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Leaders & Learners

THE VOICE OF THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS / L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES ADMINISTRATEURS ET DES ADMINISTRATRICES SCOLAIRES
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Upcoming Events

- The CASA 2011 executive and affiliate council meeting and annual general meeting are on July 7 at the Annual Conference in Niagara Falls. Details on page 3 of this issue.

Message From The President: Looking Forward To Our Annual Gathering

As we look forward to the CASA 2011 Annual Conference in Niagara Falls, Ontario, from July 7 to 10, CASA as a professional organization for school administrators continues to move forward with its mandate of providing high-quality professional development to CASA members from coast to coast across Canada in a national conference.



Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells
CASA president

On behalf of the executive, I would like to express appreciation to the CASA affiliates and members with their teams for their tremendous response to the 2011 Annual Conference. As a result of the positive teamwork, the CASA 2011 Annual Conference continues to be an excellent professional development opportunity for CASA members to enhance their learning about new programs and initiatives, to share information and to

The theme for this year's conference is "21st Century Learning." This topic is one that generates excitement, enthusiasm, and educational conversations in classrooms and school districts across the country as the 21st century learning skills are implemented in schools. CASA is pleased to present such esteemed keynote speakers as **Roger Garriock** and **Ian Jukes** to set the stage for us with their messages about innovation in teaching and learning in our current digital age.

Furthermore, there will be 34 workshop sessions on various topics based on the theme of 21st century learning for participants provided by 70 presenters from jurisdictions across Canada. The information to be shared at the conference supports school administrators as they continue to work with staff to enhance the education of all students in Canadian schools.

network with other members from across Canada.

This year CASA welcomes members to Niagara Falls, the home of the internationally renowned scenic wonder and many other attractions for members and their families to enjoy while in attendance at the conference. The Niagara region features golf courses, the Shaw festival in historic Niagara-on-the-Lake, the beautiful Niagara Parkway, and restaurants and wineries along with many other activities for enjoyment and entertainment.

Just a few highlights about Niagara Falls: Did you know that **Jerome Bonaparte, Napoleon's** brother, celebrated his honeymoon in Niagara Falls in 1804? There are approximately 50,000 honeymoons in Niagara Falls every year. Did you also know that

(Continued on page 7)

Message From The Executive Director: Where The Learning Takes Place And The Light Goes On

The main function of the Canadian Association of School Administrators is to bring together senior leaders from school districts across Canada and have them share ideas and expertise about common issues and direction for the positive delivery of program and instruction.

When we meet, we learn that the issues are generally similar but with a local peculiarity. How we handle the issues is often different. And that is where the learning takes place. Many of us will hear what was done in another province and a light goes on. We say, “Why didn’t we think of that when we were searching for procedures?”

As we focus on new learning, there are many lessons to be gathered and studied. Different provinces are emphasizing the improvement of Aboriginal education, sustainable education, early childhood initiatives, working to improve resources for children’s mental health, better assessment techniques, attainment of higher literacy and numeracy standards, improved delivery of special education, and various programs for student success and improved high school graduation rates.

We are all busy people managing our own jobs and our local programs. Taking time to share what is effective is a significant role for leaders.

CASA is one of the few organizations that provides that forum. I encourage all CASA members to contribute to the sharing of best education practices and use our website, our newsletters and our magazine to show what is working and what will strengthen 21st century learning.



Frank Kelly
CASA executive director

Seventy-five Canadian educators are presenting at the July CASA conference in Niagara Falls. Let’s see if we can double that number through our other resources during 2011–2012!

It’s Easy To Contribute To *Leaders & Learners*

Just as the front page of this newsletter states, *Leaders & Learners* is the voice of the Canadian Association of School Administrators. We want to hear your voice. Consider putting forth your ideas, articles and photos for future editions.

Maybe there is a success story happening in your district and you want to share it. Perhaps there is an issue in education you would like to see discussed by a cross-country panel. You may want to share your reaction to what a panelist said at a recent CASA conference, at your provincial affiliate’s meeting or at other education events. *Leaders & Learners* would like to hear about your ideas.

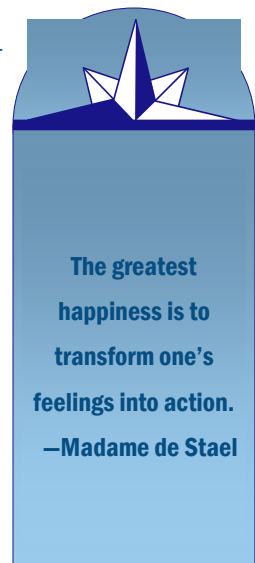
You don’t have to worry about being a professional wordsmith to contribute. Your newsletter editor can help you. Your rough ideas can be written into full-length articles for you, and your submitted articles and photographs can be professionally edited.

Regular readers of *Leaders & Learners* know that in most issues we run a feature called “Faces In The Crowd.” It is a section in the newsletter set aside to allow our members to

get to know one another a little better. Do you know a leader who should be in the spotlight? Maybe you’d even like to share your own story in a future “Faces In The Crowd.” Please get in touch and share the news.

Consider contributing some of your photographs from the annual conference to our double issue. We are looking for unaltered digital photographs (e.g., not cropped or resized) of preconference activities, award ceremonies, conference speakers and session leaders, local scenery and casual gatherings of CASA colleagues and their families.

The newsletter come out six times a year, with a special double issue following the annual conference. If you have ideas, comments or photos to share, please contact the editor, **Tara Lee Wittchen**, via email at tarawittchen@eastlink.ca.

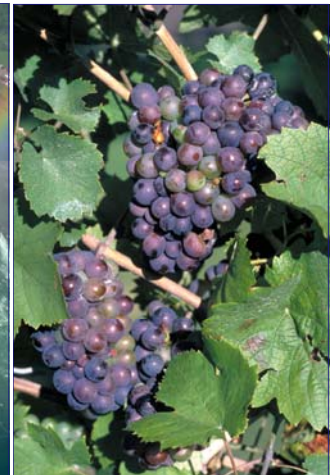


Beautiful Niagara Falls And 21st Century Learning: Annual Summer Conference 2011 Preview

Beautiful. Historical. Breathtaking. Exhilarating. Romantic. These are some of the adjectives that apply to Niagara Falls and surrounding region. Whether you're bringing your whole family and want to take in adventures like the Ferris wheel, Safari Niagara and Marineland or this is a grownups-only trip to sample wine from the over 50 local wineries, Niagara offers so much to those attending the CASA 2011 Annual Conference.

children 6 to 12. Children under 6 are free. This tour leaves at 9am.

For those wanting to get a head start on thinking about innovation, be sure to sign up for the preconference workshop *A World-Class Innovator...In One Day???* with **Roger Garriock**. The director of Canadian operations for Destination ImagiNation, Garriock will lead participants



The Niagara Parks Butterfly Conservatory, numerous vineyards and wineries, and of course the famous Niagara Falls themselves are three highlights of any visit to the Niagara Falls region. *All photos courtesy of Ontario Tourism 2011*

Preconference activities start on Wednesday, July 6, with your choice of two tours.

Take in the Niagara Falls Experience, which includes a trip up the Skylon Tower to view the falls from high above, a voyage on the *Maid of the Mist* to the rapids below the falls and the journey behind the falls, where you'll descend to tunnels leading to observation decks right behind the falls. This tour begins at 9am. The cost for this adventure is \$60 for adults and \$40 for children 12 and under.

Your second option is the Wine and Culinary Adventure in Niagara-On-The-Lake. You'll have opportunities to take part in tastings at fine regional wineries as well as sample the best of the area's local cuisine. Experience your very own *Sideways*, Niagara-style. Be ready to leave on the bus at 9am. This tour costs \$100 per person.

Thursday, July 7, offers two preconference options as well.

Option one is a Niagara Falls double decker bus city tour. See all the famous sights of this world-renowned tourist hot-spot from your seat on a genuine City of London double decker. Tickets for this tour cost \$75 for adults and \$45 for

toward becoming world-class innovators, teach them improved self-awareness and tools and techniques to help improve problem solving and meeting productivity, and take them through the most practical and invigorating day of education/professional development they have had in 10 years. These sessions are practical, thought-provoking, invigorating and fun. They are also immediately applicable in your personal life and work environment.

This workshop takes place from 9am to 4pm in the Canadian A/B Room in the Crowne Plaza and costs \$100 per person (not part of regular conference fees).

The CASA executive and affiliate council meeting and annual general meeting is at 1pm on Thursday in the Elizabeth Room. All CASA members are welcome to attend.

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Moderation. Small helpings. Sample a little bit of everything. These are the secrets of happiness and good health.
—Julia Child

Beautiful Niagara Falls And 21st Century Learning, cont'd: Annual Summer Conference 2011 Preview

(Continued from page 3)

At 5:30 that evening, the conference opening ceremonies begin in the Niagara Room. CASA's 2010–2011 president **Lee Ann Forsyth Sells** will serve as MC for the evening and will welcome everyone at 6pm. Speakers representing the Ontario Ministry of Education, the American Association of School Administrators, the Ontario Public Supervisory Officials' Association and the Ontario Catholic Supervisory Officials' Association, the Canadian Association of Principals, the District School Board of Niagara and the Niagara Catholic District School Board, the Canadian Education Associa-

tion and major conference sponsors including IBM, Education Canada and SMART Technologies will offer brief welcoming messages to CASA members and guests.

Service and Life Membership awards will also be presented at this time.

At 8pm, CASA is proud to present keynote speaker **Roger Garriock**, who will speak on the theme of Canada's National Innovation Blind Spot. Leaders and governments around the world agree that an organization or nation's ability to innovate will be one of the key determinants of success in the 21st century economy. Yet Canada was recently ranked near the bottom of the list of the industrialized world. Hear answers to many questions on innovation,



Left: Peaches, apples, pears and more—you'll have your pick of the crop from the region's fruit stands and orchards.
Centre: Thrill to the roar and spray of the water while cruising up close to the falls on the *Maid of the Mist*.
Right: Take a moment to smell the roses...and the many other flowers in bloom in gardens throughout the region.

tion and major conference sponsors including IBM, Education Canada and SMART Technologies will offer brief welcoming messages to CASA members and guests.

Following the welcomes and introductions, **Nancy Knowlton**, the co-founder and CEO of SMART Technologies (CASA's primary conference sponsor for the past four years), will present the conference opening theme address: 21st Century Classrooms—Today!

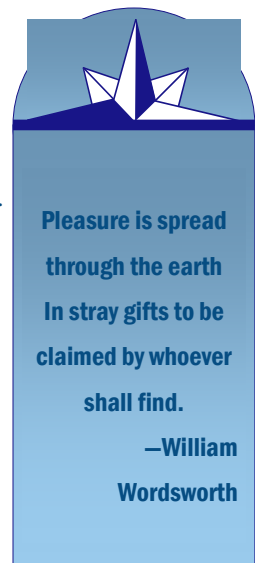
At 7:30, the 10th annual CASA Xerox EXL Awards will be presented. **Randy Brydges**, Xerox's director of Western Canada Operations, and his colleague **Linda Lucas** of ELLE & Associates will present awards to each of the CASA affiliate nominees, one of whom will be named the 2011 national EXL Award winner. The national winner will also be named the AASA Canadian Superintendent of the Year at next year's AASA annual conference. The CASA Distinguished

such as "Can innovation skills be taught?", "What has been Canada's strategy to date and why has it failed?", "Where does K-12 fit in?" and "Can we still be a leader?" in this session that is sure to elicit a call to action from everyone present.

A reception featuring finger food and beverages will start at 9pm.

Friday, July 8, begins at 8:50am with opening remarks by CASA president **Lee Ann Forsyth Sells**. At 9am, **Ian Jukes** will present his first keynote, Understanding the Digital Generation: Teaching and

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Beautiful Niagara Falls And 21st Century Learning, cont'd: Annual Summer Conference 2011 Preview

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Learning in the New Digital Landscape. Ian has been a teacher, administrator, writer, consultant, university instructor and keynote speaker. He is the co-director of the 21st Century Fluency Project, an international consulting group that provides leadership and program development in the areas of assessment and evaluation, strategic alignment, curriculum design and publication, professional development, planning, change management, hardware and software acquisition, information services, customized research, media services, online training, and conference keynotes and workshop presentations.

A brief coffee break will take place at 10:15.

Ian Jukes returns at 10:45 for his second keynote, Literacy is Not an Option.

A ticketed lunch takes place from 12 to 1:30pm (pre-registration required; tickets for family members available). Tickets cost \$25 per person. You may also choose to have lunch on your own.

Afternoon breakout sessions start at 1:30 and include Cultivating Creativity and Teamwork in Your Classrooms (with **Roger Gariock**), Bringing 21st Century Learning from Board Vision to Classroom Practice (with **Heli Vail, Kelly Brown** and **Christopher Walkling**), Creating a Bilingual Environment in Canadian Schools (with **Léo-James Lévesque**), 21st Century Learning: It's More Than Equipment That Needs to Change (with **Tom D'Amico**) and Visual Learning: The Next Paradigm Shift (Making Thinking Visible) (with **Mary Jane Di Gregorio, Pamela Hubbard, Donna Stack** and **Leighanne Palombella**).

A brief 15-minute break at 2:45 will allow for session room changes.

The second set of breakout sessions begins at 3pm and includes Full Day Kindergarten: An Opportunity for Innovation for Our Youngest Students! (with **Céline Bourbonnais-MacDonald, Holly Gerrits** and **Diana Goodwin**), iTouch iSpeak iLearn (with **Pamela McCulloch** and **Nancy Kalil**),

Literacy Achievement Program (with **Yaw Obeng** and **Veronica Purcell**), Development and Implementation of a Digital Citizenship Program (with **Michael Chechile**) and 100 Voices (with **Scott Tumbach, Carleen Greaves** and **Corine Gannon**).

Your evening is free to enjoy Niagara Falls.

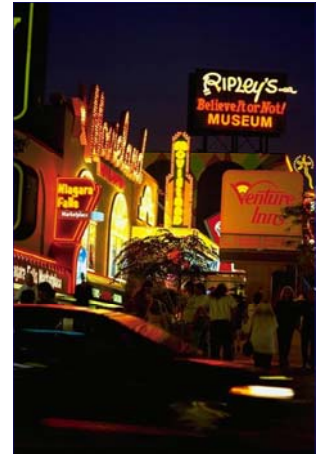
Breakout sessions continue on Saturday, July 9, at 8:50am.

These include Learning in Today's Digital World: Taking Action and Focus on 21st Century Fluencies (with **Peter Joshua, Lisa Neale** and **Michael Hiltz**), Concept-based Curriculum and Instruction for the 21st Century Learner (with **Chad Erickson**), Character Education and Leadership Development as 21st Century Learning (with **David George**), Let's Talk Leadership: 21st Century Style (with **Tia Cumming** and **Tanis Pshebniski**) and Teacher Evaluation in the 21st Century: Eleven Years Late (with **Bryan Richardson**).

Head to the foyer for a quick coffee break at 10:15, then take your pick of another five breakout sessions at 10:45, including Building Capacity for Learning Technology Leadership: The CASS Network of 21st Century Systems (with **Jim Brandon**), Mobile Learning in Support of 21st Century Skills (with **Valerie Nielsen**), Pulling It Together: Destination ImagiNation Meets Inspiring Education (with **Susan Picard**), BIT: Building Integrated Technology Together (with **Mark Basaraba**) and Developing Technology Use in District Leadership to Support the District Focus of Improving Learning Through Enhanced Instruction with 21st Century Learning (with **Tim Johnson**).

Saturday's lunch break is from 12 to 1:30pm. You once again have the option of attending the ticketed lunch (if you are pre-registered; tickets are \$25 per person) or you can head out on your own—why not

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Beautiful Niagara Falls And 21st Century Learning, cont'd: Annual Summer Conference 2011 Preview

(Continued from page 5)

try a spot with a view of the falls or sample dishes featuring some of the incredible local in-season ingredients?

The first of the afternoon breakout sessions include Engaging the Exceptional Learner Using Innovative Technologies (with **Helen Reaume, Shelly Crone** and **Scott Boland**), Taking the Mystery and Misery Out of 21st Century Learning Visions: Purposeful Steps Forward for School Leaders (with **Dr. Lynne Paradis** and colleagues), Engaging the 21st Century Learner (with **Christopher Smeaton** and **Lorelie Lenaour**), 21st Century Mathematics Learner (with **Morris Hucal** and **Kerry Dwyer-Mitchell**) and Engaging Students: Partnerships Along the Instructional Coaching Highway (with **Denise Harrison, Steve Trueman** and **Terra Kaliszuk**).

There will be a short break between sessions at 2:45 before the second group of breakout sessions start at 3. These will include Community Partnerships, Key to Student Engagement in the 21st Century: The Youth Achievement Program at Dr. Swift Middle School (with **Rob Wicker** and **Samear Abougouche**), Globalization, Student Voice and World Religions: 21st Century Learning with the Tony Blair Faith Foundation (with **Brian O'Sullivan** and **Maria Campbell**), Engaging a Collaborative Community of Learners Through Hockey, Technology and Other Student-Centred Programs (with **Jim Burchell** and **Stuart Pietersma**), eSCRIBE Solutions: Automating the Meeting and Agenda Management Process for Yellowknife Education District 1 (with **Metro Huculak** and **Paul Mackin**) and The Blended Classroom: 21st Century Teaching Today (with **Pat Mete** and **Robert Di Persio**).

Conference sponsors will have displays up in the Brock Room throughout Friday and Saturday.

Saturday evening is free to take in the many attractions of Niagara Falls. Don't miss your opportunity to take in the view of the falls at night. They are lit up each Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 9pm to midnight.

Sunday features a full morning of sessions. The first batch starts at 9am and includes Integrating Technology to



Create a 21st Century Learning Environment and a Positive Culture of Change (with **Dianna Scates** and **Jeremy Cadeau**), Charter Schools: Centres of Innovation (with **John Picard**), Zoom In and Bump It Up! (with **Sue Mark, Linda Rocco** and **Christine Waler**), The Role of Education in Meeting Global Challenges (with **Marco Magazzeni**) and Development of Growth as a Learner (with **Peter Maguire** and **Anita Griffiore**).

Coffee is served at 10:15, and then the second sessions of the morning (and the final sessions of the conference) get underway at 10:30. These include Making a Strong Case for Mentorship (presented in French by **Margaret Gillespie deGooyer** and **Mme Guylaine Roy**), Teachers: Architects of Innovation (with **John Picard**), A SMART Day!: Educating Students in Life Skills Developmental Centres (with **Lori Bryden, Donna Coombs** and **Theresa Kennedy**) and Leading Teachers Through the Paradigm Shift of 21st Century Learning (with **AJ Keene**).

As these final sessions wrap up just before noon, participants are invited to gather in the Niagara Room for closing remarks from CASA president **Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells**. There will also be a number of draws for great prizes, with one catch: You must be present to claim the prize if your name is drawn.

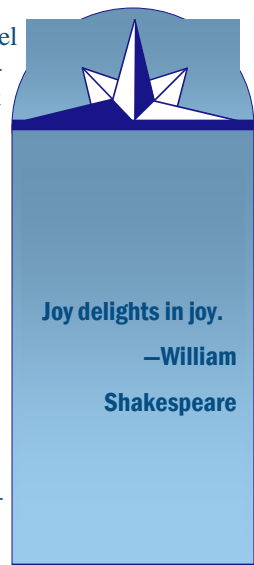
For more information or to register for events, contact **Marion Holmes** from PD Pros by phone at (403) 386-3860, by fax at (403) 386-3861, by email at holmes3@telusplanet.net or by mail at PD Pros, 496 Brookmere Cres. SW, Calgary, AB, T2W 2R4.

A room block will be held at the hotel until June 13. Call Reservations toll-free at 1 (800) 519-9911 and request the special convention rate for

CASA. Traditional rooms are \$149 plus tax; Fallsview rooms are \$189 plus tax.

The deadline to register for the conference is July 1.

We hope to see you and your leadership team in beautiful Niagara Falls this July!



Message From The President, continued: Looking Forward To Our Annual Gathering

(Continued from page 1)

Annie Taylor, a 63-year-old school teacher, was the first person to attempt to go over Niagara Falls in a barrel! The IMAX Niagara Theatre is now featuring a Niagara Daredevil exhibit. Niagara Falls welcomes visitors from all over the world during the tourist season, and many famous people have spent time viewing and writing about Niagara Falls.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally extend an invitation to all members of CASA to attend the our annual conference in picturesque Niagara Falls.

This time of year presents many challenges for Canadian school administrators making decisions regarding budget, staffing, programs and facilities in school districts. These decisions require focus, time and coordinated efforts to make the best decisions on behalf of all students in Canadian classrooms.

As school administrators, we continue to work within our school districts on improving student achievement, particularly in literacy and numeracy skills, and meeting the needs of all students by continuing to provide quality educational programs in our Canadian schools.

As our Canadian students continue to participate in provincial and national assessments to measure achievement, school administrators continue to provide leadership, support and direction to their school districts for the success of all students.

In addition to academic support, school administrators also recognize the need for other supports to

“School administrators continue to provide leadership, support and direction to their school districts for the success of all students.”

assist students and their families. Check in with our next issue, which will continue to highlight this past year’s theme of mental health and the excellent programs and services that are available for students and their families facing challenges in this area.

This topic also continues to be a priority for CASA members to address in their school districts. The recent announcement of the \$10 million donation to Canada’s flagship mental health hospital CAMH, by Bell Canada to support brain research further supports the importance of this topic in our

communities. Thank you to all CASA members who have shared their expertise, articles and information about this topic throughout the year.

CASA members continue to lead their educational communities and to grow professionally while working with their teams to support students in their educational journey of 21st century learning.

On behalf of the entire Canadian Association of School Administrators executive, I look forward to seeing everyone at the CASA 2011 Annual Conference in Niagara Falls from July 7 to 10. Thank you for your continued support of CASA and public education in Canada!



The world-famous Niagara Falls, one of many attractions to take in during the CASA 2011 Annual Conference.

Photo courtesy of Ontario Tourism 2011



CASA PEOPLE: Faces In The Crowd



Ford Rice
Nfld & Labrador

Ford has been the director/CEO of the Eastern School District in Newfoundland & Labrador since April 2008. He started teaching with the Labrador West Integrated School Board as a French teacher, and has also been an itinerant teacher, assistant principal, principal, program specialist, senior education officer, and assistant director of education. Ford earned his BEd and MEd from Memorial University.

He joined the senior management team of the Eastern School District in winter 2006. At that time, he led the strategic planning process to reorganize the district. As director/CEO, he continues to maintain that strategic focus and vision for student success.

Ford enjoys travelling, kayaking, hiking and running. He and his daughter Rebecca currently reside in St. John's.



John Mackle
Ontario

AASA Canadian Superintendent Of The Year

John was named Canadian Superintendent of the Year on February 17 at the 2011 American Association of School Administrators (AASA) annual conference in Denver, Colorado. At the AASA ceremony, John received plaque honouring him as the Canadian Superintendent of the Year. He also received a bronze medallion, the front of which is inscribed "Superintendent of the Year, 2011." On the back is a quote from Abraham Lincoln that reads "...I view education as the most important subject which we as a people can be engaged in."

John retired this spring as director of education for the Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board. He has served in that capacity for the last seven years, and has worked in Catholic education for 37 years. He was CASA's 2010 EXL Award winner.

He is married to Susan, with whom he has two children, Jake and Katie. John and Susan are both highly involved in their community and recently chaired a very successful United Way campaign that raised more than \$2.5 million for the Peterborough and District campaign.

In the photo above, John (left) is receiving congratulations from Edgar Hatrick (centre), president of AASA, and Dan Domenech, executive director of AASA, on being named the 2011 Canadian Superintendent of the Year. AASA is a professional organization for more than 13,000 educational leaders in the US and throughout the world. AASA's mission is to support and develop effective school system leaders who are dedicated to the highest quality public education for all children. This was the 24th year the award was presented.

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Our Mission

CASA exists to promote and enhance effective administration and leadership in the provision of quality in education in Canada.



Our Beliefs

- School system administration is a noble profession.
- Effective leadership and administration of school systems are essential.
- Individually and collectively, school system administrators provide leadership for quality in education.
- Communication and cooperation with other stakeholder groups in education are vital.
- Individually and collectively, school system administrators can assist one another.

Our Goals

- To provide a national voice on education matters.
- To promote and provide opportunity for professional development of the membership.
- To promote communication and liaison with national and international organizations having an interest in education.
- To provide a variety of services to the membership.
- To recognize outstanding contributions to education in Canada.

Profiles Of Our Sponsors, Part 3: IBM Canada

One of CASA's newest sponsoring partners is IBM Canada. We hope this is just the start of a strong relationship with IBM Canada, a company that in 2009 invested over \$566.5 million in research and development, over \$5.8 million in charitable giving (including cash, technology and gifts of service) and more than 70,000 hours in employee volunteerism.

Anne Saftich is the National Teaching and Learning Manager, K-12 Education, with IBM Canada, and is based in Markham, Ontario. She provided *Leaders & Learners* with the following statement on the company's role in education in Canada:

"IBM Canada K-12 Education is committed to responding to the needs of elementary and secondary school students, teachers and administrators. Educators continue to teach us that there is nothing else quite like the magic, and the challenge, of teaching our children. And there is nothing more important to Canada's future.

We are dedicated to helping educators improve the quality of Canadian education through the use of exciting educational software, innovative professional development and industry-leading technology.

When it comes to using technology to help children learn and teachers teach, IBM is well-schooled. Our IBM K-12 team members learn new lessons every day directly from educators and children. In IBM K-12 Education, we have the expertise of professionals completely specialized in education.



We offer educators and administrators total educational technology solutions, tailored to their requirements.

As IBM celebrates its 100th anniversary, we are thrilled to be joining CASA in providing a future of hope and fulfillment for every child."