

WINTER CONFERENCE

February 18, 2022



**INSPIRED,
PERSPIRED,
& (NEARLY)
EXPIRED**

COSL
COUNCIL OF SCHOOL LEADERS

mts THE
MANITOBA
TEACHERS'
SOCIETY

Virtual Conference

KEYNOTES

Garfield and Laura Gini-Newman
Alec Couros and Dean Shareski

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Michelle Jean-Paul and Sherry Jones
Tony Tavaras and Stephen Howell
Lorie Henderson, Loretta Dykun, Lucy Mayor and Kathleen Kelson
Dr. Meaghen Johnston
Wayne Davies
Andrew Peters
Garfield and Laura Gini-Newman
Alec Couros and Dean Shareski
Jill Fast

CONFERENCE FEES

COSL Members: \$100 | Non-Members: \$150

REGISTRATION LINK:

<https://memberlink.mbteach.org/Event.axd?e=1449>

Friday, February 18, 2022

8:45 am
- 9:00 am

Opening Remarks

9:00 am
- 10:00 am

Keynote #1 - Garfield and Laura Gini-Newman - Re-imagining the Instruction-Assessment Relationship to Create Transformative Classrooms

10:00 am
- 10:30 am

Stretch Break

10:30 am
- 11:45 am

Morning Breakout Sessions

Session 1 Alec Couros and Dean Shareski - Innovation, Change and a New Culture of Leaders

Session 2 Lucy Mayor, Kathleen Kelson, Loretta Dykun and Lorie Henderson - The School District of Mystery Lake (SDML) presents: Indigenous Education in 30 Slides or Less

Session 3 Garfield and Laura Gini-Newman - Assessment as Kindness

Session 4 Dr. Meaghen Johnston - Leading Through Quicksand With Courage and Compassion

Session 5 Wayne Davies - The Guitar Principal

Session 6 Michelle Jean-Paul and Sherry Jones - Anti-Racist Education for School Leaders

11:45 am
- 12:45 pm

Lunch (on your own)

12:45 pm
- 1:45 pm

Keynote #2 - Alec Couros and Dean Shareski - Leading in a Post-Truth World: What Principals Need to Know About Fake News, Misinformation & Information Literacy

1:45 pm
- 2:15 pm

Stretch Break

2:15 pm
- 3:30 pm

Afternoon Breakout Sessions

Session 7 Alec Couros and Dean Shareski - Extending the Keynote Conversation

Session 8 Jill Fast - Indigenous Inclusion in the Portage la Prairie School Division

Session 9 Garfield and Laura Gini-Newman - Instructional Approaches for Deep Learning

Session 10 Dr. Meaghen Johnston - Leading Through Quicksand With Courage and Compassion

Session 11 Andrew Peters - When Principals Make Mistakes, Tales of an MTS Staff Officer

Session 12 Tony Tavaras and Stephen Howell - Revisiting Transgender and Gender-diverse Students in Manitoba Schools

3:40 pm

Closing remarks and door prizes

KEYNOTES

Re-imagining the Instruction-Assessment Relationship to Create Transformative Classrooms

Garfield and Laura Gini-Newman | Friday, Feb. 18 | 9:00 am - 10:00 am

What teachers do makes a difference. When instruction is designed with intent and paired with assessment designed to provide genuinely supportive guidance in a timely and seamless manner, the conditions for transformative learning are set. Traditionally, instruction and assessment have been parallel but separate elements of learning which too seldom intersect to create deepen learning. During the keynote, Garfield and Laura will explore the power and benefits of using a “double-helix” approach, that puts student flourishing at its core, in the design and delivery of learning opportunities in which assessment becomes routinely embedded in the learning process in ways that truly allow each, and every student to flourish.

GARFIELD GINI-NEWMAN is an Associate Professor in the Department of Curriculum, Teaching and Learning at OISE, University of Toronto. He explores how to teach through sustained critical inquiry while nurturing deep conceptual understanding and genuine competence. Garfield has worked with thousands of teachers across grades and subjects, helping them to frame learning around engaging and provocative activities and rich, authentic assessments.

Currently, Garfield is engaged with schools across Canada, in South America, and in Europe. Over the past two decades request for Garfield's services have taken him from Asia to the Middle East, Europe, the Caribbean and across North America. His interest in effective teaching and learning has led him to actively explore the challenges and opportunities presented by teaching and learning in the digital age. In addition to his work at the University of Toronto and delivering workshops, Garfield has also authored several articles, chapters in books and seven textbooks and has taught in the faculties of education at York University and the University of British Columbia. His most recent book co-authored with Roland Case, *Creating Thinking Classrooms* has received widespread praise from leading educators across Canada and internationally.

LAURA GINI-NEWMAN is a recently retired educator with 25 years of experience working as a classroom teacher, resource teacher, coach and instructional coordinator for success planning. She is also the math consultant with the Critical Thinking Consortium working with students, teachers, and leaders to become better critical thinkers in mathematics, and other subject areas, across Canada, in the USA, the Caribbean, Central and South America, Europe and Asia. She has published and co-authored textbooks, papers and learning resources in philosophy, history, mathematics, and Indigenous education. Laura's new publication on *Assessing for Mathematical Thinking* will be released in January 2022.

Laura is also the co-founder of Flourish Co. an organization that works with individuals, communities and businesses to help them learn to flourish through critical thinking and self-coaching. She is publishing a series of strategy sheets in support of the development of a flourishing mindset, the thinking habits needed to maximize one's well-being.

Prior to her career in teaching and positive psychology, Laura worked as an economist and accountant. She has taught at both the University of Toronto and York University. She is also a professionally-trained facilitator. In recent years Laura has worked with the Alma Foundation, the Lifelong Leadership Institute and White Ribbon to help empower disadvantaged

learners with the will and capacity to achieve success in learning and employment.

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Leading in a Post-Truth World: What Principals Need to Know About Fake News, Misinformation, and Information Literacy

Alec Couros and Dean Shareski | Friday, Feb. 18

12:45 pm - 1:45 pm

In recent years, we have witnessed massive advances in technology that have fundamentally transformed the ways in which we live, learn and interact. For schools, the global connections and tremendous knowledge we now have at our fingertips offer incredible opportunities for learning, but the rapid pace of information (and misinformation) also presents a new and complex set of challenges. In particular, fact and fiction can be difficult to distinguish in our “post-truth” era, and fake news and misinformation spread rapidly and with ease through our communities. From vaccine conspiracy theories to the threat of critical race theory in schools, educational leaders are regularly tasked to deal with the fallout of bad information. In this keynote, Alec and Dean will lead us down the rabbit-hole of misinformation and the “fake news” phenomenon. Attendees will be presented with rich examples of misinformation along with resources and strategies to foster a culture of information literacy in our schools and communities.

ALEC COUROS is a professor of educational technology and media and the Director of the Centre for Teaching & Learning at the University of Regina, in Saskatchewan. An award-winning educator, Alec helps his undergraduate and graduate students take up the incredible affordances of our connected world through the integration of educational technology in teaching and learning. Alec is also an internationally renowned speaker who has given hundreds of keynotes and workshops around the globe on diverse topics such as connected/networked learning, digital citizenship, social media in education, and critical media literacy, providing administrators, educators, students, and parents with the knowledge necessary to take advantage of and thrive in our new digital reality. Finally, Alec is a passionate advocate of openness in education and demonstrates this commitment through his open access publications, considerable digital presence and contributions, and highly successful MOOCs and open boundary courses.

DEAN SHARESKI is a Senior Educational Consultant for Advanced Learning Partnerships supporting districts and schools throughout North America in digital transformation. He taught grades 1-8 for 14 years and spent 9 as a digital learning consultant for a Canadian school district. His blog consistently ranks among the top educational blogs. In 2010 he won the ISTE Award for Outstanding Leader of the Year. Dean has had the opportunity to speak to a variety of education audiences both nationally and internationally. He has recently authored *Embracing a Culture of Joy* and co-authored, *Different Schools for a Different World*. His passion remains to help teachers explore the affordances of technology for learning. Dean believes humour and humility go a long way in supporting and advocating transformational practices in teaching and learning.

SESSIONS

Session #1: Innovation, Change and a New Culture of Leaders

Alec Couros and Dean Shareski | 10:30 am - 11:45 am

When it comes to innovation, Canada is quickly becoming a leader around the world. Taking a closer look, this doesn't happen by chance but largely through leadership. This session will highlight some of that work around the country as well as outside to examine the leadership traits and actions that are leading to better learning environments for both students and teachers.

Session #2: The School District of Mystery Lake (SDML) presents Indigenous Education in 30 Slides or Less

**Lucy Mayor, Kathleen Kelson, Loretta Dykun
and Lorie Henderson | 10:30 am - 11:45 am**

The SDML team will highlight the Indigenous education journey in the district. Information shared will be highlights from the district and from two of the schools in the SDML. The leadership team will share district plans and school plans. There will also be an emphasis on the importance of community partnerships and involvement. The presentation will share the successes and challenges and allow others to learn about our journey.

LUCY MAYOR is the principal of Juniper School in Thompson.

KATHLEEN KELSON is principal of Wapanohk Community School also in Thompson.

LORETTA DYKUN is the Cultural Proficient Education Consultant for the School District of Mystery Lake.

LORIE HENDERSON is the Co-Superintendent of Mystery Lake.

Session #3: Assessment as Kindness

Garfield and Laura Gini-Newman | 10:30 am - 11:45 am

This breakout session will build off of the keynote to more deeply explore assessment practices that seamlessly weave into learning making assessment both a source of inspiration and a means to enhance student learning through timely, student-driven, supportive guidance.

The primary purpose of assessment is not to generate marks – it is an act of kindness designed to altruistically cultivate agency in learners that inspires a desire to learn and empowers students with the capacity to engage meaningfully and productively in learning.

Effective Assessment as Kindness sets teachers needs aside and creates opportunities for students to engage in learning in which they are personally invested. It involves students monitoring and growing their own learning as teachers meet them where they are by providing the guidance each student personally needs to flourish.

Session #4: Leading Through Quicksand With Courage and Compassion

Dr. Meaghen Johnston | 10:30 am - 11:45 am

Finding our footing on an ever-changing landscape is something that every leader has had to grapple with during this global pandemic. Not knowing is vulnerable and scary, and it's the space that we have had to navigate collectively for a prolonged time. How did we do it? How are we still doing it? How might we do this a little more skillfully? These are the questions that will reveal the truth in this experience; that we never know the upper limits of our capacity to cope and heal until we are faced with something like this. You are here, you've done it, and in this session we will learn strategies to skillfully move through this continued challenge. This is hard, and it is also an opportunity for leaders to shine, to nurture resilience and to connect to our common humanity.

In this session we will explore:

- Why there is no "right" way to "do" a pandemic (phew!).
- How important it is to recognize the current landscape and how it impacts each of us differently.
- How to view collective vulnerability as a place to build connection and strength.
- The affirming practice of holding ourselves and others capable.
- How you can map an individualized plan for completing your stress response cycle.
- The magic 2 X 10 X 25 (trust me, it's magic).
- Why API (curious?) can change your life.

I will be anchoring our learning in the work of Dr. Brené Brown and The Daring Way™ as her work provides a strong foundation for understanding what we are experiencing. Drawing on over 15 years of research you will leave our time together with a new language and a set of skills to put into action.

What you can expect is an opportunity to reflect upon your work amidst the landscape of a pandemic. We will dig into important things like perfectionism and how to manage expectations of self and others. I will share some information on the idea of "collective vulnerability" and how we can use this as an opportunity to both normalize what we are feeling and also build deeper connections with one another. Finally, we will share ideas on how to build courageous, compassionate, and connected communities that you can take forward into your work with a greater appreciation of who you are and what you need to shine in your personal and professional life.

DR. MEAGHEN JOHNSTON, RSW, MSW is a Registered Social Worker and Certified Daring Way™ Facilitator. Led by her core values of contribution and connection, Meaghen founded Intentional Futures Counselling, a private practice that serves individuals, families and teams in navigating the struggles, challenges, and opportunities that are a part of our collective experience. Her belief in the resilience of the human spirit guides an intuitively led and evidence based practice. With over 25 years of experience working with diverse populations to support mental health, the consistent theme is that Meaghen provides space for the processing of emotions alongside actionable strategies to skillfully navigate challenging situations. Meaghen works from a humanistic and strength based perspective with a focused effort on building capacity at the individual, group, and community level. Being intentional, skillful and kind are the orienting principles that allow her to build relationships and map a pathway towards connection and wellness.

In 2011 Meaghen completed a PhD in Social Work from the University of British Columbia and received the Doctoral Dissertation Award from the Society of Identity Formation. She was an Associate

Professor of Social Work at Mount Royal University and Co-Director of the Centre for Child Well-Being. With a strong enthusiasm for teaching and learning, Meaghen continues to lead conversations using her training as a Certified Daring Way™ Facilitator. Meaghen has been a keynote and featured speaker at the local and national level. She invites curiosity into everything she does and is happiest when she is connecting people to ideas and concepts to action.

Session #5: The Guitar Principal

Wayne Davies | 10:30 am - 11:45 am

"When I started as a principal everything just started coming at me. There was no easing into the role and just getting my feet wet. The first year was like sightseeing at two, no, three hundred miles per hour and the second year, which I thought would be easier, was certainly not. Any credit I got for being new was gone and the expectations of everyone just kept rising." Robinson Spur, The Guitar Principal.

Do those words strike a chord in you? Maybe you too, have wondered how to make sense of all that you experience in your day-to-day life as an educational leader. If so, then come spend an hour with Wayne Davies as he speaks about his new novel *"The Guitar Principal"*. Inspired by true events, incredible students, an amazing staff and a belief things could change for the better, you are guaranteed some laughs and maybe even a tear or two as together with Wayne, we examine the adventures he shared with two amazing staffs and several hundred of the greatest students in the world. Whether you have read the novel already or not – this session, just like the story of Robinson Spur and Holfield Junior High, is sure to 'entertain and provoke'!

Over your hour together, Wayne will examine the value of self-reflection, share some strategies both for success and survival and finish with some stories about the nationally acclaimed BOSS Guitar Project, giving you a few sneak peeks behind the curtain at the stories that inspired the novel. Topics such as building leadership capacity, growing student-voice and the power of relationships coupled with the opportunity to make real change in the world as educational leaders will all be touched upon.

As a participant you will receive *"The Guitar Principal's Critical Friend"*, the 90 page companion guidebook that extends the novel and contains dozens of guiding questions, tips, tricks and strategies as well as a few other extras.

No matter if you are a rookie, seasoned vet or just morbidly curious about what the office might have to offer you, this session will leave you with more than you started with.

WAYNE DAVIES is currently in his thirty-first year as an educator with just over half of that time spent in school and division-level leadership roles in both rural and urban settings. Wayne believes strongly in the power of relationships, building leadership capacity and student voice. He sees 'the big project' as a vital and integral way to unite educational communities and has worked with students and staff to launch several initiatives including BOSS Guitar Works, ACTION! 2010, and the Louder Than Words Conference. In 2014 Wayne was nationally recognized by the Learning Partnership as one of Canada's best principals and in 2015 as a Distinguished Alumnus of U of M for community service. Currently, Wayne is a doctoral student at the University of Western Ontario. He has just written his first novel, *The Guitar Principal*, and views it as entertainment for some but more importantly as a jumping-off point for discussions around educational leadership for those in or aspiring to enter, educational leadership.

Session #6: Anti-racist Education for School Leaders

Michelle Jean-Paul and Sherry Jones | 10:30 am - 11:45 am

This introductory anti-racism session is an extension of an offering of the Society's PFLS department. Our session for current and aspiring school leaders will provide a foundational understanding of anti-racist education. Topics include the understanding of anti-racism, historical and contemporary contexts, and the ways that racism impacts teachers, students, and school communities. We will explore this by working through a fictional scenario that will create space to reflect on how to bring an anti-racist approach to school leadership.

In this workshop you will:

- develop language related to race, anti-racism, and equity in schools.
- examine anti-racism work through a variety of lenses.
- identify actionable next steps to improve equity in schools.
- be introduced to a variety of resources to build your capacity.

MICHELLE JEAN-PAUL (she/her) is a public school educator currently in her fourteenth year as a school leader. Inspired by her master's research, she founded the Educators of Colour Network in 2009 with the goal of addressing issues of inequity in education. She has conducted workshops across Canada and the United States. Michelle is a Ph.D. Candidate at the University of Manitoba with a research focus on issues of equity in educational administration.

SHERRY JONES (she/her) is a Staff Officer in the Professional and French Language Services Department at The Manitoba Teachers' Society. Before joining the team at MTS, she was a public school educator and worked as a teacher and school leader for 16 years. In her work with the Society, she offers professional learning and advocates for equity and social justice within all areas of public education.

Session #7: Extending the Keynote Conversation

Alec Couros and Dean Shareski | 2:15 pm - 3:30 pm

Join Alec and Dean for a follow-up conversation on the ideas and issues explored during their keynote. This is a great opportunity to dive deeper, ask questions, share ideas and learn from others.

Session #8: Indigenous Inclusion in the Portage la Prairie School Division

Jill Fast | 2:15 pm - 3:30 pm

Learn about various initiatives and ways of incorporating Indigenous perspectives in education that have been happening in Portage la Prairie.

JILL FAST is a Métis educator in the Portage la Prairie School Division. She has been the Indigenous Academic Achievement Facilitator since 2014 and has a Post-Bac in Indigenous Knowledge from the University of Winnipeg in 2018.

Session #9: Instructional Approaches for Deep Learning

Garfield and Laura Gini-Newman | 2:15 pm - 3:30 pm

Gordon's Ladder of Professional Learning posits that teachers are consciously skilled when they are able to plan for instruction with a clear understanding of how their choices are impacting the learning. Learning can become transformative for our students when we intentionally plan for deep, transferable learning grounded in conceptual understandings and core competencies. In this breakout session, Garfield and Laura will share planning approaches that can help teachers in the intentional design of learning opportunities that balance the need to build background knowledge while engaging in critical and creative thinking.

Session #10: Leading Through Quicksand With Courage and Compassion

Dr. Meaghen Johnston | 2:15 pm - 3:30 pm

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Session #11: When Principals Make Mistakes, Tales of an MTS Staff Officer

Andrew Peters | 2:15 pm - 3:30 pm

This session will focus on HR practices that have caused principals' difficulties in their relationship with their employers, staff and MTS. The areas of progressive discipline, accommodation (family/medical) and other pitfalls will be explored.

ANDREW PETERS has been a Teacher Welfare (TW) staff officer with the Society since 2007. He has had a variety of roles that include Collective Bargainer, responsibilities in Workplace Safety and Health, and Principal Issues. Prior to that he was a Principal in Western Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Session #12: Revisiting Transgender and Gender-Diverse Students in Manitoba Schools

Tony Tavaras and Stephen Howell | 2:15 pm - 3:30 pm

Since the document "*Supporting Transgender and Gender Diverse Students in Manitoba Schools*" was published in 2017, and a summer institute and regional workshops the Fall of 2018, there have been a few changes in legislation, and new developments. In this session, we will highlight the changes at the national and provincial level concerning gender identity, revisit the support document, and discuss the application to school sports team, and the renewal of the physical and health education curriculum.

ANTONIO (TONY) TAVARES was born in Portugal and immigrated to Canada. Tony has a deep personal and professional commitment and experience in community development, social justice advocacy, and diversity and equity education. As a consultant with Manitoba Education, he has served in a range of roles including policy, curriculum, and teacher professional development with respect to diversity and equity education ranging from diversity of sexuality, gender and gender expression to diversity of language and religion/spirituality. He authored the department's first multicultural education policy, organized and convened the first provincial conference on anti-racism education in K-12 schools, and co-planned and co-facilitated the first summer institute on anti-racism education, and helped support the implementation of the Human Diversity policy requirements of 2014 and the development and implementation of the "*Supporting Transgender and Gender-Diverse Students in Manitoba Schools*" document.

STEPHEN HOWELL was born in St. John's, Newfoundland and moved to Winnipeg, Manitoba in late 2017. Stephen has experience as K-12 Physical Education/Health Education Teacher, Athletic Director, and coach. As a PE/HE consultant with Manitoba Education, he has served in a range of roles with respect to physical education and health education curriculum, school health policy, and teacher professional development. He will be the lead consultant in the redevelopment of the Manitoba K-12 PE/HE curriculum.



