

Leaders & Learners



CASSA-ACGCS
Promoting Quality Education for Our Students

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IN THIS ISSUE:

PAGE 2
MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Offering a national perspective on student mental health.

PAGE 4
EXL NOMINEES
The 2017 EXL Award nominees.

PAGE 7
CONFERENCE SESSIONS
Updated information on this year's breakout sessions.

PAGE 9
EXHIBITORS HALL
Recognizing our annual conference exhibitors.

PAGE 10
MILLER THOMSON
A profile on one of our returning conference sponsors.

PAGE 11
CONFERENCE SPONSORS
Recognizing our returning conference sponsoring partners and welcoming new ones.

Message from the President: Promoting Our Well-being

IT HAS BEEN a great year serving you as President of CASSA, as we embarked on a journey together with our colleagues across the country on key issues in education.

It has been a distinct pleasure to focus on an area central to all our mandates: student, staff and school health.

As leaders in education, we are called to create safe, healthy and inclusive learning environments where all children can thrive and optimize their academic achievements. We also play a role in the well-being of staff members.

To make a positive impact on the health and well-being of staff and students, it is important that we model a balanced approach to work and family life.

It is also important that we engage in self-care.

Some of the strategies we can incorporate include

- taking breaks when necessary, or making time for professional learning



Anne O'Brien
President

- building a repertoire of healthy coping strategies that promote positive mental health
- creating a strong and supportive network of friends, family and fellow administrators
- setting aside time for personal priorities and interests

- building exercise into our daily schedules
- accessing our Employee Assistance Programs, or other professional supports, as they are needed

We must also make time to celebrate all of the great news in our schools, boards and beyond.

The summer 2017 CASSA conference in Halifax, Nova Scotia, from July 5 to 7 offers opportunities to celebrate our accomplishments as leaders and focus on creating caring school communities.

With the theme of “Healthy Schools, Healthy Communities,

Continued on page 3

OUR PURPOSE

CASSA is the Canadian organization of school system leaders that promotes and supports quality education for the success of all students.

OUR MISSION

CASSA strengthens the capacity of school system leaders and influences the directions that impact education and student learning.

Message from the Executive Director: A National Perspective on Student Mental Health

HOPEFULLY YOU HAVE had a wonderful school year and are anxiously anticipating some time to relax and recharge with family and friends!

The CASSA Board of Directors is looking forward to our annual national conference in Halifax. We look forward to hearing from two well-known experts in the areas of student mental health and well-being: **Dr. Stan Kutcher** and **Dr. Kathryn Short**. You can read more about them in the previous issue of this newsletter or at <http://conference.cassa-acgcs.ca/CASSA-speakers.html>.

I have taken the feedback from previous conferences (yes, I do pay attention to your feedback surveys) and have put together what I know will be a wonderful opportunity for professional conversations on a national scale, along with a chance to enjoy all that the beautiful city of Halifax has to offer.

The board also eagerly awaits the chance to honour five outstanding school system leaders who have been nominated and recognized by their individual provincial associations as deserving of consideration as Canada's

school system leader. The five 2017 nominees are highlighted in this issue of our newsletter.

We are pleased to present a pan-Canadian panel of provincial and territorial leaders who will provide a national perspective on student mental health and well-being.

An added feature this year is a strand of general interest workshops, which will be relevant to many school system leaders, including those with a non-instructional/business portfolio. These may also be relevant to other school system leaders based on the topics being presented.

Check out the workshops being offered by **John Sabo, Steve McLean, Andrew Foster, Gillian Turk Kutarna, Bill Reynolds, David Haight, George Antoun, Daryl Denyes** and **Ronna Mosher**. Complete



Ken Bain
Executive Director

Continued on page 3

Message from the President: Promoting Our Well-being

Continued from page 1

Healthy Future,” this time is well spent on setting the stage for well-being, with top-notch speakers, workshops, and guided group tours of some breathtaking east coast attractions as we build positive and supportive relationships.

I look forward to joining new and returning leaders as we work toward building school systems that promote the well-being of students, staff and leaders.



Lawrencetown Beach and Queensland Beach, both less than 40 minutes from downtown Halifax.

Message from the Executive Director: A National Perspective on Student Mental Health

Continued from page 2

workshop information, including presenter biographies, can be found on our conference website.

It's not too late to register your leadership team for the conference. You can sign up online at <http://conference.cassa-acgcs.ca/index-html>.

Thanks, as always, to our wonderful exhibitors and sponsors, whose participation in our conference allows us to provide a high-quality conference experience.

Lastly, thanks to the members of the CASSA Board of Directors, who volunteer their time so generously throughout the year to ensure that CASSA provides a national voice for system leaders in publicly funded education. I look forward to seeing you all in Halifax at the 2017 CASSA conference!



The Grand Parade and Halifax City Hall, an ideal spot to relax downtown.

CASSA EXL Award: 2017 Nominees

Each year, CASSA honours the EXL Award recipient at our summer conference. The ceremony for the 2017 award will take place on Wednesday, July 5, in Halifax. The recipient is chosen from a selection of high-calibre nominees from across the country, representing a number of CASSA's regional affiliates. This national recipient will also go on to represent CASSA as the Canadian Superintendent of the Year at the annual American School Superintendents Association conference in 2018.

The 2017 nominees include individuals from the New Brunswick School Superintendents Association (NBSSA), the Association of Directors General of English School Boards of Quebec (ADGESBQ), the College of Alberta School Superintendents (CASS), the Ontario Catholic Supervisory Officers' Association (OCSOA) and the Ontario Public Supervisory Officers' Association. Thank you to Xerox Canada for its longtime support as co-sponsor of the award.

Here are profiles on each of the five deserving nominees. Congratulations to each of them. Leaders & Learners will feature award ceremony coverage in a later issue.

Zoe Watson

New Brunswick School Superintendents Association

Zoe is the Superintendent of Schools for School District 6 in Rothesay, New Brunswick. She is also the Vice President of the New Brunswick School Superintendents Association.

Prior to holding the superintendency, Zoe was the Director of Education in Fredericton and served as the Assistant Deputy Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development for the Anglophone Sector.

Some of Zoe's accomplishments in educational leadership include leading the successful development and implementation of the provincial reorganization of all anglophone school districts, co-chairing Living Saint John, an organization that promotes community and education partnerships, and leading the implementation of the Integrated Service Delivery in the Anglophone South School District.

She was instrumental in creating, standardizing and implementing new administrator certification leadership modules for the province, and is an active member of the Minister's Advisory Council for teacher licensing and certification.

Zoe has extensive experience in working at all levels of education in New Brunswick. She has worked directly on establishing and maintaining the principal leadership development program that affects all upcoming principals and vice principals in the province.

Carol Heffernan

Association of Directors General of English School Boards of Quebec

Carol is the Assistant Director General for the Lester B. Pearson School Board in Quebec.

She previously served as the board's Director of Financial Services. Some of Carol's accomplishments include creating a daycare for employees' children at the board's head office in 1999, overseeing a plan to become the first school board in Quebec to offer wi-fi services at all LBPSB schools and centres, and helping to establish an international student program for secondary and vocational students, the first of its kind in the province.

Carol's vast knowledge of school board financing and budgets means she is frequently sought after to sit on various provincial committees relating to allocations,

CASSA EXL Award: 2017 Nominees

sustainable development initiatives and finance. She has also taken the lead on three energy efficiency projects that have generated over \$2 million in savings for the school board.

Carol has her master's degree in Business Administration from McGill and serves as a graduate-level instructor for the McGill Graduate Certificate in Educational Leadership program.

She is the 2015 recipient of the Association of Administrators of English Schools of Quebec (AAESQ) Local Educational Leadership Award. Prior to her time with the school board, she received multiple sales awards for her work as a manager at RBC.

Steven Colpitts, President of AAESQ, says, "Carol has distinguished herself as a senior educational leader and has earned widespread respect from her colleagues throughout the province of Quebec. She has worked diligently to ensure solid financial stewardship of the largest English school board in Quebec."

Tim Mond **College of Alberta School Superintendents**

Tim is the Superintendent for Parkland Schools Division, which serves communities in the Stony Plain and Spruce Grove area in Alberta.

He is the former Deputy Superintendent for the Northern Gateway School Division and a former principal with that division.

Tim is credited with establishing a culture of learning and trust within the division. Tim's focus on relationship building has resulted in division staff expressing that they feel valued and heard.

Other accomplishments attributed to Tim include a leadership development program, a wellness program

and alignment of wrap-around services to support all students. He aligned 22 schools with the development of one common vision and one mission for the school division.

Under Tim's leadership, Parkland Schools Division has established numerous partnerships with community organizations, including the YMCA, Human Services and the municipality. He has served on CASS and community executive committees. He has served as the chair of CASS Zone 2/3 and the Regional Collaborative Service Delivery Executive.

Tim has been a speaker and panel member at several national and international gatherings, including the Canadian Education Association's First Nations, Métis and Inuit conference and the CEA International 1:1 Computing Conference in Atlanta.

Tim contributed to "Shifting Minds 3.0: Redefining the Learning Landscape in Canada," a paper produced by C21 Canada. In July, Tim will be part of a superintendents group making a presentation in Charlottetown to education ministers from across Canada.

Simone Rose-Oliver **Ontario Catholic Supervisory Officers' Association**

Simone is the Superintendent, Early Years Lead and School Effectiveness Framework Lead for the Ottawa Catholic School Board.

Simone has served as the president of several education-focused organizations, including OCSOA, the Ontario Modern Language Teachers' Association and the Ontario Association of French as a Second Language Consultants. She is a current member of the CASSA Board of Directors. Through the Leadership

CASSA EXL Award: 2017 Nominees

and Change module, Simone has taught aspiring and appointed superintendents from across Ontario.

She has worked for the Ontario Ministry of Education, including as the chair of the Regional Special Education Committee and as a provincial curriculum writer. She has been a conference committee member for the Catholic Principals Council of Ontario. Her leadership roles include sitting on the Board of Directors of the Ottawa Catholic Childcare Corporation.

Simone has established and nurtured partnerships with several organizations to enhance the learning and engagement of the OCSB, including the Ontario Special Olympics/City of Ottawa board-wide swim meet for intellectually disabled children and youth, Helmets for Kids, Sens at School and the Ottawa Network for Education School Breakfast Program.

John Kostoff, Executive Director of OCSOA, says, “As an exemplary system leader, Simone embraces the *Leadership for Learning* model. A very strong instructional leader who understands the importance of engaging the hearts, Simone truly ‘leans in’ as Superintendent responsible for learning, curriculum and her families of schools.”

John Malloy Ontario Public Supervisory Officers’ Association

John is the Director of Education for the Toronto District School Board (TDSB).

He previously served as the Director of Education for the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) and the Assistant Deputy Minister at the Ontario Ministry of Education.

John is a lifelong learner. While at HWDSB, he completed his doctorate. His research and analytical

skills ensured that his executive team was always learning from him, as he shared much of his research with them. John built a collaborative learning culture within the board, one that is fostered in the schools. His model of whole system change at HWDSB was distributed across all of Ontario.

He provided leadership within the Hamilton-Wentworth community by establishing strong relationships with community groups. He was proactive within the United Way and was a member of the Hamilton Poverty Reduction Roundtable. John also worked collaboratively with McMaster University and Mohawk College with a view to educational institutions supporting lifelong learning in Hamilton.

At the TDSB, John has contributed actively toward ensuring diversity programs and the acceptance of the placement of all students. He has built a positive working environment where supervisory officers and principals feel empowered and supported. He has been an advocate for ensuring development of technology as a prime assist in the delivery of modern education.

John participates in many professional learning communities, and frequently publishes and presents on leadership and other education topics. He has sat on the boards of directors for The Learning Partnership and the Canadian Education Association. He has served on the executive and as vice chair for the Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE). John was recognized by his colleagues at CODE for his thoughtfulness in analyzing issues and bringing forward solutions. In all CODE meetings, he was quick to volunteer his expertise and that of the staff in his board to contribute.

In 2015, John received the OPSOA Distinguished Leadership Award.

CASSA Conference 2017: Breakout Sessions Information

The theme for the 2017 CASSA Conference in Halifax is Healthy Schools, Healthy Communities, Healthy Future. In addition to the keynote speaker sessions on this topic (see Leaders & Learners Volume 11, Issue 74, or the CASSA conference website for more details), there's an abundance of similarly themed breakout sessions from which delegates may choose.

Exact times and locations for all of the sessions will be updated on the CASSA conference website. They will also be published in your conference guide, available at registration. Here is a list of some of the breakout sessions you and your leadership team can attend this July.

- **Sharing the Process of Developing School Protocols for Responding to Non-Suicidal Self-Injury and Suicide in Schools: Critical Components & Unexpected Challenges** with Elana Bloom, Dr. Cindy Finn and Dr. Nancy Heath

- **Frontier School Division's Kairo's Blanket Exercise: Building Healthier Communities** with Reg Klassen and Marti Ford

- **Educating the Whole Child: Mind, Body and Soul** with Dr. Cindy Finn, Marie-Eve Claude and Erik Olsthoorn

- **Purposeful Power-Ups** with Kathi Weight, Alex Clauson and Mary Snyder

- **Embedding Wellness in School and District Strategic Planning** with Christopher Fuzessy and Veronique Marin

- **The Joys and Challenges of Building Healthy Communities for Staff and Students: One District's Journey** with Jason Kupery and Ryan Brennan

- **Hands-on/Minds-on Learning about Health: What's Going On in Your Schools?** with David Lapides

- **Evaluating the Effectiveness of Comprehensive School Health on Student Achievement: Re-**



Host city Halifax offers a mix of rich architectural heritage and bold new designs.

- **Development of a Core Indicators Model** with Katherine Eberl Kelly and Susan Hornby

- **Promoting Healthy Relationships in the School Setting: The Newly Revised JCSH Positive Mental Health Toolkit** with Katherine Eberl Kelly and Susan Hornby

- **TIPPS Project: A School Board's Journey into the Development of School-wide Trauma Informed Practices** with David Meloche, Jennifer Kurta and Douglas Stewart

- **Reframing Our Responses** with Melanie Ferdinand, Lisa Munro and Charlene Camillo

CASSA Conference 2017: Breakout Sessions Information

• **Suicide Prevention, Intervention and Postvention: Challenges for Secondary Schools** with Melanie Ferdinand, Karen Edgar and Gail Lalonde

• **Healthy Student Assessment** with Bryan Szumlas, Daniel Danis and Richard Svoboda

• **Addressing the Mental Health Crisis in Schools: A Divisional Wellness Model that Brings Our Staff Back to Why They Started** with Darlene Ferris and Jody Carrington

• **Raising to Graduation Purposeful, Conscientious and Fully Rounded Citizens** with Hoda Mohtar

• **Supporting Healthy Schools and Communities Through an Inclusive Education System Framework** with Greg Roberts

• **System-wide Approach to Student Wellbeing** with Greg Smyth

• **Mental Health and Wellbeing: A Resource for the Classroom Teacher** with Brenda Wilson

• **Promoting Wellbeing Through the Lens of Equity** with Anne O'Brien, Rosemary Leclair, Michael Gray, Gerry O'Reilly, Janine Bowyer and Bob Camozzi

• **Whole Child Education: Fostering Wellness, a Sense of Belonging and Building Connections, the Canadian Rockies Way** with Violet Parsons-Peck, Christopher MacPhee and Debbie McKibbin

• **Making Sense of Data, or Who's Guarding the Ladder?** with Steve McLean

• **Advocacy and Government Relations Leader** with Sara Mison

• **Legal Challenges Regarding School Closures** with Gillian Tuck Kutarna

• **Building Personal Resiliency** with Diane Mullane and Alexandra Fortier

• **"Classroom Good, Administration Bad," or How to Leverage Collaboration in Support of the Classroom: The OECM Story** with John Sabo

• **The Joys and Challenges of Building Healthy Communities for Staff and Students: One District's Journey** with Jason Kupery

• **Complex Indigenous and Racialized Poverty and Education Systems: A Qualitative Inquiry of the Work of Influential Educators** with Dr. Duane Brothers

• **The Unified Classroom** with Andrew Foster

• **Shifting from "What's Wrong with You?" to "What Have You Experienced?" and the Promise of Resiliency** with Stephen Charbonneau and Dr. Patrick Carney

• **clevr Tracking at the Student and School Level** with Darryl Denyes and Dr. Ronna Mosher

• **Using a Mobile Safety Assistant to Make Schools Bully Free and Safer** with Bill Reynolds

• **#ConvoPlate: Supporting Youth Mental Health and Keeping the Conversation Going** with Brian Hansell



Halifax is a port city and has passenger ferries crossing the harbour frequently each day.

CASSA Conference 2017: Exhibitors Hall

ONCE AGAIN, THE annual CASSA conference will feature an exhibitors hall. This is a unique opportunity for CASSA delegates and exhibitors to engage with one another throughout the conference. Delegates are strongly encouraged to take time between sessions to learn more about the products and services provided by the exhibitors.

Exhibitors will set up in the Westin Nova Scotian's Commonwealth A & B Room in the afternoon on July 5 in time for a 5:30pm reception. The reception will be sponsored by **Mindfuel**. All delegates are welcome to attend.

The 2017 conference exhibitors hall will include **Blackboard, Exambank, Robots.Education, Follett, Franklin Covey, Nelson Education, Ontario Principals' Council, Pearson Canada, Wintergreen, Logics Academy, Box Clever, Pearson Clinical Assessment, West (SchoolMessenger Solutions), Rick Hansen Foundation, Genano, Greenfield Learning and PMH Insights Inc.**

Thank you to all of our exhibitors for supporting the 2017 CASSA conference in Halifax this July. We are especially grateful for our returning exhibitors. We also want to warmly welcome exhibitors who are new to the CASSA conference. We hope all exhibitors find it a uniquely rewarding experience.

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Conference Sponsor Profile: Miller Thomson

CASSA RECOGNIZES THE continuing support of sponsor Miller Thomson, a national law firm.

With offices in 12 cities across Canada, Miller Thomson LLP is truly national in scope. It offers comprehensive legal services in each of Canada's key business centres. Miller Thomson has offices in Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatoon, Regina, London, Kitchener-Waterloo, Guelph, Toronto, Vaughan, Markham and Montreal.

Miller Thomson was officially founded on July 1, 1957, by six lawyers. Sixty years later, it has grown into one of the largest law firms in Canada. Through a series of mergers with other well-respected firms, Miller Thomson has expanded to include 12 offices and close to 550 lawyers.

The firm's historical roots go back even further. In 2008, the firm celebrated 150 years of history in the Kitchener-Waterloo area, and two years ago it celebrated 120 years in Saskatchewan.

Miller Thomson's role in the communities where it is based go beyond the legal services it provides. Miller Thomson takes a proactive approach to corporate social responsibility. It offers not just financial donations but time and expertise. Firm members are

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