

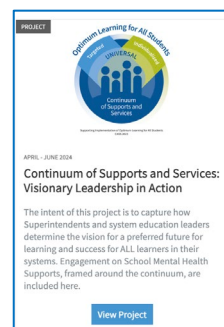
## CASS Fall 2023 Conference Highlights

The CASS Fall Conference provided an opportunity to strengthen leadership growth based on the [LOS and SLOS](#) Professional Practice Standards and the role system education leaders have in supporting optimum learning for all Alberta students. Over 300 members and partners attended the conference representing 90% of school authorities in the province.

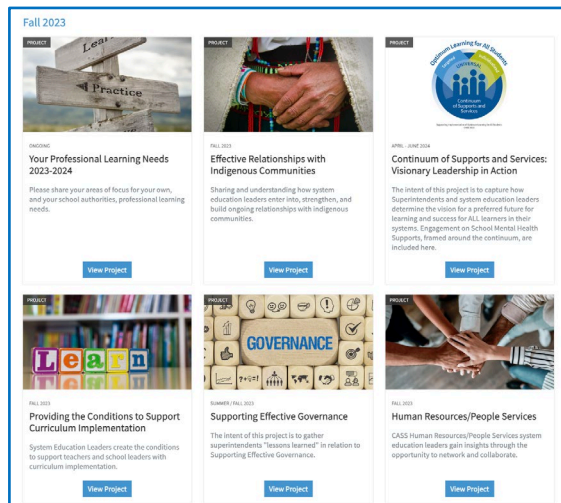
One highlight of the conference included the large number of facilitators involved in sharing stories of practice, research, and facilitating dialogue and learning for colleagues. Apart from concurrent sessions, role alike opportunities were provided. Professional thanks to the school authorities and partners involved who are displayed in this slide image. All facilitators were willing to share their presentation materials, which are posted under the [conference archive](#), resources column.



The pre-conference on **Mental Health in Schools** included support for ongoing work on mental health supports, as well as pilot projects funded by Alberta Education. This learning opportunity focused on research including a summary of findings from the University of Calgary [Centre for Wellbeing in Education](#) who are studying the pilot projects. They also have a contract to develop a provincial mental health framework based on the research and the school authority learnings. **Dr. Andrea Holowka** shared her dissertation on *Transforming School-Based Mental Health to Heal the Collective Soul Wound*, which focused on the application of transformative system leadership to impact student well-being through system-wide mental health interventions. **Loriann Stienwand** from Alberta Education shared updates about the pilot projects including early implementation learnings. System Education Leaders **Shane Cranston from Palliser**, **Lisa Furukawa from Livingstone Range** and **David Legrandeur from Horizon**, shared their work on the Southwest Collaborative Support Services that includes their districts as well as Westwind, Holy Spirit and Lethbridge School Division. The collaborative works together in support of children, youth, and families in the Southwest, including a focus on mental health supports. **Brian Torrance of Ever Active Schools** provided an overview of how the organization is, and can, partner with school authorities' wellbeing plans. Delegates at the preconference contributed their practices, based on individual and table group submissions, to the [CASS Pro-spective project: Continuum of Supports and Services Visionary Leadership in Action](#). Ideas CASS members shared focused on measuring impact as well as building capacity.



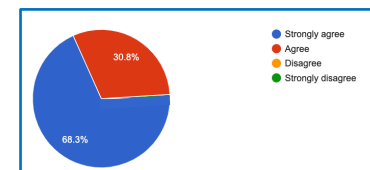
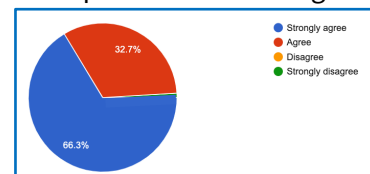
**CASS Pro-spective** provided an opportunity to engage members, framed around current and emergent education topics. 133 “ideas” were shared, during the fall conference, based on questions of practice posed in various sessions. Both the *Mental Health in Schools* and *Providing the Conditions to Support Curriculum Implementation* included questions of practice related to the role of system education leaders in building capacity and measuring impact. Summaries of members input has been, and will be, shared through CASS Connects.



Conference survey comments included messages about comfort with the tool and revisiting to stay connected with members professional perspectives.

38% 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:
  - *The Role Alike sessions are always wonderful. Hearing from the Minister was appreciated.*
  - *Sessions from school authority teams is relevant, timely, and valuable. Learning from each other informs actions we take and decisions we make.*
  - *Opportunity during sessions to reflect, discuss with colleagues to connect stories of practice to the work of our district and consider applications.*
- An aspect of this learning opportunity that might be improved is:
  - *More time for role alike opportunities.*
  - *I would like to see the mentorship mixer be a session during the day instead of an add on after the AGM.*
  - *I would have appreciated that boards are not sitting together in the preconference and role alike. There would have been more learning if the majority of the people at a table weren't from the same board.*
- One thing I require to further support my professional learning is:
  - *Continued time to network as we do-especially Role Alikes!*
  - *Continued stories of practice from leaders around the province*
  - *Continued opportunities to have conversations with colleagues*

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