

TRUSTEE CONFERENCE REPORT

Please attach to your Professional Development/Conference Expense Reimbursement Form. Thank you.

Name: [Joanne Weston](#)

Date Submitted: February 3, 2025

Name of Conference: Public Education Symposium

Sponsoring Organization: OPSBA

Theme (If any): “The Time is Now”

Conference Dates: January 24-25, 2025

Location: Toronto, ON

Workshops/Seminars/Presentations/Keynote Speeches Attended:

January 24, 2025

Keynote: Universal Education, First Nations Sovereignty and Life in Occupied Homelands

Speaker: Ovide William Mercredi, Indigenous Leader, Lawyer, Former National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations

Good Governance

Speaker: Giselle Basanta, Assistant Deputy Minister, Education Equity and Governance Secretariat

School Board Budgeting and Finance

Speakers:

Brian Jeffs, COSBO Executive Director, OASBO

David Wright, OPSBA Special Advisor and Associate Director of Corporate Services, Durham District School Board

Perspective: Insights from Ontario's Education Critics

Speakers:

Chandra Pasma, Education Critic, New Democratic Party of Ontario

Stephanie Bowman, MPP, Don Valley West, Ontario Liberal Party

Aislinn Clancy, Education Critic, Green Party of Ontario

January 25, 2025

Strategists Panel

Speakers:

Shak Chambers, Vice President, Oyster Group

Jeff Costen, Principal, Navigator

Tom Parkin, Principal, Impact Strategies

Problem Solving Frameworks to Navigate Tension

Speakers:

Nogah Kornberg, co-Executive Director, I-Think

Manon Gardner, Leadership Advisor & Coach, I-Think

Central West Regional Meeting

Partnering to Support Healthier Democracies in Ontario Municipalities

Speakers:

Stewart McDonough, Advisor, Municipal Engagement, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

Henry Khamonde, Project Intern, Healthy Democracy

Tearing Down Disability Barriers in the K-12 School System

David Lepofsky, Canadian Academic, Retired Lawyer, and Influential Disability Advocate

Dinner & Awards Presentations