

TRUSTEE CONFERENCE REPORT

Name: Kathi Smith Date Submitted: August 8, 2019

Name of Conference: National Trustees Gathering on Indigenous Education, CSBA Congress and OPSBA's AGM

Sponsoring Organization:

Theme (If any): Leading Today with a Vision for Tomorrow

Conference Dates: July 3 - 6, 2019

Location: Westin Harbour Castle Hotel, Toronto

Workshops/Seminars/Presentations/Keynote Speeches Attended:
(Include a brief Summary)

The traffic was terrible on the way to Toronto. It took 4 hours to get from Kitchener to the Harbour Castle Hilton. Ultimately meant I missed the sessions for that evening. The other challenge is that I lost my notebook with all of my notes from the conference.

The conference(s) were great. Good speakers, interesting topics - great opportunity to learn a lot. The first conference was a first nation's conference. The speakers were honest and passionate. My favourite group of speakers were the students. They spoke with honesty and passion about their successes, their challenges and frustrations. It was great to hear directly from students with respect to what is working and what needs to be changed. They were articulate and passionate. The adult speakers were great. However, in future, some coaching needs to be done with respect to honouring the amount of time that they have to speak. Most went over their allotted time period. Malcolm Saulis, the final speaker of the day was well aware and cut his presentation short with an apology for the program being over time. The program was overbooked which meant one speaker ran into the next. There was really no time between speakers to ask questions or learn more or have a break. The First Nations Conference is an awesome idea but some work on time management needs to be done for next year.

The CSBA conference was great (at least that part that I could attend). One of the challenges through the conference was that there was too much double booking. To participate in OPSBA activity meant missing workshops. That was disappointing. I also know that Board members missed workshops to attend Board meetings. The shortness of time and the distance to washrooms and breaks cut into the amount of time available to network and meet trustees from their parts of the country. I hope that the next time, more consideration about time for networking be considered.

Dr. Gabor Mate was a great addition to the conference. The last time I heard him was 5 plus years ago. He was great addition to the conference.

The speakers that I heard were great. Sadly no one turned in my notebook. Well worth attending.