

Conference 2022 Breakout Sessions

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Friday April 22	
12:30 pm	Opening, Partner Greetings
1:00 pm	Opening Plenary
1:45 pm - 2:45 pm	Breakout Sessions
2:45 pm - 3:45 pm	Networking
3:45 pm - 5:00 pm	Conversation Exchange
Saturday April 23	
8:45 am	Welcome
9:00 am - 10:00 am	Breakout Sessions
10:15 am	Keynote Speaker
11:00 am	Networking
12:00 pm - 12:45 pm	Lunch Break
12:45 pm - 1:30 pm	Plenary Presentation
1:45 pm - 2:45 pm	Breakout Sessions
2:45 pm - 3:45 pm	Networking
3:45 pm - 4:30 pm	Closing Plenary
5:00 pm - 6:15 pm	Pre-AGM Sessions
Sunday April 24	
8:30 am - 9:00 am	Opening Address
9:00 am - 12:00 pm	Business Meeting, Board Elections
12:00 pm - 12:45 pm	Lunch Break
12:45 pm - 4:00 pm	Business Meeting, Board Elections



April 22, 23, 24, 2022

School Councils Conference

Annual General Meeting
Alberta School Councils' Association

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BREAKOUT SESSIONS LIST

Friday 1:45 pm – 2:45 pm

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Saturday 1:45 pm – 2:45 pm

[Council of School Councils Working in the School Division: Assurance in Action](#)

[Building Futures in Alberta: Financial Literacy is Coming to the K-12 Classroom!](#)

[The Why and How of Alberta's Standardized Test](#)

[Fostering Wellness and Compassion through Environmental Education](#)

[Emotional De-escalation at Home](#)

["One Small Thing"](#)

Conversation Exchange Friday April 22 @ 3:45 pm

School Councils: Cultivating Compassion

How do school councils work to promote positive engagement and wellbeing in the school community to benefit student success? What does compassion look like in your school community?

The “conversation exchange” utilizes breakout group exercises to generate ideas and input for sharing.

School Councils can and do influence practices and actions promoting positive engagement in their school communities with the purpose of supporting and enhancing student success. During this online conversation exchange, come prepared to share your ideas, experiences, successes, and challenges as representatives from school councils across Alberta learn from each other.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS FRIDAY APRIL 22nd 1:45 PM – 2:45 PM



Lyndsey Spring

Nature as Teacher: Cultivating the Whole Child through Outdoor Learning

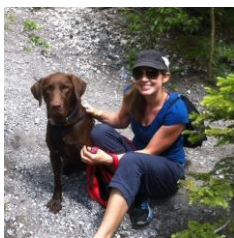
Alberta Health Services (AHS) School Health & Wellness Promotion Team

Nature is all around us in Alberta. Exposure to nature increases opportunities for students to play and to be more physically active. It nurtures compassion, supports social emotional skills and improves stress management for all ages. Even more, it creates meaningful opportunities for students and staff to connect with each other and with the land.

In this session, we'll explore practical ways that schools are weaving the outdoors into daily activities, play, and leisure time at school. We'll illustrate the important role that parents and caregivers can have in supporting schools to provide students with meaningful time in nature.

Get inspired with resources, stories, and tips for your parent community to help make it happen.

Lyndsey and Teresa are Health Promotion Facilitators with Alberta Health Services, School Health & Wellness Promotion team. The School Health & Wellness Promotion Team within Alberta Health Services, partners with school authorities to promote nutrition, physical activity, and mental health using a Comprehensive School Health (CSH) approach.



Teresa Curtis

The Power of Parents: Passion Led Us Here

Dianne McConnell, Parkland School Division

Dianne is a parent and an educator with 46 years of experience working within the education sector. Parents are our best experts and advocates for their children. Join Dianne for this session as she talks about the importance of being that one caring adult in the life of a child, setting high expectations and most importantly how to be an authentic member of your child's educational learning team.

Dianne began her career as a teacher with the Parkland School Division. She has completed her PhD in Special Education and is also a registered psychologist. She has worked as a Vision Consultant (Teacher for the Visually Impaired), Director of Student Services at multiple school divisions, led the Alberta Provincial initiative for inclusion (Setting the Direction) and has been the Associate Superintendent with Parkland School Division over the past eight years.

While her list of career accomplishments is indeed extensive, perhaps more important has been her role as a parent. She is also the mother of three children, two of which have complex health conditions,



Dianne McConnell

including vision loss. She has been involved in advocacy in the field of Blindness and Visual Impairment at both the provincial and national levels for over 30 years. Dianne brings a unique perspective to this subject matter. Through her experience as an educator and a parent of children with severe disabilities, she is well-versed on the ongoing challenges families and practitioners face in dealing with complex situations. She has worked as a service provider and has also been the benefactor of service provision. She has been a dedicated advocate throughout her career and is passionate about making a difference for children and their families.



Amy von Heyking

School Curriculum Development and Implementation in Alberta

University of Lethbridge

Our official K-12 school curriculum embodies the state's answer to the question: What must children learn so they can function appropriately as adults in our society? Answering this question is complicated because it is an expression of what we value as a society. It requires critical consideration of the nature of knowledge, children, teaching, learning, and society. Historically, it has been informed by frameworks that have differing goals, values, and understandings.

The past decade, however, has seen public and professional discussion around curriculum reform descend into ideologically-driven, partisan conflict in Alberta. What makes curriculum development so complicated? How did it become so contentious? This session examines curriculum developments of the past decade, identifies key features of the current K-6 draft, and indicates how we might move forward to ensure that Alberta students get the high-quality curriculum they deserve.

Amy von Heyking is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Education at the University of Lethbridge. Her PhD in Educational Policy Studies focused on the history of Alberta school curriculum, particularly citizenship education. She is the author of *Creating Citizens: History and Identity in Alberta Schools* (2006). She has published books and articles on the history of Canadian schooling, curriculum studies, and history teaching and learning. She is the author and editor of a number of history teaching resources. She served on the Minister of Education's Curriculum Advisory Panel in 2019-20.



Reg Krake
Executive Director
(he/him/his)

SOGI 1 2 3: A Pathway to Safe and Inclusive Schools

ARC Foundation

Join us for a conversation on the importance of creating safe and welcoming learning environments for students of all sexual orientations and gender identities (SOGI). Learn more about SOGI 1 2 3, including the support available for educators, and resources for parents and families!

Reg is an executive leader with over 20 years' experience in the for-profit and non-profit sectors and as an educator with several years of teaching experience. He is a focused, team-oriented and results driven leader that brings an unwavering passion for, and commitment to, education and inclusivity.

Daley is a community facilitator, researcher, and project manager with a deep commitment to 2SLGBTQ+ inclusion and equity. Their passion lies in supporting individuals and organizations to create futures where more of us can bring more of ourselves more of the time. They value creativity and connection as tools for systems level change.



Daley Laing
SOGI 1 2 3 Lead Alberta
(they/them/theirs)



David Knechtel



Rod Snaterse

I HAVE, I AM, I CAN: Building Resilience in Children

Alberta Health Services

In today’s world, our children seem to face change and stress at every turn. More than ever, our children need to feel supported, resourceful, and equipped so they can ‘bounce back’ from life’s challenges more effectively. In this session, we will discuss ways that parents and caregivers can increase their child’s resilience. We will look at foundational strategies that help children and youth to engage with supportive relationships and communities (“I have!”), identify their internal strengths and abilities (“I am!”), and access practical skills (“I can!”) to help them cope through daily stressors and work towards positive goals.

David Knechtel has devoted his career as an occupational therapist and counselling therapist to working with children and adolescents and providing supports to the parents and teachers who care for them. As an Addictions & Mental Health Educator with Alberta Health Services, David develops and facilitates education sessions for caregivers and professionals and leads groups for parents and children. David enjoys supporting mental health literacy and wellness in individuals, organizations and his community.

Rod Snaterse is an Addictions & Mental Health Educator with Alberta Health Services who brings to the role 23 years’ experience as a public school teacher along with a Master of Education with a specialization in adult and community education. He has experience as an instructor for graduate students and university teacher education programs, including a course on mental health literacy. In his current role, Rod enjoys developing and leading teacher professional development and mental health education for caregivers. He has also supported the development of a Day Hospital Classroom and Summer Transitional Programming for students with mental health concerns.

Cultivating Compassion in the Virtual Meeting Environment

Alberta School Councils’ Association (ASCA) Board of Directors

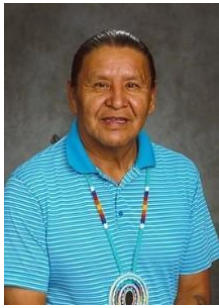
Join Directors from the ASCA Board to learn how compassion and relationship building has been an intentional focus during all ASCA Board of Directors Meetings since April of 2020.

With new Board members coming in each April after the AGM, what did the Board as a whole, and individual Directors, do differently to get to know each other on a personal level, so that the professional, and often difficult, discussions and decisions needed were balanced with the compassion so much more easily acquired in the ‘in-person’ environment?

Also hear how some school councils are incorporating ‘get to know you’ activities into their virtual and online school council meeting routines. *Time will be provided to hear your stories, too!*



ASCA Board of Directors



Wilson Bearhead

Understanding the Importance of Indigenous Parent and Community Engagement

Join us as we have conversations about the importance of Indigenous parent, family and community engagement and how to create more meaningful and respectful relationships. We will share our experiences both personally and professionally within the education system as Indigenous people ourselves.

Wilson Bearhead is a Nakota Elder and a member of the Wabamun Lake First Nation in Treaty 6 Territory. Wilson has served as the Chief of his community, Grande Chief of Treaty 6 and Assembly of First Nations Alberta Regional Chief. He began his career in the field of addictions, mental health and supports for children in care. Over the years Wilson had dedicated his time, always in service to the community, families and children, in roles that include Elder at federal corrections agencies, public libraries and in schools. Most recently Wilson Served as the Elder for Elk Island Public Schools. Wilson's grandmother Annie was a powerful, positive influence in his young life, teaching him all of the lessons that gave him the strength, knowledge and skill to overcome difficult times and to embrace the gifts of life.



Seneca Dueck

Seneca Dueck is a member of the Kahkewistahaw First Nation in Treaty 4 territory. Born Salteaux/Assiniboine Seneca was raised in the ways of the Nakota people of Treaty 6 territory. Seneca's career has been focused in Education working to support Indigenous youth in their endeavors to navigate the public education system in Alberta, and to inspire non-Indigenous youth to confront long held views of Canadian history through the experiences and lens of Indigenous peoples and the complex relationships with the people of this land.

Cultivating Compassion and Connection with Resiliency

One of our greatest desires is belonging and connectedness to a group or community. Yet, our life experiences, relationships, beliefs, and internal thoughts keep us separate and prevent us from experiencing all that life has to offer.

In this session, Lori Veres will take you on a journey to become more aware, open, and curious about yourself and others through the lens of compassion. Practicing compassion calms your nervous system, decreases stress levels, helps you think more clearly and increases your capacity to navigate life's challenges. Rooted in compassion and connection to your heart, you will gain tools to be open to love with a renewed sense of resiliency and hope.

In this session, you will explore:

- How compassion differs from empathy, sympathy, and kindness
- The science of compassion and the connection to your heart
- Tools to navigate the challenges of being human
- Why cultivating self-compassion can be difficult
- Ways to foster compassion for self and others
- The positive impact of compassion

Lori Veres is an entrepreneur and business leader passionate about personal and professional development. She loves to help people understand how their family system, childhood traumas and beliefs may limit their capacity for deep, authentic connection.

Lori has a degree in Human Kinetics from the University of British Columbia, but her passion for enhancing the collective human experience stems from the past two years, working towards her diploma in Transpersonal Psychology.

In 2023 Lori will be a registered counsellor and will continue to use her knowledge, skills, and life experience to cultivate and encourage healthy sharing, vulnerability, connectedness, compassion, and resiliency in personal and professional settings.



Lori Veres



Karen Filewych

Understanding the New English Language Arts and Literature Curriculum

This presentation will provide you with an understanding of the structure and content of the new English Language Arts and Literature curriculum. Karen will also share what to expect in your children's classrooms and ways that you can support your children with literacy at home.

Karen Filewych has twenty-five years of educational experience as an elementary teacher, school administrator, and language arts consultant. In 2007, she completed her Master of Education degree in the area of literacy. Karen's first book - *How Do I Get Them to Write?* - was published by Pembroke Publishers in May of 2017. Her second book - *Freewriting with Purpose* - was published in January of 2019. Both books are practical guides for the teaching of writing and include lists of mentor texts for each area of study. Karen continues to write and has some exciting projects in the works!

Karen presents regularly for teachers on a variety of topics. She especially enjoys working with students through school-based writing residencies to demonstrate how writing can transform their work and their lives in the classroom and beyond. She also offers parent literacy evenings providing simple, effective ways to engage children in literacy-rich activities in the home.



Tammy Leslie

Looking at the New (K-3) Math Curriculum

Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium (ERLC)

Alberta Education defines Mathematics as ... “a subject in which students study patterns and relationships to understand various aspects of the world” (2021). Come learn about the new Elementary math draft curriculum.

In this session parents will be provided with an overview of the new K-6 math curriculum, including some of the major shifts in both knowledge and skills from the current to new.

Tammy Leslie has been an educator for over 30 years. She spent 23 years teaching in Grades 1 through 6 and the past 8 years as an Elementary Math Consultant with Edmonton Catholic Schools. As a consultant, Tammy had multiple opportunities to work with many individuals both within and outside the division; including consultants, administrators, teachers and students to provide ongoing support and guidance in developing and deepening best math practices in inclusive communities.

Tammy is passionate about math and numeracy. Her goal, as a Learning Facilitator with ERLC, is to support educators in their continued efforts to understand and address the need for impactful strategies in math and numeracy. She believes in a collaborative approach model with teachers as leaders, where we can work ON practice, IN practice. She aims to co-construct meaningful professional learning to guide instruction and maximize student learning.



Patrick Bohnet

The New K-6 Physical Education / Wellness Curriculum

Central Alberta Regional Consortium (CARC)

This presentation will provide you with an understanding of the structure and content of the NEW K-6 Physical Education/Wellness curriculum. What has changed? How can parents support their children? What questions do you have?

Patrick is the Executive Director of the Central Alberta Regional Consortium. Patrick's education includes a BEd, MEd, and Graduate Diploma in Educational Technology. Patrick has been a consultant for CARC and has over 30 years of classroom and administrative experience with five school divisions. During the last Physical Education and Health Curriculum change, Patrick was the Zone 4 implementation specialist.



Tannis Niziol

Effective Classroom Assessment

Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium (ERLC)

Effective classroom assessment tells a story. By design, the story of student learning should capture not only the *summative* assessments teachers use to determine a final grade, but also reveal the many *formative* steps a student has taken in the face of new learning. This session will explore the powerful connection between formative in-learning feedback and the summative assessment results teachers communicate to parents.

Tannis is currently supporting Alberta teachers as a Professional Learning Facilitator with the Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium. She recently served as a curriculum consultant for the Edmonton Catholic School Division. Throughout her 30-year career as an educator, in both Edmonton and Winnipeg, Tannis remains passionate about teaching and learning, and the need for explicit literacy apprenticeship at all levels in all subject areas. Tannis is a voracious reader who believes all students deserve access to rich, diverse reading experiences and to a safe equitable space to talk about what they see, hear, think and feel. She is on a journey to disrupt and bring clarity to the conversations that drive our planning and assessment practice.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS B. SATURDAY APRIL 23rd 1:45 PM – 2:45 PM



Brenda Cryer

Council of School Councils Working in the School Division: Assurance in Action

Parkland School Division

Parkland School Division (PSD) shares a successful engagement of parents at both the school and division levels, working hard to get the Assurance Framework information into the school community.

Watch a short video of a live Council of School Councils (COSC) meeting and discuss the importance of school councils in a school division working together with each other, the school board trustees, and the school board administration.

Various school councils are able to work together to help each other by answering questions and sharing experiences as they may have solved the same types of concerns.

This session may help others understand more about what “Assurance in Action” looks like, and how it might work in their own school council and school community.

Brenda Cryer has been involved with school councils for 18 years. She has been involved with four different school councils, sometimes two at the same time, as well as participating in the division-wide Council of School Councils (COSC). Brenda received a Special Recognition award from the Office of the Superintendent of Parkland School Division for her many years of service. In 2019, Brenda was a recipient of the School Council Parent of Distinction Award from ASCA.



Debbie Vance

Building Futures in Alberta: Financial Literacy is Coming to the K-12 Classroom!

Canadian Foundation for Economic Education (CFEE)

CFEE is honored to be coordinating the ***Building Futures in Alberta*** resources in English and French for **Alberta Education** to support implementation in financial education and financial literacy for Alberta students, teachers and parents.

The ***Building Futures in Alberta*** project aims to integrate a basic economic and financial education into the Alberta curriculum in grades 7-12.

The session will explore the importance of improving financial capability and literacy that goes beyond calculating interest, using an ATM properly, and picking the right credit card. Efforts to improve the financial literacy of our youth is vitally important – not only to make good, informed financial decisions but to know how to stay in control of their financial lives – knowing where their money is going, working with a budget, setting goals, making trade-offs, living within their means, and setting manageable debt limits.



Deborah MacFadyen

This session will outline and share the multiple programs that support implementation of financial literacy topics for teachers and parents in the delivery to children and youth. It will provide an overview and then move to break out sessions for Grades 5-9, High School, and a Parent Program and Resource Session.

Debbie Vance, currently the team lead for **Building Futures in Alberta** is an educator in Alberta. Debbie designed and developed the *Career Pathways Model* for the Calgary Board of Education, and had the pleasure of implementing *Dual Credit Strategy* across the province of Alberta which has transformed student's future Career Paths. Debbie has worked with Alberta Education, Advanced Education and Alberta Labour developing the *Career Development Strategy for Alberta Connecting Learning and Work*.

Deborah MacFadyen, formerly with Calgary Board of Education as the Site Leader of Westbrook Outreach School, experienced K-12 educator, administrator, former CTS Alberta Education Resource Manager, PD facilitator, and published author whose academic credentials include B.Sc., B.Ed., and M.Ed. in Teaching, Learning and Supervision. She was previously the Vice President and Professional Development Director of the ATA Career Educator Council (CTEC), and currently, continues to serve as a Director on the SafeGen Board of Directors. Among other pursuits she is a consultant with CFE for the **Building Futures in Alberta** financial literacy resources for grades 7-12.



Tim Coates

The Why and How of Alberta's Standardized Test Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium (ERLC)

This session will explore why Alberta has a program of standardized testing. Information will be provided regarding the purpose of the tests and the processes that go into their design, development, and administration.

Time will also be devoted to exploring some of the common misunderstanding people have about these assessments. The presenter is a former director of diploma examinations with over twenty years' experience working at the Assessment Sector of Alberta Education.

After a number of years in the classroom, Tim Coates was seconded to Alberta Education as a Diploma Examination Manager; first for Social Studies 33, and later for Social Studies 30. From 2005 until 2014 Tim was the Director of the Diploma Examination Program Branch. His final service to Alberta Education was as the Coordinator of the Classroom Assessment Capacity project.

From 2009 until 2018, Tim served as a sessional lecturer at the University of Alberta, teaching a course in classroom assessment. Tim has offered many professional development presentations throughout Alberta and on occasion in the United States. He has been featured as a keynote speaker at district professional development and conventions. Tim's educational interests and expertise focus on how to make assessments that engage students and provide meaningful information.

Fostering Wellness and Compassion through Environmental Education Alberta Council for Environmental Education (ACEE)

Eco-anxiety, eco-grief, the climate crisis, COVID stress - these are all things students are facing today. You will hear from students who are part of the Alberta Youth Leaders for Environmental Education (AYLEE) about their student polling results, their experiences with eco-anxiety, and how being part of AYLEE and engaging in projects in their schools helps them deal with eco-anxiety. Join Jodi Lammiman of Refugia Retreats to explore how schools and teachers can help students deal with these feelings and learn some strategies and tools for helping students deal with these feelings of grief and anxiety.

Shauna Kelly joined ACEE in May 2019 and is the Youth and Program Coordinator for the Alberta Youth Leaders for Environmental Education (AYLEE). She is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental and Sustainability Studies at the University of Northern British Columbia and has a strong passion for environmental education.



Shauna Kelly



Jodi Lammiman

Jodi Lammiman is a certified eco-spiritual director (coach), community facilitator and artist living in Mohkinstis (Calgary, AB) in Treaty 7 territory. She has experience working in the public sector, non-profit sector and in higher education. Her work explores the intersections between personal change and systems change through the establishment of spaces that invite people into deeper relationships with self, community, and the natural world through ritual, dialogue, silence, and solitude. She has a Bachelor of Sacred Literature, MA in Leadership and a Certification in Spiritual Direction.



Sue Huff

Emotional De-escalation at Home

Are your kids experiencing emotional outbursts? Do you feel like everything you say seems to make it worse? Do you feel like you are walking on eggshells? This skills-based workshop will teach you a simple approach to emotional de-escalation to help. It works with brain science, is compassionate, effective, and easy to learn. This approach helps your child process emotions in a healthy way, and returns them to a more receptive and flexible mindset quickly. It also strengthens interpersonal relationships and rebuilds trust.

This workshop was developed by Dr. Adele Lafrance (PhD Clinical and Child Psychology) and is derived from her work in emotion focused family therapy.

Facilitated by Sue Huff, Family Peer Supporter with the Alberta Wellness Center for Eating Disorders and former Executive Director for Eating Disorder Support Network of Alberta. Sue is trained in Peer Support, Emotion Focused Family Therapy, and Mediation.

When Sue learned this skill, it was transformative in her own family as her child battled an eating disorder: *"This is literally a life-saving skill. People who are flooded with emotion are not rational, and if they feel alone and overwhelmed, they can make very desperate and sometimes irrevocable decisions. By helping them learn to regulate their emotions using this approach, we can show them that there is light at the end of the emotional storm."*



Jacquie Surgenor (left)

Krista Scott (right)

"One Small Thing"

Alberta School Councils' Association

Join ASCA Directors Jacquie Surgenor and Krista Scott as they share *One Small Thing* that your school council can do to connect the work of school council to your school's annual education plan. Jacquie and Krista will share how an initiative that Jacquie started at Salisbury Composite High School in Elk Island Public Schools to recognize school staff during the pandemic has successfully grown into a multi-school initiative that builds resilience in the school community, encourages staff, and supports the assurance framework. You will walk away from this session with everything you need to get started at your own school!

Both Jacquie and Krista have been long time participants in their respective school councils. They have served on school councils as their children grew from elementary through to graduating high school. They continue to be involved in their district Council of School Councils (COSC) as well as serving on the board of ASCA as provincial directors.

Choose one topic to join in on, or move between them all.

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|---------------------------------|--|
| Candidates Corner | Meet and ask questions of the candidates running for a position on the ASCA Board of Directors. |
| Parliamentary Procedures | Ask questions regarding process and procedures for the ASCA Annual General Meeting (AGM). |
| Resolutions Discussion | Ask questions and clarification to the Sponsors of the Advocacy Resolutions proposed for voting consideration at the ASCA AGM. |

Regarding the **AGM PRE-sessions (or Conference POST-sessions)** on Saturday evening at 5:00 pm – to 6:15 pm – these sessions can be accessed by using the Zoom links provided on the ASCA website.

There is no charge for these sessions, and attendees can be conference participants, AGM participants, or anyone wishing to attend. The three topics run for 75 minutes each, and are designed to be informal (no structured Agenda), to allow attendees to potentially move from one session to another in the time allotted.