

LEADERSHIP UPDATE

Volume 12

A publication for Alberta's school administrators

Number 1



Welcome back!

We hope that, as school leaders, you had a truly restful summer! As you begin the 2015/16 academic year, please take a few moments to review the many upcoming professional learning events available to support your work throughout this year.

Professional Learning Opportunities and News

To obtain information about upcoming professional learning events and programs for school leaders, you need only remember the following phrase—www.uLead.ca—in order 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. This year, uLead will take place from April 24–27. Please visit uLead.ca on a regular basis as the events and news will change frequently.

**“We can
‘unlearn’
how to ride a
bicycle—can
we unlearn
ineffective
teaching
and learning
practices?”**

**—Simon
Breakspear**

Council for School Leadership:

As an Alberta school principal or assistant principal 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 follow the link you see on this page, bit.ly/joincsl, and follow the steps to join this school leadership specialist council. It is custom-made for school leaders and aspiring school leaders.



Distinguished Leadership Awards

The Council for School Leadership is pleased to invite nominations from throughout Alberta for the CSL Alberta Distinguished Leadership Awards. Recipients will be honoured in May.

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. They provide avenues for research and sharing of best practices. The cadre 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 a vibrant network of educational leaders with the confidence and capabilities to lead innovative change for 21st century learning—the Council for School Leadership.

Please consider nominating a deserving school leader for consideration for this honour.

To nominate a school leader click on the following link and complete your nomination online: <http://tinyurl.com/CSL-Leadership>.

Once you have entered the nomination site, you will be asked to make a short comment related to your nominee's leadership in each of Alberta's Principal Quality Leadership dimensions. The attached CSL Distinguished Leadership Awards primer will provide you with additional information about how to complete the nomination form once you click on the link to nominate a colleague.

The deadline for nominations is midnight, April 1, 2016. All nominees must be active members of the Council for School Leadership to be eligible to receive the award.

What will I need to do?

- Once you have entered the nomination site, you will be asked to make a short comment related to your nominee's leadership in each of Alberta's Principal Quality Practice Leadership dimensions.
- You will be asked to provide an indication that your nominee has consented to being nominated (required) and provide the nominee's school name, school telephone number and e-mail address. Your nominee must be a

member of the Council for School Leadership to be eligible to receive the award. Nominees can join the CSL now at bit.ly/joincsl.

- You will then be asked to write several sentences as supporting evidence for your nominee's leadership for each of Alberta's Principal Quality Practice Competencies including
 - fostering effective leadership,
 - embodying visionary leadership,
 - leading a learning community,
 - providing instructional leadership,
 - developing and facilitating leadership,
 - managing school operations and resources and
 - understanding and responding to the larger societal context.

Detailed information about the Principal Quality Practice Competencies can be found here: bit.ly/AlbertaPQP

Prior to submitting the survey you will also have an opportunity to enter additional comments regarding the nominee, should you wish to do so. Please consider nominating a worthy candidate today.

To find archived issues of *Leadership Update*, go to www.teachers.ab.ca and click on Other Publications (under Publications), then go to School Administrators.

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

Save the Date: October 19–20 in Edmonton

Legal Issues for System Administrators (LISA) Conference—Workplace Bullying

Find out more and register at tinyurl.com/2015lisa or tinyurl.com/2015LISA.

Please consider joining us for the Legal Issues for System Administrators' Seminar. The two-day LISA event will focus entirely on bullies and targets. This topic will be highly interesting to district-level leadership teams who deal regularly with the fallout of bullying issues.

LISA is a seminar event that will involve six very interesting keynote speakers, each looking at different legal aspects of bullying. For example, adult workplace bullying, issues of student bullying (with a special focus on homophobic bullying issues) and issues of bullying by parents will be discussed. Participants will also have an opportunity to participate in focussed conversations as well as ask questions of our expert panel members.

LISA is hosted by Member Services. It is intended as a special event primarily for district-level administrators interested in legal topics. The event is also open to school administrators and is held at Barnett House. Space is limited to only 200 participants. Given the lineup of high-quality speakers and the high level of interest in the topic of bullying, especially homophobic bullying, the event will fill up very quickly, so we recommend you register early.

See the draft agenda for details regarding keynote speakers and topics.

Presentations and presenters will include

Bully Free at Work: What District-Level and School-Level Administrators Need to Know—Valerie Cade

Valerie Cade is an award-winning presenter and one of North America's top experts in the field of coping with and stopping workplace bullying and creating respectful, productive workplaces. She is author of the best-selling book, *Bully Free at Work: What You Can Do to Stop Workplace Bullying Now*. Valerie holds a master's degree in conflict resolution and is a top certified mediator.

A Gay-Straight Alliance: Where Are We in Alberta and Where Do We Still Need to Go?—Dr Kristopher Wells

Dr. Kristopher Wells is an assistant professor and director of programs and services at the Institute for Sexual Minority Studies and Services, in the Faculty of Education, University of Alberta. His doctoral research, which focused on sex, sexual and gender differences in K–12 education, received several national and provincial awards including a Killam Doctoral Fellowship, a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Graduate Scholarship, the Andrew Stewart Memorial Graduate Prize for Research, the Alberta Teachers' Association Doctoral Fellowship, and the Alberta Award for the Study of Canadian Human Rights and Multiculturalism. Dr Wells' research and community service work has also been recognized with more than 60 awards, including an Alberta Centennial Medal.

Traps and Tools: School Administration and the Legalities of Bullying—Jeremy Taylor

In recent years, courts and tribunals have applied increasing scrutiny to bullying behaviour and administrative responses. This keynote will provide an overview of legal risks and remedies associated with bullying, focusing on the school administration context. Through case law examples, the session will address the bullying of teachers by administration, the bullying of administrators by parents and the liability of school administration for student to student bullying, including bullying based on gender, race and sexual orientation.

Jeremy Taylor is a partner with Field Law and practices primarily in the areas of labour/employment law and civil litigation. Jeremy has argued cases at all levels of court in Alberta, in the Supreme Court of Canada and in commercial and labour arbitrations. He has also represented clients before various administrative bodies, is a former instructor of labour law at the University of Alberta's Faculty of Law and the past chair of the Canadian Bar Association's Constitutional Law and Human Rights subsection (Alberta branch).

Inclusive and Safe Catholic School Communities for LGBTQ Students—Kevin Welbes Godin

Kevin Welbes Godin is a teacher with the Toronto Catholic School District and is OECTA's special project coordinator for equity and inclusivity. He is also the past chair of Catholic Association of Religious and Family

Life Educators of Ontario. Kevin Welbes Godin is the 2012 recipient of the Toronto Secondary Unit Teacher of the Year award. His peers and students recognized Kevin for his dedicated, passionate and collaborative work to bring together students and staff struggling with issues surrounding homophobia and support for LGBTQ youth.

**In Support of Sexual and Gender Diversity: Informing Policy and Law Development through Research—
Dr Catherine Taylor**

Dr Catherine Taylor is widely known for her work on sexual and gender diversity and social justice within education. She is also responsible for large-scale research projects involving all national, provincial and territorial schools system organizations in Canada and her research is instrumental in building inclusive school climates for sexual and gender minority students and their parents. Taylor conducted the first-ever national survey on homophobia and transphobia in Canadian schools in partnership with Egale Canada Human Rights Trust, and the Every Teacher project on LGBTQ inclusive education in partnership with the Manitoba Teachers' Society. Her research work has directly informed policy and law development across the country.

Alberta Teachers on iTunes U

This month we highlight a course called **The Future of the Principalship**. It is well worth subscribing to and is full of good ideas that principals and assistant principals should consider regarding their work. The course provides an opportunity to look in depth at the recent Canada-wide study on the principalship conducted by the ATA on behalf of the Canadian Association of Principals. To access the site, please visit tinyurl.com/ATAiTunes or scan the QR code on this page.



International Education Exchange Program

Short-term administrator exchanges are available as two-week job shadow experiences for Alberta school leaders. Participants are billeted by exchange counterparts and work shadow in an exchange partner's school for one to two weeks. Participants then host their counterparts for one to two weeks so they can experience the Alberta education system. Administrators arrange cultural visits to correspond with the interests of both parties. Opportunities exist in Australia, Germany, Spain, Denmark and the United Kingdom. Exchanges occur during the summer months and counterparts are usually hosted in September or October. Participants require an Alberta Permanent Professional Teaching Certificate and superintendent approval. For a successful, engaging experience, participants should be flexible, adaptable, positive, open to other cultures and comfortable with ambiguity. They should, of course, have demonstrated leadership quality. Interested? Find out more at www.ieep.ca.



uLead 2016 Call for Proposals

Do you have a school leadership story to share with colleagues from around the world? A unique opportunity awaits. Educational leaders from around the world will gather in April 2016 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. Join us 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. A wide array of world-class keynote speakers will animate the dialogue of those attending, and there will be myriad opportunities for spouses and family members to explore one of the most pristine wilderness areas in the world during the conference. uLead 2016 is sponsored by the Council for School Leadership, a specialist council of the Alberta Teachers' Association. Attendees are expected to include 800 principals, assistant principals, district leaders, education ministry representatives and national ministers of education from around the world.

You are invited to submit a proposal to offer a presentation at uLead 2016. We would love to have you share your Alberta leadership story with the world. If you would like to do so, visit tinyurl.com/uleader to submit your proposal as soon as possible.

uLead Conference— April 24–27, 2016

Educational leaders from around the world will gather in April 2016 in

Banff, Alberta, at Canada's premier conference for school-based leaders, district-level leaders and provincial and state education leaders. We are expecting 800 principals, assistant principals, district leaders, education ministry representatives and national ministers of education from around the world to join in a dialogue about best practices in educational leadership worldwide and in the leadership Alberta demonstrates as one of the highest performing school jurisdictions in the world. uLead 2016 is sponsored by the Council for School Leadership, a specialist council of the Alberta Teachers' Association. This conference will be memorable and ground breaking. Find out more at www.ulead.ca.

This event falls shortly before the International Summit on the Teaching Profession, also held in Banff, so we are also expecting a wide variety provincial and national ministers of education to join the principals and assistant principals who will be in attendance.

This year's uLead conference will be part two of a three-year trilogy of uLead conferences. At uLead 2015 we

explored the challenges and harm arising from the Global Education Reform Movement (G.E.R.M.) worldwide.

This year, we will explore new narratives for education and school leadership that are emerging through the world, and we will engage in a conversation about how to make those narratives live within our schools, school districts and provinces. The conference will seek to equip those attending with the tools to create their own education story that can thrive and meet the needs of today's students.

Invitees include Alberta Premier Rachel Notley and Minister of Education David Eggen. Confirmed keynote presenters include **Simon Breakspear (Sydney, Australia)**, **Pasi Sahlberg (Harvard)**, **Pak Tee Ng (Singapore)**, **Nancy Duarte (United States)** and talented educational leaders from around the world.

Registration is now open at www.ulead.ca with super-early-bird discounts for those registering prior to August 31, 2015 and continued early-bird discounts for those registering prior to the end of September.

