

CASS Fall 2022 Learning Conference Highlights

The CASS Fall Conference provided an opportunity to strengthen leadership growth based on the [LQS](#) and [SLQS](#) Professional Practice Standards and the role system educators have leading and supporting optimum learning for all students in Alberta.

Over 270 CASS members attended the conference, held in Calgary on October 26-28, and represented 90% of school authorities in Alberta.



What value did CASS' Fall Conference hold for its participants? In the words of **Jonathan Konrad**, deputy superintendent of Sturgeon Public School Division, "Each CASS conference offers engaging sessions across all dimensions of system leadership. This fall, Sturgeon Public was able to bring each of our senior leaders and several directors. It was our largest gathering at CASS yet! This allowed us to network with other divisions, attend nearly all the sessions, and have some time to reflect and discuss ideas as a full team. Now, as we return and implement or refine ideas, we will start from the same page!" From a presenter's perspective, Superintendent School Improvement **Joanne Pitman** said, "Presenting at CASS provides the opportunity to think critically about work within your own system, while broadening perspective to allow leaders working in different contexts to engage. The connections built through presenting and the follow-up thereafter are fantastic."

As a result of a partnership with the [Canadian Association of School System Administrators](#), CASSA, and access to the expertise of Dr. Jordan Tinney, CASS was able to adapt, for our context, conversation starter papers on [Adaptive Leadership](#) and [Contextual Literacy](#). Both papers are posted



in the CASS Resource Library and suitable for individual reflection as well as system or school leadership learning opportunities.

<https://cass.ab.ca/resources/resource-library/> Jordan reflected on his time at the conference. "Thank you to CASS for helping shape what was an engaging and informative conference.

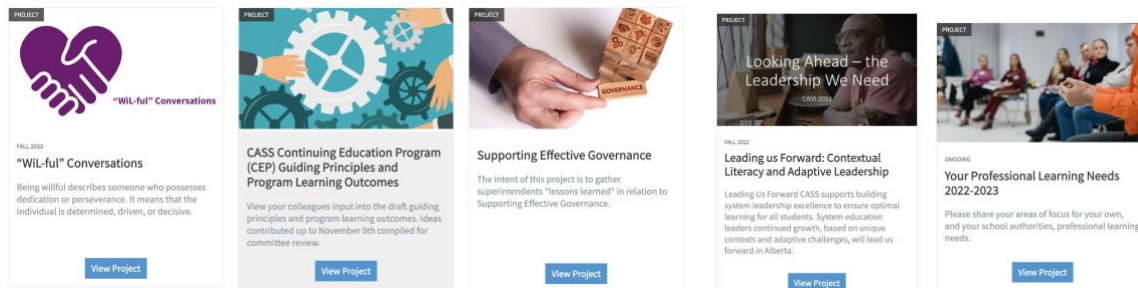
I enjoyed not only getting to share and present, but more importantly, to hear the caring and compassionate system leaders at their tables as they talked about issues that were current in their context. CASS has created an opportunity through their intentional use of sharing through *Pro-spective* to allow the connections to continue."

There were 26 presenters who represented 10 different school authorities. Some sessions were co-facilitated in partnership with postsecondary leaders, private consultant groups, legal counsel and Canadian system leader experts.

All facilitators were willing to share their presentation materials which are posted here: <https://cass.ab.ca/conference-program-archive/>

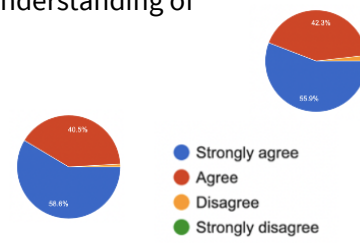
The conference also provided an opportunity to engage members through CASS Prospective, framed around current and emergent education topics.

The engagement site, for members only, provided feedback to the CASS board about members perspective and assists CASS in providing supports and services that meet member’s needs. Members had the opportunity to engage in the following topics.



44% of Delegates responded to the Conference survey. Data will be used to plan future learning opportunities. A summary, as well as selected survey responses:

- This professional learning opportunity contributed to my understanding of the professional practice standard.
- I plan to apply my learning in my school authority.
- An aspect of this learning opportunity that made it meaningful is:
 - *Multiple opportunities (both deliberately planned by organizers and speakers and also unplanned) throughout the days and sessions to connect with other system leaders; to share and hear ideas, challenges, and strategies being used around the province to address challenges and solve problems.*
 - *An opportunity to hear the stories of other Superintendents with regards to governance. It is very important for new Superintendents to have an opportunity to listen to experienced supers as we learn so much.*
- An aspect of this learning opportunity that might be improved is:
 - *Role a likes have always been a great part of the learning*
 - *Perhaps a more deliberate way to collect the 'big rocks' around emergent issues in the various 'role alike' groups (based on table discussions, it seems there may be a few themes that are common to regions or those with similar contexts) and use that information to shape future conferences or opportunities for system leaders to collaborate and problem solve.*
- One thing I require to further support my professional learning is:
 - *There is certainly not a lack of resources - but a lack targeted time and moments to explore all that is available on your site.*
 - *I value the opportunity to collaborate and share information, issues, challenges, possible solutions, etc. with those in roles similar to mine - but I equally value time spent with all system leaders. Our work is closely intertwined and complementary and I believe I will improve my practice based on learning and collaborating with a wide variety of system leaders from various roles.*



Resources to support members continued professional growth can be found on the CASS website here: <https://cass.ab.ca/resources/>