh Bhagat - June 07, 2023 at 11:21 PM

DL

“ Margaret was my Dad's, Vernon Bellecourt's girlfriend in the early 1970's. I was a young teenage girl then. I remember she was so smart and beautiful. I've been thinking of her lately. Denise Bellecourt Levy

Denise Levy - March 07, 2023 at 03:08 AM



“ Dr. Margaret Brigham

January 29, 2023 at 11:37 PM

AW

“ Our sympathies to the family.



Angela/Jeff Williams - April 02, 2022 at 11:42 PM

NK

“ Noreen Kicknosway lit a candle in memory of Dr. Margaret Brigham



Noreen Kicknosway - April 01, 2022 at 02:44 PM

CT

“ Although our families grew apart over the years, I have memories of summer days spent on Walpole Island as a child. Enjoying the company of our grandma Highfield at the cottage and playing with Margaret and her siblings. She achieved so much in her life and touched so many. Her spirit soars.

Carol (Walton) Thompson - March 30, 2022 at 05:26 PM

DT

What a big sister to me ,,her smile was genuine always

Dean tooshkenig - January 26, 2024 at 08:30 AM

AJ

“ Margaret Sprague (nee Brigham) is someone whom I'll always admire and respect for her achievements and abilities, as a gifted educator and bridge builder. She used her gifts to elevate people to their highest capabilities and opened many eyes to the things they could not see otherwise.. She lived her life in service to her people and gave their lives meaning and purpose. I impart my sincerest sympathies to her son, and to her family members. Your mama/sis left her mark on this world in this world as evidenced in the lives she touched, and she will continue on in this way. Baamaampii Margaret, I'll never forget you.



annette johnson - March 30, 2022 at 03:29 PM

MA

“ *Melodie Aviña lit a candle in memory of Dr. Margaret Brigham*



Melodie Aviña - March 29, 2022 at 10:12 PM

LD

“ *I met Margaret only recently, unfortunately. I worked with her as she has shared her knowledge and expertise with school administrators across the province of Ontario. She has made tremendous contributions to their learning. She was truly a kind and generous person. My sincere condolences.*

Lawrence DeMaeyer - March 29, 2022 at 10:14 AM

JA

“ *Margaret touched the hearts and minds of many children and adults with her traditional storytelling. On behalf of the hundreds of students, teachers, principals, seniors and others who had the pleasure of experiencing Margaret's storytelling, I want to express our condolences to Margaret's family. We are grateful for the time we spent with Margaret.*
Jim Arnold



Jim Arnold - March 28, 2022 at 08:08 PM

VS

“ *Vicky Smith lit a candle in memory of Dr. Margaret Brigham*



Vicky Smith - March 28, 2022 at 12:40 PM

SS

“ *Thoughts and prayers for your family during this difficult time. Sue, Taye and Ayden*



Sue Soney - March 27, 2022 at 10:13 PM

RD

“ *I remember Margaret from high school. The picture is exactly as I remember her - a very beautiful girl with a lovely personality. Ruth (Stewart) Demitroff*

Ruth Demitroff - March 27, 2022 at 07:35 PM

SW

“ *Spears White lit a candle in memory of Dr. Margaret Brigham*



Spears White - March 27, 2022 at 01:21 AM

JW

“ *Joanna Williams lit a candle in memory of Dr. Margaret Brigham*



joanna williams - March 26, 2022 at 08:48 PM

SW

“ *So shocked and saddened by this news..such precious memories I have of her and Spencer ..pleasant times of sharing stories and experiences from her childhood days ...a remarkable lady who cared for her people and did all she could to help and guide the next generation...praying for God's comfort and peace for the family*

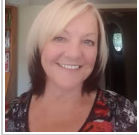


sheila williams - March 26, 2022 at 08:42 PM

RA

“ *In the Summer of 1978 Margaret and I came together to form the Walpole Island Post Secondary School Association. I was in Fanshawe College and she was in Grand valley State University in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Under that premise we successfully executed a fund raising effort to support United States Anishnawbe in a Nation Wide Trek to protest the US Governments efforts to extinguish North American Aboriginal Rights. That march was called "The Longest Walk". As I recall, our Band Council matched us monetarily. We became great lifelong friends. Tine.*

Randy Altiman - March 26, 2022 at 01:28 PM



“ Virginia Smith lit a candle in memory of Dr. Margaret Brigham



Virginia Smith - March 26, 2022 at 09:51 AM

RJ

“ My deepest condolences to the family of Dr Brigham she was an amazing woman

Rose John - March 26, 2022 at 07:36 AM

RJ

“ Rose John lit a candle in memory of Dr. Margaret Brigham



Rose John - March 26, 2022 at 07:33 AM

TK

“ Tena Kewayosh Warren Kiyoshk lit a candle in memory of Dr. Margaret Brigham



Tena Kewayosh Warren Kiyoshk - March 26, 2022 at 12:26 AM

DS

“ *Baamaapii Marg* ❤️



Debb Sands - March 25, 2022 at 09:21 PM

BM

“ *Brenda And Mark lit a candle in memory of Dr. Margaret Brigham*



Brenda and Mark - March 25, 2022 at 06:04 PM

SC

“ *We are so sorry for your loss.*



Sherry & Dave Crowe - March 25, 2022 at 04:10 PM