



Alberta School Councils

**connect**

Delta Marriott Edmonton South

**2023**  
21.22.23 APRIL

Conference and Annual General Meeting

**Programme**

## SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Friday April 21	
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm	Pre-session A
2:00 pm - 4:30 pm	Pre-session B
2:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Check-in
4:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Trade Fair
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Welcome Social Mixer
Saturday April 22	
7:00 am	Check-in, Breakfast
7:45 am	Opening Greetings
8:15 am - 8:45 am	Plenary Presentation
9:00 am - 10:00 am	Breakout Sessions
10:00 am	Trade Fair & Refreshments
10:45 am	Keynote Speaker
11:30 am	Networking & Trade Fair
12:00 pm	Lunch
12:30 pm	Plenary Presentation
1:30 pm - 2:40 pm	Breakout Sessions
2:45 pm	Trade Fair & Refreshments
3:30 pm - 4:45 pm	Breakout Sessions
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Candidates Meet 'n Greet, Banquet Dinner
Sunday April 23	
8:00 am - 9:00 am	Check-in, Breakfast
9:00 am - 12:00 pm	Meeting, Elections
12:00 - 12:45 pm	Lunch
12:45 pm - 4:00 pm	Meeting, Elections

## CONTENTS

[Breakout Sessions List](#)

[Friday Pre Sessions](#)

[Conversation Exchange Session](#)

[Friday 7:30 pm](#)

[President's Welcome](#)

[Education Minister's Greeting](#)

[Keynote Session](#)

[Plenary Session](#)

[Saturday Breakout Sessions](#)

[9:00 am](#)

[Saturday Breakout Sessions](#)

[1:30 pm](#)

[Saturday Breakout Sessions](#)

[3:30 pm](#)

[Charity of Choice](#)

[Trade Fair Booth Map](#)

[Sponsors](#)

[Winner's Circle Prize Program](#)

[Entertainment](#)

[Venue Floor Plan](#)

[Schedule of Events](#)

[Social Media: #ASCAconf23](#)

Saturday 9:00 am – 10:00 am

[Equity, Inclusion and Schools: Reflections for School Councils](#)

[New Curriculum Overview and What is Yet to Come](#)

[Recovery is a Family Journey](#)

[An Essential Life Skill – Why Math is More Than Just Numbers](#)

[Indigenous Parent and Community Engagement](#)

[Creating School Community Cohesion and Resilience: How Can School Councils Help?](#)

Saturday 1:30 pm – 2:40 pm

[Supporting Safety and Success: Fostering SOGI Inclusion for the Wellbeing of All Students](#)

[The Reset Room: A Joint Mental Health Initiative](#)

[Social-Emotional Learning in ACTION](#)

[Students as Change Makers for Healthy School Communities](#)

[The 7 Grandfather Teachings and School Culture](#)

[Why Environmental Education Should Be Integrated Throughout the Alberta K-12 Curriculum](#)

Saturday 3:30 pm – 4:45 pm

[Understanding School Board Reserves](#)

[Disordered Eating and Poor Body Image: How can School Councils Help?](#)

[Mentoring and Student Wellbeing](#)

[Digital Citizenship - Help your Child Thrive in Today's Digital World](#)

[Financial Literacy Parent Resources and Supporting K-12 Schools and Students](#)

[Conversations About Assessment: A Parent's Guide](#)



## PRE SESSIONS FRIDAY APRIL 21<sup>ST</sup>

### CANMORE ROOM

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

#### Fundraising Associations Fundamental Principles

Fundraising Associations operate as legal entities with distinct rules to follow. This workshop will review the legislation and purpose of a Fundraising Association, its role and relationships with the school community, the role of the Board, and how decisions are made. This workshop is designed to guide new and existing Boards and Association members with a review of principles and some operations best practices.

2:00 pm - 4:30 pm

#### Fundraising Association Financial Practices

Fundraising associations are separate, legal entities with distinct rules to follow, responsibilities to comply with and liabilities to consider. Following sound financial management and proven business practices are critical for continued success in the school community. Topics include – identifying financial risks, managing risk, basic financial practices, and how to make spending decisions. Discussion of resource documents, templates and sample financial documents and reports to assist the association in creating a sound financial management plan.

#### Alberta School Councils' Association



Brenda Kell has twelve years' experience with School Councils in a variety of positions. Six years as a Fundraising Coordinator, two years as a parent representative to the GATE Parents Association, one year as Vice Chair and three years as a School Council Chair permits her to understand a wide scope of school council issues.

Brenda has volunteered extensively in schools with a focus on classroom presentations demonstrating how Math and Science are integrated into other subjects. Brenda is a retired Electrical Engineer and her professional background is in regulatory affairs, strategic planning and best practices.

Known in her neighbourhood as the Lab Lady, Brenda breeds champion Labrador Retrievers and is always happy to "talk dogs".

## CONVERSATION EXCHANGE FRIDAY APRIL 21<sup>ST</sup>

### ROYAL ROOM

#### Creating a hopeful vision for education.

How do school councils promote positive engagement and meaningful connections in the community to benefit student success?

#### Alberta School Councils' Association

The "conversation exchange" is a group table exercise 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 conversation exchange, come prepared to share your ideas, experiences, successes, and challenges as representatives from school councils across Alberta learn from each other.

## PRESIDENT'S WELCOME



**Welcome** to the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) Conference and Annual General Meeting (AGM) promoting parent engagement in public education.

Providing development sessions, information sharing and resources for the school community, our provincial event offers opportunity to engage in Education and network with school council members from across Alberta.

This event will bring school councils in Alberta back together again, to CONNECT, in person. With shared experiences, challenges and growth, an appreciation for community will celebrate the work of school councils.

Connection to advocacy, connection to the great work we do as school council members, and connection to each other! Your experiences, your voices and your dedication to support students has always been invaluable. We are looking forward to coming together to learn together, build community, and deepen connections to the invaluable resource that is parents on school councils.

Eighteen (18) topics are available in the breakout sessions offering elements of wellbeing, resilience, school culture, inclusion, learning equity, curriculum, and honouring family. In addition, two (2) pre-session topics on Fundamentals and Financial Practices for Fundraising Associations are offered.

We are pleased to have Dr. Debbie Pushor, join us for a keynote address "From Schoolcentric to Familycentric: A Gentle Revolution" on Saturday morning. Dr. Jennifer Turner, Director Centre for Wellbeing in Education at the University of Calgary will share insights on the impact of connections and family wellbeing, on Saturday as well.

We are excited to offer the integrated Trade Fair area – with exhibits, additional networking time, and the ever popular Winners Circle prize program - a highlight for many attendees.

Our banquet event promises to be a fun and engaging evening, and precedes the Sunday business meeting and election of the ASCA provincial Board of Directors.

***So, welcome - we are glad you could join us!***

Please enjoy the event. I look forward to reconnecting with all of you, and meeting those here for the first time, throughout the weekend. Parents are the experts in their babies, they are champions in their communities, and each of you meaningfully contributes to education in Alberta! We are so grateful for all the work you do and for the opportunity to spend time with you during this event!

*Brandi Rai*

Brandi Rai  
ASCA President



## Greetings from the Honourable Adriana LaGrange Minister of Education

On behalf of Alberta's government, I thank the Alberta School Councils Association (ASCA) for its dedication to excellence in Alberta's education system. Serving as the Minister of Education for the past four years, and as a school board trustee for the previous 11 years, I have dedicated much of my life to bettering Alberta's education system, yet I never cease to be amazed and inspired by Alberta's passionate and insightful parents and school council members.

The government believes parents deserve a strong voice in our education system, and your continued involvement is critical to the success of our students. I am constantly grateful for your perspectives. This annual conference is an essential opportunity for parents and educators from every corner of the province to collaborate, share ideas and become even better relationship-builders, advocates and advisors. Truly, your school communities are much healthier because of your continued commitment to learning and development opportunities such as this event.

For its part, Alberta's government is renewing and reinvigorating its commitment to Alberta's students with historic funding increases for the education system. The province's education budget is increasing by nearly \$2 billion over the next three years. In the next school year alone, the total funding we will provide to school authorities will be equal to \$44 million every day students are in school.

Many of the grants we provide to school authorities are increasing by as much as 10 per cent, and we are dedicating \$820 million specifically to help schools with growing class sizes. The increased funding in our latest budget will support the hiring of up to 3,000 education staff, including teachers, educational assistants, bus drivers and school support staff. We are taking decisive action to ensure teachers are supported and students receive the focused time and attention they need at school.

We are making these positive and impactful changes because we have been listening to Alberta's parents and frontline education staff. Your contributions are helping to make a difference. I wish you all a fruitful and constructive conference, and I look forward to what more we can accomplish together in the future.

Adriana LaGrange  
Minister of Education

April 2023





Dr. Debbie Pushor

## From Schoolcentric to Familycentric: A Gentle Revolution

Schools, typically, see themselves as the most significant place of teaching and learning for children, the site of the “main game” (Cairney & Munsey, 1995). Such a “schoolcentric” (Lawson, 2003) viewpoint positions teachers hierarchically above parents as the knowers or, in the least, as more knowing about children, teaching, and learning than parents. Further, it privileges the agenda of the school over that of the home. Parents are asked, as examples, to assist with or supervise their children’s homework in out of school hours, to sign reading logs, and to ensure children get enough to eat or enough sleep in order to perform well in school the following day. Additionally within a schoolcentric approach, parents are invited to sessions held at the school in which educators provide them with instruction on how to better help their children with literacy or numeracy activities, or to parent more effectively in other dimensions of their children’s care and learning.

In contrast, a “familycentric” (Pushor, 2015) approach places families at the center and it invites teachers, as those responsible for the schooling of children, to accompany parents and families in their lifelong work to educate their children, to walk alongside them. A familycentric approach calls for a “deeper noticing” (Bateson, 1994) of family in schools, curriculum, and pedagogy. In a deeper noticing of the families around them, educators learn of parents’ hopes and dreams for their children, and for themselves; come to know them and to understand the knowledge they hold and employ; grow to see and value the many ways in which they are engaged in educating their children – through cultural or religious teachings, experiences and activities they create for their children or in which they enrol them, their interactions with them, and the myriad of people, places and things to which they introduce them.

In this session, Debbie will share concrete ways that parents and educators can work toward a shift, both in attitude and practice, from schoolcentric to familycentric approaches in schools.

### Session Sponsored by



**Debbie Pushor, PhD**, is a mother of three adult sons, Cohen, Quinn, and Teague, and a former public school teacher, consultant, principal, and central services administrator. She currently works as a Professor in the Department of Curriculum Studies at the University of Saskatchewan.

In her program of research, Debbie has engaged in narrative inquiries into parent engagement and leadership, a curriculum of parents, parent knowledge, and systematic parent engagement. In her undergraduate and graduate teaching, Debbie makes central an often absent or underrepresented conversation about the positioning of parents in relation to school landscapes.

Visit Debbie’s website at [www.debbiepusher.ca](http://www.debbiepusher.ca) for information on her books, *Portals of Promise: Transforming Beliefs and Practices through a Curriculum of Parents* (Sense Publishers, 2013) and *Living as Mapmakers: Charting a Course with Children Guided by Parent Knowledge* (Sense Publishers, 2015); her video series, *Care as a Bridge Between Us*; her podcast series, *School Interrupted*; and her upcoming think tank to be held in Saskatoon on May 11-13<sup>th</sup>, 2023, *Walk Alongside International: A Parent Engagement Think Tank*. For more information on the think tank or to register, visit <https://parent-engagement.ca/>.





Dr. Jennifer Turner

### **Bridging the Connection Gap**

Social distancing, virtual classrooms, and working from home changed the way people interacted with friends, family members, colleagues, and schools. With a greater reliance of physical distance and virtual interactions, there has been a noticeable impact to mental health, wellbeing, resiliency, and meaningful connection. This session explores the power of human connection and the importance of bridging the connection gap.

Dr. Jennifer Turner currently serves as the Director of the Centre for Wellbeing in Education, Werklund School of Education at the University of Calgary. Dr. Turner is first and foremost a mother, a grandmother, and wife to a school principal.

As a former Superintendent of Schools and experienced k-12 senior leader, Jennifer has nearly 30 years in k-12 system. She has worked as a classroom teacher, inclusive education teacher, registered psychologist, school-based Principal, and district-based leader. Jennifer holds expertise in meeting the needs of diverse learners, school-based child and youth mental health promotion and intervention, and system leadership.

Jennifer Turner Ed.D., R. Psych.

[Centre for Wellbeing in Education](#), Werklund School of Education, University of Calgary

*Session Sponsored by*



**Alberta Regional Professional  
Development Consortia**  
Adult learning for students' sake





DIAMOND ROOM



Matt Mitschke



David Knechtel

### Equity, Inclusion and Schools: Reflections for School Councils

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

Many students come from households that experience stress, income instability, household food insecurity, poor social support networks, mental illness, differing physical abilities, and other challenges which can impact health and education outcomes. These students are in every school and every classroom.

This session will support school council members to reflect on activities that occur in school settings using an equity approach to better support students and families. Working through real-life school and classroom examples, we will use a growth mindset to identify strategies and solutions that can minimize adverse impacts on students and their families.

Matt Mitschke and David Knechtel are Health Promotion Facilitators with Alberta Health Services. As members of the School Health & Wellness Promotion team, they partner with school authorities in the Edmonton area to promote health and wellness in schools through a Comprehensive School Health (CSH) approach.

Matt is trained in public health and health promotion and has vast experience supporting school health and wellness across the province. David is trained as an occupational therapist and counselling therapist, and has worked extensively with children, youth and families in school, home and community settings. Both are experienced facilitators and enjoy building capacity in adults who support children and youth.

Session Sponsored by 

FORT MCMURRY ROOM



Adelee Penner

### New Curriculum Overview and What is Yet to Come

#### Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium

This session is designed to take a look at the K to 6 curriculum renewal in our province. We will explore the implementation calendar for the K-6 draft and newly mandated curriculums. We will explore the key themes for the new curriculums and take a brief look at each subject area as outlined in the curriculum.

Adelee Penner is a highly sought after consulting professional who has demonstrated her ability to realize system improvement and change disruption. She brings her practical experience of working with teachers, school-based and district leaders to her project consultation/work. She has been an educator and leader in school authorities in both Manitoba and Alberta. Adelee has leadership experience as an ABED Field Manager and an Assistant Superintendent of Schools. In addition to consulting, Adelee teaches Masters' level courses at the University of Alberta.

Adelee is able to create remarkable outcomes through her unshakable optimism. She enjoys working alongside leaders as she believes we have an ability to shape an innovative future together. Adelee's strengths lie in her ability to inspire and motivate people to achieve meaningful improvement; to see possibilities and create opportunities; she is a systems thinker; and her ability to craft meaningful processes through which remarkable outcomes are possible.

Session Sponsored by





Lerena Greig

**Recovery is a Family Journey**

**Parents Empowering Parents (PEP) Society**

A cyclical relationship exists between a loved one’s substance use and the community that supports them, which reduces well-being. Parents Empowering Parents (PEP) Society offers knowledge, tools, and a nonjudgmental space for people to voice their struggles in order to support their recovery. We will share some details concerning family healing and PEP’s innovative programming.

PEP serves families, caregivers, colleagues, friends, and anyone supporting a loved one struggling with substance or behavioral misuse.

Lerena Greig has worked in the non-profit sector for over 16 years in the field of addictions and mental health. She has presented all over Alberta with her lived experience and advocates for change. In 2019, she joined as a Director of the Board for Our House Addiction Recovery Centre.

As Executive Director of PEP Society, Lerena oversees programming and development, resources, partnerships and staffing. PEP is a registered charity that supports, educates and provides hope to families who have a loved one struggling with addiction.

Lerena is passionate about empowering families and individuals to take that step into recovery and break the cycle of addiction.

Debbie Bridge began her journey with PEP as a parent participant in the Family Recovery meetings. She joined the PEP team as a facilitator in 2019 and, using her group facilitation skills and personal lived experience, assists family members in their recovery journeys. Debbie is also the Program Manager for PEP, which includes management and evaluation of current and future programming.

Debbie is passionate about learning and aims to expand her knowledge and understanding through her personal experiences, PEP team interactions, and family contributions in the recovery meetings. She says it is an honour to walk alongside families as they learn what wellness means for them and to witness them regain their lives.



Debbie Bridge



Donna Prato

**An Essential Life Skill – Why Math is More Than Just Numbers**

**JUMP Math**

Research informs us that if students do well in math, they are statistically more likely to experience success later in life as better problem-solvers and thinkers. A child’s experience in math can do two things: make them feel more confident about their academic potential or, sadly, it has the potential to do the opposite and make them doubt their abilities.

Math is an essential life skill—one that all students should have access to. That’s why it is important for parents to be informed about the research in cognitive science on how children learn. This research has revealed that math should be accessible to every brain and that people don’t need to be born with a special ability to do well in the subject. The myth of ability is exactly that—a myth.

In this session, Donna will explore strategies that parents and teachers can use to help children believe they can excel at math. Come and find out why math is so important as we explore evidence-based ways of teaching that make learning exciting and equitable for all.

Donna taught Junior High Mathematics, Language Arts & Home Economics with Edmonton Public Schools for 35 years before retiring and joining the JUMP Math team in the fall of 2017. She is excited to share her knowledge of the classroom, combined with all that JUMP Math offers, to bring attention to the importance of Math education to parents and educators.

*Session Sponsored by*





Elder Wilson Bearhead

## The Value of Indigenous Parent and Community Engagement

### Roots of Resilience

Join in conversations about the importance of Indigenous parent, family and community engagement and how to create more meaningful and respectful relationships.

Elder Bearhead will speak to the importance of Indigenous parent involvement and how to create more inclusive and welcoming environments for Indigenous community members in school councils and - the impact once you do.

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. Wilsons 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.



Dr. Emily Milne

## Creating School Community Cohesion and Resilience: How Can School Councils Help?

### MacEwan University, McMaster University

Inclusive, accessible, equitable quality education is a priority in Canadian and international contexts. In Alberta, parents are recognized as “partners” in education, with the “responsibility to act as the primary guide and decision-maker” regarding their children’s education (Alberta Education Act, 2012, E-0.3). However, existing educational inequalities experienced by Canadian Kindergarten-Grade 12 students have been amplified by school closures, shifts to remote learning, and loss of services during the COVID-19 Pandemic, often leaving parents feeling confused, frustrated, and even powerless.

In this session we ask: “How can education systems be built back better to create more equitable, inclusive, and accessible post-pandemic educational opportunities?” Aligned with COVID-19 recovery research priorities, Drs. Milne and Robson draw on survey data collected by the ASCA to examine the successes, needs, and challenges that families experienced during and after the pandemic while supporting their children’s education. Findings are oriented to inform priority areas in educational practice and policy and to support school community cohesion and resilience. Attendees will use “graffiti walls” to identify ways individuals, school councils, school boards, and the Ministry of Education could address identified challenges and strengthen social cohesion in Alberta school communities during emergencies.

Emily Milne is an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology and a Board of Governors Research Chair at MacEwan University. She is a community-engaged researcher who uses theory and research methods to address and inform priority areas in education practice, teacher-training, and public policy, and to co-create solutions to social issues with community partners.

Karen Robson is Associate Professor of Sociology and Ontario Research Chair in Academic Achievement and At-Risk Youth at McMaster University. Specializing in statistical analysis and the sociology of education, she has worked on several projects that examine the determinants of postsecondary education pathways for high school students in Canadian urban centres, including how race, class, gender, and special education needs impact students’ transition to postsecondary schooling.



Dr. Karen Robson

DIAMOND ROOM



Daley Laing  
(they/them)

### Supporting Safety and Success: Fostering SOGI Inclusion for the Wellbeing of All Students

ARC Foundation

Practicing the inclusion of students of all sexual orientations and gender identities (SOGI) has a direct and substantial positive impact on the well-being of all students. Together, we will explore what SOGI-inclusion means, and how creating spaces that include 2SLGBTQ+ students is not only essential for them, but also beneficial for all students. Our conversation will address common questions about SOGI-inclusive education as well as routes parents can take to support this work in their schools.

Daley (they/them) is a community facilitator, researcher, and project manager with a deep commitment to 2SLGBTQ+ inclusion and equity. They value creativity and connection as tools for systems level change. In their role as SOGI 1 2 3 Program Lead for Alberta, they help educators to make schools more inclusive and safer for students of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

FORT MCMURRY ROOM



Jessica Moen

### The Reset Room: A Joint Mental Health Initiative

Sherwood Heights Junior High School (Elk Island Public Schools EIPS)

In 2021, Sherwood Heights Junior High, in partnership with the school council, launched a pilot program to address student mental health and absenteeism. The Reset Room is a part of a continuum of mental health supports within the school. It is a safe place for any student, whether they needed a few minutes away from the regular classroom, or the whole day. The pilot project started in February 2022; over 600 visits occurred in a 5 month period.

This year, the pilot project has been expanded across all junior highs in Elk Island Public Schools with a grant given by the Alberta Government.

In this session, we will talk about the pilot project, but also about the partnership between the school and school council which contributed to its ongoing success.

Jessica Moen is a school-based social worker at Sherwood Heights. Passionate about mental health, she has spearheaded many of the mental health initiatives.

Taylor Burton is the Acting Assistant Principal and Counsellor at Sherwood Heights. Before this role, she was a social studies and language arts teacher.

Jacque Surgenor chairs the Sherwood Heights School Council, is a past ASCA Director and advocates for the parent voice wherever she goes.



Taylor Burton



Jacque Surgenor  
Gaglione







Megan Brain (l)  
Shana Fairbank (r)

## Social-Emotional Learning in ACTION

### Ikigirl Wellness

Healthy emotional and social development in our early years lay the foundation for mental health and resilience throughout the lifespan (Mental Health Commission of Canada, 2023). While no one can predict if and when someone might experience a mental illness, comprehensive programs aimed at developing resilience and other protective factors such as autonomy and positive relations, have proven to be effective for an entire population, including those currently facing mental illness (CMHA, 2023).

Social and emotional learning (SEL) is a mental health promotional strategy that is used within schools which meets the Joint Consortium for School Health’s recommendations of promoting health through a Comprehensive School Health (CSH) framework. Our goal through Ikigirl Wellness is to help school communities implement SEL effectively.

This workshop will provide students, teachers, administrators, parents and community members the opportunity to gain a better understanding of what comprises SEL and allow for meaningful discussion around how this can be the most optimally implemented within a school community.

Megan Brain (HPEMEd, BPE, BEd)

My experience as a physical and health educator, fitness coach, athlete, mom, friend and life-long learner guides the work I do to “create”, “connect”, “teach”, and “inspire” others around me. I recently completed a Health and Physical Education Masters in Education through the University of Alberta during which I completed a thesis dissertation in “The Critical Components Necessary for the Successful Implementation of Mental Health Promotion in Secondary Schools”. Following this, Shana Fairbank and I were driven to start our passion project, Ikigirl Wellness, through which we create products and offer professional development that promotes mental health and well-being. We are excited about this journey and look forward to growing our wellness community.

Shana Fairbank (BPE, BEd, The Working Mind Facilitator -MHCC)

My background is in physical and mental health. As a physical and wellness educator, I have spent years researching, teaching and developing curriculum for Alberta. As a mom of four boys, coach and active member in my community, I see wellness challenges we face daily. Our goal is to help as many people as we can reach their wellness potential. Through seminars, resources and professional development I am excited to work through this wellness journey together!

Session Sponsored by



Jenn Mireau

## Students as Change Makers for Healthy School Communities

### Ever Active Schools

Student leadership and voice is an essential part of a healthy school community. In this session explore ways that leadership opportunities can be embedded in school culture and encouraged for all students, not just the ones who are already demonstrating strong leadership qualities. Let’s move beyond our assumptions of “what makes a good leader” and create space for all students to show their unique strengths! Learn from a variety of student leadership strategies and success stories from schools across the province and find opportunities to amplify student voices in your school community.

Ever Active Schools is a registered national charity designed to create and support healthy school communities. We engage and support schools through a Comprehensive School Health framework, which addresses health and education goals to improve the social outcomes of children and youth in Alberta. We offer professional learning sessions and conferences, a wide variety of free and low-cost classroom resources, healthy school projects and much more.

Jenn joined Ever Active Schools in 2022 as a Health and Wellness Consultant. Her experience comes from a dedicated career in sport and recreation. She strongly believes that living a healthy lifestyle is more than exercising regularly and eating well - it's also about building strong relationships, practicing emotional intelligence, connecting with the community and demonstrating kindness and gratitude. Jenn loves connecting with teachers across the province through professional learning and works directly with schools and community groups by exploring active school travel and other healthy school initiatives.

Session Sponsored by





Tammy Johnston

## The 7 Grandfather Teachings and School Culture

### Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium

Learn how to apply the 7 Grandfather Teachings; Love, Respect, Courage, Honesty, Wisdom, Humility, Truth, for character education at the elementary, junior high and senior high levels. This can be done for homeschooling or in a regular classroom setting using the resources that will be presented.

As a parent you can learn what the teachings are and how schools are incorporating these into their school culture.

Tammy is Metis and her family is from Selkirk, Manitoba. Her current practice focuses on indigenous education, particularly curriculum creation and her last project was a partnership with Ignite Centre for e-Learning and Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Council (KTCEA) to create lessons for their Outreach program for Grades 7 to 9 using indigenous ways of knowing and being and land-based learning. Tammy is a past board member and volunteer for 11.5 years with the Stardale Women's Group (stardale.org) that works to empower indigenous girls. Through her work with Stardale and KTCEA, Tammy has found a passion for assisting educators to integrate indigenous ways of knowing and being and land-based learning into curriculum.

Her personal time is spent with her grown children, Shiba Inu and Siberian Forest Cat. When Tammy's not with them she practices yoga, reads, write, sings (you can often find her at Calgary karaoke lounges), works on family genealogy, watches historical and science fiction shows, and gardens in the warmer months.

\*Her great-grandfather, James Mowat, has a school and park named after him in Fort Saskatchewan and a street in Edmonton (incorrectly spelled James "Mowatt").



Kathryn Melrose

## Why Environmental Education Should Be Integrated Throughout the Alberta K-12 Curriculum

### Alberta Council for Environmental Education

Representatives from the Alberta Council for Environmental Education will discuss the importance of the integration of environmental stewardship, sustainability, climate, and biodiversity education throughout the K-12 curriculum. They will briefly cover the current environmental concerns across the province, identify what is lacking in our education system, and explain why we need parents and other advocates to be a part of the solution.

This brief overview will be followed by representatives from ACEE's youth leadership group, Alberta Youth Leaders for Environmental Education (AYLEE) sharing the youth perspective regarding the importance of quality and fully integrated environmental education across Alberta.

The final 15 minutes of the session will provide time for Q & A.

Kathryn Melrose joined the Alberta Council for Environmental Education in 2022 as the Executive Director. Originally from Montana, she spent over a decade teaching environmental education in the K-12 system. After relocating to Alberta, she developed her non-profit leadership experience by supporting educators and Calgary educational districts. Equipped with a B.A. and M.A. in Education, Kathryn is passionate about ensuring the advancement of high-quality environmental and sustainability education throughout the province.

Dixie Taylor is ACEE's Director of Programs. Equipped with a B.A. and M.A. in Community Development, Dixie has extensive experience delivering, designing, and managing various youth programs and leading successful partnerships, communities of practice, and collectives with various non-profits, school districts and community partners.

**\*PLEASE NOTE: This session will be presented VIRTUALLY, as the topic is vital, and ACEE was unable to attend in person.**



Dixie Taylor



DIAMOND ROOM



Brian Smith

### Understanding School Board Reserves

#### Association of School Business Officials of Alberta (ASBOA)

There is often confusion and misunderstanding about school board, or school division, reserves. This session will help attendees understand what school board reserves are, what types of reserves school boards have, how and on what a reserve can be spent, who makes those decisions, and the rules around spending and accumulating reserves. Attendees will also learn the history of reserve accumulation and spending.

ASBOA Consultant, Brian Smith, is a CPA, CA, who recently retired from Alberta Education as the Director of Financial Reporting, which was responsible for all school board reporting and financial audits. Previously, Brian served as Secretary-Treasurer for large and smaller school divisions, and brings an exceptional knowledge of school authority administrative, operational, and government processes and requirements.

A father of two children who attended public school and now a grandfather with grandchildren in the public school system, he remains vested in the best interests of students in Alberta.

FORT MCMURRY ROOM



Sue Huff

### Disordered Eating and Poor Body Image: How can School Councils Help?

#### Alberta Wellness Center for Eating Disorders

Sadly, as early as elementary school, children are forming diet clubs, throwing out their lunches, and complaining about being fat. Social media exposure to body shaming messages, photoshopped images, and society's normalization of the diet culture are having a detrimental effect on the mental and physical health of children. Disordered eating (and eating disorders) are on the rise. This workshop will explain the difference between healthy eating, unhealthy eating, disordered eating, and eating disorders. It will help parents identify warning signs of disordered eating, give them tips on how to respond, including what to say (and what not to say). It will also provide information on ways to help your school or division become more body positive and challenge diet culture.

This session will also include the presenter's personal story of helping her child recover from an eating disorder, how teachers were the first to notice a problem, and how the school supported her child's learning throughout hospitalization and ongoing treatment, including the accommodations made to help her return to school.

Sue has been working in the mental health field, specializing in eating disorders for the past 10 years, ever since her child was diagnosed with Anorexia Nervosa. Sue is the Family Support Specialist at the Alberta Wellness Center for Eating Disorders and supports parents with this challenging illness. She is the founding and former Executive Director of the Eating Disorder Support Network of Alberta, and former Vice President for the Eating Disorder Foundation of Canada. She currently serves as the co-chair for the Caregiver Support Pillar of the Canadian Strategy for Eating Disorders and as a board member for the National Initiative for Eating Disorders. Sue is trained in emotion focused family therapy, mediation, and conflict resolution. She lives in Edmonton with her husband and dog, Chester. She goes scuba diving whenever she has the chance and occasionally performs on stage and in films.



Al Chapman

## Mentoring and Student Wellbeing

### Alberta Mentoring Partnership

Are you interested in ways to support and enhance student's mental health and wellbeing? Canadian research has found girls who were mentored were two times less likely to be depressed; boys and girls were two times and three times, respectively, less likely to have social anxiety and were two times less likely to exhibit conduct problems.

This session will look at different forms of mentoring in schools, both formal and informal. Ideas will be shared on how to incorporate or enhance mentoring in school to support student mental health and social emotional wellbeing. Participants will learn about the Alberta Mentoring Partnership and the resources available to help support mentoring in schools. We will cover a variety of mentoring topics, including:

- intergenerational mentoring;
- Indigenous mentoring;
- teen mentoring;
- virtual mentoring; and
- Career and Technology Studies credits.

Over the past 30 years, Al has built a career as an innovative leader in project management, program development, governance and events management. He started his professional journey as a music educator in a small rural school division and then moved to the Alberta public sector to work on many rewarding initiatives within the Government of Alberta, the Legislative Assembly Office and the University of Alberta. Al is currently the Lead, Projects and Governance for the Alberta Mentoring Partnership.

Session Sponsored by



Janet Bell

## Digital Citizenship - Help your Child Thrive in Today's Digital World

### Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium

Today, the challenges parents face raising kids in a digital world are so different from those of 20 years ago. Today's digital citizen is "inclusive, informed, engaged, balanced, and alert" (ISTE) - easier said than done, right? Does your child seem addicted to their smartphone, constantly anxious when not online, get sucked into the dark side of tech, lack the skills to sift what's real from what's fake, tumble down rabbit holes of TikTok and other social media, and all in all seem to lack a sense of presence in the "real" world? How can we parents help our kids ignite a strong inner compass to best guide their navigation of ongoing challenges that will continue to emerge in our "brave new world"?

In this session, we'll dip into the research and explore free online resources that can strengthen your awareness of the key digital citizenship areas of digital well-being, digital safety, media and information literacy, and social responsibility. Leave with a framework and practical strategies for supporting your child in taking charge of their online experiences rather than falling victim to them.

Digital literacy has been at the heart of Janet's work for over 30 years, as English teacher with Edmonton Public Schools EPSB, educational technology consultant in EPSB, and team member in other provincial initiatives. Specifically, her digital citizenship work began 20 years ago when she developed her first digital citizenship website, and her commitment to this area has continued alongside other initiatives, including presenting to parent groups in Edmonton Public Schools. Most recently, Janet has been collaborating with [EdVolve](#) in generating awareness across Alberta in their (no cost) forward-thinking digital citizenship framework. Janet Bell currently contracts to ERLC as Professional Learning Lead in the area of educational technology, and to ATLE (Alberta Technology Leaders in Education) as Director of Professional Learning.

Session Sponsored by





Debbie Vance

## Financial Literacy Parent Resources and Supporting K-12 Schools and Students

### Canadian Foundation for Economic Education (CFEE)

If you are concerned about the financial future for our Alberta youth, then this session is for you! The Parent Home Program has FREE fun activities from K to 12 to engage your children/youth in learning more about Money and Money Management at home. Parents and guardians can help greatly in preparing youth for their financial decisions and responsibilities - this program can provide help to get the “money conversations” started.

As one of three organizations selected to receive an **additional continuing 3-year grant from the Government of Alberta to help improve financial education**, Canadian Foundation for Economic Education (CFEE) is pleased and honored to share the Building Futures in Alberta (BFIA) financial literacy resources developed in both English and French for Alberta’s K-12 classrooms. Schools, parents and guardians can help greatly in preparing youth for their financial decisions and responsibilities through both school and home programs.

As the School Council Chair in your school this session will explore a wide range of FREE financial literacy resources and activities correlated to Alberta programs of study to support students at each grade level. Have your school council work with the school to host a Money Fair which is just like a Science Fair at your school!

Debbie Vance, currently the team lead for “Building Futures in Alberta” is an educator in Alberta, she has designed and developed the Career Pathways Model for the Calgary Board of Education. She 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, currently with Ambrose University as a University Consultant and formerly with Calgary Board of Education as the Site Leader of Westbrook Outreach School, experienced K-12 educator, administrator, former K&E and 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 has been the Vice President and Professional Development Director of the ATA Career Educator Council CTEC. Currently, Deb continues to serve as a Director on the SafeGen Board of Directors. As an author with McGraw-Hill Ryerson, Rogue Media, Classroom Video and Alberta Education, she has written both academic and occupational curriculum and resources. Among other pursuits she is a consultant with Canadian Foundation for Economic Education (CFEE) for the “*Building Futures in Alberta*” financial literacy resources for grades 7-12.



Deborah MacFadyen



Donna Yanew

## Conversations About Assessment: A Parent’s Guide

### Alberta Assessment Consortium

Many people think assessment is all about tests and report cards. However, when educators talk about assessment today, they are talking about a collection of evidence about what a student knows and can do. When your child comes home from school and talks to you about assessment, it might look and sound very different from what you experienced as a student. Classroom assessment is no longer something that is *done to* your child, but rather something that is *done with* and for your child, based on the professional judgement of teachers.

The purpose of this session is to help parents understand how and why classroom assessment is changing. These changes are based on the most recent and ongoing research that is taking place in education.

Donna Yanew B.Ed, M.Ed, has taught with several school districts throughout her career including Edmonton Public Schools for 25 years. She worked as a consultant leading many teachers and principals through teaching best practices, assessment, teaching online, and preparing for new curriculum. Donna has been both a keynote speaker and presenter for over 50 educational sessions and is passionate about teaching and learning.

## CHARITY OF CHOICE



In lieu of gifts to speakers/presenters, ASCA Board of Directors chooses a “charity of choice” to receive a donation.

The Charity of Choice for 2023 is **Food Banks Alberta**. *Empowering members to serve Albertans facing food insecurity.*

Food Banks Alberta is the provincial association of food banks in Alberta with a mission to strengthen the impact of the Food Banks Alberta network by sharing best practices, innovations, and essential resources between members, stakeholders, and community partners.

**We are comprised of over 100 members across the province.**

We strive to Lead. Feed. Share with communities large and small across Alberta.

### **OUR VISION**

Our leadership and strong network relationships create connected communities.

**Food banks Alberta** <https://foodbanksalberta.ca/>

#105, 3903 75 Avenue Leduc, AB T9E 0K3

**Phone:** 1 (780) 459-4598 **Toll-Free:** 1 (866) 251-2326 [contact@foodbanksalberta.ca](mailto:contact@foodbanksalberta.ca)

## WINNERS CIRCLE PRIZE PROGRAM

The Winners Circle feature for delegates is a variety of prize giveaways available to be won, with chances of winning increasing by visiting exhibits in the Trade Fair.

On the Friday schedule the Trade Fair opens at 4:00 pm until 7:00 pm, as well as on the Saturday schedule from 10:00 am to 3:30 pm. There are over 20 exhibits offering products, services, and resources relevant to schools, communities and fundraising associations.

Exhibitors will issue “Visit Vouchers” to delegates at their booths - which can be entered into the draws for prizes. The vouchers include delegate contact information for exhibitors use.

There is no limit on the number of vouchers collected by delegates and entered for prizes.

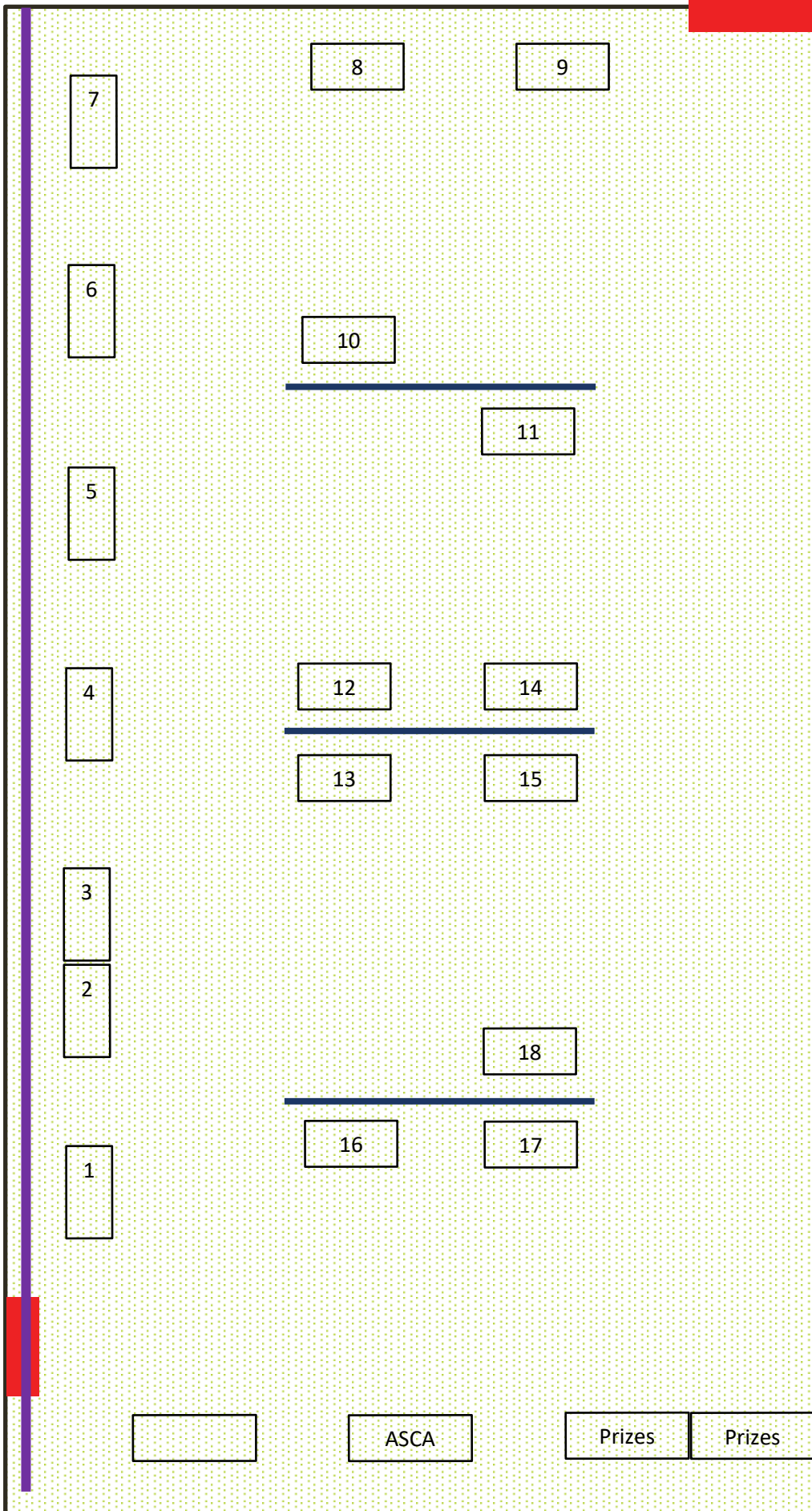
Prizes are provided by exhibitors and sponsors, on display in the Trade Fair.

Prize draws are done during the event (throughout both Friday and Saturday visiting hours) and winning tickets are posted on the prize itself.

Delegates must show their nametag matching the winning vouchers, and are expected to take the prize with them.

**Have fun and support our exhibitors in the Trade Fair!**





1. IAM Collective
- 2/3 Alberta Regional Learning Consortium
4. Canadian Foundation for Economic Education
5. CAREERS: The Next Generation
6. NFP Canada
7. Ever Active Schools
8. Lunchbox by SchoolCash Online
9. Image Signs
10. GPI - Masters of Play
11. Alberta Mentoring Partnership
12. JUMP Math
13. Edge Imaging
14. Blu Imp
15. Edmonton Oilers
16. ExamBank.com
17. Habitat Systems Inc.
18. Communakit
19. Canadian Parents for French Alberta



## EVENT SPONSORS

ASCA is grateful for the financial support provided by our event sponsors. Now more than ever, we appreciate the partnerships that enable the Association to continue providing a quality, meaningful event for participants.

Breakout session sponsors will provide brief company information at the start of the session, and in some cases, have created a **1 MINUTE** video ad to show. Delegate attention, and support for sponsors, is much appreciated.



Canadian Foundation for Economic Education



Ever Active Schools



Lunchbox by SchoolCash Online



NFP Canada



InsureLine Empire Brokers



MunchaLunch

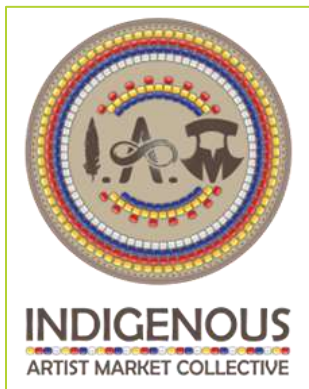


Public School Boards' Association of Alberta



TELUS Wise

A complete [Sponsor Directory Listing](https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/public/download/files/228476) with company descriptions, website and contact information is available at: <https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/public/download/files/228476>



### Indigenous Artist Market (IAM) Collective

Unique Handcrafted Items from a Growing Collective of Local Indigenous Artists

I.A.M Collective is an Indigenous arts collective of nearly one hundred First Nations, Metis and Inuit artists, Traditional Knowledge Holders, Entrepreneurs, Performers and creatives who promote authenticity over appropriation by providing a place for market goers to purchase authentic, local Indigenous art and experience the splendour of indigenous culture.

*We thrive on creating and nurturing long-term relationships with our customers. It is our commitment to reach in the spirit of reconciliation. Visit Booth 1 !*



YEAR-ROUND

Shop our artists at the Edmonton Downtown Farmers Market (10305 – 97 Street)

Saturday, 9 am to 3pm.

Sunday, 11 am to 3pm.

FORT EDMONTON PARK

Visit our store at the Indigenous Peoples Experience building in Fort Edmonton Park (7000 143 St NW, Edmonton)

Wednesday to Sunday, 10 am to 5 pm.

<http://iamcollective.ca>







**Student Singer/Performer Friday April 21<sup>st</sup> 7:15 pm**

Christina Hollingworth

Christina Hollingworth is a 16 year old, Enoch Cree Nation Member, honour student with distinction, Alberta High School Provincial Champion in discus and singer/songwriter.

Last year she opened Nextfest, played the International Street Performers Festival, won her high school's Fine Arts Award, had her name engraved on her school's Wall of Champions and ranked number two in Canada for her age in discus.

Christina is also the MMA Canadian Anthem singer (sung in Cree) at the River Cree Resort. Olympian Waneek Horn-Miller told Christina years ago to "dream big and train hard." Christina wrote those words on the wall of her room. She lives by them daily.



**Banquet Performance Saturday April 22<sup>nd</sup> 8:30 pm**

Centre for Arts and Music (CAM)

The Centre for Arts and Music (CAM) Program is a unique program, operated by the Rock and Roll Society of Edmonton, focusing on youth in vulnerable communities. Working with schools that local districts identify as “vulnerable”, we reach out to children and youth who may not otherwise have opportunities to participate in the arts.

In the CAM Program, youth learn how to write songs, play instruments, sing, and perform together on stage. Many of these students have never held a music instrument or sung publicly before CAM, and to be part of a band that will perform, at least two concerts in the school year in front of hundreds of people is an amazing and inspiring transformation to witness.

Studies show that children who are exposed to the arts do better in school and other areas of life. Students and their parents have reported that they look forward to going to school, making new friends, and have more self-confidence.

Other studies also confirm the importance of keeping youth engaged in the critical after-school hours between 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM so our goal is to reach them during this time. We see this first hand every day, and we’ve even had local agencies confirm the positive impact the program is having in the lives of these youth. In fact, one agency reported that serious incidents at their center dropped from several per month to zero, they believe, as a result of student engagement in CAM.

We remove barriers by going to where the youth are – in their schools. As soon as the bell rings to end the school day, students need only to go to the music room down the hall and the CAM Program begins. We also provide a small snack to help with those after-school munchies.

We are immensely proud to operate our CAM Program, and to mentor a new generation of musicians and music lovers with the work of our amazing instructors. These talented people are professional Edmonton musicians (we call them CAM mentors) and many of them have been with the same youth since the start of the program.

Our CAM bands are all expected to write at least one original song, in addition to performing covers. We are not too humble to say there have been some excellent songs coming out of this program.

Two bands will be performing. Rock Division and Nerv | us. One is a junior high band and the other is a high school/college group. <https://www.edrocks.ca/about-cam>

**Rock Division:**

Tyra Aduboahen  
Jason Duong  
Eliza Rema  
Shaylyn Currie  
Derek Jocson  
Jedrek Badoy  
Natnail Bayru  
Samantha Manapsal



**Nerv | us:**

Sadie Black  
Brianna Crane  
Hannah Dombrosky  
Marcus Prentice  
Xavier Svekla  
Joseph Yutuc  
Serena Farrell

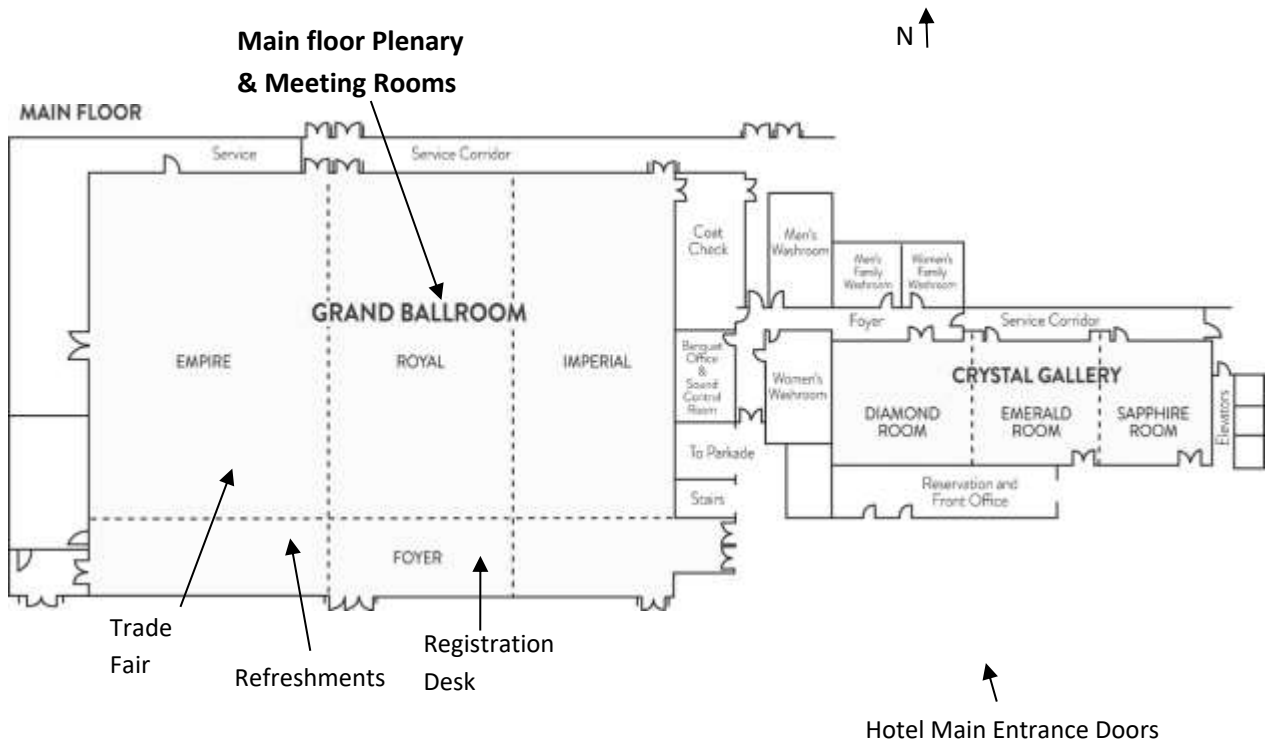
**Mentors:**

Kayla Enns, Curtis Ross and Christian Maslyk.

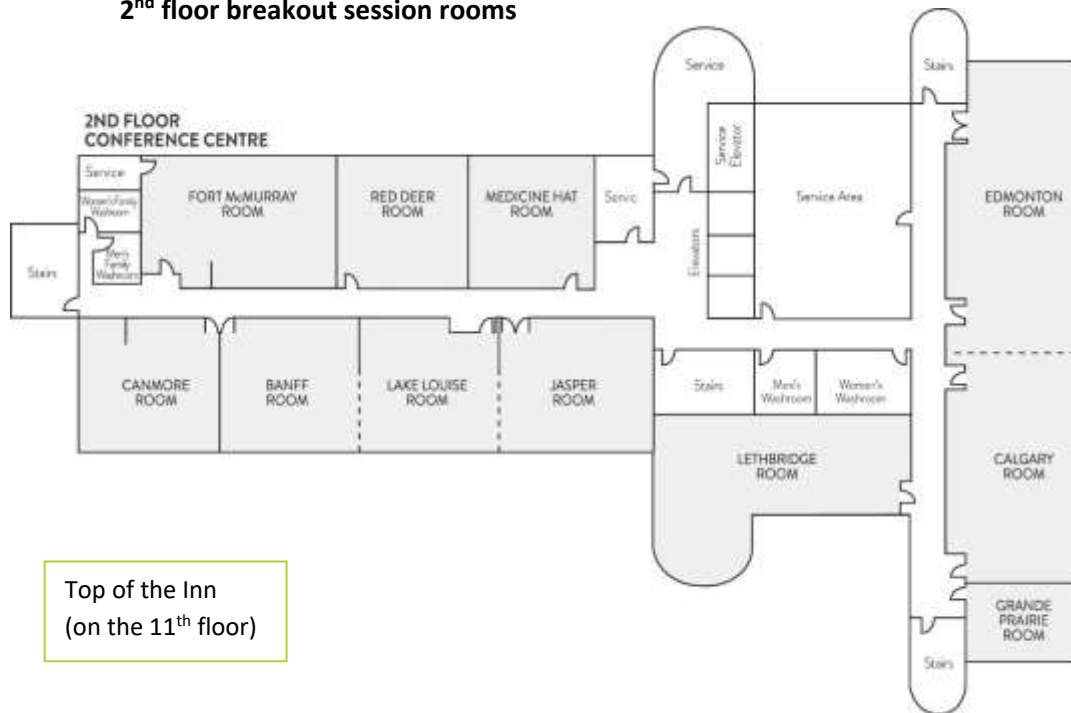


# VENUE FLOOR PLAN

Delta Marriott Edmonton South Hotel & Conference Centre  
 4404 Gateway Boulevard Edmonton AB T6H 5C2



## 2<sup>nd</sup> floor breakout session rooms



## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday April 21					
11:30 am -12:00 pm	Pre- session Check-in				Hotel Lobby
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm	Pre-session: Fundraising Association Fundamentals				Canmore
2:00 pm - 4:30 pm	Pre-session: Fundraising Association Financial Practices				Canmore
2:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Conference Check-in				Ballroom Foyer
4:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Trade Fair & Reception				Empire
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	<b>Student Singer:</b> Christina Hollingworth Welcome Social Mixer & Conversation Exchange <b>Creating a hopeful vision for education.</b> <i>How do school councils promote positive engagement and meaningful connections in the community to benefit student success?</i>				Royal
Saturday April 22					
7:00 am – 8:00 am	Check-in, Breakfast				Royal
8:15 am - 8:45 am	Opening Greetings, Blessing, Board Introductions				Royal
9:00 am - 10:00 am	Breakout Sessions:				
Diamond	Fort McMurray	Red Deer	Medicine Hat	Canmore	Lethbridge
Equity, Inclusion and Schools: Reflections for School Councils	New Curriculum Overview and What is Yet to Come	Recovery is a Family Journey	An Essential Life Skill – Why Math is More Than Just Numbers	Indigenous Parent and Community Engagement	Creating School Community Cohesion and Resilience
10:00 am	Trade Fair & Refreshments				Empire
10:45 am	Keynote Speaker: Dr. Debbie Pushor <i>From Schoolcentric to Familycentric: A Gentle Revolution</i>				Royal
11:30 am	Networking & Trade Fair				Empire
12:00 pm	Lunch				Royal
12:30 pm	Plenary Presentation: Dr. Jennifer Turner <i>Bridging the Connection Gap</i>				Royal
1:30 pm - 2:40 pm	Breakout Sessions:				
Diamond	Fort McMurray	Red Deer	Medicine Hat	Canmore	Lethbridge
Fostering SOGI Inclusion for the Wellbeing of All Students	The Reset Room: A Joint Mental Health Initiative	Social-Emotional Learning in ACTION	Students as Change Makers for Healthy School Communities	The 7 Grandfather Teachings and School Culture	Why Environmental Education Should Be Integrated Throughout the Alberta K-12 Curriculum *Virtual
2:45 pm	Trade Fair & Refreshments				Empire
3:30 pm - 4:45 pm	Breakout Sessions:				
Diamond	Fort McMurray	Red Deer	Medicine Hat	Canmore	Lethbridge
Understanding School Board Reserves	Disordered Eating and Poor Body Image	Mentoring and Student Wellbeing	Digital Citizenship - Help your Child Thrive in Today's Digital World	Financial Literacy Parent Resources and Supporting K-12 Schools and Students	Conversations About Assessment: A Parent's Guide
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Candidates Meet 'n Greet, Banquet Dinner, Entertainment				Top of the Inn
Sunday April 23					
8:00 am - 9:00 am	Check-in, Breakfast				Royal
9:00 am - 12:00 pm	Meeting, Elections				
12:00 - 12:45 pm	Lunch				
12:45 pm - 4:00 pm	Meeting, Elections				

