

LEADERSHIP UPDATE

Volume 15

A publication for Alberta's school administrators

Number 1



Welcome back everyone!

This edition of the Leadership Update contains valuable information to support you in the work that you do and to inform you of some ways you can access high-quality professional learning activities for school leaders in Alberta throughout the year. This update contains time-sensitive professional learning opportunities for November and international exchange and research project opportunities in Finland and Iceland.

Professional Learning Opportunities and News

For information about upcoming professional learning events and programs for school leaders and central office teachers and leaders, go to www.uLead.ca to access up-to-date news about school leadership in Alberta, provincial and regional professional learning events, and the uLead conference that takes place every year. The next uLead conference will take place May 12–14 in Banff. The call for proposals for uLead 2019 has already opened, and registrations will open shortly. Please visit uLead.ca on a regular basis as the events and news will be updated frequently.



If you want students to finish a long cross-country race, you cannot just send them off and only provide support and refreshment at the finishing line. You need to ensure there is water, first-aid and clear direction every few kilometres. The same is true for school leadership development.

**Pak Tee Ng
National Institute
of Education,
Singapore**

To find archived issues of *Leadership Update*, go to www.teachers.ab.ca and click on News and Info > Publications > Leadership Update.

Feedback is welcome. Please contact Jeff Johnson, executive staff officer, Professional Development, at jeff.johnson@ata.ab.ca.



Council for
School Leadership

Leadership Symposia: Support for Implementation of the Professional Practice Standards for the Teaching Profession

This fall, the Alberta Teachers' Association will host a series of full-day events across Alberta that will assist school principals; assistant, associate and vice-principals; and school jurisdiction leaders/central office teachers in developing a deeper understanding of the new Teaching Quality Standard (TQS) and Leadership Quality Standard (LQS). These full-day symposia will enable those to which the new TQS and LQS will apply to more capably fulfill their roles and, therefore, to more capably support classroom teachers and colleagues in the province as the new standards come into effect in September 2019.

These events will provide a variety of workshops and a great deal of information related to the school leader's role in supporting the

implementation of the TQS in particular. Related sessions on inclusive education and assessment will be offered, and all delegates will leave the day with a detailed and highly useful set of resources to support their leadership roles in their own school communities. As we prepare to adopt all three of the professional practice standards for the teaching profession in Alberta, you won't want to miss this opportunity.

Registrations for these symposia are open now. If you are a school principal; an assistant, associate or vice-principal; or a central office teacher or jurisdictional leader, you are encouraged to attend a full-day symposium near you. Registration is open to those in leadership roles in public and separate school divisions, as well as in independent,

charter or band schools. **Please register prior to the end of the day on Friday, October 12.**

Following the registration deadline of Friday, October 12, registered delegates will be notified regarding details about each symposium, such as the location for the November events, which will be held in Grande Prairie, Edmonton, Calgary and Medicine Hat. If you are unable to attend one of the events in November, a second round of symposia will be offered at other locations in Alberta in the spring of 2019.

Register now at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FTH9QF8> or tinyurl.com/SCHOOL-LEADER-SUPPORT.

For more information please contact jeff.johnson@ata.ab.ca.



Foundations of Learning Sprints Workshop: October 17, 2018

You may wish to start the year with a Foundations of Learning Sprints workshop, which will be offered in Edmonton as part of the ATA Agile Leadership Network professional learning series. This collaborative professional learning approach offers an opportunity to build teacher and team efficacy for teacher learning and continuous practice improvement.

This dynamic one-day workshop will provide participants with a thorough understanding of the learning sprints approach that will allow you to get started with learning sprints in your school community.

This program is designed to

- provide teams with an overview of the learning sprints approach to enhancing teacher team learning and embedding practice improvement,
- provide leaders with practical strategies and a clear checklist of steps to successful implementation of learning sprints within their unique educational context,
- help teams to better target learners and outcomes based on data,
- analyse the reasons why students aren't making progress,
- design evidence-informed approaches to support student engagement and progress, and
- assess the impact of their practice improvements.

This Foundations of Learning Sprints Workshop will be offered by Simon Breakspear and several Alberta school leaders at Barnett House on Wednesday, October 17, 2018.

Registrations are now open at <https://event-wizard.com/Foundations/0/welcome/> or at tinyurl.com/GO-SPRINT.

NOTE: If you are unable to attend this workshop and would like to see a Foundations of Learning Sprints Workshop in your school district or area, please contact Jeff Johnson at jeff.johnson@ata.ab.ca.

Leadership Essentials for School Leaders: November 19–20

The annual Leadership Essentials for School Leaders Conference will take place in Edmonton at the Fantasyland Hotel November 19–20. This is an annual event is for school leaders (principals, assistant principals or central office teachers) serving in their first five years in the role or those who have recently moved to Alberta. Whether you work at central office as a consultant or in a leadership role, or in a school as a vice-principal or principal, there will be content of interest to you. The Leadership Essentials for School Leaders Conference is a strong support to new school leaders in Alberta.

This year, the event will host two internationally known keynote speakers: Rebecca Hare, who will speak about learning space design for school leaders, and Anne Davies, who will present on the role of assessment in the service of learning. There is no registration fee and space is limited, so apply early. Online registration is available at <https://atapd.ca/initiative/leadership>.

International Education Exchange Program: Take your vocation to another location!

Short-term administrator exchanges are available as two-week job shadow experiences for Alberta school leaders. Participants are billeted by their exchange counterpart and work shadow in their exchange partner's school for one to two weeks. They then host their counterpart for one to two weeks in the Alberta education system. Administrators arrange cultural visits to correspond with the interests of both parties.

Opportunities exist in Australia, Germany, Spain and Iceland. Exchanges overseas occur during the summer months and counterparts are

hosted in Alberta in September or October. Participants require an Alberta Permanent Professional Teaching Certificate and the approval of their superintendent. For a successful, engaging experience, participants should be flexible, adaptable, positive, open to other cultures and comfortable with ambiguity. They should also have demonstrated leadership qualities. Interested? Find out more at www.ieep.ca.

Inquiries can be directly made to exchanges@ata.ab.ca for applications and detailed information.

Destination	Time frame for Alberta school administrator/teacher to job shadow overseas	Time frame for Alberta school administrator/teacher to host counterpart
Australia	Two-week period in July or August	Two-week period in May, September or October
Hessen, Germany	Two-week period in July or August	Two weeks in October
Asturias, Catalonia or Castilla y Leon, Spain	Two-week period to be determined based on holiday schedules	Two weeks in March, April or May
Other Canadian provinces	Two-week period to be determined based on holiday schedules	Two-week period to be determined based on holiday schedules
Iceland *Pilot for school leaders; five placements during pilot phase	Two-week period during spring break	Two-week period in September or October

Please note that exact dates are to be determined with the exchange liaison. Some dates may be flexible. Exchanges typically occur over breaks and holidays that stagger with the host country's school schedule.

uLead 2019 Call for Proposals

Do you have a school leadership story to share with colleagues from around the world? The uLead 2019 Conference offers a unique opportunity for an exchange of ideas with the world's leaders in education. The theme for uLead 2019 is Reimagining School Leadership, and it will prompt attending delegates to think about the role of the school leader in leading teacher learning. Particular emphasis will be on examining the role of the school leader in helping improve teacher capacity, both individually and collectively, as the core capability of a leader of learning, whether as a school principal, a teacher

leader or a central office leader. The resulting conversation will range from how leaders support teachers in continually enhancing their teaching practices to how those leaders develop an understanding of how to design and lead professional learning approaches to have a positive effect on student outcomes and ensure a vibrant public education system for the future.

We would love to have you share your Alberta leadership story with the world. To submit a proposal for a presentation at uLead 2019, please visit tinyurl.com/PRESENT-AT-ULEAD19 by the end of October.

uLead Conference— May 12–14, 2019

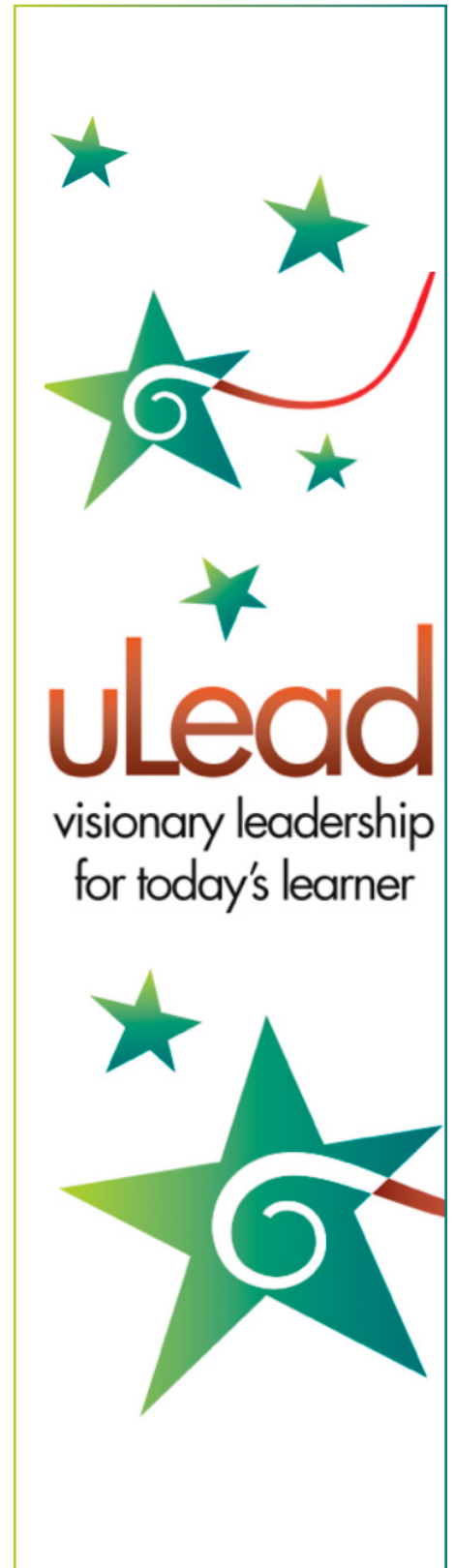
A unique opportunity awaits. Join educational leaders from around the world in the beautiful world heritage location of Banff, Alberta, at Canada's premier conference for school-based leaders, district-level leaders and provincial and state education leaders.

Please join us in May 2019, for a rare and historic dialogue with the world's leaders in education, in a setting that has been called the jewel of the Rockies. As always, the conference will feature a wide array of engaging, world-class keynote speakers. We expect over 1000 principals, assistant principals, district leaders, national ministers of education, and education ministry representatives from around the world to attend. Spouses and family members are also welcome and

will have myriad opportunities to explore Banff, one of the most pristine wilderness areas in the world.

Preconference full-day workshops will take place on May 12 and postconference full-day workshops on May 15. uLead 2019 is sponsored by the Council for School Leadership, a specialist council of the Alberta Teachers' Association. Find out more at www.ulead.ca.

Registration for uLead 2019 is now open. The call for proposals for the conference will continue until the end of October. Super-early-bird discounts are available for those registering prior to October 15, 2018 with continued early-bird discounts offered for those registering prior to the end of December 2018.



Distinguished Leadership Awards, May 2019

The Council for School Leadership is pleased to invite nominations from throughout Alberta for the CSL Alberta Distinguished Leadership Awards, with recipients being honoured in May 2019. Please consider nominating a deserving school leader for this honour.

The CSL Distinguished Leadership Awards create a learning community of outstanding principals throughout Alberta who can share professionally, interact collegially and act as mentors to new colleagues to provide avenues for research and the sharing of best practices. The corps of distinguished Alberta school leaders are people who are looking to challenge the status quo, improve learning in their contexts and be equipped for higher levels of leadership. These individuals will become role models in the Council for School Leadership, a vibrant network of educational leaders with the confidence and capabilities to lead innovative change for 21st-century learning.

The deadline for nominations is midnight, March 31, 2019. All nominees must be active members of the Council for School Leadership to be eligible to receive the award. Nominees can join the CSL at any time by going to bit.ly/joincsl.

Complete your nomination online at tinyurl.com/CSL-Leadership following the guidelines below:

Compose a short description of your nominee's leadership in each of Alberta's Principal Quality Practice Competencies.

Provide proof that your nominee has consented to being nominated (required), and his or her school name, school telephone number and email address.

Provide supporting evidence of your nominee's leadership in each of Alberta's Principal Quality Practice Competencies:

- Fostering effective leadership
- Embodying visionary leadership
- Leading a learning community
- Providing instructional leadership
- Developing and facilitating leadership
- Managing school operations and resources
- Understanding and responding to the larger societal context

Detailed information about the Principal Quality Practice Competencies can be found at tinyurl.com/PQPCOMPTECY. Prior to submitting the survey you will also have an opportunity to enter additional comments regarding the nominee, should you wish to do so.

Council for School Leadership

As an Alberta school principal, Assistant principal or central office teacher, you are encouraged to select the Council for School Leadership as your automatically renewing specialist council. If you are not already a member of the Council for School Leadership, please take a moment today to go to bit.ly/joincsl and follow the steps to join this school leadership specialist council. It is custom-made for school leaders, aspiring school leaders and all those to whom the new Leadership Quality Standard will apply (principals; assistant, associate and vice principals; school jurisdiction leaders, including central office teachers, assistant superintendents, consultants and other certificated teachers).



Great Sources of News for School Leaders

Are you searching for interesting articles and ideas about school leadership? You will find some very timely articles in a range of school leadership documents that are available online.

European School Heads Association (ESHA) Magazine is published regularly throughout the year and contains articles that highlight issues Alberta school leaders share with their European colleagues. The most recent issue contains an interesting discussion about ideas for ensuring high school completion. Subscribe to it for free at <http://www.esha.org/eshamagazine/>.

Principal is an award-winning magazine written specifically for K–8 principals and published by the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP). This month's issue features great articles about the role of the school leader in fostering engagement within the school community. Find it at http://www.nxtbook.com/ygsreprints/NAESP/principal_20180910/.

You may also wish to check out their blog, **The Principal's Office**, which is full of great tips for school leaders, at <https://www.naesp.org/front-page-blog-archive>.

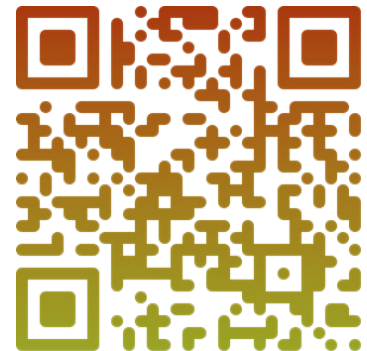
Principal Leadership is a publication of the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) that focuses on school leaders' real needs, offering them practical, hands-on strategies for improving their schools in a constantly evolving educational environment. The September 2019 edition features articles about school safety and can be accessed at www.nassp.org/login/?from=/2018/09/01/principal-leadership-september-2018/.

The Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) has a massive, searchable and free collection of scholarly research materials on school leadership. Access AITSL's comprehensive archive at <http://www.aitsl.edu.au/school-leadership-ecollection>.

iTunes U—Each month new courses and materials are added to the Alberta Teachers on iTunes U site at tinyurl.com/ATAiTunes. Currently, new courses on Alberta's School Leader Standards are being added to the site.

Alberta Teachers on iTunes U

In October, you will see a variety of new videos featuring Alberta school leaders sharing their thoughts about the new professional practice standards for the teaching profession, including the Leadership Quality Standard that will become active in September 2019. These are well worth subscribing to and are full of good ideas that principals and assistant principals should consider regarding their leadership work in this area, and they are also valuable to all Alberta classroom teachers. The courses provide an opportunity to look in depth at best practices for inclusive education within the Alberta context. Watch for a variety of new courses, added over the summer, to support you in your leadership role. To access the site, please visit tinyurl.com/ATAiTunes or scan the QR code on this page.



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The Alberta
Teachers' Association