

Trades and Technologies Summit 2026 Highlights Summary



2026 TAVE Summit Highlights

On April 28 and 29, 2026, the College of Alberta School Superintendents (CASS) and the TAVE Committee hosted the third annual Trades and Technologies Summit at the SAIT campus in Calgary, Alberta. Guided by the TAVE Strategic Framework, the Summit emphasized shared responsibility, collaboration, and system leadership to strengthen career education pathways for Alberta students. The event brought together 191 participants representing school authorities, government, post-secondary institutions, industry, and partner organizations from across the province.

Centered around the theme *Pathways to Possibility: Inspiring Alberta Students' Futures*, the Summit created opportunities for participants to explore innovative practices, strengthen partnerships, and examine emerging strategies supporting student engagement in skilled trades, technologies, apprenticeship education, and career pathways. Through keynote presentations, panel discussions, Alberta stories of practice, and collaborative dialogue, participants explored how K–12 education, post-secondary institutions, industry, partners, and community organizations can work together to create more connected and responsive learning opportunities for students.

Representatives included:

Government Organizations

1. Government of Alberta
2. Alberta Education and Childcare
3. Alberta Advanced Education

School Authorities and Educational Organizations

1. Battle River School Division
2. Black Gold School Division
3. Buffalo Trail Public Schools
4. Calgary Academy
5. Calgary Board of Education
6. Calgary Catholic School District
7. Canadian Reformed School Society of Edmonton
8. Canadian Rockies Public Schools
9. Chinook's Edge School Division
10. Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools
11. Clearview Public Schools
12. Conseil scolaire Centre-Est
13. Edmonton Catholic Schools
14. Edmonton Public Schools
15. Elk Island Public Schools
16. Evergreen Catholic Separate School Division
17. Fort McMurray Catholic Schools
18. Fort McMurray Public Schools
19. Fort Vermilion School Division
20. Foundations for the Future Charter Academy
21. Fusion Education Association
22. Golden Hills School Division
23. Grande Prairie and District Catholic Schools
24. Grande Prairie Public School Division
25. Grasslands Public Schools
26. High Prairie School Division
27. Holy Spirit Catholic School Division
28. Horizon School Division
29. Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Council (KTC)
30. Lethbridge School Division
31. Living Waters Catholic Separate School Division
32. Medicine Hat School Division
33. Northern Lights Public Schools
34. Northland School Division
35. Palliser School Division
36. Parkland School Division
37. Peace River School Division
38. Prairie Land School Division
39. Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools
40. Red Deer Public Schools
41. Rocky View Schools
42. STAR Catholic Schools
43. St. Albert Public Schools
44. Sturgeon Public Schools
45. The BUSY School
46. Third Academy
47. Third Schools
48. Westwind School Division
49. Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools
50. Wolf Creek Public Schools
51. Yellowhead Christian School Fellowship

Colleges and Polytechnics

1. Olds College of Agriculture & Technology
2. Lethbridge Polytechnic
3. Red Deer Polytechnic
4. SAIT (Southern Alberta Institute of Technology)
5. Lakeland College
6. Portage College

Educational Associations and Stakeholder Organizations

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. AISCA (Association of Independent Schools and Colleges of Alberta) 2. University of Calgary 3. Skills Canada Alberta 4. ASET (Association of Science and Engineering Technology Professionals of Alberta) 5. Calgary Construction Association 6. Alberta Chambers of Commerce | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Alberta Roofing Contractors Association (ARCA) 8. CAREERS: The Next Generation 9. Fountain Tire 10. Alberta Council on Admissions and Transfer (ACAT) Secretariat/Learner Pathways 11. Alberta Professional Learning Consortium (APLC) |
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Program Design and Delivery

Summit 2026 provided a comprehensive program that offered attendees the opportunity to explore, engage, and experience six interconnected focus areas related to strengthening trades and technologies education and shaping Alberta students' futures, including:

1. Foundations to Futures (Explore)
2. Coherent Pathways (Explore)
3. Sustaining Programming (Engage)
4. Shared Stewardship (Engage)
5. Engagement to Expertise (Experience)
6. Enduring Partnerships (Experience).

The program featured welcome remarks from the Honourable Myles McDougall, Minister of Advanced Education, on behalf of the Premier, followed by a question-and-answer discussion.



The Summit keynote address was delivered by Shauna Feth, President and CEO of the Alberta Chambers of Commerce.



The opening panel discussion, *Curriculum as a Career Pathway Enabler*, featured Carla Johnson, Assistant Deputy Minister, Curriculum and Career Education, Alberta Education and Childcare; Roger Lauck, Director of Teaching and Learning at Grande Prairie and District Catholic Schools; and Jason Kupery, Associate Superintendent, Learning Services, Alternative Programs, at Palliser School Division. The panel explored how curriculum design and learning resources can support student exploration, engagement, and experience in trades and technologies.



Additional panel discussions included *Building the Future Workforce: An Industry Perspective on the Importance of Engaging Students in Skilled Trades Career Pathways*, featuring Stefan Rutkowski, President and CEO of CAREERS: The Next Generation; Shad Smereka, Vice President, People and Customer Experience at Fountain Tire; Bill Black, President and CEO of the Calgary Construction Association; and Karen Rutherford, Executive Director of the Alberta Roofing Contractors Association (ARCA). The panel focused on strengthening student awareness, engagement, and participation in skilled trades career pathways through collaborative leadership across education and industry.



The Summit also featured *Forging the Future Together: Student, School, and Industry in Conversation*, led by Sean Loughheed, Assistant Superintendent at Wolf Creek Public Schools, and Roz Wick from SAIT. The discussion highlighted the shared responsibility and collaborative partnerships needed to strengthen career pathways and support successful student transitions beyond high school.

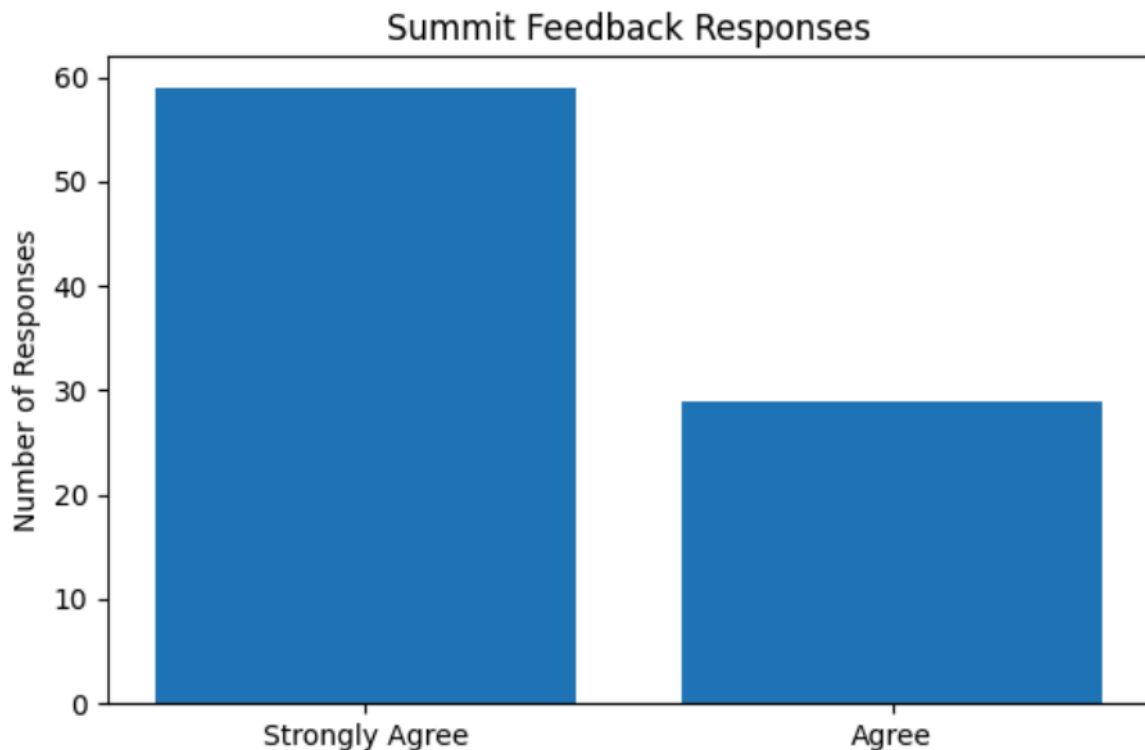


The 2026 TAVE Summit featured 36 unique breakout sessions, tours, and collaborative learning experiences involving 72 presenters and contributing speakers from Government, Alberta Education, Advanced Education, industry, post-secondary, and partner organizations. These Alberta stories of practice highlighted innovative approaches, emerging partnerships, and system-level strategies designed to strengthen career pathways for Alberta students.

Summit Evaluation and Participant Feedback

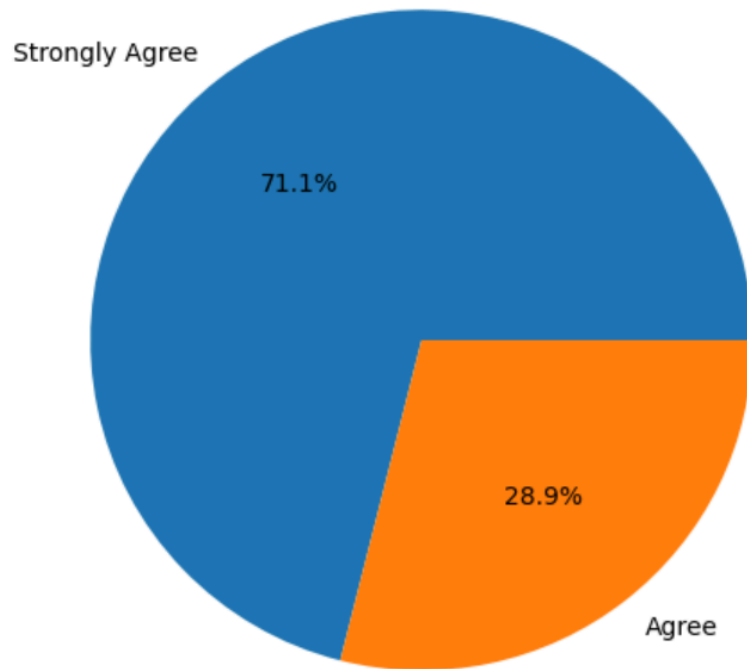
A total of **88 participants completed the Summit survey**, representing a **46.1% response rate** based on 191 registered participants. Survey results reflected a highly positive response to the 2026 TAVE Summit.

Participants were asked to respond to the statement: *“The TAVE Summit 2026 strengthened my understanding of how school authorities and organizations support pathways for student exploration, engagement, and experience in Alberta’s skilled trades and technologies.”*



Of the responses received, 67.0% of participants selected *Strongly Agree*, while 33.0% selected *Agree*, reflecting strong participant satisfaction and positive perceptions of the Summit experience.

I plan to apply my learning within my organization or school authority



Key Themes from Participant Feedback

Survey responses highlighted several key aspects of the Summit that had the greatest impact on participant learning and professional practice.

Networking, Collaboration, and Relationship Building

Respondents consistently emphasized the value of connecting with colleagues, school authorities, industry representatives, and partner organizations from across Alberta. Networking opportunities, informal conversations, and collaborative discussions supported relationship building, cross-sector learning, and the exchange of effective practices across diverse contexts.

Alberta Stories of Practice and Shared Learning

Attendees valued opportunities to learn from Alberta stories of practice and hear how school authorities and organizations are advancing career pathways, trades, technologies, and student transition planning within their local contexts. Practical implementation examples, innovative approaches, and system-level strategies shared throughout the Summit were identified as highly valuable for ongoing professional learning and organizational planning.

System Leadership and Organizational Planning

Many respondents identified the Summit as an important opportunity to strengthen leadership thinking, organizational alignment, and system-level planning related to career pathways and workforce readiness. Participants described gaining new ideas, practical strategies, and renewed momentum to support pathway development, collaborative planning, and future-focused leadership within their organizations and school authorities.

Inspiration and Future-Focused Thinking

Participants described leaving the Summit feeling energized and encouraged by the shared provincial commitment to supporting student futures through trades and technologies education. Exposure to innovative programs, partnerships, and emerging practices contributed to renewed thinking and strengthened motivation for continued work within local and regional contexts.

Meaningful Dialogue and Professional Engagement

Discussion-based learning opportunities and authentic conversations were identified as particularly impactful components of the Summit experience. The collaborative atmosphere and opportunities for professional dialogue reinforced a collective sense of shared responsibility for advancing career pathways and student opportunities across Alberta.

Additional Supports Identified by Participants



Participants were asked to identify additional supports that would further advance efforts to inspire students to pursue career pathways in trades and technologies. Responses emphasized the importance of continuing the TAVE Summit in 2027, alongside ongoing information sessions and online webinars. Participants noted that the Summit provides a unique provincial opportunity for connection, collaboration, and shared learning across Alberta.

Summary

The 2026 TAVE Summit highlighted the growing provincial momentum to strengthen career pathways, skilled trades education, and workforce readiness for Alberta students. Bringing together leaders from K-12 education, government, post-secondary institutions, industry, Indigenous organizations, and community partners, the Summit created a provincial space for connection, collaboration, and shared learning. As Alberta’s only event dedicated specifically to trades, technologies, and career pathway development, the Summit reinforced the importance of collective leadership and coordinated action in supporting student futures across the province.

Throughout the Summit, participants explored emerging practices, innovative partnerships, and system-level strategies designed to support coherent and student-centred pathway development. Key themes included experiential learning, dual credit and collegiate programming, industry engagement, shared stewardship, sustainability, scalability, and equitable rural and regional access. Alberta stories

of practice provided practical examples of how school authorities and organizations are designing responsive learning opportunities that connect students to meaningful exploration, engagement, and experiences aligned with Alberta's evolving workforce and economic priorities.

CASS and the TAVE Committee acknowledge the leadership and support of Alberta Education and Childcare in advancing trades and technologies education across Alberta. Their contributions were instrumental in supporting this important provincial gathering and strengthening shared priorities related to career education and student success. Guided by the theme *Pathways to Possibility: Inspiring Alberta Students' Futures*, the Summit reflected a strong provincial commitment to expanding opportunities, strengthening partnerships, and ensuring Alberta students are supported in confidently pursuing diverse and meaningful future pathways.

Photo Gallery

