

## Trades and Technologies Summit 2024: Shaping Futures Highlights Summary

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On May 14 and 15, 2024, the College of Alberta School Superintendents (CASS) and the TAVE Committee hosted the first Trades and Technologies Summit at the NAIT Campus, Productivity and Innovation Centre. Guided by the TAVE Strategic Framework, the event championed shared responsibility and accountability gathering a diverse group of 162 participants from 41 School Authorities from across Alberta, government, post-secondary institutions, and partner organizations.

Representatives included:

### **Government Organizations**

1. Government of Alberta
2. Department of Education
3. Department of Advanced Education

### **Colleges and Polytechnics**

1. Lethbridge College
2. NorQuest College
3. Northwestern Polytechnic
4. Red Deer Polytechnic
5. Portage College
6. NAIT (Northern Alberta Institute of Technology)
7. SAIT (Southern Alberta Institute of Technology)
8. Lakeland College
9. Medicine Hat College
10. Northern Lakes College

## **Educational Associations and Other Organizations**

1. AISCA (Association of Independent Schools and Colleges of Alberta)
2. Alberta Post-Secondary Network
3. Fusion Education Association
4. University of Calgary and Fusion Collegiate Charter
5. Skills Canada Alberta
6. ASET (Association of Science and Engineering Technology Professionals of Alberta)
7. Women Building Futures
8. Ignite Centre for eLearning
9. Third Academy
10. Calgary Academy
11. Alberta Council on Admissions and Transfer (ACAT) Secretariat/Learner Pathways
12. Alberta Post-Secondary Network
13. Yellowknife Catholic Schools
14. The Educational Partnership Foundation
15. College of Alberta School Superintendents

## **Program Design and Delivery**

Summit 2024 provided a comprehensive program offering attendees the opportunity to explore, engage, and experience six Trades and Technologies themes related to shaping the future, including:

1. Alberta Stories of Practice
2. Building Awareness
3. Career Pathways
4. Groundwork: Understanding Foundations
5. Insight: Looking Forward
6. Insight: Power of Partnerships

**The program showcased:**

**Keynote address  
from  
Premier Danielle  
Smith**



**Keynote  
address from  
MLA Shane  
Getson**



**A student and parent panel with Premier Danielle Smith:**



**A forum of educational leaders, including:**

1. Rajan Sawhney, Minister of Advanced Education
2. Lora Pillipow, Deputy Minister of Education
3. Wayne Pineau, Mentor Principal, Innisfail High School
4. Dean Nielsen, Principal of Hugh Sutherland School
5. Jason Kupery, Director of Learning, Palliser School Division
6. Sheldon Anderson, Dean of Lethbridge College and Entrepreneur



**20 Explore, Engage, and Experience sessions including key topics related to:**

- Experiential career pathways
- Career readiness
- Collaborative partnerships
- Apprenticeship education
- Women's roles in trades
- Post-secondary perspectives on pathways
- Utilizing student data for success
- Bridging gaps between industry and education
- Integrating developmental psychology into career preparedness
- Roles for student coaching and supervision in career pathways



**A tour of NAIT facilities, including a hands-on activity where participants built a toolbox:**



Key takeaways were captured in a provided Thinkbook, containing contacts and reference resources to support ongoing development and collaboration.

Feedback regarding the structure of this learning opportunity was overwhelmingly positive. Some comments are captured below:

- Participants expressed gratitude for the valuable experience and commended the organizing committee for their efforts in orchestrating a successful event.
- Attendees praised the organization, smooth session transitions, informative communication, and excellent food provided.
- The location at NAIT was appreciated, as well as the tour opportunities offered.

The following two survey comments depict the high level of satisfaction and appreciation expressed by participants:

- Thank you to the organizing committee for such fine work. The effort to amplify this work across the province is greatly appreciated. The higher profile guests and speakers can be attributed to the value of TAVE and the work of the leadership in this group.
- Big fan of the structure - schedule was perfection, transition between sessions was smooth, presentation rooms were close, all communication on the event was extremely organized and informative, tech support staff was wonderful, food was dynamite, multiple seating areas provided great opportunities for meaningful conversation moving between sessions. A lot of consideration went into creating an impactful experience and I can't say enough positive things about the summit.

Some attendees suggested incorporating more networking opportunities around partner booths and recommended broader educator attendance to increase collaboration across school divisions.

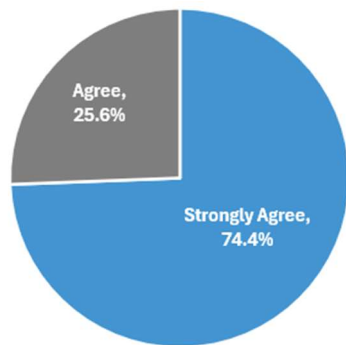
Recommendations also included hearing from dual credit program instructors and exploring different locations for future summits.

Attendees highlighted the importance of amplifying this work across the province and emphasized the need for ongoing, consistent events to support Alberta students' career pathway advancement and success.

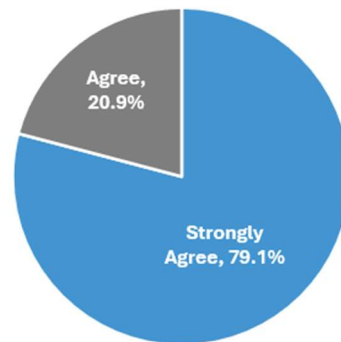
## 2024 Trades and Technologies Summit: Shaping Futures Survey Results

### Participant Feedback

100% of the participants that completed the survey reported that the TAVE Trades and Technologies Summit assisted in exploring, engaging with, and gaining experience in the work being done with Alberta students in the skilled trades and technologies areas.



100% of the participants that completed the survey reported that they plan to apply learning from the TAVE Trades and Technologies Summit in their organizations. This result demonstrates that Summit 2024 effectively provided valuable and actionable insights.

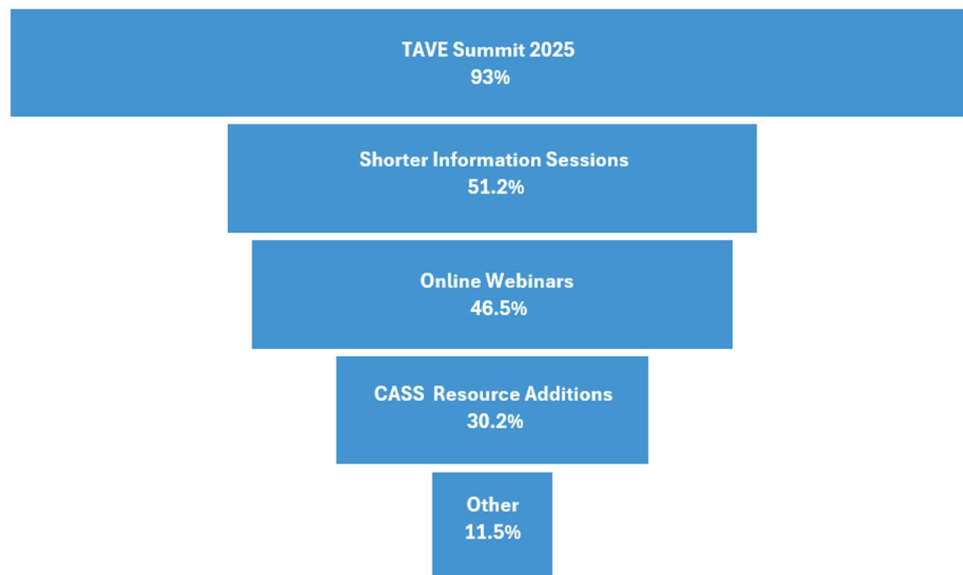


Attendees reported several key aspects that made the learning opportunity meaningful for them:

1. **Networking and Collaboration:** Many valued the chance to connect and collaborate with others, hearing about initiatives and best practices from different districts and organizations.
2. **Diverse Perspectives:** Participants appreciated the variety of perspectives, including those of students, principals, government officials, and post-secondary educators.
3. **Practical Sessions and Information:** Sessions offering practical advice on topics like dual credit, career pathways, and trades certifications were particularly appreciated.
4. **Student Involvement:** Hearing directly from students was noted as a powerful and impactful element.
5. **Government Interaction:** Engaging with government representatives and understanding their processes was beneficial.

6. **Variety and Diversity of Sessions:** The wide range of sessions and the diversity of school divisions represented allowed participants to learn about different models and strategies.
7. **Inspiration and Motivation:** Many felt inspired by the creativity and successful practices shared by others, providing motivation to implement new ideas in their own districts.

Participants were asked to identify additional support that would advance efforts to inspire students to pursue career pathways in trades and technologies. Responses emphasized the important importance of offering a Summit 2025, followed by information sessions and online webinars, noting that this opportunity was unique in Alberta.



Note - Other includes: Transcript/recording of sessions | More time for developing a PLN/unconference style | Accessing students & parents directly to provide information | Funding session on strategies/areas to fund trades education | Directory of contacts.

## Closing Summary

CASS and TAVE wish to recognize Alberta Education for their support and contributions to this pioneering event offering stakeholders a comprehensive view of the current landscape of Trades and Technologies education in Alberta. As we look ahead, it is evident that fostering shared responsibility and accountability between School Authorities, Alberta, government entities, post-secondary institutions, and partner organizations is shaping the future of education in Alberta. Continuing our provincial efforts to boldly EXPLORE diverse themes, actively ENGAGE in meaningful exchanges of innovative practices, and provide enriching EXPERIENCES is not just about education; it's about economic prosperity and job creation. By aligning our educational initiatives with the evolving needs of the economy, we ensure that Alberta students are equipped with the skills and knowledge required to thrive in the workforce. This strategic alignment not only fosters individual success but also contributes to the broader economic growth of our province. Through collaborative partnerships between educational institutions, government entities, and industry stakeholders, we can bridge the gap between education and employment, empowering our workforce to meet the demands of a rapidly changing job market. By taking these steps, we foster students who are adaptable and resourceful, creating a foundation for an economy that flourishes and serves the needs of every Albertan.



Photo Gallery



