Schedule-at-a-Glance

Sunday, March 25, 2018
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Registration for Pre-Congress (Salon Crush Lobby)
2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Pre-Congress Workshop
“Responding to Mental Health Issues in Our Schools” (Salon A)
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Congress Registration (Salon Crush Lobby)
6:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Visit Displays (Salon Crush Lobby)
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Congress Opening (Salon A B)
Welcome and Greetings
eJournalism Presentation
Opening Presentation: Chancellor Roy Romanow
“Keeping Our Rural and Remote Communities Vibrant”
8:30 p.m. Reception, Visit Displays (Salon Crush Lobby)

Monday, March 26, 2018
7:15 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. Breakfast (Salon A B C) Visit Displays All Day
8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Morning Welcome
Keynote Presentation: Dr. Jody Carrington
“Managing Rural School Wellness Through Conversations, Collaborations, and Connections” (Salon A B)
9:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Break, Visit Displays (Salon Crush Lobby)
9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Session “A” Breakout Sessions
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Session “B” Breakout Sessions
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Noon Luncheon (Salon A B C) and Visit Displays
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Session “C” Breakout Sessions
2:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. Break, Visit Displays (Salon Crush Lobby)
2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Session “D” Breakout Sessions
3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Keynote Presentation: Dr. Jay Wilson
“Examining the Rural Education Innovation Advantage” (Salon A B)

Tuesday, March 27, 2018
Education Site Visits: “Innovation in Action”
Innovative Course Delivery
Sun West Distance Learning Centre, Kenaston, SK
Bus departs at 8:15 a.m.
Innovative Partnerships
Stonebridge Community, Saskatoon SK
Bus departs at 9:00 a.m.
Innovative Partnerships and Program
St. Mary’s Wellness and Education Centre, Saskatoon, SK
Bus departs at 9:00 a.m.
Innovation Partnerships and Program
iGen, Sherbrooke Community Centre, Saskatoon, SK
Bus departs at 9:00 a.m.
Innovative Learning Opportunities
Lake Vista School, Martensville, SK
Bus departs at 8:30 a.m.
Planning Committee

DAVID BURGESS
Representing:
College of Education, University of Saskatchewan

Current Position:
Associate Dean, Research, Graduate Support, and International Initiatives
Director, Saskatchewan Educational Leadership Unit (SELU)

BARBARA COMPTON
Chair, National Congress on Rural Education in Canada

Current Position:
Consultant

MARK EGGLESTON
Representing:
Saskatchewan Teachers’ Federation

Current Position:
Senior Administrative Staff
Saskatchewan Teachers’ Federation

KATHLEEN FISHER
Representing:
Saskatchewan Ministry of Education

Current Position:
Research Officer, Strategic Policy Unit
Planning Committee

RUTH GRIFFITH
Representing:
Saskatchewan Association of School Councils

Current Position:
Board Member, Saskatchewan Association of School Councils

MARVIN JIMMY
Representing:
First Nations/Métis Educational Authorities

Current Position:
Education Partnership Coordinator
Saskatoon Tribal Council

TERRY JOHANSON
Representing:
Saskatchewan Professional Development Unit (SPDU)

Current Position:
Director, Saskatchewan Professional Development Unit
Saskatchewan Teachers’ Federation

GWEN KEITH
Representing:
League of Educational Administrators, Directors and Superintendents (L.E.A.D.S.)

Current Position:
Director of Education, Holy Family Roman Catholic Separate School Division
Planning Committee

CECILE LAPRAIRIE
Congress Administrative Assistant
Current Position:
Administrative Assistant, Saskatchewan Educational Leadership Unit (SELU), University of Saskatchewan

TENNEISHA NELSON
Representing:
Graduate Students, College of Education, University of Saskatchewan
Current Position:
PhD Candidate, Department of Educational Administration
Murray Scharf Rural Congress Scholarship Recipient

PAUL NEWTON
Representing:
Department of Educational Administration, College of Education, University of Saskatchewan
Current Position:
Head, Department of Educational Administration

PAMELA OSMOND-JOHNSON
Representing:
University of Regina
Current Position:
Assistant Professor, Faculty of Education, University of Regina
RONNA PETHICK
Representing:
Saskatchewan School Boards Association

Current Position:
Board Chair, Living Sky School Division

PATRICIA PROWSE
Representing:
Saskatchewan Educational Leadership Unit (SELU)

Current Position:
Associate Director, SELU

RON PURDY
Representing:
Saskatchewan Association of School Business Officials (SASBO)

Current Position:
Business Manager, Prairie South School Division

KAREEN REID
Representing:
Graduate Students, College of Education, University of Saskatchewan

Current Position:
PhD Candidate, Department of Educational Administration
Murray Scharf Rural Congress Scholarship Recipient
SUNDAY EVENING
OPENING PRESENTATION:
CHANCELLOR ROY ROMANOW

“Keeping Our Rural and Remote Communities Vibrant”

Chancellor Roy Romanow will address the need for innovative leadership with a focus on courageous conversations, collaborations, and connections to stimulate our thinking on “why rural matters.” Learning from his experiences and contributions to transformational changes in health care, Chancellor Roy Romanow will share what matters in keeping our rural and remote communities vibrant.

The Honourable Roy Romanow, P.C., O.C., S.O.M., Q.C., served in public office in Canada for more than 30 years. He served as Deputy Premier, Attorney General, Leader of the Opposition, and Premier of Saskatchewan. Chancellor Romanow, an officer of the Order of Canada and recipient of the Saskatchewan Order of Merit, is the recipient of numerous honourary degrees from Canadian universities. In November 2016 he was installed as Chancellor at the University of Saskatchewan. Currently, Chancellor Romanow is a Senior Fellow in Public Policy in the Department of Political Studies at the University of Saskatchewan.

MONDAY MORNING KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
DR. JODY CARRINGTON

“Managing Rural School Wellness Through Conversations, Collaborations, and Connections”

Dr. Jody Carrington will share innovative strategies to manage school wellness challenges that rural and remote schools face every day. Rural schools are the “grounding point” of many communities. Responding to the demands to keep our communities connected, our ability to look after each other is going to require innovation like never before.

Dr. Carrington is a clinical psychologist who grew up in rural Alberta and worked on the Mental Health Inpatient and Day Treatment Units of the Alberta Children’s Hospital in Calgary for 10 years. She is now pleased to be back in a rural setting, working in private practice and consulting with school divisions provincially and nationally.
MONDAY AFTERNOON KEYNOTE SPEAKER: DR. JAY WILSON

“Examining the Rural Education Innovation Advantage”

Innovation is necessary for anyone or any organization planning to be successful. Dr. Wilson will discuss the innovation opportunities rural education affords. He will also explain how a rural perspective is vitally important for all educators in the design of learning environments.

Dr. Jay Wilson is an Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Curriculum Studies at the University of Saskatchewan. He was recognized by the University of Saskatchewan in 2015 with the Master Teacher Award and he received the 2012 international Desire2Learn TM Innovation Award for Teaching and Learning. In 2017, he was honoured with the 3M National Teaching Fellowship, which is the highest teaching honour in Canada.
eJournalism Students

One Thunderous Voice eJournalism Project Team
Constable Robin Cameron Education Complex, Beardy’s and Okemasis Cree Nation, and Aden Bowman Collegiate, Saskatoon Public School Division

eJournalism is a project for students and teachers to build journalism and technology skills. Team members participate in training and practice days, prior to taking their skills on the road to cover a major educational conference. At the National Congress on Rural Education in Canada the team will be attending sessions, interviewing presenters, and sharing multi-media products with delegates.

Sherry Van Hesteren, Consultant, Saskatoon Public School Division
Samantha Roberts, Teacher, Aden Bowman Collegiate
Serena Williams, Teacher, Cst. Robin Cameron Education Complex

Kienan Ashton, Grade 12 Student, Aden Bowman Collegiate
Andrew Balyzcy, Grade 12 Student, Aden Bowman Collegiate
Kierra Cameron, Grade 12 Student, Cst. Robin Cameron Education Complex
Zachary Digout, Grade 10 Student, Aden Bowman Collegiate
Emilia Elliott, Grade 12 Student, Aden Bowman Collegiate
Meagan Hong, Grade 12 Student, Aden Bowman Collegiate

Loxi Mandes, Grade 10 Student, Cst. Robin Cameron Education Complex
Raina Buffalo Pechawis, Grade 10 Student, Aden Bowman Collegiate
Jordan Redbear, Grade 12 Student, Aden Bowman Collegiate
Jordane Speidel, Grade 10 Student, Aden Bowman Collegiate

Elijah Tian Xing Ren, Grade 10 Student, Aden Bowman Collegiate
Rekha Whittaker, Grade 12 Student, Aden Bowman Collegiate
Ty Young, Grade 10 Student, Aden Bowman Collegiate
Emma Zuck, Grade 12 Student, Aden Bowman Collegiate
Joe Zuck, Grade 12 Student, Aden Bowman Collegiate
Responding to Mental Health Issues in Our Schools

Joanne Brothwell, Therapist, Youth Mental Health Program, Saskatchewan Health Authority
Shardelle Brown, SAYCW Project Manager, Population Health Promotion Practitioner, Population Health, Quality and Research, Saskatchewan Cancer Agency
Dr. Jody Carrington, Clinical Psychologist
Jenn Chan, Learning Consultant, Prairie South School Division
Dr. Jenn de Lugt, Faculty of Education, Department of Educational Psychology, University of Regina
Siobhan O’Conner, Mental Health and Addiction Services, Saskatchewan Health Authority

THE SESSION:

Providing safe, caring, and responsive learning environments is everyone's responsibility. “According to the Mental Health Commission of Canada (2013), between 15% and 25% of our children and youth suffer from at least one mental health problem or illness,” as cited by the Canadian Teachers' Federation (2018). These statistics identify the urgency to have conversations about mental health and the challenges that our youth and their educators are facing in today's classrooms.

This interactive workshop will focus participants' actions on how to decrease the stigma of mental health issues and increase understanding and awareness.

Dr. Jody Carrington and a panel of mental health advocates will facilitate a discussion on the critical components of mental health wellness in the classroom and how to best support the well-being of students and educators.

Co-chairs: Barbara Compton, Chair, National Congress on Rural Education in Canada
Patricia Prowse, Associate Director, Saskatchewan Educational Leadership Unit
Sunday, March 25, 2018

REGISTRATION

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.  Registration for Pre-Congress (Salon A)
2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.  Pre-Congress Workshop (Salon A)
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  Congress Registration (Salon Crush Lobby)
6:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.  Visit Displays (Salon Crush Lobby)

CONGRESS OPENING

( Salon A B)

Chairperson: Barbara Compton
O Canada – Dawn Wallin

WELCOME AND GREETINGS

Rob Currie, Deputy Minister
Saskatchewan Ministry of Education

Councillor Bev Dubois
City of Saskatoon

Dr. Michelle Prytula, Dean
College of Education, University of Saskatchewan

Dr. Shawn Davidson, President
Saskatchewan School Boards Association

Introduction of eJournalism Team:
One Thunderous Voice – Constable Robin Cameron
Education Complex, Beardy's and Okemasis First
Nation, Aden Bowman Collegiate, Saskatoon Public
School Division

OPENING ADDRESS

CHANCELLOR ROY ROMANOW
Introduction by Dr. Michelle Prytula, Dean, College of
Education, University of Saskatchewan

RECEPTION, VISIT DISPLAYS

( Salon Crush Lobby)
Monday, March 26, 2018

7:15 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. **BREAKFAST** (Salon Lobby)

8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. **Morning Welcome**
Chair: Dr. Paul Newton
Announcements and Reminders

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. **KEYNOTE ADDRESS** (Salon A B)

DR. JODY CARRINGTON
“Managing Rural School Wellness through Conversations, Collaborations, and Connections”
Introduction by Dr. Paul Newton

9:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. Break, Visit Displays (Salon Crush Lobby)

9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. Session “A” Breakout Sessions

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Session “B” Breakout Sessions

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Noon Luncheon (Salon A B C) and Visit Displays

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Session “C” Breakout Sessions

2:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. Break, Visit Displays (Salon Crush Lobby)

2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. Session “D” Breakout Sessions

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. **KEYNOTE ADDRESS** (Salon A B)

DR. JAY WILSON
“Examining the Rural Education Innovation Advantage”
Introduction by Dr. David Burgess

Presentation materials for Breakout Sessions are available on the SELU website.
www.selu.usask.ca/ruraled
9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. Gallery A

Creating Opportunities for Using Family Funds of Knowledge to Support Learning in School

Callie Lewry, Learning Resource Teacher, École W.S. Hawrylak School, Regina Public School Division

Parent engagement is a primary factor to student success and we need to explore different ways to create authentic opportunities for families to participate. We explored ways to engage families in using and sharing their family funds of knowledge to increase literacy skills in early childhood as a McDowell Foundation project. A community kitchen approach is used in a community school experiencing limited parental involvement to draw families together to learn from and support each other and to build community among the families. We will share our research findings and provide suggestions on building connections in your own community.

Chair: Kareen Reid, PhD Candidate, Department of Educational Administration, College of Education, University of Saskatchewan

9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. Gallery B

Safe Learning Environments through Respect Education

Scott McHenry, Respect Education Master Trainer, Canadian Red Cross

The Canadian Red Cross advocates a whole school approach to student safety along with student engagement. This session will highlight the various Respect Education offerings outlining how Respect Education can be implemented in the entire school using prevention education in child abuse, harassment and bullying, healthy relationships and in safe babysitting. Participants will learn the core elements of each program, effective implementation strategies and strategies to engage students.

Chair: Wilfred Beckford, PhD Student, Department of Educational Administration, College of Education, University of Saskatchewan
9:50:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Salon A

**Our Community of 21st Century Learning: Innovating Deeper Learning PATHWAYS in Rural Saskatchewan**

**Gwen Keith,** Director of Education, Holy Family Roman Catholic Separate School Division

**Lynn Colquhoun,** Coordinator of Religion, Curriculum and Educational Technology, Holy Family Roman Catholic School Division

**SASKATCHEWAN**

Holy Family RCSSD #140 maintains, as part of its educational mission, a focus on educating children to be well-equipped as 21st Century citizens. By providing Deeper Learning opportunities, educators encourage students to fully engage in their learning and develop the ‘C’ skills of collaboration, creativity, communication, critical thinking as well as character. With input from both student and teacher voice, PATHWAYS are created for dynamic learning experiences. PATHWAYS provided through learning environments, strategic partnerships and leveraging technology allow for a variety of instructional pedagogies to be employed. Presenters will provide the story of change then illustrate steps for practical processing. Participants will learn of the importance of story making as well as storytelling!

Chair: Vanessa Ellis Colley, PhD Student, Department of Educational Administration, College of Education, University of Saskatchewan

---

9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. Salon B

**Shhh… LISTEN! We Have Something to Say: Youth Voices from the North**

**Corey O'Soup,** Advocate, Advocate for Children and Youth

**SASKATCHEWAN**

Youth suicide is an issue across the country and across all demographics. It is of particular concern in northern Saskatchewan and among our Indigenous youth. Much research has been done on the topic of youth suicide, yet publications featuring the voices of youth are less prevalent. In December 2017, the Saskatchewan Advocate for Children and Youth (ACY) released the report Shhh… LISTEN! We Have Something to Say: Youth Voices from the North. The purpose of this project was to engage with youth in northern Saskatchewan to hear directly from them why young people in their communities may be considering suicide and what is needed to prevent these tragedies. This session will highlight the findings of this report and the Calls to Action identified by the youth. It will also discuss how the ACY will advocate for the voices of these youth at every level of government to help create the changes they say they need.

Chair: Don Hoium, Consultant, Saskatchewan Educational Leadership Unit (SELU)
9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. Salon C

Social Media Engagement: Are You Thinking About Starting a Conversation?

Jill Welke, Director of Communications, Saskatchewan School Boards Association

SASKATCHEWAN

Social media is an increasingly popular and ever changing communications tool that has many options and opportunities for engagement with community – but it also comes with some “instant” rewards, results, and risks. This session will engage participants in thinking about the best way to start a conversation in their community by exploring audience, social media options and guidelines for responsible social media use.

Chair: Kathleen Fisher, Research Officer, Policy Unit, Saskatchewan Ministry of Education

9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. Salon D

Community Service Learning K-12 and Beyond

Roberta Campbell-Chudoba, PhD Student, Department of Educational Administration, College of Education, University of Saskatchewan

SASKATCHEWAN

The presenter invites participants to imagine students in settings where they are fully engaged, where their learning brings them joy, where new relationships and understandings bring meaning and a sense of accomplishment to their lives, and where they can contribute to the larger community.

Community Service Learning (CSL) is an approach to learning that integrates school curriculum with experiential learning in the community and allows for a range of collaborative design between teachers, students, school councils, and community members as required by the learning context. It holds promise for strengthening school and community relationships and is an excellent pedagogy for educating mindful, caring, and responsible citizens. Discussion will centre around learning theory supporting CSL, as well as opportunities and challenges with this approach.

Time is also devoted in the session for connecting with fellow participants around their ideas or experiences with community service learning.

Chair: Pat Renihan, Professor Emeritus, College of Education, University of Saskatchewan
Empowering Students to Graduate

Patricia Bibby, High School Learning/Transition Coach, Saskatchewan Rivers School Division

SASKATCHEWAN

This session is a look at what is working well for the Transition Coaching position in the Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division. By increasing every student's understanding of graduation requirements and post-secondary possibilities, students are discovering their individualized reasons for graduating. Through the use of technology, communication, collaboration, and organization, the needs of students, parents, and schools are being met. Students, parents, and colleagues are supported as they explore opportunities available to them and make connections to current learning. The development of strong relationships, built on trust and sincerity, gives students the support they need to explore beyond the walls of their school. Be prepared for a whirlwind tour of the inner workings of a Transition Coach on the go!

Chair: Jemilat Adeyemo, PhD Student, Department of Educational Administration, College of Education, University of Saskatchewan
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. **SESSION “B” BREAKOUTS**

### Gallery A

**Student Safety in Our Digital World (Digital Citizenship)**

*Crandall Hrynkiw,* Superintendent of Learning Services, Horizon School Division  
*Larry Mikulcik,* Curriculum Coach, Horizon School Division

**SASKATCHEWAN**

What are the challenges that we face in protecting our children/students in our modern, digital world? What can we do to give our children, our parents, and our teachers the tools to safeguard those in our school communities? We have seen too many cases of online luring, trolling, and bullying. Digital Citizenship is the key message where students also take a leadership role. This session demonstrates what you can do to help teachers, parents, and the students themselves to become proactive as we create strategies to ensure student physical safety and safety in the digital world.

Chair: Cathy Mills, Consultant, Saskatchewan Educational Leadership Unit (SELU)

### Gallery B

**Innovation Starts with the Board: The Importance of Setting the Stage**

*Ken Acton,* Executive in Residence, Johnson Shoyama Graduate School, University of Regina  
*Ben Grebinski,* Director of Education, Prairie Valley School Division

**SASKATCHEWAN**

The challenges that rural and remote schools face every day will not be solved without a board culture that fosters innovation. Ken Acton and Ben Grebinski will challenge your perspective on the culture of your board and will facilitate discussions on how board governance structures needs to shift to have maximum influence on the delivery of education within your school division.

Chair: Ruth Griffith, Trustee, Sun West School Division
“I’m Not Where I Want to Be”: Teaching Principals’ Perceptions of Their Instructional Leadership Practices

Dr. Dawn Wallin, Associate Dean, College of Education, University of Saskatchewan
Dr. Paul Newton, Department Head, Department of Educational Administration, College of Education, University of Saskatchewan
Mickey Jutras, PhD Student, Department of Educational Administration, University of Saskatchewan
Jordan Adilman, Master’s Student, Department of Educational Administration, University of Saskatchewan

This presentation reports on an ongoing research study funded by the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada that examines the role of school principals in rural, remote and northern schools in Canada. In this phase of the research, we report on the results of observations and interviews with rural teaching principals in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. Our preliminary findings indicate that teaching principals tend to equate instructional leadership with time visiting classrooms. Many of them report dissatisfaction with the amount of time available to perform classroom visits. We also found that teaching principals engage in many other instructional leadership practices that the principals themselves may not define as “instructional leadership”. There are many creative adaptations employed by teaching principals that compensate for the lack of available time for classroom visits. Teaching principals enact instructional leadership through testing and modeling of pedagogical innovations, deputising teacher leaders to lead instruction, and collaborative planning and reflection with other staff members.

Chair: Tenneisha Nelson, PhD Candidate, Department of Educational Administration, College of Education, University of Saskatchewan
What Can We Learn from Student Voice in Saskatchewan and What Actions are Schools around the Province Taking in Response?

Jacqueline Hagel, Student Supports Consultant, OurSCHOOL Provincial Coordinator, Ministry of Education, Student Achievement and Supports

SASKATCHEWAN

Student voice is a catalyst for school improvement. Each year, the Ministry of Education supports all provincial and interested First Nations school communities with an opportunity to hear their student voice and act on the results. Annually, over 100,000 Saskatchewan students from grades 4-12 participate in the OurSCHOOL survey contributing their voice on the things that matter most for engagement and ultimately school completion.

This presentation will give an overview of the provincial picture and what we have learned from the results, and provide some examples of what schools around the province are doing in response. Student voice provides the opportunity for students to be authentic partners in education and ensures that they have a genuine influence on the decisions that affect their lives. Learn how OurSCHOOL is making a difference in Saskatchewan schools.

Chair: Roberta Campbell-Chudoba, PhD Student, Department of Educational Administration, College of Education, University of Saskatchewan
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Salon C

**Introducing an Innovative Model of Wellness: Three Different Divisions and Three Different Perspectives in Alberta**

**Dr. Jody Carrington,** Consulting Psychologist

**Darlene Ferris,** Director of Wellness, Wild Rose School Division

**Paul Corrigan,** Director of Faith and Wellness, Elk Island Catholic School Division

**Dr. Reagan Weeks,** Assistant Superintendent, Prairie Rose School Division

**ALBERTA**

The mental health “crisis” facing our students, their families, and our staff calls for action in the most innovative ways. In the province of Alberta, a significant shift has been created by rural divisions. Join us for a discussion from three different divisions in the province of Alberta who came together to address the growing mental health crisis our students and staff are facing, and developed a model to tackle it. You will hear from three leaders in various stages of shifting their resources and their mindsets from “students first” to “staff too”. We will discuss our biggest mistakes and our significant successes along the way, so far. We will make you laugh, welcome your questions, and leave you with hope that it is, indeed, rural divisions who can lead the way in making this critical shift in addressing the rising mental health concerns in this country.

**Chair:** Anne Sloboda, PhD Candidate, Department of Educational Administration, College of Education, University of Saskatchewan
Honing Youth Leadership within School and Community

Brennan Becotte, Principal, Maidstone High School, Northwest School Division
Alana Olson, Student, Leadership Academy, Northwest School Division
Jenna McFadyen, Student, Leadership Academy, Northwest School Division
Lara VandeVenter, Student, Leadership Academy, Northwest School Division

SASKATCHEWAN

The Northwest School Division’s Leadership Academy is a session driven program for grades 10-12, whose aim is to help inspire young leaders and to intentionally impact leadership development within the division. The academy spans over hundreds of kilometers and encompasses 11 different schools. Mr. Brennan Becotte and three Leadership Academy students will focus on how their leadership skills have been honed in different elements of their lives and the impact that has had; specifically, how they meet daily challenges and opportunities in their schools and communities, and how they believe we can advocate for rural education in Saskatchewan. This presentation has a unique student point-of-view on rural education and where it’s going.

Chair: Ron Purdy, Business Manager, Prairie South School Division
**South East Cornerstone Public School Division PD HUB Distance Learning for Teachers**

**Aaron Hiske,** Superintendent of Education, South East Cornerstone Public School Division  
**Jeff Walters,** Instructional Technology Coordinator, South East Cornerstone Public School Division  
**Grant Taylor,** IT Consultant, South East Cornerstone Public School Division

**SASKATCHEWAN**

Professional development is a key component of teacher growth. New findings in research drive our need to continue to be reflective practitioners. As professionals, it is our responsibility to the teaching profession to be well informed of best practices to ensure “Success and Achievement for Every Student in Every School.”

A ThoughtStream stakeholder survey, that included teacher feedback, prompted a significant change in SECPSD PD structure. To this end, SECPSD Coordinator and Consultant teams developed the “PD HUB”.

This HUB houses system created PD modules for system wide delivery. Once posted on the HUB these modules are accessible 24/7 and offer teacher choice in both delivery and content. Each module also includes a culminating activity which generates an artifact for teachers to include in their PGP portfolio.

Come to our session to hear how SECPSD used this HUB during the 2017-2018 school year to exclusively deliver online PD to 38 schools across 31,000 square kilometres.

**Chair:** Pat Renihan, Professor Emeritus, College of Education, University of Saskatchewan

---

**NOON LUNCHEON** (Salon A B C)  
**Chair:** Barbara Compton  
**Door Prizes**  
**Visit Displays**
School Community Councils (SCCs) have been in existence for over a decade in Saskatchewan. They were created in a context of school division amalgamations, and during an upswing of community education developments in the province. Their primary purpose is to “encourage and facilitate parent and community engagement in school planning and improvement processes” (Saskatchewan Learning, 2005, p. 8).

The Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA) will be reviewing aspects of SCCs in response to a 2016 resolution adopted by Boards of Education. This session will provide a brief historical timeline of the events that led to the creation of SCCs, and engage SCC members in table sharing conversations regarding their experiences, ideas, effective strategies, and concerns related to implementing the mandate of SCCs. The data from these discussions will inform part of the SSBA review to be conducted.

Chair: Patricia Prowse, Associate Director, Saskatchewan Educational Leadership Unit (SELU)
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.  Gallery B

Helping Youth Develop Healthy Dating Relationships

Jody Shynkaruk, Research and Evaluation, Saskatchewan Prevention Institute

Carli Wallington, Perinatal and Infant Health Program Coordinator, Saskatchewan Prevention Institute

Jackie Eaton, Sexual and Reproductive Health Program Coordinator, Saskatchewan Prevention Institute

SASKATCHEWAN

Existing research indicates dating violence that is experienced by many adolescents, often begins early in dating relationships, and is associated with many negative outcomes that can last into adulthood. This presentation will provide evidence-based information about both the prevalence and long-term effects of adolescent dating violence. It will also focus on the importance of educating young people about how to develop healthy dating relationships. The presentation will highlight a new resource for youth, developed by the Saskatchewan Prevention Institute with youth input, about how to build healthy dating relationships.

Chair: Wilfred Beckford, PhD Student, Department of Educational Administration, College of Education, University of Saskatchewan

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.  Salon A

Leading to Learn: A Capacity Building Model for Principals

Ken Okanee, Director of Education, Treaty Six Education Council

Terry Johanson, Director, Saskatchewan Professional Development Unit (SPDU), Saskatchewan Teachers’ Federation

SASKATCHEWAN

The Leading to Learn initiative was launched in December 2017 in support of principals and vice principals with the goal to increase graduation rates of First Nations, Inuit and Métis students in Saskatchewan. Under the umbrella of the Education Sector Strategic Plan (ESSP), this initiative involves the Ministry of Education, SELU/College of Education, SPDU/Saskatchewan Teachers’ Federation, and school divisions and tribal councils across the province. Founded on the principles of generosity and community, Leading to Learn builds capacity of principals and vice principals through professionally led professional learning. This learning journey will help support school leaders in collaboration with community and family members in their work towards creating safe and inclusive learning environments for First Nations, Inuit and Métis learners.

Chair: Tenneisha Nelson, PhD Candidate, Department of Educational Administration, College of Education, University of Saskatchewan
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Salon B

**PeBL (Personalized Electronically Blended Learning) One Year Later**

Guy Tétrault, Director of Education, Sun West School Division  
Vicki Moore, Superintendent of Education, Sun West School Division  
Shari Martin, Superintendent of Education, Sun West School Division  
Darren Gasper, Superintendent of Education, Sun West School Division  
Kelli Boklaschuk, PeBL Supervisor, Sun West School Division  
Carole Butcher, Student Support Services Supervisor, Sun West School Division  

**SASKATCHEWAN**

This session will review the Why, Who, What, When, Where, and How of a division-wide PeBL implementation. We will focus on successes and challenges that we have experienced with our locally developed framework. You will hear from students, teachers and parents detailing their experiences and growth. In addition to this, join us to find out where we are heading next and ways your division can be part of our journey.

For a preview of PeBL go to: www.sunwestpebl.ca  

Chair: Ruth Griffith, Trustee, Sun West School Division
Unlocking “The Closet” in Rural Saskatchewan

Ben Grebinski, Director of Education, Prairie Valley School Division
Dr. James McNinch, Director of SK fyrefly, University of Regina
Kyla Christiansen, Health and Wellness Consultant & SK fyrefly
  School Coordinator Prairie Valley School Division

SASKATCHEWAN

All students and staff have the right to attend school in a safe environment. Depending upon community norms and perceptions, gender and sexual diversity may be perceived as controversial for some people while accepted without question by others. This presentation will assist participants in their efforts to engage in meaningful discussions and actions to respond to the experiences, perspectives and needs of students and families who are gender and/or sexually diverse.

Saskatchewan fyrefly and Prairie Valley School Division will share what they are doing to create responsive and supportive learning environments within a Comprehensive School Community Health approach: addressing Gender Sexual Diversity (GSD) within the teaching and learning, creating and implementing policies that support and protect staff and students, engaging family and community in the GSD conversation, and nurturing safe physical and social environments.

Chair: Ronna Pethick, Board Chair, Living Sky School Division
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Salon D

**Mino-Pimaatisiwin: A School-based Response to Truth and Reconciliation**

**Dr. Karen Rempel,** Director, Centre for Aboriginal and Rural Education Studies, Brandon University

**Dr. Heather Duncan,** Dean, Faculty of Education, Brandon University

**Ms. Valerie McInnes,** Research Assistant, Centre for Aboriginal and Rural Education Studies, Brandon University

**Charles Gaywish,** Director, Rolling River First Nation Education Authority

**Laurie Bachewich,** Principal, Erickson Elementary School

**Barry Lee,** Principal, Erickson Collegiate Institute

**Mary-Anne Ploshynsky,** Director, Rolling River School Division

**MANITOBA**

In recognition of the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action, the schools in Erickson, Manitoba are working with Rolling River First Nation to develop an educational environment based on the cultural framework of mino-pimaatisiwin and Ojibwe Good Life Principles. The goal of this framework is positive student outcomes. Activities include professional development focused on cultural proficiency, Indigenization of curricula, experiential learning, community exchanges and involvement of Elders.

In the fall of 2017, the Centre for Aboriginal and Rural Education Studies at Brandon University began coordination of a two-year project funded by Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada to support school-based action research activities based on the mino-pimaatisiwin framework. This panel discussion presents the findings of the first stage of the project which compares current student and school assessments and information with options for school and student information based on mino-pimaatisiwin and Ojibwe Good Life Principles. Feedback from participants will be encouraged.

**Chair:** Pamela Osmond-Johnson, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Education, University of Regina
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Salon E

The Cargill Classroom: An Opportunity to Offer Specialist High School Programming to Rural Students through Synchronous Learning

Darran Teneycke, Superintendent of School Operations, Prairie South School Division
Larissa Mack, Senior Science Teacher, Coronach School, Prairie South School Division

SASKATCHEWAN

In response to the challenge of offering equitable high school programming in rural communities, Prairie South School Division forged a partnership with Cargill Canada to offer some programs synchronously. Prairie South School Division and Cargill have outfitted each high school in the PSSD with a synchronous learning system. In this session, participants will learn what the synchronous learning system is and how the platform is used to deliver synchronous learning. Participants will also get an opportunity to experience the Cargill classroom in action.

Chair: Ron Purdy, Business Manager, Prairie South South School Division

2:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. BREAKS AND DISPLAYS

(Salon Crush Lobby)
2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.  **SESSION “D” BREAKOUTS**

### Gallery A

**Technology and Supports for Rural Education**

**Myrna Martyniuk**, Director, Sector Technologies and Network Services  
**Elgin Bunston**, Manager, Teaching and Learning Technologies, Saskatchewan Ministry of Education  

**SASKATCHEWAN**  
The Saskatchewan Ministry of Education has developed considerable new content in areas such as Early Learning, Science and Reconciliation. Find out about changes to EOnline that improve navigation and make Ministry programs and supports easier to discover. New and ongoing options provided by the ministry to support distance and blended learning will also be discussed.

Chair: Ron Purdy, Business Manager, Prairie South School Division

### Salon A

**Creating a Culturally Relevant Curriculum**

**Ruth Ahern**, Assistant Director General-Director of Education, Western Quebec School Board  

**QUEBEC**  
This workshop will explore how using a culturally relevant curriculum is meeting the needs of Indigenous learners at all levels of instruction in the Western Quebec School Board schools. It will provide a brief overview of the what and why of a culturally relevant curriculum and a more extensive, interactive exploration of the Indigenous pedagogy approach in several of the Western Quebec School Board schools. The approach which includes relevant learning situations, learn by doing and land-based learning activities incorporates Indigenous values, knowledge and competencies in the teaching of the Quebec Education Program and allows Indigenous learners to connect readily to the curriculum. The approach ensures that culture is visible in the schools and Elders are a key resource. Close connections to Indigenous Communities are considered an essential asset that must be recognized and incorporated as well.

Chair: Kareen Reid, PhD Candidate, Department of Educational Administration, College of Education, University of Saskatchewan
2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. Salon B

**Leading in Challenging Times**

**Floyd Martens**, President, Canadian School Boards Association

**SASKATCHEWAN**

In the midst of challenging circumstances leadership is crucial. This session will identify skills required to lead in difficult situations. It will also provide practical steps you can take to strengthen your leadership skills as you lead in changing and challenging times.

Chair: Vanessa Ellis Colley, PhD Student, Department of Educational Administration, College of Education, University of Saskatchewan

---

2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. Salon C

**The Education Sector Strategic Plan: Innovative SCC Engagement**

**Mark Benesh**, Superintendent of Schools, Chinook School Division

**Aaron Hiske**, Superintendent of Education, South East Cornerstone Public School Division

**Derek Smith**, Superintendent of Education, School Operations, Prairie Valley School Division

**SASKATCHEWAN**

The Saskatchewan Plan for Growth and the Education Sector Strategic Plan set ambitious targets for the K-12 education system in graduation rates, reading, writing and math skills, and First Nations, Métis and Inuit student outcomes. Achieving these targets requires the mobilization of professional and community resources, including parents, teachers and students.

A panel of representatives from three school divisions will outline the ways in which SCCs have used their unique understanding of their communities to assist in designing and implementing initiatives that are moving their students towards provincial targets.

Chair: Kathleen Fisher, Research Officer, Strategic Policy Unit, Saskatchewan Ministry of Education
2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. Salon D

**Super Powers: Uncovering Youth Resilience**

Roisin Unsworth, Coordinator, Youth Action for Prevention, Saskatchewan Prevention Institute  
Dave Shanks, Director, Western Region, Student’s Commission of Canada  

**SASKATCHEWAN**

There is a range of health issues that can greatly affect youth in their teenage years, namely: substance use, mental health issues, violence, and risky sexual behaviour. There are protective factors that keep those health risks away, or reduce their harm. This workshop demonstrates an interactive tool called ‘Super Powers’ that gives youth an opportunity to think about which health issues they perceive as a threat, and also to consider the assets they have which can support good health and build resilience.

This tool promotes youth engagement, which has been identified as a key measure to strengthen health promotion awareness initiatives. The approach is a low-cost and high-impact strategy that can meet or complement curriculum outcomes. Attendees will hear from the lived experiences of youth, learn about the development and evolution of this youth-centered approach, its evaluation, and how to kick-start the work in rural areas.

Chair: Fred Machana, PhD Student, Department of Educational Administration, College of Education, University of Saskatchewan

2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. Salon E

**Computer Coding and Computational Thinking in a Rural K-12 School**

Jade Ballek, Principal, Dinsmore Composite School  

**SASKATCHEWAN**

Dinsmore Composite School, a K-12 school of approximately 110 students, has embarked on a journey into computer coding and computational thinking this year with students in Grades 3-11. Computational thinking (CT) is a problem-solving process that allows students to develop skills such as logical and sequential thinking, data analysis, and creating solutions that can be applied in math, science, and the humanities.

Participants will interact with students from the coding club as they share their experiences in learning to code using different software and platforms. An overview of the process of developing a coding club and the resources/supports that Dinsmore has used will be shared.

Chair: Gwen Keith, Director of Education, Holy Family Roman Catholic Separate School Division
3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.  

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS** (Salon A B)  

**DR. JAY WILSON**  

“Examining the Rural Education Innovation Advantage”  
Introduction by Dr. David Burgess, Associate Dean, Dean, Research, Graduate Support, and International Initiatives  
Director, Saskatchewan Educational Leadership Unit (SELU)  

Door Prizes  

---  

**CONNECTING SASKATCHEWAN TO THE REST OF THE WORLD.**  

SaskTel is committed to helping both rural and urban people in Saskatchewan. In addition to providing wireless coverage and high speed Internet access, we’re proud to support community groups and events across the province.  

Learn more at [sasktel.com/csr](http://sasktel.com/csr).
Tuesday, March 27, 2018

Tuesday Morning

**EDUCATION SITE VISITS**

*“Innovation in Action”*

*Participants must be pre-registered.*

*Buses will depart from and return to TCU Place.*

**Innovative Course Delivery**

Sun West Distance Learning Centre, Kenaston, SK

*Bus departs at 8:15 a.m.*

**Innovative Partnerships**

Stonebridge Community, Saskatoon SK

*Bus departs at 9:00 a.m.*

**Innovative Partnerships and Program**

St. Mary’s Wellness and Education Centre, Saskatoon, SK

*Bus departs at 9:00 a.m.*

**Innovation Partnerships and Program**

iGen, Sherbrooke Community Centre, Saskatoon, SK

*Bus departs at 9:00 a.m.*

**Innovative Learning Opportunities**

Lake Vista School, Martensville, SK

*Bus departs at 8:30 a.m.*
Thank You to Our Sponsors

23rd National Congress on Rural Education in Canada
Innovations in Rural Education
THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Gold
Monsanto
Saskatchewan Educational Leadership Unit
Saskatchewan Ministry of Education

Government of Saskatchewan

SELU
Saskatchewan Educational Leadership Unit

Silver
City of Saskatoon

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
College of Education
USASK.CA/EDUCATION

Bronze
Eagle Feather News
Saskatoon Fastprint
First Student
Inland Audio Visual
TCU Place

First Student
Caring for students today, tomorrow, together.
Growing Better Together

Monsanto is proud to partner with nonprofits, farmers, researchers, universities and others to create a positive impact for people and the planet. We’re dedicated to doing our part to encourage vibrant communities, a thriving ecosystem and a better tomorrow.

Visit Monsanto.com to learn more.
Thank You to Our Displayers

Concentus Citizenship Education Foundation
  Dan Danielson, Local Author
  Kanatan Aski
  Let’s Talk Science
  Nutrients for Life
  Official Languages Programs
  Partners For the Saskatchewan River Basin
  Public Legal Education Association of Saskatchewan Inc. (PLEA)
  Readers World Books and Gifts
  Saskatchewan Alliance for Youth and Community Well-being (SAYCW)
  Saskatchewan Ministry of Education
  Saskatchewan Prevention Institute
  Saskatoon Industry Education Council
  Silversmith Crafts
  Wintergreen Learning Materials
  WorkSafe Saskatchewan

One Thunderous Voice E-Journalism Student Team:
  Constable Robin Cameron Education Complex,
  Beardy’s and Okemasis Cree Nation,
  Aden Bowman Collegiate, Saskatoon Public School Division

We invite you to attend
the 24th National Congress on Rural Education in Canada.
March 24-26, 2019

Thank you for attending the 23rd National Congress on Rural Education in Canada.

35