

## Greetings from the President



**Michael Helm**  
CASSA/ACGCS President



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# W

elcome back to another exciting school year in education! I hope you all had an excellent summer, spending time with family, friends and making memories.

Hi, I am Mike Helm, Director General for the New Frontiers School Board in Quebec. I have been in English Public Education in Quebec for over 28 years now and have enjoyed every day of it. This past July, I was given the

honour to become the president of the Canadian Association of School System Administrators (CASSA) for the next two years. It was a very proud moment for me as I was welcomed into the role at the July CASSA conference.

Over the last two years as president elect, I had the opportunity to work closely with the Executive Committee, the Executive Director Ken Bain, our now Past President Kevin Kaardal, and former Past President Curtis Brown. It has been an incredible experience learning and growing from these individuals from across Canada.

Looking forward to this new school year, it will be a year of transition for CASSA. Along with my new presidency, we have a bit of movement in our Executive Committee as well. We are welcoming Clint Moroziuk as President Elect and Anna Villalto as AASA Eastern Representative; however, this means that some are leaving us. I wish to thank Cindy Finn and Curtis Brown for their support, dedication, and leadership over the years in their roles. We also have another transition taking place this year with Ken taking his well-deserved retirement from CASSA, and Reg Klassen taking over that role during the year. Ken has done so much for CASSA over the past ten years. Ken, all of us at CASSA thank you!

I will do my best to ensure that CASSA continues to be known nationally and internationally, while providing resources and strong professional learning opportunities to the members. This past conference was an example of that powerful professional development. One of the keynotes talk about artificial intelligence (AI) and the possibilities that it can bring. I have thought a lot about this over the summer, as I am sure many of you have done. Over the next few weeks as we all get back into the swing of things, I will be thinking about where we left off in our school districts, school boards, schools, and centres, where we need to go from here, and what new advancements we should plan for going ahead into the school year.

Thank you all! I look forward to what we can achieve together.

# Greetings from the Executive Director



**Ken Bain**  
CASSA/ACGCS Executive Director

**I** trust your summer break offered an opportunity to rest... possibly vacation... and connect with family and friends.

The Canadian Association of School System Administrators (CASSA) welcomes its newest members as the usual board turnover occurs resulting from changes to the membership in local affiliate organizations. CASSA welcomes Ward Strueby from Saskatchewan (LEADS), Souhail Soujah from Northwest Territories (NWTSA), Kirk Smith from Newfoundland and Labrador (NLASSA), Cheryl Lenardon from British Columbia (BCSSA), and Tracy

Beaulieu from our newest member province, Prince Edward Island.

Included in the changes to the board are changes to the CASSA Executive. After over a decade of service representing leaders in the Northwest Territories, CASSA expresses an incredible debt of gratitude to retiring Past-President, Curtis Brown. Curtis represented leaders in the Territories with distinction for several years and served as CASSA President for two years during which time he led the development of our current strategic plan. His experience and calm demeanour will be missed at the CASSA table.

Other changes include the transition in the leader fulfilling the president role.

CASSA wants to extend its deep appreciation to Kevin Kaardal who has served the membership well throughout his two-year term. Kevin has extended the reach of the association into new areas of focus including nature-based education and the district leaders' role in addressing climate change. We will continue to benefit from his leadership in the role of past-president.

Finally, CASSA welcomes our incoming president, Mike Helm. Mike is the director-general of New Frontiers School Board in Quebec. Mike has been on the CASSA executive for two years and has also served as a key member of the Professional Learning Committee. CASSA is "in good hands" with Mike as its president for the next two years.

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# A Look Back on Ken Bain's Career

**I**n this issue of *Leaders & Learners*, we are recognizing the many contributions made to public education, school system administration, the Ontario Public Supervisory Officers' Association (OPSOA), and the Canadian Association of School System Administrators (CASSA) by Ken Bain. Ken is stepping down as CASSA's executive director following a dozen years in the role.

Ken was born in Toronto. He has Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Education, and Master of Science degrees from McMaster University, the University of Toronto, and Niagara University. He has dedicated his entire career in education to public schools in the Hamilton area, first in what was known as the English-language Public School District School Board No. 21. Following amalgamation in the late 1990s, he continued with the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB).

He began teaching in 1975, keen to make a difference in the lives of students. A decade later, he made his first move into administration as the vice principal of a middle school. He later served as principal for five HWDSB schools, receiving the Prime Minister's Award for Integration of Exceptional Pupils for his work.

Ken then shifted to school system administration, serving HWDSB as interim assistant superintendent of schools, superintendent of education, and superintendent of education (operations). As superintendent, he received the HWDSB Profiling Excellence Award and the CASSA EXL Award on behalf of OPSOA.

Early in his career while a vice principal, Ken first encountered CASSA's former executive director Frank Kelly. At the time, Frank was Ken's school superintendent and would go on to become both a good friend and mentor. Ken has credited Frank with

*Ken in appropriate Calgary Stampede attire at the 2014 CASSA/ACGCS Conference. Photo courtesy of Tara Wittchen.*



*Eileen and Ken Bain with Barry Wouk, former AASA Western Rep for CASSA, getting scretched in at the Partners Dinner during the 2013 CASSA/ACGCS Conference in St. John's. Photo courtesy of Ed Wittchen.*

# CASSA Pays Tribute to Ken Bain



*Ken delivering the closing remarks at the 2017 CASSA Conference in Halifax. Photo courtesy of Tara Wittchen.*

teaching him the importance of developing and growing strong relationships in this work and the vital role of relationships for leaders to be able to make a positive, lasting, and sustainable difference.

In fact, Frank offered Ken his first principal assignment. Their paths would cross many times over the years, including when Ken became a superintendent with HWDSB in 1997 and a member of the OPSOA. Ken eventually became OPSOA's executive director in 2011–2012, a role in which Frank had also served two decades earlier.

Through his role with OPSOA and his relationship with Frank, Ken was introduced to CASSA (then known as the Canadian Association of School Administrators, or CASA). When Frank stepped down as CASSA's executive director in 2012, it was Ken who took on the role.

At the time, Ken expressed his enthusiasm to help the organization continue to grow by reaching out to non-member affiliates and increasing its profile. Under his direction and in collaboration with the executive and board of directors, CASSA has done just that. It has also offered tremendous learning and networking opportunities with a broad national perspective. The organization has continued to present relevant initiatives and highly successful national conferences, including pivoting to virtual gatherings when required. Ken's steady leadership leaves a lasting positive legacy with CASSA.

Ken is married to Eileen, and he is a father and grandfather. He is also a lifetime Hamilton Tiger-Cats fan.

On behalf of all CASSA members and those who have had the opportunity to work with Ken, we thank him for his service and dedication to public education and system administration over the years. We wish him the very best going forward. ○

"The Newfoundland and Labrador Association of School System Administrators (NLASSA) values our long relationship with CASSA. It was upon my appointment as NLASSA's executive director that I had the privilege of working with and getting to know Mr. Ken Bain. His leadership qualities and vision for CASSA were obvious from my very first board of directors meeting several years ago.

Ken often emphasizes the importance of CASSA's reach from coast to coast to coast as a professional learning network for its members. NLASSA has been appreciated and supported within that national framework. More specifically, during my tenure Ken was successful in keeping system leaders connected during the turbulent times of COVID. Moreover, Ken's leadership during the pandemic led to the development of a new 2022–2025 strategic plan for CASSA, resulting in a clearer focus for the organization as it emerged from that period. The resulting three strategic directions – Professional Learning, Communications and Engagement, Governance and Operations – and related committee work has further sharpened CASSA's focus. Ken's ongoing cross-country check-in feature of the board of director meetings provides insight into emerging educational trends, areas of commonality, and some of the key issues faced in each province and territory.

Ken's guidance and support with the planning of CASSA's summer conferences have been a key initiative for the ongoing professional learning and networking of school system leaders from across Canada. My attendance at the last three conferences has been invaluable for my own personal and professional learning. More specifically, the insights I have gained from Indigenous Elders and leaders has been instrumental to understanding our collective journey toward truth and reconciliation. NLASSA, due to Ken's and the board's support, is honoured to have St. John's selected as the host site for the 2025 conference.

Finally, I have come to know Ken and his wonderful wife Eileen on a personal level. In doing so, I came to discover that we share the love of travel. During the recent summer conference in Montreal, it was a pleasure to listen to stories about some of their many adventures. I was particularly interested in their love of cruising and some common destinations that we have visited. I wish Ken health and happiness as he retires from his role as CASSA's executive director. I'm sure he and Eileen will enjoy many more adventures and sunsets in far-away destinations!"

## **John Way**

Former NLASSA Executive Director  
CASSA Board of Directors (NLASSA Representative)

"It has been an absolute pleasure working with Ken on the CASSA board. His patience, genuine interest in others, and strong relationship style has been a great asset to CASSA in its efforts to coalesce among partners and bring a national voice to system education leadership in our country. Congratulations, Ken! You will be missed!"

## **David Keohane**

CEO, College of Alberta School Superintendents  
CASSA Board of Directors (College of Alberta School Superintendents Representative)

“The fact that CASSA is a dynamic and thriving organization today is due in large part to the tireless work of our retiring Executive Director Ken Bain. Ken was instrumental in taking a seedling that was planted many years ago by some dedicated system educational leaders and carefully nurturing it into the vibrant pan-Canadian organization that CASSA is today.

Ken did this by reaching out to all provinces and territories, building relationships with affiliates, modelling collaboration, and creating opportunities for educational leaders to connect not only across Canada but beyond. He was strategic, diplomatic, and respectful in carrying out this work. We owe him a debt of gratitude for going above and beyond to help the organization hone its collective voice and find our way on the national stage.

It has truly been a pleasure to work alongside Ken these last 12 years. He helped make my terms as President-Elect, President, and Past President some of the most memorable and productive times of my career. Imagining CASSA without Ken at the helm is a difficult thing to conjure. I will miss him, but I am forever grateful for his friendship and the foundational work he did to shepherd CASSA through some growing pains, a pandemic, and the significant challenges that we face in education today. Ken, I wish you a wonderful retirement!”

**Dr. Cindy Finn**

Director General, Lester B. Pearson School Board  
 Former CASSA President  
 CASSA Executive – AASA Eastern Representative



*Ken in the lineup at the famous Schwartz's Deli in Montreal from this past July, when he was attending the CASSA/ACGCS Conference. Photo courtesy of John Way.*



*Ken with Cindy Finn, current AASA Eastern Rep on the CASSA Executive, at the 2016 CASSA/ACGCS Conference in Winnipeg. Photo courtesy of Cindy Finn.*

“As Ken retires from CASSA, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks for his remarkable service to our association. Though I am a newer member, Ken’s welcoming nature and willingness to share his knowledge have greatly supported me. His kindness and encouragement have truly stood out.

I wish Ken all the best as he enjoys a well-deserved retirement, free from the stresses of CASSA. His warmth and support will always be remembered and cherished.”

**Anna Villalta**

Assistant Director of Educational Services, English Montreal School Board  
 CASSA Board of Directors (Association of Administrators of English Schools of Quebec Representative)



*Ken with the former CASSA President Robert Mills at the 2015 CASSA/ACGCS Conference in Montreal. Photo courtesy of Tara Wittchen.*

“When I first got involved with CASSA and had the opportunity to meet Ken, I was struck by his authenticity and ability to connect meaningfully with so many people. The context of education differs greatly between our various provinces and territories, and Ken has a knack for connecting with individuals from across the country and developing a sincere understanding of their particular situations. He has inspired me to continue being involved with CASSA in executive roles for the next number of years.

Ken has been a treasure to CASSA, and I wish him all the best as he retires from the position of executive director.”

**Dr. Clint Moroziuk**

Superintendent of Schools, Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools  
CASSA Board of Directors (College of Alberta School Superintendents Representative)

“Ken Bain is someone who had a vision for what CASSA could become 10 years ago, and he took that vision and turned it into reality. Under Ken’s leadership and guidance, CASSA is truly a national voice from coast to coast to coast here in Canada. This voice this past year reached a new level, as we are now known internationally.

Over the years, Ken worked hard so that we would have representation from across Canada by having every province and territory present. At the same time as he ensured this representation, he built partnerships with organizations and sponsors. He created initiatives that are key in dealing with the challenges we all are currently facing as system leaders in our districts, boards, schools, or centres. As he established all this, he made CASSA financially stable. This has afforded CASSA to be able to provide great professional learning opportunities and become known for it.

Thank you, Ken, for all the time, work, and dedication that you have given to so many.”

**Mike Helm**

Director General, New Frontiers School Board  
CASSA President Elect

“On the eve of Ken Bain’s retirement from CASSA, I want to take the time to express my deepest gratitude to a true national educational treasure. Ken is the reason CASSA’s governing board is represented by every territory and province in Canada, growing it from a mere four provinces in the infancy of his tenure. He is also responsible for taking the organization from the depths of insolvency to the incredibly strong fiscal position CASSA holds to this day.

Our national organization is highly regarded in North America and around the world and this is in large part to Ken’s outstanding leadership. Ken’s influence as executive director has provided educational leaders a voice at the table of the International Society for Deans of Education and at the governing and executive boards of the School Superintendents Association in the United States, also known as AASA. Organizations like the Canadian School Mental Health Leadership Network and the Government of Canada have sought out CASSA’s valued position on issues that have a direct impact on the youth and staff supported by senior leaders across our country. We can attribute this to Ken’s advocacy and leadership.

Robert Pirsig, author of *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*, said that if you want to be the greatest at anything in the world, start by trying to be the greatest human being in the world. Ken Bain epitomizes this idea through his focus on family, on kindness, and on servant leadership.

As a member of the CASSA executive, I have observed firsthand the great human being Ken is. His passion for the organization he so admirably led over the past decade is second only to his care and commitment to his family. He is a valued friend to all who know him, and I will personally feel a significant loss when he and his wonderful wife Eileen are no longer present at our meetings held across North America.

I want to extend my personal gratitude to Ken for inspiring me to be a better leader. I have watched you lead with compassion, conviction, and care. As you are taking your final steps as our executive director, know that you leave us with an incredible future for the over 1,200 educational leaders you have so admirably represented. I know I can speak for all of my colleagues across our great nation when I extend my deepest heartfelt thanks to you. Those who will come after you will carry on your great legacy by standing on your shoulders, the shoulders of a true educational giant. I hope you can hear the voices of every CASSA member across Canada as we wish you a healthy, happy, and well-deserved retirement, my friend.”

**Kevin C. Garinger**

Director of Education/CEO, Horizon School Division No. 205  
CASSA Executive – AASA Western Representative

# Announcing the Recipient and Nominees for the Inaugural Nelson Excellence in Leadership Award



*From left to right: Steve Brown, Nelson CEO; Karen Klassen; Reg Klassen, Nelson Award Recipient; Kevin Kaardal, CASSA President; Ken Bain, CASSA Executive Director.*

By Tara Wittchen, Contributing Writer

Since 2002, the Canadian Association of School System Administrators (CASSA) has recognized the extraordinary efforts of Canadian school system leaders through the annual presentation of a national leadership award. From 2002 to 2023, this award was known as the EXL Award.

As of 2024, this award will be known as the Nelson Excellence in Leadership Award to recognize CASSA members who have exhibited exemplary leadership ability and who have enhanced school administration. We recognize and are grateful for the support of this award by Nelson Canada, Canada's leading kindergarten to Grade 12 educational publisher.

The recipient of the 2024 EXL Award, Reg Klassen, was announced at this year's conference in Montreal/Tiohtià:ke on July 4. Congratulations to

Reg, who will be invited to attend the 2025 AASA (The School Superintendents Association) National Conference on Education in New Orleans, Louisiana, as Canadian Superintendent of the Year.

Here are profiles on each of the deserving 2024 nominees. We commend all of them for their years of leadership excellence in public education.



**Reg Klassen**  
**Manitoba Association of School Superintendents**

Reg is the chief superintendent for the Frontier School Division (FSD) in Winnipeg. He previously served as superintendent for Rolling River School

Division from 2008 to 2015 and for Garden Valley School Division from 2000 to 2001.

He is described by peers as a deeply respected collaborator and system changer who uses his positional power to facilitate work in support of Indigenous education and reconciliation efforts. He has worked extensively and tirelessly with Indigenous communities and government to support student achievement and well-being. He pushes for equitable resource allocation for First Nations and rural communities with the provincial and federal governments. His successful initiatives include an all-day, every-day kindergarten program and a "Learning to 18" off-campus partnership that has resulted in higher Indigenous student graduation rates.

In the past three years, students at FSD have seen dramatic gains in their reading scores as a direct result of Reg's leadership and commitment to literacy and learning. He strives for excellence and equity, as seen in his advocacy for rural and marginalized students and his commitment to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.

Reg has served as a representative on the Manitoba Council for Leadership in Education for 16 years and on the Manitoba Poverty and Education Task Force and Attendance Task Force. He has delivered presentations to peers at annual general meetings, symposia and conferences, and to education students at the University of Manitoba. Reg played a key role in leading the Manitoba Association of School Superintendents (MASS) to become a full member of CASSA. He has served as vice president, president and past president for MASS and president-elect, president and past president for CASSA. He has been a member of CASSA for 15 years.



**Kandy Mackey**  
**Association of Directors General of English School Boards of Québec**

Kandy is the director general for the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) in Magog, Quebec. She previously served the board as its assistant director general and director of pedagogical services. Kandy's roles in public education also include school principal, elementary teacher and secondary teacher.

Her senior leadership work includes sitting on the Leadership Committee for English Education in Quebec and the Association of Directors General of English School Boards in Québec (ADGESBQ). In 2021, Kandy was appointed to a three-year mandate by the Quebec Minister of Education to sit on the Advisory Board for English Education to help represent the minority language community of Quebec. She sits on the Board of Governors of Champlain Regional College (Lennoxville campus) and is an active member of the table of Directors General for the Eastern Townships (Estrie) region of Quebec. She has also served as treasurer for ADGESBQ.

She initiated an inter-school board high school network to support student success in smaller, more rural communities in Quebec. Under her leadership, ETSB has consistently increased graduation rates for disabled students and has consistently posted higher graduation rates for disabled students than the provincial average.

Kandy holds graduate diplomas in both English and French from Bishop's University and Université de Sherbrooke. In 2014, she received the Outstanding Leadership in Education Award from the Eastern Townships Administrators' Association. She has been a member of CASSA for 11 years.



**Devin Roberts**  
**Northwest Territories Superintendents' Association**

Devin is the superintendent of education for the Beaufort-Delta Divisional Education Council (BDDEC) in Inuvik. He has also served as assistant superintendent and as a principal.

He collaboratively established a multi-year vision that addresses multiple components of the student experience. He also negotiated a partnership with Vancouver Island University to develop a community-based Bachelor of Education program, removing a barrier that prevented many Indigenous community members in the BDDEC region from pursuing a career in education. He created Indigenous Mentor and Indigenous Youth Mentor positions that support students in mental health, maintain connections to culture, and assist in transitioning students into post-secondary education, work, or community after Grade 12.

His commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion and well-being can be seen in his work to include local Indigenous governments as voting members of the District Education Council and to allocate funding to provide staff training with the Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion.

He has served as chair of the NWTSA, a member of the Teacher Qualification Services Evaluation Committee, and the NWT School Calendar Committee.

Under his leadership, BDDEC received the 2023 silver award for organizational excellence from Excellence Canada. He has also held teaching and administration roles in the Sahtu and South Slave regions. Devin sits on the board of governors for Excellence Canada. He has been a member of CASSA for six years.



**Katharine Stevenson**  
**Ontario Catholic Supervisory Officers' Association**

Katharine is the superintendent of education for the Durham Catholic District School Board (DCDSB), a role she took on in 2022.

Her responsibilities include advancing human rights and equity as conditions for improved student learning, system-wide training related to anti-Black racism, 2SLGBTQ+ inclusion, and culturally responsive pedagogy and leadership. From 2013 to 2022, she served as a secondary school administrator in the Halton Catholic District School Board.

She is an integral member in the development of DCDSB's Focus on Faith theological framework, setting a consistent vision of Catholic education founded in justice. She is the board lead of its 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee. Katharine is also a strong advocate for culturally responsive and relevant pedagogy.

Among her many accolades are the 2012 Father Angus MacDougall Award for Excellence in Family Life Education, presented by the Catholic Association of Religious and Family Life Educators of Ontario, and the 2014 Michael Carty Award, presented by the Catholic Education Foundation of Ontario in recognition of a school-based project celebrating the dignity and diversity of secondary school students.

She holds graduate degrees in religious education and theology. A respected thought leader, Katharine was a featured speaker at last year's Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association annual general meeting and conference, where she delivered a presentation grounding the work of equity, diversity, and inclusion in legislative responsibility and a Catholic understanding of dignity of a human



person, community and common good, and option for the poor and vulnerable.

Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ is a religious education program endorsed by the Catholic Bishops of Ontario, Alberta, Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories. It was developed in collaboration with Catholic educators from across Canada. The program is based on the Catholic Elementary Curriculum Policy Document for Religious Education, Grades 1 to 8, and Catholic School Kindergarten Program. She was a contributing author for both of these curriculum policy documents.

She was also a keynote speaker at the 2017 Identity and Curriculum in Catholic Education conference in Australia. She has authored numerous curriculum policy documents, resource manuals, and articles for national and international publications. Katharine has been a member of CASSA for two years.

**Dr. Wilco Tymensen**  
**College of Alberta School**  
**Superintendents**

Dr. Tymensen is the superintendent/CEO for Horizon School Division based in Taber, Alberta, a position he has held



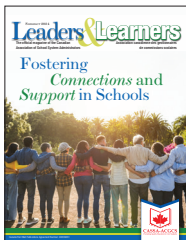
since 2013. Prior to this role, he served as the division's associate superintendent for curriculum and instruction. His leadership work with the division also includes serving as a principal from 2001 to 2006.

He has served on the College of Alberta School Superintendents (CASS) provincial executive from 2011 to 2014 and as its second and first vice president, president and past president from 2019 to 2024. From 2013 to 2015, he worked with the Alberta Education assistant deputy minister on the Inspiring Education Initiative. He has provided instruction, including at the graduate level, at Western University, Gonzaga University and the University of Lethbridge, and taught the Lead for Learning courses for CASS.

He is a leader who demonstrates a commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion through his work with at-risk youth in alternative and outreach programs. He is a founding member of the Alberta Outreach Educators Network. He was instrumental in creating the Taber Community Action and Prevention Society and the Taber Coalition for Action and Drug Awareness, working with local police, Family and Community Support Services, Child and Family Services, and Taber Adult Learning to bring the community together to collaborate to support students, families and the community.

He has served on over 30 committees throughout his career, and has delivered many presentations and published many articles.

His many accolades include the Lethbridge Association for Community Living Betty Grigg Inclusive Education Award and the South Grow Regional Innovation Award for Excellence in Collaboration, Innovation and Partnerships. Dr. Tymensen sat on the CASSA board from 2020 to 2021. He has been a member of CASSA for 18 years. ○



**WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO WRITE FOR US!**

The CASSA Board is looking for authors interested in writing for the upcoming Winter 2024-25 issue of *Leaders & Learners* magazine. If you have an article idea that you're itching to tell, please send an abstract to Jenna Collignon, editor of the magazine, at [jcollignon@matrixgroupinc.net](mailto:jcollignon@matrixgroupinc.net), and copy [ken\\_bain@cassa-acgcs.ca](mailto:ken_bain@cassa-acgcs.ca). We are looking for features and success stories from each region of Canada: Eastern Canada, Quebec, Ontario, Western Canada, and Northern Canada.

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# We Need Your School Stories and Insider Insights!

The Canadian Association of School System Administrators (CASSA) would like to invite members and education leaders from across Canada to share their stories of success in upcoming issues of its magazine *Leaders & Learners*. CASSA believes strongly that it is essential to communicate and collaborate with educational and community partners to ensure excellence and equity in publicly funded education across Canada.

CASSA would like to feature “real life stories” from Canadian schools that showcase:

- **The importance of field trips:** Where have your students travelled locally, within Canada, and abroad? How did your school make this happen (fundraising, grants, etc.)? What lessons did students learn about history, culture, geography, etc.? How do experiences like this complement in-class learning?
- **New and interesting technologies:** What new technologies has your school and / or region used with success, or with failure? What problem(s) was the technology addressing? What was the result? What lessons were learned? Were partnerships with suppliers involved? Examples might include software to help with student placement in classrooms, virtual dissections for science class, tablets for all students, etc.
- **Outdoor learning:** How does outdoor learning look at your school / in your region? What benefits have the students experienced? How do you fit outdoor learning into your curriculum? What is the impact of outdoor learning on mental health?
- **STEM:** How is your school / region implementing STEM practices to ensure that students are developing hands-on skills for the real world. How do programs look? What have the results been? How does technology intersect with STEM learning?
- **School access:** As student populations grow and change, and physical access to all areas of a school’s grounds becomes the norm, how is your school / region changing to ensure that all students, no matter their abilities, are able to participate in classroom, physical education, and outdoor activities? What upgrades (for example, hallway size, playground equipment, wheelchair ramps) have been made? What is the importance of these upgrades?
- **School maintenance:** Many of Canada’s schools are several decades (or even a century!) old, and in desperate need of maintenance. How has your school upgraded, who was involved in the upgrade’s success, and what has the result been? Examples could be new wiring for technology, upgraded cooling and heating systems, new or upgraded air purification systems, etc.

We would like to feature stories on these topics in all upcoming issues of *Leaders & Learners*.

These “insider insights” into Canadian schools will be an invaluable resource for education leaders across the country.

**CASSA is accepting abstracts for these stories now!**

Email editor Jenna Collignon at [jcollignon@matrixgroupinc.net](mailto:jcollignon@matrixgroupinc.net) and copy Executive Director Ken Bain at [kennethbain4@gmail.com](mailto:kennethbain4@gmail.com).

Articles will be 500 words and include space for one to two images. If you’re interested in writing something more in-depth, please ask and it may be possible.

***This is an excellent way to showcase the hard work your school leaders and staff are doing to ensure the success of all students! We look forward to hearing from you.***