



CLEAR VISION

FOR SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

2020

THE 38TH ANNUAL
Canadian Association of Principals Conference
RBC CONVENTION CENTRE WINNIPEG, MB
MAY 5-8, 2020

COSL
COUNCIL OF SCHOOL LEADERS
of The Manitoba Teachers' Society



The
Manitoba
Teachers'
Society

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



JENNIFER ABRAMS

A former teacher and teacher coach in Palo Alto, CA, USA, Jennifer Abrams is a communications consultant who focuses on new teacher support, being generationally savvy, effective collaboration skills and having hard conversations.

Jennifer's publications include Having Hard Conversations, The Multigenerational Workplace: Communicate, Collaborate & Create Community, Hard Conversations Unpacked - the Whos, Whens and What Ifs, and, Swimming in the Deep End: Four Foundational Skills for Leading Successful School Initiatives.

Jennifer keynotes, facilitates and coaches worldwide. She was named one of the "18 Women All K-12 Educators Should Know," by *Education Week's* "Finding Common Ground" blog.

www.jenniferabrams.com

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Skype: jenniferabrams



KEVIN CHIEF

Vice President at the Business Council of Manitoba.

We Are All Leaders: How a Bus Driver Showed us Anything was Possible

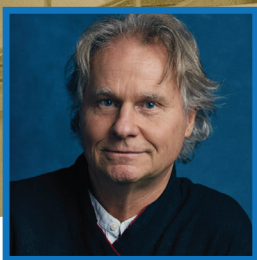
Kevin draws on his personal and professional experiences from growing up as an Indigenous youth in Winnipeg's North End, to his work in the community, education and business fields.

As a former member of the Legislative Assembly and Minister in the Manitoba Government, he is able to share stories of seeing potential and possibility, overcoming barriers, and creating opportunities out of challenges.

Born and raised in Winnipeg's North End, he has considerable public sector and community experience. He spent six years as a member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, representing Point Douglas, and previously worked in the field of education.

Kevin and his wife Melanie have three young sons: Hayden, Kellan, and Daxton. He is also known as a high steppin' square dancer as part of the Norman Chief Memorial Dancers.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



WADE DAVIS

Wade Davis is a writer and photographer whose work has taken him from the Amazon to Tibet, Africa to Australia, Polynesia to the Arctic. Explorer-in-Residence at the National Geographic Society from 2000 to 2013, he is currently Professor of Anthropology and the BC Leadership Chair in Cultures and Ecosystems at Risk at the University of British Columbia. Author of 22 books, including *One River*, *The Wayfinders* and *Into the Silence*, he holds degrees in anthropology and biology and received his Ph.D. in ethnobotany, all from Harvard University. In 2016, he was made a Member of the Order of Canada. In 2018 he became an Honorary Citizen of Colombia.



KEVIN LAMOUREUX

Kevin Lamoureux is a Faculty member at the University of Winnipeg and a well-known public speaker. He has served as Associate Vice President for the University of Winnipeg, Education Lead for the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation and as Scholar in Residence for several school divisions. Lamoureux is an award-winning scholar with an impressive publication and research grant record, and has consulted for governments, organizations and institutions across Canada. His most recent book contribution for *Ensouling Our Schools* with Dr. Jennifer Katz is being used by educators across Canada working to create inclusive spaces for all students. He has been seen on TV, in documentaries, in print, and in the media. More than anything, Kevin is committed to reconciliation and contributing to an even better Canada for all children to grow up in.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



SHELLEY MOORE

Originally from Edmonton, and now based in Vancouver, British Columbia, Shelley Moore is a highly sought-after teacher, researcher, speaker and storyteller and has worked with school districts and community organizations throughout both Canada and the United States. Shelley's presentations are constructed based on contexts of schools and communities and integrate theory and effective practices of inclusion, special education, curriculum and teacher professional development. Her first book entitled, "One Without the Other" was released to follow up her TEDx talk hosted in Langley in January 2016. Shelley completed an undergraduate degree in Special Education at the University of Alberta, her masters at Simon Fraser University, and is currently a SSHRC funded PhD candidate at the University of British Columbia.



JOEL WESTHEIMER

Joel Westheimer is an education columnist for CBC Radio and University Research Chair in Democracy and Education at the University of Ottawa. Author, speaker, and education advocate, he also co-directs (with John Rogers, UCLA) The Inequality Project, investigating what North American schools are teaching about economic inequality. Westheimer grew up in New York City and began his education career as a summer camp director and then middle school teacher in the New York City Public Schools before obtaining his Ph.D. from Stanford University. His books include the critically acclaimed What Kind of Citizen: Educating Our Children for the Common Good, and the award winning Pledging Allegiance: The Politics of Patriotism in America's Schools (foreword by Howard Zinn) and Among Schoolteachers: Community, Autonomy and Ideology in Teachers' Work. He is the author of more than 75 academic and professional journal articles, book chapters, and books. He addresses radio and television audiences and has delivered more than 200 keynote speeches, nationally and internationally. He lives with his wife and two children in Ottawa where, in winter, he ice-skates to and from work.

You can visit his website at joelwestheimer.org and follow him on Twitter @joelwestheimer.

BREAKOUT SPEAKERS



DR. DANIELLE FULLAN KOLTON

Dr. Danielle Fullan Kolton is the Assistant General Secretary: Programs & Professional and French Language Services at The Manitoba Teachers' Society. In this capacity, she provides support of the management function of the Society and oversees professional learning programs and services. Danielle is passionate about supporting members in the messiness of teaching, leading, and learning. She has worked as a K-12 teacher, principal, educational consultant, and university instructor.



DR. JACQUELINE KIRK

Dr. Jacqueline Kirk is an Associate Professor from Brandon University where she is currently the Chair of the Department of Leadership and Educational Administration. Her teaching career started in a K-2 classroom in a small rural community in Saskatchewan. Since then, she has taught a variety of grades from K-12, in both rural and urban settings, and in both private and public schools. Additionally, she experienced five years as a high school principal and two years working at the school division level in the areas of community partnerships and integrated technology.

BREAKOUT SPEAKERS



MARC KULY

University of Winnipeg

Marc Kuly is an assistant professor and the service learning program coordinator in the Faculty of Education at the University of Winnipeg. Marc spent fifteen years working in Winnipeg public schools. His work is focussed on building intercultural connections through the use of storytelling. A sought after lecturer and storyteller, Marc has received awards for his work from the Manitoba Foundation for the Arts, The Manitoba YM/YWCA, and the American Educational Research Association.



DR. PHILIP McRAE

Dr. Philip McRae is Executive Staff Officer and Associate Coordinator, Government-Research with the Alberta Teachers' Association and Adjunct Professor within the Faculty of Education at the University of Alberta where he earned his Ph.D. He was the Director of the Alberta Initiative for School Improvement (AISI) at the University of Alberta from 2005-2009, and taught several graduate courses in the Master of Education in Educational Studies program. Phil has worked in many secondary and post-secondary educational contexts while living and teaching in the Middle East (United Arab Emirates), Asia (Japan), Europe (Spain), and in Alberta, Canada with the Lethbridge Public School District and at Red Crow College with the Blood Tribe (Kainai First Nation). The Blackfoot honoured him with the name Áípapomm, which means lightning.

Speaker biography, awards, publications and reading list available at www.philmcrae.com

BREAKOUT SPEAKERS



DAVID NORTHCOTT

David Northcott was the Executive Director of Winnipeg Harvest Food Bank since 1984 to 2017, with a short break from 2004 to 2007 to run for federal office and take part in a food study tour of Africa. David was actively involved in the community and is a founder of the Canadian Association of Food Banks and the Manitoba Association of Food Banks.

In addition to his involvement with the Vanier Institute's Board of Directors (as Past Chair), David serves on the board of The Lady Bug Foundation and Basic Income Manitoba and volunteers with Agape Table soup kitchen. He has been active in many community boards and events over his 30 plus years at Winnipeg Harvest with a great passion for human rights and hunger and poverty relief.

For his efforts in the poverty field, David Northcott was named a member of the Order of Manitoba in 2000 and received the Queen's Canada 125 Medal for Community Service. As well, the Queen's Jubilee medal was awarded to David for his continuing efforts in community development.

Doctors Manitoba recognized David's tireless efforts in hunger and poverty relief with the Health or Safety award for the year 2014.

David was also an NGO member of the Canadian delegation to the UN's Second World Food Summit in 2002. In May 2012, David received the Order of Canada from His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, at Rideau Hall. The University of Manitoba recognized David's work with poverty and hunger in the community with a Distinguished Service Award in 2014.

David's educational background includes a BSC in Physics from the University of British Columbia (1976) and a Certificate of NGOs Management from the University of Manitoba, along with many continuing education opportunities that add to his extensive knowledge base.

David has an active and passionate commitment to food security issues and human rights. He is married with three adult daughters and sons in law, and five young grandchildren, who keep his life busy.

BREAKOUT SPEAKERS



DEAN SHARESKI

Dean Shareski lead Principal Engagement for Discovery Education Canada. He taught grades 1-8 for 14 years and spent 9 as a digital learning consultant. Dean's two books focus on joy and change in education. In addition, he designs and teachers at Wilkes University.

His passion remains to help teachers explore the affordances of technology for learning.



DR. TOM SKINNER

Dr. Tom Skinner has been involved in education for the last forty years. He has experience as a teacher from kindergarten to grade 12 including multi-grade and special education classrooms. As well, his professional experience includes twelve years as a school principal in four Manitoba school divisions, including rural, urban, and northern divisions. Currently, he is an associate professor in the Faculty of Education at Brandon University where he lectures in both the undergrad program and the graduate program. He has served on a number of provincial and national committees focused on policy and legislative development in education and has presented papers at the provincial and national levels, focusing on education law, leadership, and team building. He graduated with a Doctor of Education degree from the University of Toronto in 2002, specializing in Theory and Policy Studies in Education Administration. The doctorate was preceded by a Masters' degree in Education Administration from the University of Manitoba.

BREAKOUT SPEAKERS



DR. ALEX WILSON

Dr. Alex Wilson (Opaskwayak Cree Nation) is a professor and director of the Aboriginal Research Centre at the University of Saskatchewan. Her scholarship has greatly contributed to building and sharing knowledge about two spirit peoples, land-based education, Indigenous research methodologies, and the prevention of violence in the lives of Indigenous peoples. Dr. Wilson is one of many organizers with the Idle No More movement, integrating radical education movement work with grassroots interventions that prevent the destruction of land and water. She is particularly focussed on educating about and protecting the Saskatchewan River Delta and supporting community-based food sovereignty and sustainable housing.



RAINBOW RESOURCE CENTRE

Working with the School Equity and Inclusion Co-Ordinator of the Rainbow Resource Centre a student panel will share with participants their journeys. Members of the panel may be involved at the local level with their school's GSAs.

CAP 2020 SCHEDULE

PRECONFERENCE | TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2020

SELECT 1 OF THE FOLLOWING

Environmental Tour

Assiniboine Park Zoo
Polar Bear Conservation Centre

Indigenous Tour

U of M
Sweat Lodge
National Centre for
Truth and Reconciliation

Historical Walking Tour

Winnipeg's Exchange District

TIME	
8:30 - 9:00 a.m.	Bus Pick-up from Delta Hotel
9:00 - 11:30 a.m.	Tour as selected from above
11:30 a.m.	Bus Pick-up
12:00p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Lunch Marc Kuly Documentary and Speakers Q&A with Marc Kuly and Documentary Participants - Canadian Museum for Human Rights
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Explore Canadian Museum for Human Rights
4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Free time
7:00 p.m.	Ignite the Night - Sponsored by Discovery Canada - The Metropolitan Entertainment Centre
8:30 p.m.	Manitoba Social - The Metropolitan Entertainment Centre

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2020

TIME

8:30 - 9:15 a.m.	Opening Ceremonies/Greetings	
9:15 - 10:30 a.m.	KEYNOTE: Inclusion in Today's Classrooms - Shelley Moore	
10:30 - 11:00 a.m.	NUTRITION BREAK	
11:00 - 12:15 p.m.	BREAKOUTS #1 - Select 1 (Repeated in the afternoon)	ROOM
1A	Supporting Individuals in a Diverse Classroom Shelley Moore	TBA
1B	Many Voices, One World: Storytelling and Education Marc Kuly	TBA
1C	Forecasting the Future for School Leadership in Canada: Navigating in a Sea of Change Dr. Phil McRae	TBA
1D	When the Answer is Both Dean Shareski	TBA
1E	Manage the Messy with Clarity, Kindness, and Hope Dr. Danielle Fullan Kolton	TBA
1F	Crossroads or Crossfire David Northcott	TBA
12:15 - 1:15 p.m.	LUNCH	
1:15 - 2:15 p.m.	KEYNOTE: Education: The Best and Last Possible Antidote - Kevin Lamoureux	
2:15 - 2:45 p.m.	NUTRITION BREAK	
2:45 - 3:45 p.m.	BREAKOUTS #2 - Select 1	ROOM
2A	Supporting a Classroom of Diverse of Individuals Shelley Moore	TBA
2B	Many Voices, One World: Storytelling and Education Marc Kuly	TBA
2C	Forecasting the Future for School Leadership in Canada: Navigating in a Sea of Change Dr. Phil McRae	TBA
2D	When the Answer is Both Dean Shareski	TBA
2E	Manage the Messy with Clarity, Kindness, and Hope Dr. Danielle Fullan Kolton	TBA
2F	Crossroads or Crossfire David Northcott	TBA
9:00 p.m.	CAP 2021 HOSPITALITY - TBA	

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2020

TIME

8:30 - 9:15 a.m.	Greetings/Opening Remarks	
9:15 - 10:30 a.m.	KEYNOTE: Swimming in the Deep End - Jennifer Abrams	
10:30 - 11:00 a.m.	NUTRITION BREAK	
11:00 - 12:15 p.m.	BREAKOUTS #3 - Select 1 (Repeated in the afternoon)	ROOM
3A	Land-Based Education Dr. Alex Wilson	TBA
3B	The School Principal is a Counsellor Dr. Jacqueline Kirk	TBA
3C	Legal Issues Around Technology Tom Skinner	TBA
3D	Having Hard Conversations: Finding Your Voice Around What Matters Jennifer Abrams	TBA
3E	Into The Silence Wade Davis	TBA
3F	Our Personal Journeys Rainbow Resource Centre	TBA
12:15 - 1:15 p.m.	LUNCH	
1:15 - 2:15 p.m.	KEYNOTE: The Wayfinders: Why Ancient Wisdom Matters in a Modern World - Wade Davis	
2:15 - 2:45 p.m.	NUTRITION BREAK	
2:45 - 3:45 p.m.	BREAKOUTS #4 - Select 1	ROOM
4A	Land-Based Education Dr. Alex Wilson	TBA
4B	The School Principal is a Counsellor Dr. Jacqueline Kirk	TBA
4C	Legal Issues Around Technology Tom Skinner	TBA
4D	Having Hard Conversations: Finding Your Voice Around What Matters Jennifer Abrams	TBA
4E	Schooling The World Wade Davis	TBA
4F	Our Personal Journeys Rainbow Resource Centre	TBA
6:30 p.m.	CAP 2020 BANQUET - TBA	

FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2020

TIME

7:30 - 8:45 a.m.	BREAKFAST
8:45 - 9:00 a.m.	Greetings/Opening Remarks
9:00 - 10:15 a.m.	KEYNOTE: We Are All Leaders: How a Bus Driver Showed us Anything was Possible - Kevin Chief
10:15 - 10:30 a.m.	BREAK
10:30 - 11:30 a.m.	KEYNOTE: What School Could Be - Joel Westheimer
11:30 - 12:00 p.m.	Conference Wrap-Up CAP 2021

TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2020

PRE-CONFERENCE - SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

OPTION 1

Sweat and NCTR

(Limited to 20 participants)

On the banks of the Red River, at the University of Manitoba, participants will experience a sweat. Led by an Elder, participants will learn about the importance of a sweat to First Nation's Communities, as well as the meanings and teachings associated with a sweat. Participants are asked to bring a change of clothes to put on after the sweat as the clothes worn in the sweat will become damp and smoky (change facilities on site)

After participating in the sweat, lunch will be served. In the afternoon participants will visit the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation and listen to a presentation describing its role in the reconciliation journey we are on. Participants will then be bussed back to the Canadian Museum of Human Rights if they wish to take a brief tour of the facility or to their hotel.

OPTION 2

Journey to Churchill: Discover the Magic of the North in the Heart of the Continent

Go deep into the heart of Manitoba's North – without leaving the city of Winnipeg! Join us for an exclusive tour of the Journey to Churchill exhibit at the Assiniboine Park Zoo, one of the world's best Arctic zoo exhibits. This immersive experience offers travelers a convenient and comfortable opportunity to discover the wildlife, geography and culture of Manitoba's majestic North and visit one of Winnipeg's must-see attractions. It is ideal for large and small groups and those with limited time.

The Experience

Your journey starts with a tour of the 10-acre exhibit, where you'll get unobstructed views of a variety of northern species, including one of Canada's most iconic animals – the polar bear. Then, join a member of the animal care team to learn about the care of our Arctic species including polar bears, muskoxen and snowy owls. You'll visit the Sea Ice Passage underwater viewing tunnels where polar bears can be found swimming and playing in the water overhead.

After the experience, participants will be bussed back to the Canadian Museum for Human Rights (CMHR) for lunch. During lunch, participants will view the Gemini Award winning documentary, *The Story Telling Class* followed by a Q and A with the teacher and students featured in the film. The film looks at the lives of newcomers to Canada and the difficulties of trying to fit into a new school in a new country. The documentary looks at how teacher Marc Kuly facilitated the de-stratification happening in the school by getting students to share their stories with their peers. Check out a trailer for the documentary at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Se8gbKrlHXw>

After viewing the documentary, participants will have some time to tour the CMHR if they are interested.

OPTION 3

Historical Walking Tours

(Participants should bring proper walking footwear and appropriate outerwear for the weather—heat, cold, rain, snow (hopefully not)).

Participants will take part in 2 walking tours of Winnipeg's Exchange District. The 2 most popular tours chosen will be presented.

Tour 1 STRIKE! The Walking Tour

The 1919 Winnipeg General Strike was the longest and most violent labour conflict in North America and had a major national impact on the labour movement. Learn about the plight of the strikers from the citywide halt of production to the firing of the police force, and the tragic events of Bloody Saturday.

Tour 2 Death and Debauchery

Take a walk on the wild side and explore the dark secrets that made Winnipeg the "Wickedest City in the Dominion". See a different side of Winnipeg's history with drunk mayors, angry mobs, prostitutes on horseback, and even a few executions.

After the tours, participants will be bussed back to the Canadian Museum for Human Rights (CMHR) for lunch. During lunch, participants will view the Gemini Award winning documentary, *The Story Telling Class* followed by a Q and A with the teacher and students featured in the film. The film looks at the lives of newcomers to Canada and the difficulties of trying to fit into a new school in a new country. The documentary looks at how teacher Marc Kuly facilitated the de-stratification happening in the school by getting students to share their stories with their peers. Check out a trailer for the documentary at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Se8gbKrlHXw>

After viewing the documentary, participants will have some time to tour the CMHR if they are interested.

TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2020

PRE-CONFERENCE - SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

EVENING

Ignite the Night

Participants in the pre-conference will have some time to rest and relax until the final portion of their day begins. Beginning at 7:00 p.m., at the beautifully restored Metropolitan Event Centre, we kick off CAP 2020 with Ignite The Night CAP 2020, sponsored by Discovery Canada.

Ignite The Night CAP 2020 will be a powerful evening of short, energizing presentations combined with networking and engaging conversations. Presenters will be sharing their personal stories of experiences or learning that have brought them joy. Each presenter will be sharing in the Ignite format, which is a 5-minute presentation that features 20 slides that automatically advance every

15 seconds. It is a fast-paced format to be sure. Each presentation will also end with a question that is intended to spark your curiosity and provoke conversation. We will be looking to participants of CAP 2020 to put their names forward as a presenter. It would be great to get one presenter from each province. If you are interested, make sure to indicate so on your registration.

Prior to the presentations, participants will have a chance to sample a variety of carvery bars: Noodle Bar, Nacho Bar or Poutine Bar as well as enjoy a complimentary beverage.

Following the Ignite Presentations, we will switch gears and host a Manitoba Social to get CAP 2020 rocking. Join school

leaders from across the country to enjoy the music of a live band. Unwind and have some fun out on the dance floor.

If you do not register for the day portion of the Pre-Conference, you will be able to purchase a ticket for the Ignite The Night/Manitoba Social separately (food and beverage included). Cost is \$25.

An added bonus may be that you will find yourself smack dab in the middle of a Winnipeg White Out as the Metropolitan Event Centre is located right next door to the Bell/MTS Place, home of the Winnipeg Jets.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2020

CONFERENCE DAY 1 - SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

KEYNOTES

Shelley Moore
9:15 am - 10:15 am

Inclusion in Today's Classrooms

In this presentation, we deconstruct what inclusive education means in today's classrooms and communities. We will also discuss common misunderstandings and myths and leave with ideas and possibilities of inclusive learning communities and all who benefit.

Kevin Lamoureux
9:15 am - 10:15 am

Education: The best and Last Possible Antidote

This session will explore the possibility that education may act as the best and last possible antidote against the growing sickness of hatred, xenophobia and fear. It is the basics of empathy, courage and generosity that guarantees a healthy society, economy and labour force; not standardized test scores.

BREAKOUTS

Shelley Moore
11:00 am - 12:15 pm
2:45 pm - 3:45 pm

Supporting Individuals in a Diverse Classroom

This session will look at how planning can be responsive to the needs of individual learners in inclusive classrooms. We will discuss examples and strategies of how all kids can achieve success through strategic goal planning.

Supporting a Classroom of Diverse of Individuals

This session will look at how collaborative teams can design a classroom support plan. Building on frameworks designed to support inclusion, we will look at examples of how classrooms and schools are adapting to (and thriving from) the changing roles of support staff and ever evolving resource models in inclusive classrooms and schools.

Dr. Danielle Fullan Kolton
11:00 am - 12:15 pm
2:45 pm - 3:45 pm

Managing the Messiness of Difficult Conversations

Safe and professional spaces depend on productive conversations that build trust, especially when stakes are high, emotions are strong, and opinions vary. Yet, these conversations have the potential to turn messy, muddled, ambiguous, and emotional. This is because having conversations is not formulaic; it is impossible to predict the outcome or sanitize the dialogue from either person's history, reactive patterns, or triggers. In this session, participants will explore ways to manage the messiness in better conversations with clarity, kindness, and hope.

Marc Kuly
11:00 am - 12:15 pm
2:45 pm - 3:45 pm

Many Voices, One World: Storytelling and Education

Thomas King wrote, "The truth about stories is that's all we are." Building on that sentiment this interactive session will explore practical, personal and theoretical ways of thinking about school as a storytelling space.

Dr. Phil McRae
11:00 am - 12:15 pm
2:45 pm - 3:45 pm

Forecasting the Future for School Leadership in Canada: Navigating in a Sea of Change

Societies around the world are in the midst of a period of rapid change and transformation unlike any other time over the last 100 years. In this conversation, Dr. McRae will highlight four significant trends that will change the landscape of school leadership across Canada over the next two decades. This presentation is also intended to open up a discussion about the promise and perils of digital

technologies that are actively (re) shaping our children and youth and share how to achieve a fine balance in a digitally saturated world.

David Northcott
11:00 am - 12:15 pm
2:45 pm - 3:45 pm

Crossroads or Crossfire

As a key focal point of the educational structure in Canada, you have multiple demands and expectations that add stress and challenge you every day! Do you make a difference?

Dean Shareski
11:00 am - 12:15 pm
2:45 pm - 3:45 pm

When We Answer The Both

The complex and monumental task of educating children requires us to do many things. Questions like, "Do we want to prepare children for college and career or to be productive citizens?"

Certainly, our response to questions like this is "both" or sometimes we say "it's a balance." But without a clear vision and intention, we lose our focus. Healthy and productive cultures are built around key and purposeful ideas and actions. This message will challenge you to take stock of your current culture and inspire you to consider simple, yet powerful ways to establish cultures of joyful learning.

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2020

CONFERENCE DAY 2 - SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

KEYNOTES

Jennifer Abrams
9:15 am - 10:30 am

Swimming in the Deep End: What Does It Take?

No matter where what role we play in a school (teacher, team lead, admin), we all strive to make a difference for students. We have initiatives we wish to roll out, mandates to fulfill, and projects to design. Yet with how fast we move in education, we don't spend enough time on our communication around those initiatives and we end up being less successful as we could be in getting our message across. We need to build up a skill set of messaging capabilities, 'resistance management' strategies and for the sake of our health, our 'stress tolerance.' This workshop will provide support, a laugh, and some cognitive, social and psychological resources to help you communicate more effectively, confidently and collaboratively about whatever project or initiative you are undertaking.

Wade Davis
1:15 pm - 2:15 pm

The Wayfinders: Why Ancient Wisdom Matters in a Modern World

Every culture is a unique answer to a fundamental question: What does it mean to be human and alive? Wade Davis leads us on a thrilling journey to celebrate the wisdom of the world's indigenous cultures. In Polynesia we set sail with navigators whose ancestors settled the Pacific ten centuries before Christ. In the Amazon we meet the descendants of a true Lost Civilization, the Peoples of the Anaconda. In the Andes we discover that the Earth really is alive, while in the far reaches of Australia we experience Dreamtime, the all-embracing philosophy of the first humans to walk out of Africa. We then travel to Nepal, where we encounter a wisdom hero, a Bodhisattva, who emerges from forty-five years of

Buddhist retreat and solitude. And finally we settle in Borneo, where the last rainforest nomads struggle to survive.

Understanding the lessons of this journey will be our mission for the next century. Of the world's 7000 languages, fully half may disappear within our lifetimes. At risk is a vast archive of knowledge and expertise, a catalogue of the imagination that is the human legacy. Rediscovering a new appreciation for the diversity of the human spirit, as expressed by culture, is among the central challenges of our time.

BREAKOUTS

Jennifer Abrams
11:00 am - 12:15 pm
2:45 pm - 3:45 pm

Having Hard Conversations: Finding Your Voice Around What Matters

As administrators and colleagues, we often come up against situations where difficult topics must be addressed. What do we know about the best strategies for those moments? What questions should we be asking ourselves before we speak, and what language is best for when we do speak? Based on Jennifer's books, *Having Hard Conversations*, and *Hard Conversations Unpacked*, and her work with conflict and interpersonal communication, this session will provide participants with action plans and scripting tools for having those necessary humane and growth producing conversations.

Wade Davis
11:00 am - 12:15 pm
2:45 pm - 3:45 pm

Into The Silence

Wade Davis has a vast number of topics that he can explore. For Wade's first breakout he will be looking at *Into The Silence*, a talk surrounding his newest book and an unheralded Canadian, Greg Mallroy.

If the quest for Mount Everest began as a grand imperial gesture, as redemption for an empire of explorers that had lost the race to the Poles, it ended as a mission of regeneration for a country and a people bled white by war. Of the twenty-six British climbers who, on three expeditions (1921-24), walked 400 miles off the map to find and assault the highest mountain on Earth, twenty had seen the worst of the fighting. Six had been severely wounded, two others nearly killed by disease at the Front, one hospitalized twice with shell shock. Four as army surgeons dealt for the duration with the agonies of the dying. Two lost brothers, killed in action. All had endured the slaughter, the coughing of the guns, the bones and barbed wire, the white faces of the dead.

In a monumental work of history and adventure, ten years in the writing, Wade Davis asks not whether George Mallory was the first to reach the summit of Everest, but rather why he kept on climbing on that fateful day. His answer lies in a single phrase uttered by one of the survivors as they retreated from the mountain: 'The price of life is death.' Mallory walked on because for him, as for all of his generation, death was but 'a frail barrier that men crossed, smiling and gallant, every day.' As climbers they accepted a degree of risk unimaginable before the war. They were not cavalier, but death was no stranger. They had seen so much of it that it had no hold on them. What mattered was how one lived, the moments of being alive. For all of them Everest had become an exalted radiance, a sentinel in the sky, a symbol of hope in a world gone mad.

Schooling The World

For Wade's second breakout, he will be looking at *Schooling The World*, a talk looking at different educational subjects that he has researched or witnessed firsthand through his world travels. Our faith in the power of education to do only good is absolute; it's the one element of the global development

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THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2020

CONFERENCE DAY 2 - SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

paradigm that is never questioned. But in my experience education in many parts of the world is fundamentally a process of enculturation, with the transmission of information and knowledge playing very much a secondary role. In this session, Wade will look at:

- The book, *Three Cups of Tea*, by Greg Mortenson, and how fiction was reported as a fact. A sad story to be sure. However, it begs a question, why do so many see western education, essentially the same curriculum imposed throughout the world, as the silver bullet that can end every social ill, lift people out of poverty or in the case of the Mortenson scandal bring peace to Afghanistan?
- Residential Schools in Canada. We tend to forget that these residential schools operated well into the 1970s, and that the fundamental model still operates today in virtually every country of the developing world. The only difference is that the rationale is for the most part no longer religious conversion but rather the mandatory embrace of the cult of modernity.
- A look to Africa and in particular, schools in Kenya, education as instituted in much of the world is in fact a process of enculturation as communities give up their children to be trained as cadre of a modern centralized economy. The conditions and pedagogy of the schools, the rote learning, military regimentation, the despotism over mind and body, generates a grinding conformity to a world in which they may well never find a place.

If time permits, Wade will open up a question and answer period related to any of his three presentations.

Dr. Jacqueline Kirk
11:00 am - 12:15 pm
2:45 pm - 3:45 pm

The School Principal Is a Counsellor

This session will explore the role the school principal plays in helping individuals within the school community to work through emotionally sensitive issues. Teachers, parents, staff, custodians, bus drivers and students often report to the school principal when things go wrong and the principal is called upon to respond appropriately. Participants in this session will be introduced to current research about the role of the school principal and will be invited to join in the discussion about how principals should be prepared for, and supported through, these difficult conversations.

Dr. Tom Skinner
11:00 am - 12:15 pm
2:45 pm - 3:45 pm

Legal Issues Around Technology

"They Posted What? Now What Do We Do?"

School District Response to Teachers and Personal Use of Social Media

Self-expression and self-promotion are very much a part of our lives today. With the evolution of social media, teacher's lives have become extensively more public as they express themselves on many social platforms. Social media has given teachers forums to express opinions and views on varying topics as well as openly share their private lives. School districts have traditionally had to balance the values of the community and teachers' rights to expression. Utilizing current Canadian case law as a framework, this presentation will examine the relationship between community values and teacher's personal lives. When teachers have been disciplined, suspended, or had their contracts terminated, school districts, and in turn the courts, have cited "community disruption" and "a

loss of public confidence" as reasons for their actions and decisions. Defining a "disruption" or measuring "public confidence" is a delicate task. Teachers should expect to be free from actions of discrimination and have a reasonable right to freedom of thought, opinion and expression. This presentation will focus on how school districts have responded as well as recent court decisions that will provide for a glimpse at this evolving issue.

Dr. Alex Wilson
11:00 am - 12:15 pm
2:45 pm - 3:45 pm

Land-Based Education

Land-based education has become increasingly popular in First Nations and provincial schools over the past few years. But what exactly is "land-based education"? This workshop, grounded in an Indigenous approach, will provide an overview of current models of land-based education. We will discuss and analyze what is working and what isn't working with the ultimate goal of understanding how land-based education can be a potentially liberatory, transformative and effective anti-oppressive approach to teaching and learning.

Rainbow Resource Centre
11:00 am - 12:15 pm
2:45 pm - 3:45 pm

Our Personal Journeys

Working with the School Equity and Inclusion Co-Ordinator of the Rainbow Resource Centre a student panel will share with participants their journeys. Members of the panel may be involved at the local level with their school's GSAs.

FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2020

CONFERENCE DAY 3 - SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

KEYNOTES

Kevin Chief
9:00 am - 10:15 pm

We Are All Leaders: How a Bus Driver Showed us Anything was Possible

Kevin draws on his personal and professional experience from growing up as an Indigenous youth in Winnipeg's North End to his work in the community, education and business fields.

As a former member of the Legislative Assembly and Minister in the Manitoba Government, he is able to share stories of seeing potential and possibility, overcoming barriers and creating opportunities out of challenges.

Joel Westheimer
10:30 am - 11:30 pm

What School Could Be

If schools were nothing more than vehicles for the transmission of knowledge to the next generation, then school leaders could rely on simplistic metrics of success. If they were nothing more than job training sites or arms of the global economy, then we would not need to worry about "vision collision." But I prefer to think of schools in democratic societies as much more. Schools should be places where children learn about the society in which they are growing up and how they might engage in productive ways. Schools should be places where children and youth find meaning,

community, and purpose, where they learn that their thoughts and actions matter, where they recognize that they are needed. Public schools are not just schools for the public but places where we learn what it means to be a public—a civic community made up of individuals with both shared and diverse identities. What does an ideal school look like in your mind? What lessons are being conveyed? How are children and teachers interacting? What kinds of responsibilities are students being asked to take on? What vision of the "good" society are students asked to imagine? In this keynote presentation, I will explore what schools could be amidst Manitoba's (and the world's) changing political landscapes.



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