

TRUSTEE CONFERENCE REPORT

Name: Kathleen Woodcock

Date Submitted: July 15, 2024

Name of Conference: CSBA Congress/National Trustees' Gathering on Indigenous Education/OPSBA AGM

Sponsoring Organization: Ontario Public School Boards' Association

Theme (if any): "Our Shared Tomorrow"

Conference Dates: July 2-5, 2024

Location: Westin Harbour Castle, Toronto, ON

Workshops/Seminars/Presentations/Keynote Speeches Attended:

July 3, 2024

Opening Ceremonies and Welcome

Presenter: Frank Tehahonteh Miller, Six Nations of the Grand River, Mohawk Nation, Turtle Clan

Ohentoh Karihwathkwen - The Words That Come Before All Else

Also known as the Thanksgiving Speech. Ohentoh Karihwathkwen is usually spoken to Open and Close important gatherings. It speaks about the natural world and gives thanks that the Creator has given us all that we need to live our lives in peace and harmony. The speech draws our minds together and reminds us of the importance of having a Good Mind as we live our lives.

Decolonizing Education - Nourishing the Learning Spirit

Presenter: Dr. Marie Battiste, Professor Emerita, Educational Foundations, University of Saskatchewan

Dr. Battiste spoke to the decolonization movement and resurgence within Indigenous communities, the history of resistance and refusal to Eurocentric colonialism, and the beauty of learning in and through Indigenous knowledge and ways of knowing for this and the Seventh Generation.

Dr. Battiste, a Mi'kmaw educator, unpacked the layers of inequities of colonization, the struggles for equity, diversity and inclusion, and the needed structural and philosophical differences when reconciliation, Indigenization, and decolonization are fully understood and applied to address the historical inequities of Eurocentric settler colonialism in systems of learning and management of them.

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Combating Hate and Racism - Creating an Anti-Hate and Anti-Racism Strategy

Presenters: Rachel Chernos Lin, Chair and Trustee, Toronto DSB and Shelley Laskin, Trustee, Toronto DSB

The presenters explained the overarching framework of the TDSB's anti-hate and anti-racism strategy for systematically addressing discrimination in schools. The strategy is based on data from the TDSB's Racism, Bias & Hate Portal. The data collected will be used to establish a comprehensive two-year strategy. Understanding the lived experiences of students and community is an important principle. The TDSB plans to engage communities, students and staff in the creation of specific action plans to address the most prevalent forms of hate.

Building a Future-Ready Education System

Presenter: Dwayne Matthews, Future of Education Strategist

Mr. Matthews provided strategic insights for educational leaders on building a future-ready education system. He talked about the importance of cultivating an open innovation mindset, the role of technology and innovation in enhancing learning outcomes, and how to effectively prepare students for the jobs of the future.

Canadian School Boards' Association AGM

Networking Reception

Gala Dinner and Performance by Turtle Concepts and Indigenous Youth

Founded as a social enterprise by Dave Jones, an Ojibwe from Garden River First Nation near Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, since 1999 **Turtle Concepts** <https://turtleconcepts.weebly.com/> has visited hundreds of communities, schools and organizations with the message "everyone has a right to feel good about themselves".

Dave had noticed that many of the people who had 'begun the journey to feeling good about themselves' were getting opposite responses from some of the people in their families, schools, communities and world at large. Dave wanted to teach skills/ideas that he knew would assist and empower people to continue their journey to wellness.

Today, Turtle Concepts continues to thrive bringing its upbeat, engaging and fun sessions to communities around the world teaching people of all ages the value of love, respect, bravery, honesty, humility, truth, wisdom, and most of all confidence.

July 4, 2024

CSBA President Address and Cross Canada Check-in

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Black Boys Like Me - In Conversation with Matthew Morris

Moderator: Michelle Rodney Bartalos, Liaison Black Trustees' Caucus, OPSBA

Presenter: Matthew R. Morris, Author, Educator, Speaker

Through conversation and dialogue, Mr. Morris spoke of his experiences as a young Black man with an immigrant father and a white mother, teaching in a school system that historically has held an exclusionary definition of success. His experiences are explored in his new book, *Black Boys Like Me: Confrontations with Race, Identity, and Belonging*.

Stress Wisely

Presenter: Dr. Robyne Hanley-Dafoe

Dr. Hanley-Dafoe's presentation explored her eight-dimensional framework for cultivating authentic wellness that is sustainable, practical, time-efficient, and realistic. She provided insight into how people can implement stress and recovery systems that are built on the foundation of self-stewardship and high performance.

OPSBA Annual Meeting

Executive Officers were elected for 2024-26 as follows:

President Kathleen Woodcock of Waterloo Region District School Board

First Vice-President Kathryn Pierroz of Rainy River District School Board

Second Vice-President Michelle Aarts of Toronto District School Board

July 5, 2024

Remarks by the Honourable Edith Dumont, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario

Navigating the New Frontier: GPT's Role in Shaping the Future

Presenter: Dr. Jodie Lobana, Governance of AI Educator, Author & Management Consultant

Dr. Lobana delved into the transformative power of Generative Pre-trained Transformers (GPT) to reshape Canadian education, championed a balanced, 'innovigilant' approach that harmonizes groundbreaking innovation with critical vigilance. Dr. Lobana discussed GPT's educational impact, risk management associated with GPT, and governance and policy frameworks to support the responsible use of GPT technologies thus promoting an environment of innovation and vigilance.

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A Performance by Randell Adjei, Ontario's Poet Laureate

Presenter: Randell Adjei, Transformational Speaker, Spoken Word Practitioner, Arts Educator

Presentation of the inaugural National Reconciliation Partnership Award to Quw'utsun Syuw'entst Lelum/Cowichan Tribes and Cowinchan School District

Mohawk Closing

Presenter: Frank Tehahonteh Miller, Six Nations of the Grand River, Mohawk Nation, Turtle Clan

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