2026 CASS Annual Learning Conference
Double Tree by Hilton, West Edmonton
Program-at-a-Glance

Pre-conference: Wednesday, March 18, 2026

9:30 – 10:00 am	**Registration and Check In**	*Location*
10:00 am – 4:00 pm **(Lunch included)**	**CEP Course - Developing Leadership Capacity at the System Level: The Ripple Effect** Facilitators: Danica Martin & Mark Siemens; Host: TBD *Hybrid Format (10 hours): Includes 5 hours of in-person learning at the CASS Pre-Conference, followed by two 2.5-hour online sessions delivered in the weeks after the conference.* • *In-person – Wednesday, March 18, 2026 (10:00 am – 4:00 pm)* • *Online – Wednesday, March 25, 2026 (3:30 pm – 6:00 pm)* • *Online – Wednesday, April 1, 2026 (3:30 pm – 6:00 pm)* SLQS: LL LQS: DLC	*TBD*
10:00 am – 4:00 pm **(Lunch included)**	**CEP Course - Supporting Effective Governance: Hacks and Heuristics** Facilitators: Dr. Scott Morrison & Dr. Andrea Holowka; Host: TBD *Hybrid Format (10 hours): Includes 5 hours of in-person learning at the CASS Pre-Conference, followed by two 2.5-hour online sessions delivered in the weeks after the conference.* • *In-person – Wednesday, March 18, 2026 - (10:00 am – 4:00 pm)* • *Online – Wednesday, March 25, 2026 (8:00 am – 10:30 am)* • *Online – Wednesday, April 1, 2026 (8:00 am – 10:30 am)* SLQS: GOV LQS: FER	*TBD*
10:00 am – 4:00 pm **(Lunch included)**	**CEP Course – Visionary Leadership in Action: Implementing a Continuum of Supports and Services** Facilitators: Loriann Stienwand & Dr. Dianne McConnell; Host - TBD *Hybrid Format (10 hours): Includes 5 hours of in-person learning at the CASS Pre-Conference, followed by two 2.5-hour online sessions delivered in the weeks after the conference.* • *In-person – Wednesday, March 18, 2026 (10:00 am – 4:00 pm)* • *Online – Wednesday, March 25, 2026 (8:00 am – 10:30 am)* • *Online – Wednesday, April 1, 2026 (8:00 am – 10:30 am)* SLQS: VL LQS: EVL	*TBD*
Note: The CEP courses are open to CASS members and non-CASS members. Regulated members will earn 10 CEP credits upon course completion.		

Conference Opening: Wednesday Evening, March 18, 2026

	Note: Regulated members who attend the entire conference are eligible to earn 10 CEP credits. For those attending only part of the conference, calculate one hour of professional learning = 1 CEP Credit.	
6:00 – 7:00 pm	**Registration and Check In**	**Location**
7:00 – 7:30 pm	**Conference Opening** Opening Remarks, Elder Blessing, Land Acknowledgement & O Canada Greetings from the Honourable Demetrios Nicolaides, Minister of Education and Childcare Platinum & Gold Sponsor Video Remarks	*TBD*
7:30 – 8:45 pm	**Keynote: Enhancing the Lives of Young People: Career and Mental Health Obstacles and Opportunities** Presenter: Dr. Kerry Bernes Host: TBD SLQS: MCPL LQS: MCPL	*TBD*
8:45 pm	**President's Reception**	*TBD*

Superintendent Leadership Quality Standard	Leadership Quality Standard
BER – Building Effective Relationships	**FER -** Fostering Effective Relationships
MCPL – Modelling Commitment to Professional Learning	**MCPL -** Modeling Commitment to Professional Learning
VL – Visionary Leadership	**EVL -** Embodying Visionary Leadership
LL – Leading Learning	**LLC -** Leading a Learning Community
FNMI – Ensuring First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education for All Students	**FNMI -** Supporting the Application of Foundational Knowledge about First Nations, Métis and Inuit
	PIL - Providing Instructional Leadership
	DLC - Developing Leadership Capacity
SOAR – School Authority Operations and Resources	**MSOR -** Managing School Operations and Resources
	URSC - Understanding and Responding to the Larger Societal Context
GOV – Supporting Effective Governance	

January 28, 2026

Thursday, March 19, 2026

Note: Regulated members who attend the entire conference are eligible to earn 10 CEP credits. **For those attending only part of the conference, calculate one hour of professional learning = 1 CEP Credit.**					
7:30 – 8:15 am	**Registration and Check-in** **Breakfast**				*TBD*
8:15 – 8:45 am	**Morning Welcome** Land Acknowledgement Platinum & Gold Sponsor Video Remarks				*TBD*
8:45 – 9:00 am	**Professional Networking & Transition Break**				
9:00 – 10:30 am	**Communities of Practice (For Regulated and Eligible Members)**				

Room: TBD	*Room: TBD*	*Room: TBD*	*Room: TBD*	*Room: TBD*	*Room: TBD*
Curriculum, Assessment & Technology Facilitated by: Erin Tisdale Host: TBD SLQS: BER, MCPL, VL, LL LQS: FER, MCPL, EVL, LLC	**Deputy Superintendents** Facilitated by: Greg Wedman Host: TBD SLQS: BER, MCPL, VL, LL, GOV	**First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education** Facilitated by: TBD Host: TBD SLQS: BER, MCPL, VL, LL, EFNMI LQS: FER, MCPL, EVL, LLC, SFNMI	**Human Resources / People Services** Facilitated by: Mark Siemens Host: TBD SLQS: BER, MCPL, VL, LL LQS: FER, MCPL, EVL, LLC	**Inclusive Education** Facilitated by: Irene Donaldson Host: TBD SLQS: BER, MCPL, VL, LL LQS: FER, MCPL, EVL, LLC	**Superintendents** (This session is for superintendents only.) Facilitated by: Mike McMann Host: TBD SLQS: BER, MCPL, VL, LL, GOV

10:30 – 10:45 am	**Professional Networking & Transition Break**				
10:45 am – 12:00 pm	**Alberta Stories of Practice and Research-based Sessions**				

Room: TBD	*Room: TBD*	*Room: TBD*	*Room: TBD*	*Room: TBD*	*Room: TBD*	*Room: TBD*
Advancing Implementation Across Alberta's Collegiate Community (Part One) Presenters: Jennifer Robson, Tammy	**ATIA and POPA: What School Authorities Need to Know** Presenter: Lorne Randa Host: TBD	**Collaborative Governance: Leading with Your Board** (This session is for superintendents only.) Presenters: Karl Germann & Dr. Rita Marler	**Meeting and Exceeding the September 2025 Ministerial Mandates for Career Education and Student Mental Health**	**The Power of Listening: Cultivating Staff Wellness at Kainai Board of Education** Presenters: Cameron Shade, Amber Hester	**Who Takes Care of the Leaders?** Presenters: Dr. Christopher Fuzessy, Dr. Nadia Delanoy, Dr. Stephen MacGregor Host: TBD	**Working Session on the Mental Health Implementation Framework** Presenters: Shana Fairbank, Christina MacKinnon Host: TBD

Tkachuk, Sean Lougheed Host: Colleen Symyrozum-Watt SLQS: VL, SOAR LQS: FER, MSOR *Non-CASS members can attend this session by paying a registration fee. This allows individuals outside of CASS to participate and benefit from the content provided.*	SLQS: MCPL, SOAR LQS: MCPL, MSOR	Host: TBD SLQS: BER, GOV	Presenter: Dr. Kerry Bernes Host: TBD SLQS: BER, VL, LL LQS: FER, EVL, LLC, URSC	Host: TBD SLQS: BER, MCPL, FNMI LQS: FER, MCPL, FNMI	SLQS: BER, MCPL, VL, LL, SOAR LQS: FER, MCPL, EVL, LLC, DLC, MSOR	SLQS: BER, VL LQS: FER, LLC

12:00 – 1:00 pm	**Lunch and Sponsor Engagement**

1:00 – 3:00 pm	**Alberta Stories of Practice and Research-based Sessions**

Room: TBD	*Room: TBD*	*Room: TBD*	*Room: TBD*	*Room: TBD*	*Room: TBD*	*Room: TBD*
Advancing Implementation Across Alberta's Collegiate Community (Part Two) Presenters: Jennifer Robson, Tammy Tkachuk, Sean Lougheed Host: Colleen Symyrozum-Watt SLQS: VL, SOAR LQS: FER, MSOR	**Aggression & Complexity in Schools: Action Team Report** Presenter: Joanne Pitman Host: TBD SLQS: BER, VL, FNMI, SOAR LQS: FER, EVL, DLC, URSC	**Analyzing Provincial Assessment Test and Diploma Exam Detailed Reports** Presenters: Janet Rockwood, Donnalyn Moreland, Terri Lynn Mundorf, Dr. Paul MacDonald, Joy Wicks-Oyedele, Nathalie Langstaedtler Host: TBD SLQS: MCPL, LL LQS: MCPL, PIL	**Financial Literacy for Superintendents** (This session is for superintendents only.) Presenters: Karl Germann & Dr. Rita Marler Host: TBD SLQS: VL, LL, SOAR, GOV	**Foundations of Career Education: Empowering Life-Long Career Readiness** Presenters: Jason Drent, Jackie Taylor, Diana White, Chris Adamson Host: TBD SLQS: VL, LL LQS: LLC, PIL	**Leading a Systemic Approach to Wellbeing** Presenters: Shawna Warren, Annalee Nutter, Cynthia Shelley-Lewis, Chris Smeaton, Dr. Gail Markin Host: Danica Martin SLQS: BER, GOV LQS: FER, EVL	**Workplace Investigation Bootcamp** Presenters: Yvon Prefontaine Host: TBD SLQS: MCPL, SOAR LQS: MCPL, MSOR

3:00 – 3:15 pm	**Professional Networking & Transition Break**

3:15 – 3:30 pm	**Door Prize Draws – must be present to win**	*TBD*
3:30 – 3:45 pm	**Professional Networking & Transition Break**	
3:45 – 4:30 pm	**Special General Meeting (for Regulated Members)**	*TBD*
5:00 – 6:00 pm	**Mentorship Networking hosted by Dr. Edgar Schmidt, CASS Mentorship Coordinator**	*TBD*
6:30 – 9:00 pm	**Retirement Banquet (for Retirees and Invited Guests)**	*TBD*

Friday, March 20, 2026

7:30– 8:15 am	**Breakfast**
8:15 – 8:45 am	**Morning Welcome** Land Acknowledgement Platinum & Gold Sponsor Video Remarks
8:45 – 9:00 am	**Professional Networking & Transition Break**
9:00 – 10:30 am	**Alberta Stories of Practice and Research-based Sessions**

Room: TBD	*Room: TBD*	*Room: TBD*	*Room: TBD*	*Room: TBD*	*Room: TBD*	*Room: TBD*
Belonging and Improved Educational Outcomes: Enhancing the Inclusive Experiences of Autistic Students Presenters: Dr. Shane Lynch & Valerie Dyck Host: TBD SLQS: VL, LL LQS: FER, EVL	**Differentiation for Leading Principal Leaders** Presenters: Steve Petingola, Deneen Nolan, John McDonald, Carolyn Lodermeier Host: TBD SLQS: LL LQS: LLC, DLC	**Empowering Educators with Foundational Indigenous Curriculum Resources** Presenters: Sandra Ciurysek, Jamie Chalifoux, Jason Bigcharles Host: TBD SLQS: MCPL, FNMI LQS: MCPL, FNMI	**From Compliance to Curiosity: Designing Classrooms That Think** Presenters: Dr. Jessie Shirley & Christie Watson Host: TBD SLQS: VL, LL LQS: EVL, LLC, DLC	**Piercing the Bubble: A System Leader's Guide to Difficult Conversations** Presenters: Ray Hoppins & Kurt Sacher Host: TBD SLQS: BER, SOAR LQS: FER, MSOR	**Stories of Practice: Leading the Recruitment and Retention of Educational Assistants** Presenters: Shelley Greenwood, Lisa Lindsay, Loriann Stienwand, Dr. Edgar Schmidt Host: TBD SLQS: BER, MCPL, SOAR LQS: FER, MCPL, MSOR	**Unplugged to Connect: What Systems Shift When a School Authority Adopts the Unplugged Canada Pledge?** Presenters: Tania Johnson, Kirsten Sweet, Shawna Warren Host: TBD SLQS: BER, VL, LL, GOV LQS: URSC

10:30 – 10:45 am	**Professional Networking & Transition Break**
10:45 am – 12:00 pm	**Alberta Stories of Practice and Research-based Sessions**

Room: TBD	*Room: TBD*	*Room: TBD*	*Room: TBD*	*Room: TBD*	*Room: TBD*	*Room: TBD*
Leading in the Fishbowl:	**Our Journey with Communication,**	**Rewriting the Rural School**	**Right Support, Right Time:**	**Simplify Your Assurance Results**	**System Education Leaders' Roles and**	**The System, The Team, and The**

Safeguarding Principal Identity and Wellbeing	Language and Literacy Development for Students with Complex Communication Needs	Recruitment and Retention Narrative: Research Insights & Innovations	Implementing a Tiered Continuum of Mental Health and Well-being Supports in Schools	Presenter: Kylie Kissel	Responsibilities in Managing Aggressive Student Behaviours: Exploring the Results	Person: Navigating Identities, Team Dynamics, and Equity Policymaking in a Complex System Leadership Landscape
Presenters: Erika Nelson & Dr. Jodie Mattia Host: TBD SLQS: BER, SOAR LQS: DLC, URSC	Presenters: Dr. Kathy Look Howery, Carol Rainey, Krista Ralph Host: TBD SLQS: LL, SOAR LQS: LLC, PIL	Presenters: Bonnie Stelmach, Dr. Edgar Schmidt, Dr. Peter Barron Host: TBD SLQS: MCPL, SOAR LQS: MCPL, MSOR	Presenter: Dr. Jennifer Turner Host: TBD SLQS: BER, VL, LL LQS: EVL, LLC, URSC	Host: TBD SLQS: MCPL, VL, SOAR LQS: MCPL, EVL, MSOR	Presenters: Danica Martin & Lori Meyer Host: TBD SLQS: MCPL, VL, SOAR LQS: MCPL, EVL, MSOR	Presenter: Dr. Mat Campbell Host: TBD SLQS: BER, VL, SOAR, GOV LQS: FER, EVL, MSOR, URSC
12:00 pm	**Lunch** – Onwards (Optional) time for school authority teams to meet					TBD

Thank you to our conference supporters for fostering an environment of collaborative learning, innovation, and professional growth.

January 28, 2026