



Continuing  
Education  
Program

# CASS PL Committee Meeting Highlights May 14, 2026

The purpose of the Professional Learning Committee is to provide informed advice, and recommendations on matters pertaining to professional learning within the context of the Continuing Education Program (CEP).

## Committee Membership 2025-2026

### Chair:

**Vincent Behm**, Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools, CASS Board of Directors

### Committee Members:

**Terry Gibson**, Fort Vermilion School Division, Zone 1

**Lynnette Anderson**, Edmonton Catholic Schools Division, Zone 2/3

**Dr. Ryan Sawula**, Chinook's Edge School Division, Zone 4

**Dr. Andrea Holowka**, Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools, Zone 5

**Robbie Charlebois**, Lethbridge School Division, Zone 6

**Ian Gray**, Aurora Academic Charter School, Charter School

**Dolorèse Nolette**, Conseil scolaire Centre-Est, Francophone School Authority

### CASS Representatives:

**David Keohane**, CASS CEO

**Gloria Antifaiff**, CASS Principal Leadership Consultant

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### ☑ **New CEP Course: *Developing Political Acumen: Fostering Relationships and Influencing Policy for Student Success***

The committee received the proposed course outline for a new CEP course and provided feedback for the course developer. A motion was passed for the Governance and Nominating Committee to receive the proposed course outline, and forward as a recommendation to the CASS Board of Directors. This course will be piloted at the 2026 CASS Summer Learning Conference to an audience of superintendents and deputy superintendents.

### ☑ **2026–27 Professional Learning: *Strategic Direction and Planning***

The discussion focused on reviewing priorities for the 2026–2027 Professional Learning Strategy and confirming whether current professional learning offerings continue to meet member needs. Committee members reflected on system-wide priorities, professional learning design, learning experiences, and approaches for measuring impact and success.

Feedback from the Annual Conference and committee discussions indicated that current professional learning opportunities are strongly aligned with member needs and continue to receive highly positive feedback. Communities of Practice and Stories of Practice were identified as particularly valuable due to their relevance, collaborative dialogue, and engagement opportunities embedded throughout sessions. Members also noted that adjustments made in response to previous feedback, including scheduling changes to Communities of Practice, have been positively received. Minor suggestions for improvement included refining session scheduling and addressing learning environment considerations such as room temperature and sound quality. Committee members agreed that the overall professional learning direction remains on track while recommending additional perspectives and research from outside Alberta.

### ☑ **Potential Keynotes/Panel Discussions for 2026/27 Conferences**

The committee explored the possibility of keynote speakers or panel discussions for Wednesday evening programming. Members expressed support for panel discussions, noting that multiple voices, interactive dialogue, and practical perspectives may better sustain engagement than a traditional keynote presentation after a long day.

Committee members also emphasized the importance of interaction, table discussions, and dialogue-rich formats rather than passive “sit and get” sessions. Suggestions included shortening evening sessions, adjusting conference scheduling, incorporating timely ministry updates, and ensuring diverse rural, urban, and provincial perspectives are represented within discussions. Overall, members encouraged continued exploration of flexible, engaging, and interactive approaches for Wednesday evening programming.

### ☑ **CEP Annual Survey – Approach for 2026/27**

The committee discussed the low response rate (n=23) for the 2026 CEP survey, and strategies to improve participation. Members generally supported maintaining the survey structure to allow for longitudinal data collection while reassessing participation trends over time. Suggestions to increase participation included promoting the survey at conferences, providing dedicated completion time, emphasizing how feedback informs professional learning decisions, and offering incentives such as prize draws.

### ☑ **Next Meeting**

This meeting concluded the work of the 25/26 Professional Learning Committee.