

TRUSTEE CONFERENCE REPORT

Name: Carla Johnson

Date Submitted: July 24, 2024

Name of Conference: Public Education Symposium (PES) 2024

Sponsoring Organization: OPSBA

Theme: *Leadership Excellence: Strengthening Public Education Together*

Conference Dates: January 25 & 26, 2024

Location: Sheraton Centre, Toronto

Workshops/Seminars/Presentations/Keynote Speeches Attended:

Link to event details: <https://www.opsba.org/events-and-publications/public-education-symposium/>

Day 1

- Keynote Speaker - Steve Paikin, Host of TVO's The Agenda
"The Difficult Dance Between Education and Politics"

- Panel Discussion: Collaborating with Municipalities: Supporting Students and Communities

- Speaker - Romain Mitchell, Education Officer, Indigenous Education Office, Ontario ministry of Education

"Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action - What happened? What can I do? How can I help?"

"Today I will share the journey of Indigenous Education in Canada and how we as Indigenous people have weathered the storm of Residential Schools and identify the scars left by them and shed light on the path forward in answering the Call to Action and what can be done today to begin our personal journey towards Truth and Reconciliation."

- Session: Melissa Mikel, Director of Education, Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center (FSWC) for Holocaust Studies

"Explore attitudes of hate that exist and impact Canadian classrooms today. Evidence drawn from surveys, statistics, current events, news stories and classroom examples."

- OPSBA Central West Regional Meeting

- Evening Session

Minister Steven Lecce, Ontario Ministry of Education

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Day 2

- Morning Session Speaker: Jamelle Lindo, Emotional Intelligence Coach
“The EQ Leader in the Industry 4.0”

“We are living in the greatest digital proliferation in history which has come to be known as Industry 4.0.”

- Session: Indigenous Language Revitalization - Elder’s Endorsement Model
“Language Rights of Indigenous Peoples”
Romaine Mitchell, Education Officer, Indigenous Education Office, Ontario Ministry of Education

“Article 13 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states that indigenous peoples have the right to revitalize, use, develop and transmit to future generations their languages, oral traditions, writing systems and literatures. Further, it provides that States shall take effective measures to protect this right.”

- Session: Introduction to Skills Ontario and an Experiential Learning Activity
Ian Howcroft, CEO, Skills Ontario

A chance to learn more about Skills Ontario, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting skilled trades and technologies as a viable first choice career option to students across the province.

- Session: CTRL-F: Digital Media Literacy in an Age of Artificial Intelligence
Ken Boyd, Director of Education, CIVIX

“It can be challenging to sort fact from fiction online, and the rise of ChatGPT and other artificial intelligence tools has made doing so more complicated.”

Hands-on experience using lateral reading skills and applying them to examples of AI-generated content.