



**CSBA—ACCCS 2025**  
JULY 3-4 | JUILLET 3-4 | VIRTUAL



Welcome | Bienvenue | Boozhou | ᑕᐱᐱᐱ (Tawâw) | Tanyán Yahípi |  
Kə'áá da-za'nè | ᑕᐱᐱᐱ (Tunngahugit/Tunngasugit) | Tansi | miywâsin!

**VIRTUAL PROGRAM\***  
**WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS**  
**SPEAKER BIOS**

**[winnipeg2025.ca](http://winnipeg2025.ca)**

*\*Subject to change. Preselecting workshop sessions  
is not required. All workshops are delivered virtually*  
**CENTRAL STANDARD TIME.**



# CSBA—ACCCS 2025

JULY 3-4 | JUILLET 3-4 | VIRTUAL

SCHEDULE  
AT A GLANCE



## DAY 1

ALL TIMES NOTED ARE CENTRAL STANDARD TIME

JULY 3, 2025

8:30 am - 9:00 am	Opening
9:00 am - 10:20 am	Plenary Keynote: <a href="#">Dr. David Suzuki</a> , Scientist, Broadcaster and Journalist
10:20 am - 10:30 am	Break
10:30 am - 11:30 am	Workshops

DAY 1 WORKSHOPS 10:30 am - 11:30 am	PRESENTER(S)
<a href="#">Two-Spirit Identity</a>	Tardiff, Bruce, Laramée
<a href="#">Balancing Politics and Governance on School Boards</a>	Freedman
<a href="#">Cybersafe from Exploitation</a>	Sharifi (Exploitation Education)
<a href="#">Treaty Education as a Tool for Reconciliation</a>	Ross & Bird (Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba)

**DAY 1**  
MORNING  
WORKSHOPS

11:30 am - 11:40 am	Break
11:40 am - 12:30 pm	Reflections from a career educator: <a href="#">Dr. Marti Ford</a>
12:30 pm - 1:00 pm	Lunch Break
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Plenary Keynote: <a href="#">Dr. Cindy Blackstock</a> , Foremost Child Welfare Advocate
2:00 pm - 2:10 pm	Break
2:10 pm - 3:10 pm	Workshops

DAY 1 WORKSHOPS 2:10 pm - 3:10 pm	PRESENTER(S)
<a href="#">Effective Board Meetings</a>	Todd Brand Consulting
<a href="#">Connecting Passion to the Education Profession</a>	Radi & Watson (Canadian Mental Health Association)
<a href="#">Advancing School Food Program Policy and Governance Canada</a>	Amendt & Michnik (SSBA)
<a href="#">L'Article 23 en action, plaider efficacement pour le développement d'un réseau d'écoles francophones fort et équitable. (FR)</a>	Girard & Beaudin (ACEPO)

**DAY 1**  
AFTERNOON  
WORKSHOPS

3:10 pm	Closing
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**SCHEDULE  
AT A GLANCE**



## DAY 2

**ALL TIMES NOTED ARE CENTRAL STANDARD TIME**

**JULY 4, 2025**

8:45 am - 9:00 am	Opening Remarks
9:00 am - 10:00 am	Plenary Keynote: <a href="#">Phil Fontaine</a> , Former Grand Chief, Assembly of First Nations
10:00 am - 10:10 am	Break
10:10 am - 10:30 am	President's Address: Alan Campbell
10:30 am - 11:30 am	Workshops

<b>DAY 2 WORKSHOPS 10:30 am - 11:30 am</b>	<b>PRESENTER(S)</b>
<a href="#">Leadership for Success: Prioritizing Staff Well-Being in Trauma-Informed Governance</a>	Gross & Largen (Lester B. Pearson & New Frontiers SD)
<a href="#">Naturally Healthy School Grounds: Investing Impact on Play, Movement &amp; System-wide Climate Resilience</a>	Campbell & Brink
<a href="#">Transforming Substance Use Harm Prevention in Canadian Schools - Highlights from a Pan-Canadian School Administrators Survey</a>	Jenkins, Amlani & Moore-Arbour
<a href="#">Putting Data to Work to support French Language Teacher Recruitment and Retention</a>	Zauhar-Hiscock & Pynch-Worthylake
<a href="#">Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of VE Day: Virtual Tour of the "Beach and Bunkers" From Normandy, France</a>	Alex Fitzgerald-Black & Juno Beach Centre

**DAY 2  
MORNING  
WORKSHOPS**

11:30 am - 11:40 am	Break
11:40 am - 12:30 pm	<a href="#">Fred Penner</a>
12:30 pm - 1:00 pm	Lunch Break
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 pm	Workshops

<b>DAY 2 WORKSHOPS 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm</b>	<b>PRESENTER(S)</b>
<a href="#">Mapping Stories, Healing Lands: Ecocultural Mapping for Reconciliation &amp; Learning</a>	Georgeson, T. Olsen, Williams, S. Olsen, Ayotte (Gulf Islands SD & Whiteswan Environmental)
<a href="#">Trustee Leadership Series - Framework to Enhancing Student Learning</a>	Li and Loffler (BCSTA)
<a href="#">The Brant Report: Recommendations to achieve reconciliation across all school boards</a>	Brant
<a href="#">Harnessing Leadership: Turning Ideas into Action to Address Anti-Black Racism for Students in Ontario</a>	Woodcock, Donaldson, Rodney-Bartalos (OPSBA)

**DAY 2  
AFTERNOON  
WORKSHOPS**

2:00 pm - 2:10 pm	Break
2:10 pm - 3:10 pm	Plenary Keynote: Record-Setting Olympian and Mental Health Advocate, <a href="#">Clara Hughes</a> , Open Heart, Open Mind
3:10 pm	Closing



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**DAY 1 - JULY 3  
KEYNOTES**



## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS DAY 1

**JULY 3, 2025**

### DR. DAVID SUZUKI

**9:00 AM - 10:20 AM**

Dr. David Suzuki has made it his life's work to help humanity understand, appreciate, respect and protect nature. He is familiar to television audiences from his 44 years as host of the CBC science and natural history television series *The Nature of Things*. In 2020, David received The Canadian Academy of Cinema and Television's Lifetime Achievement Award. He has been recognized by BC Achievement in partnership with the Lieutenant Governor of BC for his extraordinary work as a recipient of the 2021 BC Reconciliation Award. Dr. Suzuki is a Companion to the Order of Canada and a recipient of UNESCO's Kalinga Prize for the Popularization of Science, the 2009 Right Livelihood Award, and UNEP's Global 500. He is Professor Emeritus at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver and holds 33 honorary degrees from universities in Canada, United States and Australia. His written work includes more than 56 books, 20 of them for children. Dr. Suzuki lives with his wife and family in Vancouver, B.C.



David Suzuki

### DR. MARTI FORD

**11:40 AM - 12:30 PM**

Dr. Marti Ford, is Inuk/settler mix and grew up in southern Ontario and Churchill, MB. She spent her summers in Baker Lake, NU while she was attending university, as her parents returned to Nunavut when all their children graduated high school.

Marti is currently the Associate Dean Indigenous Education and an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Education at the University of Manitoba. Prior to that, Marti was employed at Frontier School Division (FSD) from 2014 - 2023. She is a former superintendent at Frontier, a position she held for 5 years on the east side of the Province of Manitoba and 2 years in Norway House. Marti spent her last two years at FSD as a teacher recruiter. Marti took a year away from her superintendent duties in 2018-19 to work with the Rideau Hall Foundation as the Executive Director of the Arctic Inspiration Prize. During that position she travelled across Inuit Nunangat to observe community-based programs, fundraise, and provide funding for community-based projects. Prior to working at FSD Marti spent 10 years at River College as the Dean of the School of Indigenous Education. She has worked extensively in Indigenous education. Marti has worked in education nationally and internationally with Indigenous communities in Botswana, Brazil, and Chile.



Dr. Marti Ford

Marti currently volunteers as a board member of the Royal Aviation Museum of Western Canada and advises on their education programs; she is a member of the Indigenous Advisory Council of the United Way, and is a member of the Canadian Forces Liaison Council in the position of Vice-Chair.



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**DAY 1 - JULY 3  
KEYNOTES**



## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS DAY 1 (CONTINUED)

**JULY 3, 2025**

**CINDY BLACKSTOCK**

**1:00 PM - 2:00 PM**

A member of the Gitksan First Nation, Cindy is honoured to serve as the Executive Director of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society and a professor at McGill University's School of Social Work. She has over 30 years of experience working in child welfare and Indigenous children's rights and has published on topics relating to reconciliation, Indigenous theory, First Nations child welfare and human rights. A recipient of the SSHRC Gold Medal, Cindy was honoured to work with First Nations colleagues on a successful human rights challenge to Canada's inequitable provision of child and family services and failure to implement Jordan's Principle. This hard-fought litigation has resulted in hundreds of thousands of services being provided to First Nations children, youth, and families. Cindy is honoured to have been named as the recipient of the 2023 World's Children's Prize for the Rights of the Child, an award adjudicated by millions of children worldwide and referred to as "The Children's Nobel Prize".

Cindy is frequently sighted in the company of the Caring Society's reconciliation Ambearrister, Spirit Bear, engaging children in meaningful actions to implement the TRC Calls to Action.



*Cindy Blackstock*



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**DAY 2 - JULY 4  
KEYNOTES**



## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS DAY 2

**JULY 4, 2025**

### PHIL FONTAINE

**9:00 AM - 10:00 AM**

Bold, tenacious, solution-oriented and forward-looking, Phil Fontaine is an articulate advocate for the future of Canada and for our indigenous peoples. As the former three-term National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, he is a shining example of how strong leadership can work. Known for his calm and confident demeanour, he has a proven track record of opening the lines of communication and bringing people together in a common cause for a better future and to resolve issues of the past. Fontaine's proven ability to inform, inspire, demonstrate leadership, and build consensus makes him a highly sought-after expert.

Fontaine, the youngest son in an Ojibway family of 12 children, has been instrumental in facilitating change and advancement for First Nations people from the time he was first elected to public office as chief, when he was only 28 years old. Today, First Nations people are now the fastest growing demographic segment in Canada. An advocate for human rights, and a survivor of residential school abuse, Fontaine's crowning achievement to date is the residential schools settlement. At \$5.6 billion in individual compensation, Fontaine negotiated the largest settlement in Canadian history – for the largest human rights violation in Canadian history – arising out of the 150-year Indian residential school tragedy.

Phil Fontaine is a charismatic speaker who has dedicated most of his life to the advancement of First Nations people. Respected at home and abroad, Fontaine attended President Obama's inauguration, met with Pope Benedict XVI to gain an apology for his people, and raised the Corporate Challenge to Canadian organizations. School boards will benefit from Fontaine's extraordinary ability to speak from the heart and to teach us how to achieve results.



*Phil Fontaine*





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**DAY 2 - JULY 4  
KEYNOTES**



## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS DAY 2

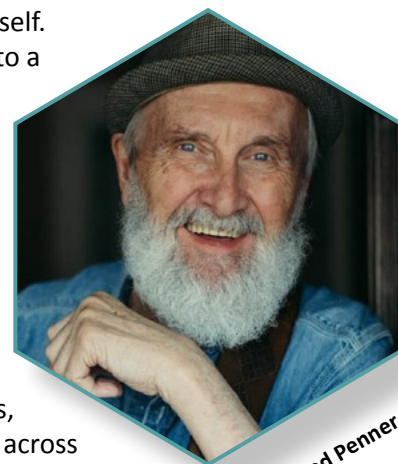
**JULY 4, 2025**

### FRED PENNER

**11:40 AM - 12:30 PM**

Fred Penner is a gentle man with an undeniable ability to make you feel good about yourself. This musical master brings more than 40 years of commitment, consistency and depth to a career that blends the many genres of performing and communication. Fred continues to grow and create music for his generations of "Fred Heads". From hosting the United Way National conference in Saskatoon to emceeing the renowned Polaris Music Awards and being part of the C3 Legacy Expedition supporting the truth and reconciliation process in remote parts of Canada, apparently retirement is not in the cards for our Fred. The phone is still ringing! And his concert touring continues.

His latest Juno Award / Canadian Folk Music Award / Western Canadian Music Award winning CD project, *Hear The Music* is dedicated to all who have travelled with him on his musical journey. He is thankful to the generations for allowing him into their lives, listening and singing along. In his career Fred has delivered a prolific 13 CD's to families across North America and countless energetic live shows for eager audiences. In his television life Fred composed the music for YTV's *Tipi Tales* and is especially known for over 900 episodes in 13 seasons of acclaimed *Fred Penner's Place* TV series - CBC (Canada) and Nick. Jr. (USA).



Fred Penner

Fred's visibility has allowed him the privilege and joy of using his voice to support organizations like UNESCO, World Vision, UNICEF and the Canadian Down Syndrome Society. In 2005, Fred journeyed to Zambia, Africa with World Vision to host a program for Child Sponsorship in the Western World. Expanding his connection to dedicated teachers, as keynote presenter at numerous early childhood conferences, he has, without a doubt, established himself as a fundamental part of the North American family educational/entertainment scene. Fred has received two honorary doctorates and received the Order of Canada for his life's work. Whether it's through cd's, concerts, videos, books or television, his cornerstone philosophy remains the same: "Never underestimate your ability to make a difference in the life of a child"



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**DAY 2 - JULY 4  
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## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS DAY 2

**JULY 4, 2025**

### CLARA HUGHES

**2:10 PM - 3:10 PM**

From one of Canada's most decorated Olympians comes a raw but life-affirming story of one woman's struggle with depression. In 2006, when Clara Hughes stepped onto the Olympic podium in Torino, Italy, she became the first and only athlete ever to win multiple medals in both Summer and Winter Games. Four years later, she was proud to carry the Canadian flag for Team Canada in the opening ceremony of the Vancouver Olympic Winter Games. But there's another story behind her celebrated career as an athlete, behind her signature smile. After her first Olympics in the grueling world of competitive endurance sport that stripped away her confidence and bruised her body, Hughes began to realize that her physical extremes, her emotional setbacks, and her partying habits were masking a severe depression. The relentless pursuit of excellence in sport was put on hold in order to heal. When she did eventually return to competition, the healing path became an integral part of her athletic success.

After winning bronze in the last speed skating race of her career, she decided to retire, and has since emerged as one of our most committed humanitarians, advocating for a variety of social causes both in Canada and around the world. Told with honesty and passion, "Open Heart, Open Mind" is Hughes' personal journey through physical and mental pain to a life where love and understanding can thrive. Throughout it all, connection was the ultimate reward. Whether on the Olympic stage, hiking long-distance trails around the world, or within the stillness on the healing path, deep connection with place, space, self, and others is her ultimate focus. Her revelatory and inspiring story will touch the hearts of all Canadians.



Clara Hughes





## MORNING WORKSHOPS DAY 1

**JULY 3, 2025 - 10:30 AM TO 11:30 AM**

### TWO-SPIRIT IDENTITY

What is 2S identity and why is it critically important that decision makers, policy makers, and educators at all levels recognize diverse Indigenous identities as part of the broader work of reconciliation to improve SDOH for 2S youth still impacted by the colonial education system's regulation of gender, sexuality, and cultural roles. How do we begin dismantling erroneous and harmful constructs and instead use education to provide safe, culturally competent resources, and support systems for navigating the challenges faced by 2S youth in their schools and communities.

**DENISE TARDIFF** is a Two-Spirit Michif mother of 2 incredible humans from the Hamelin, Payette and Beaudry Red River families. Denise grew up in St. Boniface but left the city to raise her children closer to the land where there was space to breathe, dream, create and mend broken wings.

Since 1997 Denise has been sharing her lived experience in the fields of addictions and education to deepen understanding and open doorways for others, by building bridges across academia, industry, & governments to address the impacts of intergenerational trauma and promote substantive equality.

As a speaker/facilitator, Denise handles difficult topics like privilege and appropriation with sensitivity, compassion, and humour and is known for her ability to navigate divisive issues with a level of diplomacy and respect that builds trust, consensus, and ultimately strong partnerships.

Currently manager of the Manitoba Collaborative Indigenous Education Blueprint, a partnership committed to the collaborative development, implementation and evaluation of the requisite policies, procedures and practices necessary to advance Indigenous education and reconciliation, Denise works across sectors with Manitoba's Post-secondary Institutions, Rights holders, and external stakeholders to forward MCIEB's 10 commitments. Informed by the TRC's Calls to Action and guided by a council of Elders from diverse nations and communities, MCIEB's goal is to ensure all Blueprint initiatives are community driven, increase opportunities for Indigenous students and serve to make Manitoba a global center of excellence in Indigenous education and research.

**KOOKUM BARBARA** is a citizen of the Métis Nation—Michif aen Otipemisiwak. Her beliefs of Indigenous traditional teachings are reflected in all her work. Her dedication to advancing the rightful place, recognition, and acknowledgement of the Two Spirit community, Indigenous women, and children are an integral part of her life.

Barbara has been recognized and honoured by the Human Rights Commission of Manitoba for her significant contributions in promoting Indigenous rights and equality. She was honoured by Keeping the Fires Burning as a Kookum/Grandmother for her contribution to the wellbeing of Indigenous Peoples. Sagkeeng First Nation honoured her for her extensive contribution to economic development in First Nation and Métis communities.

In recognition of her lifetime of work, Barbara was inducted into the Order of Manitoba in 2018. In 2020, she was acknowledged in the Manitoba Legislative Assembly in a Member's Statement for her work and contribution as a Two Spirit Elder. In 2021, she received the Nellie McClung Manitoba 150 Women Trailblazer Award.

(Bios continued on [next page](#))

Denise Tardiff



Barbara Bruce



Myra Laramée





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MORNING**



## **MORNING WORKSHOPS DAY 1 (CONTINUED)**

**JULY 3, 2025 - 10:40 AM TO 11:50 AM**

### **TWO-SPIRIT IDENTITY (CONTINUED)**

#### **DR. MYRA LARAMEE**

Cree, ocêko-sîpiy (Fisher River Cree Nation)

Since 1976, Myra Laramée, a member of Fisher River Cree Nation, has helped transform Manitoba's education system as a beloved teacher, co-founder of the Aboriginal Teaching Circle, administrator, counsellor, mentor, Traditional Indigenous Knowledge Keeper, and creator of no fewer than 12 guiding documents on how Manitoba can infuse Reconciliation, Indigenous languages, and Indigenous-centred content into curricula.

Her doctoral thesis, ***"Teaching and Learning as an Act of Love: An examination of the impact of seven traditional Indigenous teaching practices in teacher education and on teacher's classroom practices"*** has revolutionized the classroom and was groundbreaking in legitimizing the recognition and citation of Traditional Knowledge in academic works.

Winner of the Distinguished UM Alumni Lifetime Achievement Award and the Canadian Teachers' Federation's Outstanding Aboriginal Educator Award, Myra has served her community tirelessly. She has shared her wisdom and guidance as an advisor and policy maker for innumerable initiatives and institutions; the Winnipeg school division, Manitoba Education and Training-Post-Secondary Partnership Group, the University of Manitoba-Dean's Aboriginal Education Task Force, the Manitoba Industry-Academia Partnership's Indigenous Pillar and MCIEB Elders Council are just a few.

Above all, Myra is a Capan (Chapan, Grandmother), Mother, Sister, Daughter and friend. These roles have been significant in shaping the person that she is today, as have the mentors in Myra's life who encouraged her to reach her potential. As a Traditional Knowledge Keeper, she imparts the importance of these relationships by teaching ***Ogichi Tibakonigaywin, Kihche Othasowewin, Tako Wakan: The Great Binding Law.***

Myra's lifework embodies this law that connects us all. She gives endlessly of herself to empower **all her relations** to reach their potential and pay it forward to others.



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## **MORNING WORKSHOPS DAY 1 (CONTINUED)**

**JULY 3, 2025 - 10:40 AM TO 11:50 AM**

### **BALANCING POLITICS AND GOVERNANCE ON SCHOOL BOARDS**

School Trustees face the unique challenge of balancing their roles as elected officials and governance leaders. This session will clarify these distinct responsibilities, help participants identify risks and challenges at the intersection of politics and governance, and provide practical strategies to manage political pressures while fulfilling governance obligations effectively.

This session will be designed specifically for school trustee who are unique in their need to straddle the line between politics and governance. As non-legislatures, non-(explicitly) -partisan bodies, and only small groups, school boards are different from other publicly elected bodies. As elected officials trustees are also quite different than corporate board members. To be effective and successful, trustees need to understand these often competing roles, use both good governance as well as political savvy in their job, and not let one drown out the other.



*Kevin Freedman*

**KEVIN FREEDMAN**, the chief board services officer and founder of the Governance Guru, is an internationally recognized governance expert with more than 60 years of cumulative experience sitting on nonprofit, corporate and public boards. For more than a decade, he has provided training, guidance and facilitation services to organizations across Canada and internationally.

A former executive director in the nonprofit sector, Kevin has helped dozens of organizations develop and implement strategic and operational plans, educated thousands of directors and prospective directors, and provided mentorship for executives and board chairs across the country. He is also a long-time instructor in the University of Winnipeg's Faculty of Business and Economics, developing highly-sought-after classes taught to thousands of students.

Kevin is an award-winning leader and social entrepreneur known for starting and leading multiple initiatives in Canada and abroad, including an [international water stewardship project](#) and [ad-hoc aid organization](#). He is a prolific public speaker and has presented to hundreds of schools and community groups on topics like blood donation, voluntarism and environmental issues. In recognition of his work, he has received accolades from the [Mayor of Winnipeg](#), [YMCA Canada](#), [Golden Key International Society](#) and [Governor General of Canada](#).

Kevin is also the developer of [Guru's Rules](#), a comprehensive set of meeting rules made specifically for nonprofits. And he [kinda, sorta, stole a car once](#).



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## **MORNING WORKSHOPS DAY 1 (CONTINUED)**

**JULY 3, 2025 - 10:40 AM TO 11:50 AM**

### **CYBERSAFE FROM EXPLOITATION**

“Cybersafe from Exploitation” is currently taught in British Columbia’s schools from grades 6-12. The program provides students with a fun, interactive and kid-oriented presentation, with accompanying curriculum, on how to stay safe while using the internet. Join Tiana for this session where you will be introduced to the program and learn more about how you can partner with Cybersafe from Exploitation to have this one of a kind program offered in your schools.

**TIANA SHARIFI** (Exploitation Education) is a recognized leader in the prevention of sexual exploitation, with a reach that spans over 100,000 youth, parents, educators, and frontline professionals across Canada and internationally. As the founder of Exploitation Education Institute, she has

developed a research-based, dynamic approach to tackling both in-person and digital forms of exploitation. With a background in Psychology and Counseling, Tiana has combined frontline experience with education to address the root causes of trafficking, grooming, sextortion, intimate image abuse, and systemic vulnerabilities. Her expertise has positioned Exploitation Education Institute as a leading force in the field, sought after for research, keynote presentations, international conferences, law enforcement training, and non-profit consulting.



Tiana Sharifi



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MORNING**



## MORNING WORKSHOPS DAY 1 (CONTINUED)

**JULY 3, 2025 - 10:40 AM TO 11:50 AM**

### TREATY EDUCATION AS A TOOL FOR RECONCILIATION

In this exciting session, the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba (TRCM) will present on why it is important to teach about Treaties and Treaty education in schools as a vital step toward fostering understanding and good relations among all students in Canadian education systems. The presentation will highlight the historical and contemporary context of Treaties, the importance of understanding the enduring Treaty relationship, and the role that School Boards could have in advancing the integration of Treaty education across the curriculum in all schools through division wide policies and identifying resources for instructional supports for teachers. Treaty education is an act of reconciliation that can have a lasting impact on laying groundwork for future generations of leaders and citizens. It takes leadership at all levels to support this important work.

**TREATY COMMISSIONER LORETTA ROSS** is a member of the Hollow Water First Nation, Treaty 5. She holds a degree in law from Queen's University and has been a practicing lawyer for over 25 years providing legal counsel to numerous First Nation people, governments, and organizations. She was appointed Treaty Commissioner in 2017 and then reappointed to a second term. At an early age, she received lifelong teachings from her grandfather George Barker who served forty-four years as Chief of Hollow Water. It was through his teachings she became aware that she would always carry the responsibility of advocating and educating on behalf of First Nation people. Today, she embraces her leadership role as Treaty Commissioner of Manitoba and the work she can contribute to building strong respectful relationships between and among all peoples.



Loretta Ross

**CYNTHIA BIRD** (Wabi Benais Mistatim Equay) of Peguis First Nation, Treaty 1, is a long-time educator whose most recent work has been with the TRCM's Treaty Education K-12. In recognition of her accomplishments and contributions to education, she was honoured with the Aboriginal Circle of Educators' Research and Curriculum Development Award in 2011, and the TRCM's Treaty Advocacy Award in 2014. Cynthia was the principal writer for the Treaty Education K-12 teacher resources and is currently the Treaty Education Advisor at TRCM. Today she is semi-retired, living at Matheson Island on Lake Winnipeg, where she enjoys her connection to the land and water.



Cynthia Bird

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AFTERNOON**



## AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS DAY 1

**JULY 3, 2025 - 2:10 PM TO 3:10 PM**

### EFFECTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

As a seasoned school board member, you know that ninety per cent of school board work occurs in meetings. Making meetings better and more effective is critical to school district success! Join Todd and explore principles of effective meetings, the art of chairing, and board member tips and tools for effective meetings. Learn more about basic parliamentary procedure principles and how these can help to support you in making the best decision!

**TODD BRAND**, M.A., CP, PRP (Todd Brand Consulting) is a third-term school board trustee with Rocky View Schools in Alberta. Todd has served as both Chair & Vice-Chair of the Board. He is also a Professional Registered Parliamentarian and a Certified Parliamentarian - Teacher. Through his business, Todd Brand Consulting, Todd works with many clients to improve their meeting effectiveness. His passion is helping organizations conduct highly effective meetings leading to the best possible decisions.



Todd Brand

### CONNECTING PASSION TO THE EDUCATION PROFESSION: CARE FOR ALL IN EDUCATION

As educational leaders, trustees have a responsibility to support and promote positive mental health and well-being approaches so that all who serve students in the school system are flourishing. Through the allocation of resources and supports, trustees can provide tangible supports to create a flourishing school system.

This interactive workshop will provide participants with a deeper understanding of the current trends in education with regard to Psychological Health and Safety, with a focus on mental health and well-being. Current research and a Manitoba made response to support all in education will be shared.

**ELVERA WATSON**, MSW, RSW is passionate about mental health promotion and wellness. Her past work in supporting mental health awareness, creating mentally healthy schools, and child and adolescent psychiatry brings an abundance of knowledge and experience that informs her role as Supervisor of the Care for All in Education's team of Wellness Support Specialists.

**DEB RADI** is an educator with classroom and administrative experience. She brings a wealth of experience in K-12 school and university settings supporting educators and youth to flourish with their mental health. Deb engages participants in a variety of ways and promotes a safe and inclusive atmosphere in which to learn. Her sessions offer a good mix of activity, discussion, and humour to engage participants.



Elvera Watson



Deb Radi

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**DAY 1 - JULY 3  
AFTERNOON**



## **AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS DAY 1 (CONTINUED)     JULY 3, 2025 - 2:10 PM TO 3:10 PM**

### **ADVANCING SCHOOL FOOD PROGRAM POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IN CANADA**

Advocacy for the development of a healthy, universal, cost-shared school food program funded by the federal and provincial governments is a shared commitment among the CSBA and its member organizations across Canada. This session will explore practical tools, research and strategies that support elected school board members in this vital role.

This session will introduce the new national school food program for Canada and provide guidance and discussion towards effective school food program governance. In this session, participants will learn about how the Saskatchewan School Boards Association has been implementing its member boards' call to action for healthy food programming in support of students.

**KAYLEE MICHNIK** is Registered Dietitian and PhD Candidate at the University of Saskatchewan with ten years of Canadian public health experience working with health authorities and various levels of government. She holds a Masters in Natural Resources Management from the University of Manitoba. Kaylee has extensive experience in school food program evaluation including leading a two year process evaluation of universal lunch programs in Saskatchewan and the evaluation of fifteen promising school meal programs across Canada. She currently holds a PhD CIHR Health Systems Impact award to work with the Saskatchewan School Boards Association toward school food development. Her work supports the advancement and translation of school food programs and food systems research through evaluation, partnership, knowledge exchange, and advocacy.



Kaylee Michnik

**DR. TED AMENDT** has been working in Saskatchewan's provincial K-12 and post-secondary education systems for nearly 30 years. Ted's leadership includes areas of community education, Indigenous education, program evaluation, policy development, and board governance. In 2013, Ted joined the Saskatchewan School Boards Association where he currently is Director of Board Development & Indigenous Education. Ted's research is in the areas of family and community engagement in schools, and School Community Councils. Ted is proudly Métis and has an adult son, Joel.



Ted Amendt

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**L'ARTICLE 23 EN ACTION, PLAIDER EFFICACEMENT POUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT D'UN RÉSEAU D'ÉCOLES**

Cet atelier propose une présentation détaillée d'un grand projet de planification immobilière mené par l'ACÉPO. Il mettra en lumière la stratégie adoptée, les objectifs visés, la méthodologie employée ainsi que les résultats obtenus dans l'élaboration de données probantes. L'objectif principal de cette démarche est d'outiller les conseillers scolaires en leur fournissant des arguments solides, basés sur des données factuelles, afin de défendre le droit des élèves francophones en milieu minoritaire à des infrastructures scolaires équivalentes à celles des élèves des écoles de la majorité linguistique.

**ARTICLE 23 IN ACTION: ADVOCATING EFFECTIVELY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF STRONG AND EQUITABLE NETWORK OF FRANCOPHONE SCHOOLS**

This workshop offers a presentation of a major school infrastructure planning project led by ACÉPO. It will highlight the adopted strategy, the targeted objectives, the methodology used, and the results obtained in the development of evidence-based data. The primary goal of this initiative is to equip school trustees with strong, fact-based arguments to advocate for the right of Francophone students in minority settings to school infrastructure that is equivalent to that of students in majority-language schools.

**ISABELLE GIRARD** est directrice générale de l'Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario (ACÉPO) depuis la fin de l'année 2017. Titulaire d'un MBA, elle a amorcé sa carrière dans le secteur privé, où elle a occupé divers postes de gestion, notamment chez Mars Canada. Elle a ensuite œuvré pendant une dizaine d'années dans le domaine de la santé à titre de directrice adjointe, puis de directrice générale de Centres d'Accueil Héritage, où elle a perfectionné son expertise en gestion des ressources humaines et financières, en gouvernance et en planification stratégique.

Depuis son arrivée à l'ACÉPO, Madame Girard a mis l'accent sur le développement de relations solides avec les partenaires institutionnels, communautaires et gouvernementaux. Elle s'est engagée à faire rayonner le modèle exceptionnel que représente l'éducation publique de langue française en Ontario, en valorisant ses réussites et son impact concret dans la vie des élèves, des familles et des communautés francophones.

Profondément engagée dans sa communauté, Isabelle siège à plusieurs conseils d'administration d'organismes francophones et est la fière maman de deux filles de 17 ans.



**ALEXANDRE BEAUDIN** est chargé de projets et participe au développement de l'intelligence collective de l'Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario (ACÉPO) et de ses membres depuis août 2022.

Urbaniste de formation, il a commencé sa carrière en planification scolaire dans un conseil scolaire francophone du Grand Toronto. C'est ensuite au ministère de l'Éducation de l'Ontario qu'Alexandre a continué à parfaire pendant une quinzaine d'années ses connaissances dans le domaine du développement et du financement des politiques et des programmes d'immobilisations en tant qu'analyste principal en immobilisations, puis chargé de direction et conseiller spécial et, finalement, en tant que gestionnaire d'équipe.

Depuis bientôt 3 ans, Alexandre met au service de l'ACÉPO, de ses collègues, des intervenants du milieu et de la communauté scolaire franco-ontarienne, ses compétences techniques, organisationnelles et de gestion de projet. Grâce à sa motivation, son énergie, sa méthode de travail et son approche collaborative, il résout efficacement les défis se présentant à lui.

Dans ces temps libres, Alexandre peut être aperçu avec son conjoint et son chien Nanook, dans les rues, les parcs et sur les terrasses de la ville reine.



## MORNING WORKSHOPS DAY 2 JULY 4, 2025 - 10:30 AM TO 11:30 AM

## LEADERSHIP FOR SUCCESS: PRIORITIZING STAFF WELL-BEING IN TRAUMA-INFORMED GOVERNANCE

This workshop will allow school board members to gain a better understanding of how to lead with compassion & equity in policy decisions, to create safe & inclusive school environments through governance, prioritize staff well-being, thereby having a positive impact on attraction, retention, success rates, & overall safety of staff & students.

The goal of this workshop is to equip school boards with a deeper understanding of trauma, its impacts on education, and how integrating trauma-informed principles into school board policies and practices, especially as they relate to staff, will ultimately yield tremendous benefits for both employees and students.

**ALAINA GROSS**, M.S.W., P.S.W., A.F.M. is a clinical social worker with over two decades of experience in Quebec's public health and social services system. She currently works for the West Island Health and Social Services Department as a pediatric specialist and consultant within the Directorate of Multidisciplinary Services, where she supports professional practice across youth and family services.

Over her 22-year career with the Quebec Health and Social Services department, she has worked in a wide range of settings, including the Department of Youth Protection, pediatric emergency rooms, outpatient pediatric psychiatry clinics, schools, early childhood centres, and perinatal teams. In her current role, she contributes to the development and delivery of psychosocial services at both the local and provincial levels, and supports the professional development of social workers, human relations agents, and clinical supervisors.

In addition to her public service, she has maintained a private practice for the past 16 years, offering psychosocial support, family mediation services, clinical supervision, and training for social workers and accredited family mediators. Her early career also included work as an emergency medical technician in Montreal, which laid the foundation for her longstanding commitment to frontline care. She holds a Master's degree in Social Work, with a thesis focused on the intricacies of adolescent bereavement.

Alaina currently serves as a school board commissioner for the Lester B. Pearson School Board and has been actively involved in school governance and education advocacy in various volunteer leadership capacities for more than 12 years. She is deeply committed to safeguarding Quebec's English public education system and advocates for environments that are safe, inclusive, and equitable—places where every member of the school community feels a strong sense of belonging and can thrive. Passionate about promoting bilingualism and academic excellence, she believes in building a stronger educational landscape that prepares future leaders for success. Her advocacy includes defending minority language rights and protecting the integrity of the school board system. She is also a strong voice for the attraction and retention of quality teachers and support staff, championing a culture that truly recognizes and invests in their personal and professional well-being.

Alaina is the proud mother of three remarkable daughters—ages 17, 15, and 10—and their beloved dog, Rolo.



Alaina Gross

**JENNIFER LARGAN** is a dedicated professional in the field of special care counseling, having completed her Diploma of College Studies (DEC) in Special Care Counseling in 2004. Shortly after, she began her career at Batshaw Youth and Family Centres in October 2004, where she has made significant contributions to youth support and education.

Throughout her career, Jennifer has predominantly worked in open units at the Dorval campus, gaining valuable experience in crisis intervention. In September 2013, she expanded her role by joining the staff at the LBPSB alternative school, Dawson, where she ensured a safe and effective learning environment for youth in crisis as well as taught a specialty class focused on girl empowerment. This initiative reflects her commitment to fostering resilience and confidence among children.

In 2019, Jennifer transitioned to the intake department at Batshaw, marking a new chapter in her career. In this role, she works directly with families facing challenges related to educational neglect, behavioural disturbances, and various other issues, providing critical support and guidance.

On a personal front, 2019 was a notable year for Jennifer as her children began Kindergarten in the New Frontiers School Board (NFSB). In 2020, she became actively involved in the Governing Board and quickly joined the Parents Committee, where she has served as Chair for the past three years. Her commitment to parent advocacy led to her being sworn in for her first term as a Parent Commissioner in 2022, a role she continues to fulfill.

Jennifer Largan's career is characterized by her passion for education, advocacy, and her unwavering dedication to supporting families and youth in need.



Jennifer Largan



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**JULY 4  
WORKSHOPS 3**



## MORNING WORKSHOPS DAY 2 (CONTINUED)

**JULY 4, 2025 - 10:30 AM TO 11:30 AM**

### **NATURALLY HEALTHY SCHOOL GROUNDS: INVESTING IMPACT ON PLAY, MOVEMENT AND SYSTEM-WIDE CLIMATE RESILIENCE**

#### **Room: Charleswood B**

Providing research-based insights that can inform school board decision-making in several key areas, this session will explore how to set policies that shape school environments. The session will provide evidence on how naturalizing school grounds can enhance play, learning, health, and climate resilience, helping to inform policies that support student well-being. Learn how naturalized school grounds promote diverse and inclusive play while protecting children from extreme weather conditions and found out how you can support the case for prioritizing school ground naturalization in district and divisional capital planning.

Through collaboration with municipalities, parents, and community partners, this session also highlights the role of partnerships in supporting school ground transformation and offers insights to guide community-driven initiatives. School board members will gain the knowledge needed to advocate for, plan, and implement evidence-based improvements to school environments that benefit children's development, health, and well-being.

Since 2010, **HEIDI CAMPBELL** has served as a Senior Design Consultant for Evergreen, developing and delivering design services for the improvement of children's outdoor play and learning environments across Canada. Heidi is the 2003 recipient of the Chanasyk Graduate Medal for Professionalism, awarded annually to the graduating student in the master of landscape architecture program who, in the view of faculty, is deemed to be the most promising professional practitioner. In 2006, Heidi along with the Toronto District School Board, were presented with The Canadian Dermatology Association's Public Education Award for their Designing for Shade and Energy Conservation program



Heidi Campbell

**LOIS A. BRINK** is a landscape architect and tenured professor at the University of Colorado. She is the principal leader in Denver Public Schools' Learning Landscapes project, a \$50 million design and construction initiative that in 2012 completed 96 elementary schoolyards after a 12-year build out. In 2024, a two-year study was released on the economic benefits of Denver's schoolyard greening.



Lois A. Brink

Professor Brink's knowledge and experience of playground development—coupled with her 30 years as a landscape architect—is critical to other similar initiatives. She is a founding member of the International Green Schoolyards Alliance (ISGA) and a member of the IUCN Task Force on Nature-based Education. As Chief Strategist with a nonprofit, The Big SandBox, she is focused on schoolyard greening and resilience in North Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and on a strategic launch of potential partnerships with Evergreen.

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## MORNING WORKSHOPS DAY 2 (CONTINUED)

**JULY 4, 2025 - 10:30 AM TO 11:30 AM**

### TRANSFORMING SUBSTANCE USE HARM PREVENTION IN CANADIAN SCHOOLS - HIGHLIGHTS FROM A PAN-CANADIAN SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS SURVEY

This presentation will summarise key findings from the first-ever Canada-wide survey of K-12 school administrators about substance use in schools conducted by Wellstream: the Canadian Centre for Innovation in Child and Youth Mental Health and Substance Use / Bienamont: Centre canadien pour l'innovation en santé mentale et consommation de substances chez les enfants et les jeunes. The results from the Substance Use and Canadian Schools: A National Examination of School Administrators' Experiences and Perspectives survey will help school trustees across Canada understand current substance use prevention practices in schools and key practical challenges faced by school administrators in the context of youth substance use. The presentation will highlight findings addressing all four components of a comprehensive school health approach: school climate, teaching and learning, school policy as well as partnerships and services. The presentation will offer actionable recommendations to inform trustees' work in their respective communities.

The survey findings highlight the urgent need for the development of evidence-based, pan-Canadian standards to prevent, delay and reduce youth substance use harms. The presentation will include a brief update on the work Wellstream is doing to respond to this need and provide opportunities for trustees to provide their input on the resources that they would like to see for their own professional development.

**DR. EMILY JENKINS** is a Registered Nurse and Associate Professor in the School of Nursing at the University of British Columbia. She is the Scientific Director of Wellstream and holds a Canada Research Chair in Population Health Approaches to Mental Health and Substance Use. Emily is at the forefront of youth- and community-engaged mental health and substance use scholarship. Her work has informed substantial policy and practice impacts promoting mental health and preventing substance use harms among youth and their communities, including invited testimony to the Senate of Canada during the study of Bill C-45 (the Cannabis Act) and serving as a special advisor to a provincial inter-ministerial committee working to reduce the harms of substance use among youth. She also contributes international leadership, including through her role with the International Union for Health Promotion and Education – Global Working Group on Mental Health Promotion.



Emily Jenkins



Ashraf (Ash) Amlani



Sherri Moore-Arbour

**ASHRAF (ASH) AMLANI** is a co-founder and Principal of BUNYAAD Public Affairs, an award-winning strategic communications and public affairs firm. Since 2021, BUNYAAD has led the ABCs of Youth Substance Use, a K-12 knowledge mobilization initiative funded by the BC Ministry of Health to promote comprehensive school health and evidence-based approaches to youth substance use across the province. Partnering with Wellstream for Schools, Ash leads the Knowledge Mobilization and Implementation Strategy. She brings over 15 years of experience working with communities, governments, and civil society organizations to improve people's quality of life. As the former harm reduction epidemiologist at the BC Centre for Disease Control, she has worked closely with public sector partners and regulatory bodies across the country to expand access to take-home naloxone for opioid overdose response.

**SHERRI MOORE-ARBOUR** is a co-founder and Principal of BUNYAAD Public Affairs. Partnering with Wellstream for Schools, she leads K-12 Partnerships and Outreach. She is an award-winning communications expert with extensive experience in the K-12 education systems in British Columbia and Ontario. A former elected school trustee, Board of Education Vice-Chair, and Director of Communication for the BC School Trustees Association, Sherri has worked closely with education professionals and brings a nuanced understanding of change management in this sector. Sherri is a proud member of Métis Nation and is fluently bilingual in English and French.



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**DAY 2 - JULY 4  
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## **MORNING WORKSHOPS DAY 2 (CONTINUED) JULY 4, 2025 - 10:30 AM TO 11:30 AM**

### **PUTTING DATA TO WORK TO SUPPORT FRENCH LANGUAGE TEACHER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION**

Educational partners across Canada acknowledge the pressing need for quantitative data on the Francophone and French language teacher shortage. They emphasize collaboration in supporting a data-driven approach to address its impacts.

This session will examine CSBA's involvement in the development of a nationwide web platform designed to integrate data from all school systems. We will highlight the role of trustees in recent and future project advancements and include a platform demonstration, table talk, and Q&A period.

**MARY-ANN ZAUHAR-HISCOCK** is the Project Manager for the Canada-wide initiative, Putting Data to Work, working closely with several national educational associations. She is an educational consultant in the field of Teaching and Learning who has served more than 40 years in francophone, French Immersion, and FSL education as a teacher and administrator. Her work has spanned the fields of French language curriculum development, leadership and administration, as well as literacy and numeracy research for best practices in Early French Immersion. She is a strong voice for inclusion and access to quality French education for all learners.



Mary-Ann  
Zauhar-Hiscock

**NANCY PYNCH-WORTHYLAKE** is the CSBA Executive Director. Nancy provides leadership and support to the Board of Directors and to all committees of the association. She is an experienced educator with extensive education and experience in Minority and Second language education. She has served as superintendent of schools, senior executive director for the NS Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, and Executive Director of the NS School Boards Association. Nancy is a staunch supporter of First Voice and democratically elected leadership, and a champion for equitable and effective governance. Nancy lives and works from her home office in Nova Scotia.

**NANCY PYNCH-WORTHYLAKE** est la directrice exécutive du CSBA. Nancy assure la direction et l'appui au Conseil d'administration et à tous les comités de l'association. Elle est une éducatrice chevronnée qui possède une formation et une expérience approfondies dans le domaine de l'éducation des minorités et de l'enseignement des langues secondes. Son expérience compte de nombreux rôles tant que directrice générale de conseils scolaires, directrice générale au ministère de l'Éducation et du développement de la petite enfance de la Nouvelle-Écosse et directrice générale de l'Association des conseils scolaires de la Nouvelle-Écosse. Nancy est une fervente partisane de Première voix et du leadership démocratiquement élu, et une championne de la gouvernance équitable et efficace. Nancy vit et travaille de son bureau en Nouvelle-Écosse.



Nancy  
Pynch-WorthyLake







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## MORNING WORKSHOPS DAY 2 (CONTINUED)

**JULY 4, 2025 - 10:30 AM TO 11:30 AM**

### COMMEMORATING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF VE DAY: VIRTUAL TOUR OF THE “BEACH AND BUNKERS” FROM NORMANDY FRANCE

The Juno Beach Centre is Canada's Second World War museum and cultural centre located in Normandy, France. The Centre pays homage to the 45,000 Canadians who lost their lives during the War, of which 5,500 were killed during the Battle of Normandy and 381 on D-Day. Opened in 2003 by veterans and volunteers with a vision to create a permanent memorial to all Canadians who served during the Second World War, the Centre's mandate to preserve this legacy for future generations through education and remembrance. Join staff of the Centre for a 40 minute live virtual tour from the beach and bunkers, with accompanying presentation of the centre's activities and outreach for students of all ages.



**ALEX FITZGERALD-BLACK** is the Executive Director at the Juno Beach Centre Association, the charity that owns and operates Canada's Second World War Museum on the D-Day landing beaches in Normandy, France.

He holds a Masters in military history (UNB) and a Masters in public history (Western University).

His first book, *Eagles Over Husky: The Allied Air Forces in the Sicilian Campaign, 14 May to 17 August 1943*, was published in 2018. He has co-written multiple exhibitions at the Juno Beach Centre, including *From Dieppe to Juno: The 80th Anniversary of the Dieppe Raid* and *Rising to the Challenge: The RCAF in the Second World War*. Alex has participated in and led multiple battlefield tours in Normandy.

## MAPPING STORIES, HEALING LANDS: ECOCULTURAL MAPPING FOR RECONCILIATION &amp; LEARNING

This session helps school board members support Indigenous education and elected public school board members in Canada: reconciliation by integrating ecocultural mapping into curricula. It highlights how policy can foster land-based learning and partnerships with Indigenous communities, promoting culturally responsive education.

Participants will learn how ecocultural mapping integrates Indigenous knowledge and Western science to support language revitalization, environmental stewardship, and culturally responsive education. Participants will learn how digital story mapping can enhance curricula, promote reconciliation, and engage students in place-based learning.

Hailing from the Gulf Islands School District of British Columbia

(Salt Spring, Pender, Galiano, Mayne, and Saturna islands), **Jeannine Georgeson** will be joined by **Dana Ayotte** (IMERSS) and **Kusemmaat Shirley Williams** (Whiteswan Environmental) from the Lummi Territory in north-western Washington State.

**JEANNINE GEORGESON** is Coast Salish from what is known as the province of British Columbia, Sahtu Dene and Métis from Treaty 11 territory in the NWT, and of mixed European ancestry. She is a mother, grandmother, and community leader living on her ancestral and generational homelands of Galiano Island, BC. A school trustee and relationship-centered community connector, Jeannine brings a unique blend of lived experience, cultural knowledge, and place-based practice to her work.

Her career bridges land stewardship, eco-cultural mapping, education, housing advocacy, and intergenerational knowledge sharing. Deeply rooted in the unceded, asserted, and shared territories of the Tsartlip, Penelakut, WSÁNEĆ, and Quw'utsun Peoples—and the ceded, shared territory of the Tsawwassen First Nation—her work focuses on protecting place, story, and Indigenous leadership for future generations.

Jeannine is known for her heart-led, grounded approach and her ability to hold space for systems change through storytelling, connection, and truth-telling. She contributes to community development, cross-cultural research, and policy work as a community knowledge holder, often collaborating on cross-border and Indigenous-led revitalization initiatives. Her greatest joy comes from fostering relationships—between people, place, and possibility—and, when the moment is right, sharing a good story about Dungeness crab babies.



**SUHUNEP HUSMEEN – TROY OLSEN** is a Lhaq'temish (Lummi) knowledge keeper, cultural leader, and co-founder of Whiteswan Environmental (WE), a Native-led nonprofit dedicated to healing, environmental stewardship, and the revitalization of Indigenous governance. A proud member and president of Lummi Nation, Troy carries ancestral names with deep lineage—Suhunep, passed down for 10 generations, and Husmeen, carried for over 20 generations—reflecting his enduring connection to his people's history, land, and traditions.

Recognized as a reef net captain, Troy plays a vital role in revitalizing the Sxwo'le (reef net fishing) tradition, an ancient and culturally significant practice of the Straits Salish people. He actively supports youth in reconnecting with this tradition in the San Juan Islands and Gulf Islands, ensuring that the knowledge, skills, and spiritual significance of reef net fishing are passed down to future generations.

As a Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) keeper, Troy is committed to preserving cultural heritage, ensuring that the teachings of his ancestors guide future generations. He actively practices and shares his traditional way of life with his family and community, emphasizing the importance of Indigenous knowledge systems in restoring ecological balance and strengthening cultural identity. He reminds us, *"There is a lifetime in the curriculum in learning the old ways,"* a reflection of his deep respect for ancestral wisdom and its role in shaping a thriving future.



Bios Continued on [next page](#).

## MAPPING STORIES, HEALING LANDS: ECOCULTURAL MAPPING FOR RECONCILIATION &amp; LEARNING

**KUSEMAAT ~ SHIRLEY WILLIAMS** is a Lhaq'temish (Lummi) leader, cultural knowledge keeper, registered nurse, and co-founder of Whiteswan Environmental (WE) and Whatcom Intergenerational High School (WIHS). She is dedicated to healing historical trauma, revitalizing Indigenous governance, and advancing environmental justice. Through WE, she works to restore ancestral village sites, protect treaty rights, and revitalize the Sxwo'le (traditional reef net fishing) tradition, fostering transboundary Indigenous sovereignty and food sovereignty.

A Bureau of Land Management Monument Advisory Committee representative, Kusemaat was recognized by Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland for her significant cultural and historic knowledge of landscapes, archaeological sites, and cultural sites. With a deep commitment to education and intergenerational learning, she co-founded WIHS to balance Indigenous and Western ways of knowing, ensuring that youth are rooted in cultural identity and place-based learning.

Whether through healthcare, education, or environmental advocacy, Kusemaat continues to be a guiding force in cultural resurgence and community healing.



Ku se maat ~  
Shirley Williams

**KWASTLMUT – SADIE OLSEN** is a Lhaq'temish (Lummi) leader, scholar, educator, and co-founder of Whiteswan Environmental (WE), a Native-led nonprofit dedicated to cultural and environmental restoration. A member and resident of Lummi Nation, she is deeply connected to her ancestral homelands and works to support the restoration of longhouses, honoring the knowledge and traditions of her people.

Sadie is a Language and Culture teacher at Whatcom Intergenerational High School (WIHS), the school co-founded by WE, where she integrates Indigenous ways of knowing into education. Sadie's Bachelor of Science in Native Environmental Science at Northwest Indian College focuses on decolonization, relationship building, place-based learning, and health. Passionate about revitalizing Indigenous wisdom—particularly the Lummi language—her capstone project explores social learning theory to research salmon and the Salmon People of the Salish Sea.

A recognized changemaker, she received the 30 Under 30 Changemakers Award for Social Justice and the Dotty Dale Youth Peacemakers Award. Sadie is committed to strengthening community through cultural resurgence, environmental stewardship, and Indigenous-led education.



Kwastlmut –  
Sadie Olsen

**DANA AYOTTE** is a Senior Inclusive Designer at the [Inclusive Design Research Centre](#) at OCAD University, where she collaborates with a team of designers, developers and others working to make digital technology more inclusive, equitable and accessible to all. After many visits to Galiano Island the natural beauty drew her in and she decided to stay for a while, during which time she volunteered with the Galiano Conservancy and was involved with the Biodiversity Galiano project. Learning about the local biodiversity fuelled her passion for ecological protection and restoration and so began her work on the [Xetthecum Digital Ecocultural Mapping project](#) where she contributes to the design of the mapping tool. Dana is an artist with a practice that often addresses themes of nature and the environment. Her work is interdisciplinary and includes printmaking, textiles, drawing and installation, with a focus on using repurposed materials and Earth-sustaining practices. Dana is grateful to live and work on the unceded territory of the Coast Salish peoples also known as Vancouver, BC. Most days she can be found walking her dog in the forest. She is honoured to be a part of the IMERSS community!



Dana Ayotte

**TRUSTEE LEADERSHIP SERIES -  
FRAMEWORK TO ENHANCING STUDENT LEARNING**

The Leadership Series invites trustees to reflect on their governance and over-sight roles, and encourage them to seek available data and evidence to guide their decision making. This session will share a framework that trustees can use along with other BCSTA-developed resources. The presenter will also examine the opportunities this collaboration with government and other partner agency has opened for BCSTA and its member school boards.

The Leadership Series is one-way BCSTA provides professional learning for school trustees in their communities. The recent series focuses on the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning, which dives into the success of Indigenous students and students in care. The series was provided in collaboration with the BC First Nations Education Steering Committee and the BC Representative for Children & Youth, illustrating the potential of such partnerships.



Gordon Li

**GORDON LI**, a professional of many experiences, Gordon Li has served as Director of Education Services for the British Columbia School Trustees Association (BCSTA) since 2019. Previously, he was Director of Learning Technology with the British Columbia Ministry of Education, President of the BC Principals and Vice-Principals Association and served as a high school principal from 1999 to 2014, in Burnaby School District.

**TRACY LOFFLER** serves as the President of the British Columbia School Trustees Association (BCSTA) and is also the Board Chair and a dedicated trustee for the Mission School District.

Known for her thoughtful leadership and commitment to equity, Tracy is steadfast in her goal to strengthen education systems and ensure every student has the opportunity to thrive. Motivated by a deep desire to support all students, the Leadership Series, Framework for Continuous Improvement, provided an opportunity to bring into focus ongoing achievement gaps and explore ways for school trustees to create conditions for improved student outcomes.



Tracy Loffler

Her passion for student success and public education continues to guide her work as BCSTA President, she brings a local perspective to the provincial table, representing school boards across British Columbia with integrity and a strong focus on collaboration.

**THE BRANT REPORT: RECOMMENDATIONS TO ACHIEVE  
RECONCILIATION ACROSS ALL SCHOOL BOARDS**

Commissioned by the Canadian School Boards Association in 2022, the "Brant Report" was approved by the CSBA Board of Directors in 2024. Across four distinct sections, the report provided an overview of education and colonialism; posited recommendations and strategies for engagement and communication between CSBA, its member associations and their member school boards with Indigenous communities and organizations; provided an overview of survey results collected from school boards to inform this work; and listed many useful resources for CSBA and its members to use in future work.



DANIEL J. BRANT &amp; ASSOCIATES



**DANIEL J BRANT**, PhD MASc MPA CAFM is a member of the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte and has been operating as a consultant for 40 years. His consulting experience in his own firm includes an associate relationship with Coopers & Lybrand prior to their amalgamation with Price Waterhouse Coopers. Most recently, he served as the CAO of his home community for nearly 5 years and was involved in the heart of community issues. He has also served as CEO with several First Nations organizations including the Assembly of First Nations, National Aboriginal Capital Corporation Association and the Dreamcatcher Charitable Foundation, and held senior leadership positions within First Nations communities. He completed his PhD in the department of Education from Nipissing University and holds two Masters degrees, one in Engineering and the other in Public Administration. The combination of his experience and academic work were an asset to the authorship of the report and recommendations submitted to CSBA.





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**DAY 2 - JULY 4  
AFTERNOON**



## **AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS DAY 2 (CONTINUED)**

**JULY 4, 2025 - 1:00 PM TO 2:00 PM**

### **HARNESSING LEADERSHIP: TURNING IDEAS INTO ACTION TO ADDRESS ANTI-BLACK RACISM FOR STUDENTS IN ONTARIO**

Join representatives from the Ontario Public School Board Association (OPSBA) in a dynamic session exploring the critical role of trustees in addressing anti-Black racism within Ontario's education system. This workshop will provide a timeline of key policy changes, intentional leadership moves, an overview of provincial demographics as well as the formation and mandate of OPSBA's Black Trustees' Caucus (BTC). Participants will gain insights into the BTC's submission to the Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) and highlight the board related findings of the OHRC report, [\*Dreams Delayed: Addressing Systemic Anti-Black Racism and Discrimination in Ontario's Public Education System\*](#). With a focus on governance structures, we will highlight school boards that have successfully implemented human rights and equity-driven policies that have led to positive outcomes for Black students. Engage in meaningful discussions and leave with actionable strategies to lead change in your own board.

**KATHLEEN WOODCOCK** elected to the position of OPSBA President in July 2024, is a six-term trustee on the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB). Prior to becoming OPSBA president, Kathleen served as First Vice-President and before that, as Second Vice-President. She has been involved in many leadership positions at her home board including chair, vice-chair, past chair and member/chair of many statutory and ad hoc committees.

President Woodcock holds a Master of Social Work degree and a Bachelor of Arts degree, both from Wilfrid Laurier University. A strong believer in life-long learning, Kathleen attained her MSW while working full-time at WLU and to move her professional career forward to the next level.

Kathleen retired from the City of Kitchener's Community Services Department in 2020. Together with her experience and education in community development, community engagement and policy development and her 20+ years as a locally elected trustee, Kathleen works from a strengths perspective in her advocacy for a strong public education system with access for all students, regardless of their background.



Kathleen Woodcock

**STEPHANIE DONALDSON** has served as OPSBA's Executive Director since 2022.

As a former elected school board trustee with the Toronto DSB, a member of OPSBA's Executive Council, and Vice-Chair of the Toronto Board of Health, Stephanie works to safeguard and enhance the education and well-being of young people and their families and communities. Prior to becoming a trustee, she held executive roles in the Ontario Public Service, including at the Ministry of Education where she led the transformation of the education sector's collective bargaining system. She is a graduate of the Rotman Public Service Leadership Institute and holds a Master's degree from the National University of Ireland. Whether it is advocating for a stronger and more equitable education system, re-imagining public policy and delivery, or working towards more healthy, liveable and just communities, she leads with heart and a trusted voice.



Stephanie Donaldson

Bios Continued on [next page](#).



**CSBA—ACCCS 2025**  
JULY 3-4 | JUILLET 3-4 | VIRTUAL

**DAY 2 - JULY 4  
AFTERNOON**



## **AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS DAY 2 (CONTINUED)**

**JULY 4, 2025 - 1:00 PM TO 2:00 PM**

### **HARNESSING LEADERSHIP: TURNING IDEAS INTO ACTION TO ADDRESS ANTI-BLACK RACISM FOR STUDENTS IN ONTARIO (Continued)**

**MICHELLE RODNEY BARTALOS** is a veteran educator and a strong advocate for an inclusive public education system. She has been with OPSBA since 2023, initially serving as Liaison to the Black Trustee Caucus and currently as Director of Education Equity. In this role, she ensures that human rights and equity remain a consistent and integrated lens for consultations, stakeholder engagement, programs, policy development, and advocacy.

Her prior experience includes serving as Principal in both the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) and the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB), where she focused on school improvement initiatives and building collaborative relationships with

stakeholders. Michelle has also gained valuable expertise in leadership and adult learning models through her experiences in the USA and Australia. She holds a Certificate in Human Rights for Education Professionals in addition to her other educational credentials, and is a member of OPC and OCT.

Prior to joining OPSBA, she was the System Principal of Equity for HWDSB and currently consults on EDI while also serving on the Board of Directors for two local non-profit organizations.

