

# 2022 Northern Alberta Educational Assistants & Support Staff Conference

## Registration Fee:

\$100.00

## Registration Deadline:

March 10, 2022

## Course Code:

## Date(s):

Mar 10, 2022 - Mar 11, 2022

## Session Location:

Online, Any location, AB

## About the Session:

### Welcome to the 2022 Northern Alberta Educational Assistants & Support Staff Conference

#### Conference Registration Fees:

- 2-Day Conference Attendance - **\$100.00**
- 1 Day Conference Attendance (either day, Thursday or Friday) - **\$65.00**
- For Post Secondary Students 2-Day Conference Attendance - **\$50**
- For Post Secondary Students 1-Day Conference Attendance (either day, Thursday or Friday) - **\$32.50**
- Out of Province 2- Day Conference Attendance - **\$175**
- Out of Province 1 Day Conference Attendance - **\$100**

## About the Presenter(s):

### Angela DesBarres

Angela retired (June 2021) from Grande Prairie Public School Division after 32 years of service as a classroom teacher, academic support, teacher librarian, administrator, AISI coordinator and the last 10 years as Director of Teaching and Learning. She has a Bachelor of Education from the University of Alberta and a Master of Science in Education with a focus in Elementary Literacy and Reading from Walden University. Her desire to obtain her Master's degree stemmed from the desire to assist those students who were struggling to read and write. From there her passion for best practices in teaching began and continues to grow. Angela currently teaches for the Teacher Education North Program at Northwestern Polytechnic in Grande Prairie. Here she works to inspire new teachers to be lifelong learners and to be consistent in their focus of meeting all students and their learning needs. She is passionate in supporting teachers to become confident in their abilities to promote student success by implementing research based best practices, instructional strategies and good assessment. She believes that teaching is the ability to first, know your students, and know where you need to take them by knowing your curriculum, establishing a toolbox of research based best practices and assessments and drawing on these to meet the needs of your students. Optimum learning for all students is our goal!

### Bev Baker-Hofmann

Bev Baker-Hofmann is a Registered Psychologist with extensive experience in supporting the positive mental health and well-being of children and youth, families and educators. With a curiosity for exploring new pathways, Bev has worked in schools and systems as a teacher, counsellor, consultant, coach, district office leader and Education Ministry interchange. Bev is now "mostly retired" but continues her quest to support her own, and others', well-being.

### Carmen Moore

Carmen Moore is a passionate educator, parent and storyteller who has been working within the field of education for over twenty-five years. She completed two Masters of Education, spurring on a research project: Project Independence. Carmen has attained the credentials and experience to be a certified autism specialist through her continued work with the University of Kansas. She is passionate about sharing new approaches to support all students. Carmen's experience as an educator, administrator, and

her career as an Educational Assistant with Community Options and moved her way up through the organization becoming the EA mentor, Family Liaison and finally Assistant Director of the Community Preschool Education Program. Catharine is mom to 4 children, all of whom are neuro diverse with diagnosis such as autism, ADHD, anxiety, depression, Tourette Syndrome, sensory processing disorder, dyslexia and other learning delays. Autism became a passion and a learning focus when her oldest daughter was diagnosed on the spectrum back in 1999. Through Autism 101 and Autism 201, Catharine loves to share her knowledge and lived experience with others to help increase understanding of autism.

#### **Chris Zarski**

Chris Zarski has been an educator for over 40 years, and has served as a teacher, principal, supervisor and director and Examiner for Alberta Education. Currently Chris is the Director of Instruction and Staff Development for STAR Catholic Schools. Chris has led numerous district wide initiatives, provided over 600 professional learning sessions, and co-authored/consulted on 18 mathematics resources. She is actively involved with the pedagogy of deeper learning, authentic assessment designs enhancing curriculum delivery and the integration of FNMI resources into all curriculums. Chris has her Master's degree from the University of Alberta focused on assessment and professional learning. Chris loves to learn and believes that all students have the ability to learn at high levels. She also believes that teachers have the best profession ever – enlightening new minds and sparking interest in learning! WOW!

#### **Collette Sylvestre**

As a Learning Associate with Jigsaw Learning, Collette brings a wealth of experience specializing in online learning, synchronous/asynchronous learning design, diverse learning strategies, school leadership and educational consulting. With Jigsaw Learning, Collette works strategically with school district leaders, principals and teachers to bring the vision of Collaborative Response, as well as WeCollab, into reality through facilitating the development of effective plans for implementation. Through fostering collaborative relationships, Collette is highly skilled at supporting administrators and teachers with navigating blended face to face and online platforms to meet the needs of all learners within the context of Universal Design. School and District collaborative leadership with both public and international private school systems Extensive experience with strategic planning and inclusive support leadership Masters degree with a specialization in Curriculum, Teaching and Learning Blended and Online Professional Development for child care workers with First Nations, Metis and Inuit Women's Shelters in North Eastern Alberta Over 20 years of professional experience preschool to college level in both rural and urban settings Engaging presenter, facilitator, coach and mentor

#### **Craig Cherwak**

Craig Cherwak is an experienced industry manager of Administration and Accounting departments in addition to providing strategic management consulting. He graduated from the University of Alberta with a Bachelor of Commerce degree, and subsequently obtained his Certified Management Accountant (CMA) designation in 2004. With the amalgamation of the accounting professions, he now holds a CPA, CMA designation. Craig has worked in manufacturing, forestry, retail and oil & gas industries, often in the role of CFO or controller. Through this experience he has experienced many varied situations of conflict and the efforts to resolve those conflicts. Craig began his instructional experience in 2018, and since that time has taught many of the business disciplines in both full time and continuing education environments.

#### **Dr. Gordon Neufeld**

Dr. Gordon Neufeld is a Vancouver-based developmental psychologist with over 45 years of experience with children and youth and those responsible for them. A foremost authority on child development, Dr. Neufeld is an international speaker, a bestselling author (Hold On To Your Kids) and a leading interpreter of the developmental paradigm. Dr. Neufeld has a widespread reputation for making sense of complex problems and for opening doors for change. While formerly involved in university teaching and private practice, he now devotes his time to teaching and training others, including educators and helping professionals. His Neufeld Institute (<https://neufeldinstitute.org/>) is now a world-wide charitable organization devoted to applying developmental science to the task of raising children. He is a father of five and a grandfather to six.

#### **Dr. Jody Carrington**

Dr. Jody Carrington is a renowned psychologist sought after for her expertise, energy and approach to helping people solve their most complex human-centred challenges. Jody focuses much of her work around reconnection – the key to healthy relationships and productive teams. A speaker, author, and leader of Carrington & Company, she uses all she has been taught in her twenty-year career as a psychologist to empower everyone she connects with. Jody has worked with kids, families, business leaders, first responders, teachers, farmers and has spoken in church basements and world-class stages; the message remains the same – our power lies in our ability to acknowledge each other first. Her approach is authentic, honest and often hilarious. She speaks passionately about resilience, mental health, leadership, burnout, grief and trauma; and how

### **Janet Bell**

An English teacher originally, Janet's career evolved over the years from classroom consultant, co-leading edtech integration across the province as a member of the 2Learn.ca and ARPD provincial teams, to school and district leadership as the Department Head at Lillian Osborne High School and TIPS (Technology Integration and Planning Supports) Consultant with Edmonton Public Schools. A Google Certified Trainer and SMART Certified Trainer, these days Janet brings both vision and practical strategies to help support your integration of G Suite and SMART Learning Suite, reputable third-party applications, makerspaces, digital citizenship and more, within today's emergent and shifting learning spaces. In her spare time, she enjoys the four generations of her family.

### **Jen Duperron- Trydal**

As an FASD Instructional Coach for the region, Jen Duperron-Trydal brings a wealth of knowledge and experience. She has been employed with the Northwest Peace FASD Network since 2014 and has held the roles of FASD Community Resource Advocate as well as FASD Diagnostic Clinic Coordinator. During this time, Jen has presented about FASD at numerous Educational Conferences/Conventions over the years. In the past, Jen was also employed for over a decade within various school systems (including High Schools, Elementary Schools, an Alternate School, and a College).

### **Jennifer Ireson**

Jennifer Ireson has been in Human Resources for over 20 years and has been a Chartered Professional in Human Resources since 2007, holds her Master of Education in Adult Learning, Bachelor of Science and is a Professional Home Ecologist. Recently she completed her Registered Professional Recruiter studies. In 2019 Jennifer opened Caseley Consulting and, when she incorporated a husband into her life in 2021, incorporated her business into Balanced Perspectives. She feels that growing companies need someone with experience to help set up their employees for success. She covers all areas of HR from HIRE to RETIRE but focuses on employee relations and setting companies up for HR success. A self-professed Policy Geek, Jennifer loves a good employee manual. Not completely a book nerd, Jennifer has been to all 13 provinces and territories and hopes to see more of this gorgeous country in the next few years. Jennifer has a passion for training and development of employees and has been teaching at Grande Prairie Regional College in the Continuing Education department for over six years. She enjoys meeting new people and having class discussions. "I learn as much from each class as my students." Managing Time and Stress has been a life-long battle for Jennifer who was diagnosed in 2020 with ADHD and has found ways to overcome some of the obstacles that brings to the workplace. She joins us today from her home in Sexsmith.

### **Jim Smith**

Jim Smith P. Eng, ICD.D I have been teaching these courses as an instructor and business consultant for 18 years after retiring from a fulfilling career with Procter and Gamble and Weyerhaeuser. My career with those companies was predominantly in operating, senior, or corporate management team environments. A wide range of varied and successive roles in many departments of the companies provided different and increased responsibilities while reinforcing the principles and methods to be a successful manager. Each of these roles provided the practical experience that is necessary to succeed in the role of a manager. They also reinforced the necessity of strong leadership and an open, positive organization culture. My professional technical training is in chemical engineering, strategy and project planning, engineering, and construction management. My organization and people training is from corporate and university programs for senior managers and also includes board of director training through Canadian Institute of Corporate Directors.

### **Katrin Sannig**

My name is Katrin Sannig and I'm a Speech-Language Pathologist. I'm excited to support children, youth and their families and help them achieve their learning goals. I enjoy that I can collaborate with other PCS team members, school staff, community agencies and parents as I truly believe the best outcomes can be achieved through teamwork. In my position with PCS I cover schools in Valleyview and Ridgevalley. I was born and raised in Germany, attended university there and now live outside of the hamlet of Little Smoky, where my spouse and I are raising our two children. We enjoy traveling and hosting international travelers at our place. I'm looking forward to connecting with each of you. Contact: [katrin.sannig@gppsd.ab.ca](mailto:katrin.sannig@gppsd.ab.ca)  
Phone: (780) 552-3774

### **Kim Barker-Kay**

Kim Barker-Kay is currently a consultant with the Northwest Regional Learning Consortium. Previously, Kim was a teacher, principal, and researcher in northern Alberta. Her work and research evolved into a focus on building educational equity. She spent many years involved in diversity leadership training with the National Coalition Building Institute. Additionally, Kim had the unique experience as the protege of a Cree Elder for ten years. As a principal, Kim was able to put all she learned into practice with favorable results in student achievement. She learned first hand the complexities involved in building educational equity which have led her to her current journeys with infusing Indigenous knowledge into new curriculum, as well as doing a deeper exploration



guided, research-informed, educational experiences.

#### **Kirsten Clark**

Kirsten Clark is an instructor in the Department of Human Services at Grande Prairie Regional College, teaching courses in the Educational Assistant and Early Learning and Child Care programs. She has previously worked for Academic Support and Disability Services at GPRC, helping post-secondary students develop organizational, comprehension, study, and coping skills. Previously, Kirsten was a high school English and social studies teacher. Outside of work, her four-year-old son keeps her on her toes!

#### **Krista Leddy**

Krista Leddy is a proud Métis woman whose family comes from the historical Métis communities of St. Albert and Lac St. Anne, and calls Edmonton home. Her passion for sharing culture and building community is the foundation for her work with Rupertsland Institute in the Métis Access to Post Secondary Program. Krista is a recognized artist in both traditional and contemporary media.

#### **Leanne Aspen**

Having been a social worker for more than 30 years, I am grateful for learning numerous skills. I am a sponge when it comes to learning to help people help themselves. My strengths are my communication style, my consistent ability to develop rapport and gain trust quickly and my sense of humour which is extremely beneficial when facilitating. I have been an FASD Prevention Conversation Facilitator for 8 years, and still learning about this complex disability.

#### **Mélise Sears**

Mélise Sears, Speech-Language Pathologist with Peace Collaborative Services, has worked in school districts in the Peace Region for 25 years both in public and private practice. In addition to providing assessment and supervision of treatment, she works as a consultant to school staff. Her passion in professional practice focuses on Autism Spectrum Disorders and on Literacy. She presents regularly to educational staff on a variety of speech, language, and literacy topics and is also a sessional instructor in the Human Services Department at GPRC.

#### **Sarah McKay**

Sarah is the Manager of the Safe Schools Department in Surrey School District, BC's largest, most diverse and most progressive school district. Sarah is a regular presenter to education assistants, teachers and administrators in the district and also serves as a resource person/presenter at Safer Schools Together conferences and professional development sessions.

#### **Sue Huff**

Sue is a writer, performer, advocate, community builder and former politician. Shortly after her daughter was admitted to the University of Alberta Hospital's Eating Disorder Clinic, Sue was introduced to the organization by someone who recognized her shared passion to make positive change. As Executive Director, Sue coordinates and manages all of EDSNA's programming and activities. Her focus is on the long-term sustainability of EDSNA, creating partnerships, increasing public awareness, strategic planning and seeking additional revenue streams to support EDSNA's mission and vision. Sue gives many presentations to the public to raise awareness about eating disorders.

#### **Susan Agrios**

Described as "inspirational, passionate & changing lives", Susan Agrios teaches and guides thousands of people from all corners of the world on their fitness, yoga and mindfulness journeys. As the founder & CEO of AGRIOS MINDFITNESS (Mindfulness + Fitness), Susan gives kids, teens and adults tools to lead healthier lives. The positive physical, mental, emotional and social results are profound. A former K-12 School teacher, Susan saw her young students were stressed and anxious. Others had problems staying focused. Some were being bullied. Her teacher colleagues were taking leaves because of burnout. Susan wanted to help. She knew she had to do something. That was the spark. From it came beKIND Mindfulness Kits, Trainings and School Assemblies for teachers and students. Today, Susan's programs open the door for everyone to explore their mind-body connections. They learn new skills to relax, reduce stress, self-regulate thoughts and emotions and improve concentration. Susan is a multi-sport medalist. She holds world records and has decades of experience as a fitness trainer. Susan is also one of North America's only fitness trainers to become an Internationally Certified Level 2 Kundalini Yoga teacher with advanced training in Yoga Nidra. Her approach is unique. It's holistic. And its positive impacts ripple through the communities in which she works. Her innovative beKIND Mindfulness and beGRATEFUL School Assemblies make a measurably positive difference in schools. In 2016, Susan launched the first ever in Canada beKIND Mindfulness Triathlons in Schools. beKIND turned into a Global Movement spreading across Canada into the USA, Europe, Asia and South America with over 2000 people taking her beKIND Mindfulness Trainings and over 20,000 kids, teens and adults taking the beKIND Mindfulness Challenge. Are you next?

Tamara Crozier

Tobacco Reduction Program as a Program Consultant and North Zone Coordinator.

#### **Tammy Novak**

Tammy is a Health Promotion Facilitator with the Alberta Health Services, Healthy Schools Team. For over 6 years, she has worked together with four school divisions in the Northwest to support their health and wellness initiatives. Along with her over 15 years of experience in Community and School Health Promotion, Tammy also has an extensive background in Therapeutic Recreation. After work, Tammy enjoys spending time with her husband as parents to newly adult children, going to as many Edmonton Oilers games as possible, and looking forward to where the next travel adventure will take her!

#### **Tracy Golnick**

With deep roots in the Peace Country, Tracy has worked in the human services field for the past 23 years in positions from senior management to frontline client directed services. In 2006, Tracy began her journey with Mental Health First Aid Canada as a Basic Instructor and has since moved into a Master Trainer role. Facilitating both virtually and in-person, Tracy is certified in various versions of MHFA and trains new MHFA instructors across Canada. Currently, Tracy is the Coordinator for the Tough Enough To Talk About It program within the Resource Centre for Suicide Prevention in Grande Prairie, Alberta. Outside of work, Tracy has a large, busy family who enjoy spending time outdoors, travelling and creating memories with each other..

#### **Ulana Solesky**

Ulana Solesky is a designer of professional learning mathematics and numeracy for ARPDC since 2006. She taught math in Junior High for 26 years before assuming roles of math and numeracy consultant for Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools and ERLC. An educator since 1979, Ulana has worked with students from Kindergarten through grade 9 and also served as a First Steps in Math Facilitator for Pearson Publishers focusing on the Number, Operation Sense and Measurement strands. She has also been working with Pearson Publishers offering professional development with the new math resource "Mathology" and the "Math Progressions K-9" which she was an active reviewer of during the resource production. Ulana's latest project has seen her busy working with and overseeing the development of the Math Assessment Gr 1 to Grade 7 with Elk Island Catholic Schools. As a math teacher, Ulana's goal was that all students understand and appreciate the mathematics they were studying; that they could read it, write it, explore it, and communicate it with confidence; and that they would be able to use mathematics as they need to in their lives. Her focus is primarily around new curriculum support as well as planning for staff development and school improvement. She believes that learning happens most effectively in a cooperative, student-centered classroom.

#### **Various Speakers**

Kim Raine, PhD, RD, FCAHS Dr. Kim Raine is Distinguished Professor in the School of Public Health, University of Alberta. She is a Registered Dietitian, and a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences. A pioneer in bringing social scientific concepts to the study of nutrition and health, her innovative research has shown dietary patterns as deeply contextualized behaviours embedded in complex food environments. Her research program broke new ground by exploring food environments, and how they shape the availability, affordability, and social acceptability of dietary patterns, as well as their association with health-related outcomes. Her research pioneered social-ecological thinking in nutrition and demonstrated the potential of large-scale population interventions at community and policy levels. She has influenced research strategies and policy development at local, provincial, and federal levels. Dr. Raine's team is at the leading edge of the exponential growth of research in food environments in Canada. Marjorie Bencz Marjorie Bencz began with Edmonton's Food Bank in 1987 as a volunteer. In 1989, she became the Executive Director of Edmonton's Food Bank. "A strong voice for the poor and working poor, Marjorie Bencz has been fighting hunger in Canada for the past two decades. Executive Director of the Edmonton Gleaners Association Food Bank since 1989 and past chair of the Canadian Association of Food Banks' board of directors, she battles complacency and apathy with action. Adept at gathering community support, she has led a relentless campaign to safeguard the right of all Canadians to maintain their sense of dignity regardless of their socio-economic situation." ~2006 Investiture Excerpt Over the years, Marjorie's work and dedication has resulted in her being recognized with a number of community awards such as an honorary diploma in Health and Community Studies from Grand MacEwan Community College and being named Global TV's Woman of Vision. In May, 2012 in the category of Community Service, Marjorie was honored with a YWCA Woman of Distinction Award. Also in 2012, she received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal. In June 2015, Marjorie was inducted into the City of Edmonton Hall of Fame. Sarah Halton, RD Sarah Halton is part of the Edmonton public health dietitian team with Alberta Health Services. Sarah has worked in the area of school health for the past 13 years and is involved in resource development and initiatives that support healthy eating environments and education in schools. Sarah Linde, BSc Sarah grew up in Calgary, AB, spending all her free time on local farms and riding horses. Sarah completed her BSc in Agribusiness in 2007 and followed her passion in the agriculture world. Sarah spent 7 years supporting and managing agriculture events and youth agriculture education programs in Calgary working to continue

and is a member of the council's Leadership Team and Zero Waste Working Group. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Nutraceutical Science and Master of Science in Human Health and Nutrition. In her spare time, you will find Jesse exploring the BC wilderness, experimenting in her garden, or getting creative in her kitchen with the local bounty BC has to offer. Christine Volkins Christine Volkins is a Health Promotion Facilitator (HPF) with the School Health & Wellness Promotion team, Alberta Health Services. She encourages school authorities to utilize Comprehensive School Health (CSH), an internationally recognized and effective approach for building healthy school communities. CSH can be used to address a variety of health issues and can improve both health and education outcomes for students, staff and parents. Christine has been in this role for 14 years; prior to that she worked in the school system as a Family School Liaison/Counsellor. She resides in the rural area of Trochu with her husband and has two sons attending university. Gardening, golfing, and summers at the lake with family and friends help to make her life complete. Nancy Kelner Nancy grew up in Winnipeg, MB, spending summers on her grandparents' farm where her curiosity for environmental and animal science was first sparked. Following these passions and her love for life-long learning, Nancy completed her B.Sc. (Bio Sci) and B.Ed. at the University of Winnipeg, and has over 10 years teaching experience as science education specialist serving rural Manitoba students. She moved on from the classroom to work with a national non-profit, developing and delivering innovative student programs, as well as PD and training sessions for teachers, classrooms, and school boards across Manitoba. Nancy relocated to Okotoks last year and joined the Agriculture for Life education team, developing new education initiatives to connect students to our agricultural food production systems.

### **Photography Release:**

This is a public event with the likeliness of photo/video throughout the day. By attending, participants understand they may be captured in photo or video for future presentations or promotional material development. Please see conference hosts if you prefer to not be photographed.