

# Trustee Conference Report

**Name:** Joe Meissner

**Date Submitted:**

**Name of Conference:** 2024 Public Education Symposium

**Sponsoring Organization:** Ontario Public School Board Association

**Theme (if any):** Leadership Excellence: Strengthening Public Education Together

**Conference Dates:** January 26, 2024

**Location:** Toronto, ON

## **Workshops/Seminars/Presentations/Keynote Speeches Attended:**

**Speaker:** Jamelle Lindo, Emotional Intelligence Coach

Emotional Intelligence in the Digital Age: Jamelle Lindo explored the modern world's landscape, emphasizing the importance of emotional intelligence. The presentation covered self-awareness, offering strategies for improvement. Jamelle Lindo defined, described, and applied emotional intelligence, linking it to the World Economic Forum's future skills, particularly the ability to think critically and handle interpersonal relationships.

## **Indigenous Language Revitalization - Elder's Endorsement Model**

Romaine Mitchell, Education Officer Indigenous Education Office, Ontario Ministry of Education

The session, led by Romaine Mitchell on Anishinaabe indigenous languages, focused on the challenges faced by indigenous language teachers in obtaining OCT certification. Mitchell discussed the Elders Circle at the Ministry of Education, employing an elders endorsement model. The OCT certification process proved challenging due to the requirement for recognition within colonial systems. The Elders Circle is actively working to change this and initiated a standup ceremony in 2019, a significant accomplishment after 8 years of effort. The Circle assesses educators based on elders' criteria, providing recommendations for remediation before recommending them for certification, although official certification is still pending.

## **Affirming Muslim Learners and Challenging Islamophobia**

Aasiyah Khan, Director of Education, National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM)

Aasiyah Khan from the National Council of Canadian Muslims led a session on affirming Muslim students and combating Islamophobia. The discussion focused on adopting an anti-Islamophobia lens and creating conditions for belonging. Key points included the

normalization of Islamophobia, the need for diverse perspectives, and countering stereotypes, with initiatives like "The Sisters Project" addressing women's rights in Islam. Khan emphasized the importance of counter-narratives in education, including in pedagogy and curriculum, to disrupt stereotypes. The session also highlighted NCCM's community consultations addressing Islamophobia in education.

### **CTRL-F: Digital Media Literacy in an Age of Artificial Intelligence**

Ken Boyd, Director of Education, CIVIX

Ken Burns from CIVIX presented a session on Digital Media Literacy in an Age of AI. The focus was on CTRL-F, a program designed to assist educators in equipping students with the skills to identify false information online. The session introduced new AI tools and discussed the challenges of sorting fact from fiction, especially with the rise of ChatGPT and other AI tools. Participants engaged in hands-on learning of CTRL-F's lateral reading skills, applying them to examples of AI-generated content.