

TRUSTEE CONFERENCE REPORT

Name: Carla Johnson

Date Submitted: January 29, 2023

Name of Conference: OPSBA Public Education Symposium

Sponsoring Organization: WRDSB

Theme (if any):

Conference Dates: January 26-28, 2023

Location: Toronto, ON

Workshops/Seminars/Presentations/Keynote Speeches Attended:

- **Roda Muse, Keynote Speaker**

Secretary General, the Canadian Commission for UNESCO

The learning loss with Covid has created a global challenge for educators. The impact has been multifaceted and all areas need intervention to mediate the significant setbacks all around. All across the world, more than 90% of children could not attend school. Education is key to helping prepare humanity for a sustainable future.

- **Chief Cadmus Delorme, Keynote Speaker**

Cowessess First Nation

<https://www.cowessessfn.com/chief-council-2/>

Through stories of his own personal family and the history of the Cowessess First Nation. Relationships can be vertical or horizontal. Vertical is when older generations help nurture and raise young ones and pass along the wisdom of ancestors. Horizontal is when someone is in solo survival mode, not well connected to family.

We were reminded how few of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission actions we have taken.

Cowessess is working very hard to clear up mysteries around the residential school and have ensured all their children are kept in the community. None of them go into gov't hands. He gave us hope that Indigenous wisdom and ways are being restored - slowly, but surely - and it will be better for the world.

- **Nicholas A. Christakis, Keynote Speaker**

Professor of Social & Natural Science at Yale University. Author of Apollo's Arrow

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A look at the three phases of a respiratory pandemic, where we are now compared to previous pandemics. What made Covid19 unique and what was similar. How we as a people responded to it and how it affected us both physically and socially.

- **CTRL-F: Find the Facts - Essential Online Verification Skills**

Ken Boyd, Digital Media Literacy Program Manager, CIVIX

Fact-Checker skills for classroom teachers

<https://ctrl-f.ca/en/>

Horizontal vs Lateral Skills

- Investigate the Source, Check the Claim, Trace the Information

Workshop is geared for Grades 7-9, on multiple formats in both English & French

Free Teacher Workshops <https://ctrl-f.ca/en/workshops/>

Eventbrite link for teacher intro workshops <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ctrl-f-find-the-facts-contemporary-digital-literacy-skills-tickets-458854475087>

Also <https://politalks.ca/>

- **Dr. Paul Cormier, Indigenous Trustee, Superior-Greenstone DSB**

Aki Gakinoomaagewin, Teachings (Learnings) from the Earth (Land)

<https://www.lakeheadu.ca/users/C/pcormier/node/28121>

Rethinking education through the Indigenous lens of peace and violence. Violence is a complicated word with multiple meanings. There is negative and positive peace.

Ask yourself. What is land? What does it mean to you? How do you use it? Do your schools use it?

Miyupimaatisiun - being alive well

Ioterihwakwarihshion Tsi Ihse - Walking in a good way

Mino-Pimatisiwin - the good life

- **OPSBA Central West Regional Meeting**

District School Board of Niagara, Grand Erie District School Board, Halton District School Board, Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board, KidsAbility School Authority, Niagara Children's Centre School Authority, Peel District School Board, Upper Grand District School Board, Waterloo Region District School Board

- First meeting of with new set of Trustees from all Boards in this region
- Prioritized areas in need of advocacy
- Updates from each Board

- **Panel Discussion**

Stephanie Donaldson, Executive Director OPSBA

Isabelle Girard, Executive Director ACÉPO

Shane Gonsalves, Managing Director Government & Public Affairs OPSBA

Nancy Naylor, Deputy Minister of Education

Camille Williams-Taylor, Director of Education Durham DSB

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- Teacher shortage
- Needs in the community
- Well-being and balance in schools
- Pacing what we are asking schools to handle
- Violence in school "Violence is an outcome of people who feel they have nothing to lose." Eric M. Roher, *Violence in Schools*
- One caring adult - may be the key to helping students in need
- Ministry of Education now has a Mental Health branch
- Equity, Diversity & Inclusion divisiveness
- We have the Ontario Human Rights Code to stand on as Trustees of public education
- The education system is on the front line of this challenge
- Education is a vector of improvement and change in our society
- Focus must be kept on needs of our students - academic, mental & social
- The move toward equity is strong, despite the pushback
- Schools surveys give us very helpful information regarding the needs of our most vulnerable and where supports are needed the most
- Artificial Intelligence (I.A.) might be our biggest challenge to come

