

# TRUSTEE CONFERENCE REPORT

**Name: Kathleen Woodcock**

**Date Submitted: February 6, 2023**

**Name of Conference: Public Education Symposium**

**Sponsoring Organization: Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)**

**Theme (if any): Opportunity & Optimism**

**Conference Dates: January 26 to January 28, 2023**

**Location: Sheraton Centre, Toronto**

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

**Roda Muse, Secretary General, The Canadian Commission for UNESCO & Former School Board Trustee** Spoke about the impact of COVID learning loss on individual children's learning and on societies world wide that rely on education to form a new generation of thinkers. How can school board leadership help prepare humanity for a sustainable future?

**Chief Cadmus Delorme, Cowessess First Nation**

**"What We All Inherited and Understanding the Relationship with Indigenous People and Canada"** Spoke about empowering the Indigenous world view of child welfare reform with inclusion of the province and Canada and the role reconciliation can play in our collective work for a better tomorrow.

**Lori Lukinuk, CP-T, PRP**

**Certified Parliamentarian/Professional Registered Parliamentarian**

**"Rules of Order - Can't Live with Them, Can't Live Without Them"** Speaker covered different classes of rules of order, what rules of order are and why they are important. A great introduction to rules of order for newly elected trustees and solid refresher for veteran trustees.

**Patricia DeGuire, Chief Commissioner, Ontario Human Rights Commission**

**"Re-Setting the Curriculum Through the Prism of the Right to Read"** Reflected on the key connection between human rights and education, especially the right to read

**Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education**

Spoke about upcoming curriculum updates and participated in a Q & A session

**Nicholas A Christakis, Sterling Professor of Social & Natural Science and Author**

**"Apollo's Arrow", Yale University**

**"Moving Forward from the COVID-19 Pandemic"** Spoke about the three phases of respiratory pandemics, including the immediate, intermediate and post-pandemic phases. Currently in the intermediate phase and trying to address the aftershocks of COVID-19, including the challenges and opportunities to help young people recover from substantial psychological and education costs imposed by the pandemic.

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

**“Aki Gakinoomaagewin - Teachings (Learning) from the Earth (Land)”** Eliminating violence in our approaches to education requires the privileging of Indigenous world views through Aki Gakinoomaagewin based on Anishinaabeg traditions founded on Indigenous Activity Based Learning. The workshop helped participants rethink education through an Indigenous lens of peace and violence. By privileging Anishinaabeg ways of learning that embrace respect for Aki, we can transform the education system to improve outcomes for ALL students.

## **Michael Hines and John-Paul Alexandrowicz, Partners, Hicks Morley, LLP**

**“School Board Governance Under the Education Act - Who Does What?”** The presentation provided an objective overview of the ‘statutory profiles’ of the various governance participants - the Board, the individual trustees and senior administrative staff - as well as guidance on the nature of the legal relationships that exist between and among those various stakeholders.

## **Jason Lietaer, President, Enterprise Canada and Robin Pilkey, former TDSB Trustee & Chair**

**“Communications Workshop - For Experienced Trustees & Chairs”** Tips for crisis management and day-to-day communications strategies.

## **Reception and Dinner**

### **Central West Regional Meeting**

Attendees elected members for the Policy Development Work Group, participated in an activity about OPSBA Strategic Priorities and received updates from Regional Council Chair and member Boards. Next regional meeting is scheduled for Saturday, April 1, 2023. Location TBD

### **Panel Discussion**

Shane Gonsalves, Managing Director Government & Public Affairs OPSBA (moderator)

Stephanie Donaldson, Executive Director OPSBA

Isabelle Girard, Executive Director ACÉPO

Nancy Naylor, Deputy Minister of Education

Camille Williams-Taylor, Director of Education Durham DSB

Panel responded to various questions on current issues including addressing well-being and balance in schools; pacing the rate of change for schools; violence in schools; divisiveness in communities re: move toward equity; trustee decision-making and the Human Rights Code; focusing on needs of our students - academic, mental and social; and value of data collected via school surveys so we can meet the needs of our most vulnerable students where needed the most.