

CASS FALL Learning Conference 2021 Highlights

The CASS Fall Conference provided an opportunity to strengthen leadership growth based on the Professional Practice Standards – LQS and SLQS (<https://cass.ab.ca/resources/practice-profile/>) and is based on CASS Professional Learning Goal:

Deepening the understanding and applying the learning to support implementation of professional practice.

265 Alberta system leaders attended the CASS FALL Learning Conference representing **88% of Alberta School Authorities** (Public, Separate and Francophone); Charter schools, First Nation School authorities and education partners were also in attendance.

More than 25 system leaders representing 20 different school authorities were willing to share their **“Stories of Practice”** at the variety of concurrent sessions offered. System leaders involved also include the lead facilitator for the valued Role Alike time. Program available at: <https://cass.ab.ca/conferences-workshops/2021-cass-fall-conference/>
Presenter materials are available at

The FALL conference included an opportunity for member engagement on **CASS Pro-spective** <https://cassprospective.ca/>. Members views of “success indicators” for the CASS strategic plan priority #2 Relevant Communications, priority #3 Comprehensive and Collaborative Professional Learning, priority #4 Support for the Public Cause of Education were gathered. Members provided both strategies and approaches that would address the priorities as well as ideas for how to measure success that the strategies and approaches were addressing the priority as intended. A complete summary will be forthcoming.

The 2021 FALL conference was the most extensive online learning opportunity CASS has designed. Beginning on Wednesday November 3rd CASS members had the opportunity to review a summary and synthesis of curriculum feedback compiled based on school authorities input. This work is as a result of a grant CASS has received from Alberta Education to review the draft curriculum. Many education stakeholders have been compiling feedback on the draft curriculum at this time.

Prior to the curriculum review process Dr. **Santiago Rincón-Gallardo** shared a presentation titled: Leading Change in Alberta: Mobilizing Hearts, Heads, and Hands

Marshall Ganz defines Leadership as “accepting responsibility to enable others to achieve shared purpose under conditions of uncertainty. This keynote discussed how system leaders can forge unity of purpose alongside those they lead while navigating the uncertainty of these times. He offered some insights into the opportunities afforded to CASS members by recent developments in the province, such as the invitation from Alberta Education to review the new draft curriculum and the upcoming transition of CASS into a full-on professional association.

The conference also included a keynote by community engagement facilitators **Tannis Topolnisky** and **Kim Hyshka** titled Community Engagement: Diversity, Differences and Dialogue. Tannis and Kim reflected on the reality of the increased number of communication technologies available and how community conversations can or cannot be enhanced by different approaches. They shared the essentials for building trust based on engagement strategies regardless of the topic of conversation or the technology used for communication.

System leaders that presented at the conference were more than willing to share their presentation slides and workshop materials. Materials shared to date are posted, by concurrent session presentation, on the [conference website](#). (SEE List of Presentation Slides and Resources) The keynote presentation recordings are also posted here. If you would like to access any breakout session recording, please email claudine.cortes@cass.ab.ca.

Professional thanks to system leaders that were willing to share their stories of practice as well as allow for colleague's dialogue during break out room times.

An overview of FALL conference delegates survey data:

1. This professional learning opportunity contributed to my growth and understanding of system leader professional practice. 100% either strongly agree or agree
2. I plan to apply my learning in my school authority. 100% either strongly agree or agree
3. An aspect of this learning opportunity that made it meaningful is:
 - a. Collaboration, sharing of ideas with colleagues, stories of practice (42 responses)
 - b. Role Alike (22 responses - which are coherent with item above)
 - c. Sample quote from CASS member. *The learning was timely and relevant to the position I am currently in. The shared stories of practice provided wonderfully relatable examples of leadership and provided springboards for collaborative connections.*
4. An aspect of this learning opportunity that might be improved is:
 - a. In person (25)
 - b. Break out room instructions need to be clearer (5)
 - c. Sample quote from CASS member *by the end of the conference, the "breakout" rooms get to be too much - it certainly wouldn't be the same with in-person meetings. Sometimes I did appreciate changes such as comments in the chat, perhaps some Jamboard opportunities, even a breakout with one facilitator in a larger group focus etc. It is hard to keep people engaged virtually so thank you for your efforts!*
5. One thing I require to further support my professional learning is:
 - a. Role alike opportunities extended, more collaboration and connections, more sharing of stories of practice (18)
 - b. Access to session recordings, titles of suggested readings, access to Padlets and CASS Pro-Spective, presentation materials (8)
 - c. Curriculum Implementation (5)
 - d. Literacy and Numeracy Framework development (2)
 - e. Assurance Framework (3)
 - f. other content mentioned: after COVID (Kevin Cameron, resiliency), governance, engagement, policy making, WW & school community wellness, community engagement, HR, Building meaningful relationship with elders.
 - g. Sample quote from CASS member *Thank you for access to Padlets and the Pro-spective as this supports learning and allows me to go back for further reflection or deeper thinking. I also appreciate materials that I can use within my division to elicit conversations.*
 - h. *Continue the good work that CASS is doing to support leadership in education. This is important work and the more opportunity we have to engage with our colleagues, the greater our efficacy.*
6. General Comments

- a. *Another fantastic opportunity to hear stories, share learnings and conversations with our colleagues.*

