

# Leaders & Learners



**CASSA-ACGCS**  
Promoting Quality Education for Our Students

**VOL II ISSUE 74**  
**APRIL 2017**

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## Message from the President: The Foundations of Well-being

HELLO, CASSA FRIENDS. We look forward to seeing you at our 2017 conference, where we will celebrate the importance of safe and healthy school communities. All across Canada, we have focused on well-being, student achievement and holistic education.

We all call upon various models in our work. In his book *Well Aware*, **Dr. Patrick Carney** describes a model that provides a framework for our understanding of well-being, and for implementing evidence-based strategies and approaches in our schools and classrooms that give all students the opportunity to achieve well-being. In his model, resilience, active lifestyles and flourishing are key aspects of optimal mental health.

Foundations for supporting children and youth on the pathway to well-being include

- a healthy, caring environment (for example, a whole-school approach, actively promoting positive mental health)



Anne O'Brien  
President

- a social-emotional learning approach (for example, developing self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills and responsible decision making)
- a strengths-based approach (for example, recognizing and cultivating the inner strengths, capabilities and resources we have for well-being)

In CASSA, we continue to focus on well-being, with the support of **Dr. Kathy Short**, **Dr. Bruce Ferguson** and our own **Dr. Cindy Finn** developing CASSA's national discussion on well-being and mental health priorities. We look forward to sharing future directions with you in Halifax at our presentations and workshops prepared for the CASSA conference, including a keynote address by **Dr. Stan Kutcher**.

It has been a great month in our CASSA journey. We have various conversations across the country on our monthly teleconferences, and

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## OUR PURPOSE

CASSA is the Canadian organization of school system leaders that promotes and supports quality education for the success of all students.

## OUR MISSION

CASSA strengthens the capacity of school system leaders and influences the directions that impact education and student learning.

### Message from the Executive Director: Support for Our American Colleagues in Education

GREETINGS! I HOPE the school year is moving along well. A few brief updates for everyone....

CASSA has a very strong partnership with AASA - the School Superintendents' Association. (You can learn more about this organization by visiting [www.aasa.org](http://www.aasa.org).)

The new administration in the United States has brought some worries and uncertainties to the CEO role in publicly funded school districts across the US. The CASSA Board of Directors unanimously endorsed the following message to our American colleagues:

*We are writing today to offer our continued support to AASA and our American colleagues as you continue your advocacy for the students in publicly funded schools across the United States.*

*CASSA believes that the role of school system administrators is essential to ensuring the success of all students. CASSA is also committed to the values of an inclusive publicly funded K-12 education system.*

*CASSA wholeheartedly affirms its support for the following AASA beliefs:*

*"Public education is the foundation of American democracy and is the primary vehicle for preparing each generation of adult citizens to become contributing members of a democratic society."*

*"School leaders have a responsibility to create school cultures that recognize and value diversity."*

*We value the strong relationship that AASA and CASSA have developed and nurtured over the years. Please know that we stand with you in affirming your advocacy for students in publicly funded schools.*

I received a very grateful response from **Dan Domenech**, the Executive Director of AASA.

Recently, a number of Canadian school system leaders participated in the AASA National Conference



Ken Bain  
Executive Director

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## Message from the President: The Foundations of Well-being

*Continued from page 1*

there is much innovation and excitement in Canadian education. In March, CASSA was pleased to be at the AASA National Conference on Education in New Orleans, which focused on visionary leadership. Also in March, CASSA hosted a strategic planning session with its Board of Directors. We reaffirmed our Purpose, Mission and Beliefs, and focused on our strategic directions as we move forward. Updates include:

### Our Beliefs

- *The role of school system administrators is essential in ensuring success for all students.*

- *CASSA is a learning organization that promotes individual and collective learning for its members.*
- *CASSA has a responsibility to initiate and participate in dialogue on educational matters of national significance.*
- *It is essential to communicate and collaborate with educational and community partners to ensure excellence and equity in publicly funded education across Canada.*

Please continue to follow us on Twitter, with our new hashtag #CASSAcan, to maintain communication with all of our national initiatives. Our Twitter handle is @cassaacgcs.

## Message from the Executive Director: Support for Our American Colleagues in Education

*Continued from page 2*

on Education, at which time both AASA and CASSA recognized and celebrated the Xerox EXL Award recipient, **Joan Carr** from Edmonton Catholic.

I look forward to receiving the nominees for this year's EXL Award from our provincial and territorial affiliates. The national recipient will be announced in Halifax at our annual conference and will be recognized at the 2018 AASA conference in Nashville.

Speaking of Halifax 2017, we are excited about the way that our conference is shaping up! We have secured two outstanding keynote speakers: **Dr. Stan Kutcher** and **Dr. Kathryn Short**. (See profiles on each of these impressive individuals on pages 9 and 10.) This year's event features a pan-Canadian panel addressing student



Ken Bain at the OCSOA dinner where Simone Rose-Oliver (on screen) was presented with her 2017 EXL Award nomination.

mental health and well-being across the country, as well as 30 workshops focusing on practices to support healthy students, schools and communities. Other highlights include a guided tour of Pier 21, a tour of Halifax, a tour to Peggy's Cove and two hosted receptions. Be sure to visit the conference website to take advantage of early bird registration and a WestJet discount code.

## AASA National Conference on Education: CASSA in New Orleans March 2-4, 2017



*Top right:* Executive Director Ken Bain and his wife Eileen Bain.

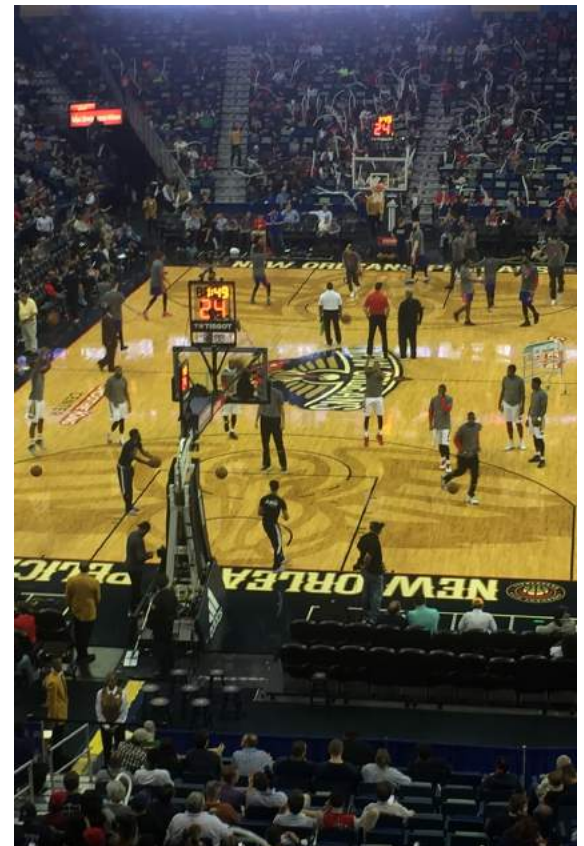


*Top left:* Anne O'Brien, Michael Nasello, John Kostoff, Joy Badder and Simone Rose-Oliver display the Canadian flag during the National Conference on Education opening session.

*Centre left:* The CASSA gang at the opening session.

*Bottom left:* Anne O'Brien, Barry Litun, Barry Wowk, Joy Badder, John Kostoff, Joan Carr, Ken Bain and Simone Rose-Oliver in New Orleans.

*Bottom right:* CASSA and AASA colleagues attended a New Orleans Pelicans basketball game together.



## AASA National Conference on Education: CASSA in New Orleans March 2-4, 2017



*Top right:* Simone Rose-Oliver (left end of the table) hard at work with her colleagues at the 2017 AASA governance meeting.

*Top left:* Ontario Catholic Supervisory Officers' Association Executive Director John Kostoff and Peel District School Board Director of Education Tony Pontes.

*Centre left:* OCSOA President Deb Crawford and her spouse Bob Crawford.

*Bottom left:* Ontario Public Supervisory Officers' Association Executive Director Joy Badder and Ottawa Catholic School Board Superintendent (and CASSA Eastern Rep to AASA) Simone Rose-Oliver join Mary Jane Kostoff, retired educator (and OCSOA Executive Director John Kostoff's spouse), for a meal.



*Bottom middle:* CASSA belongs to AASA Region 4, and its partners include Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri and Ohio.



*Bottom right:* The various AASA regions. CASSA is represented at Board of Governors meetings by Barry Wowk and Simone Rose-Oliver.



## CASSA Winter Strategic Planning Session: CASSA in Toronto March 24-25, 2017



Top left: CASSA Executive Director Ken Bain addresses participants at CASSA's 2017 winter strategic planning session.

Top centre: Dr. Bruce Ferguson of Sick Kids Hospital presented a session on School Mental Health Assist. Dr. Ferguson's PowerPoint presentation from this 2017 winter strategic planning session is now available on the CASSA website under the Announcements section.

Top right: Reg Klassen, CASSA President Elect and Chief Superintendent for Frontier School Division in Manitoba.

Bottom left: Reg Klassen, Anne O'Brien and Ken Bain.

Bottom right: CASSA President Anne O'Brien highlighting details of the *Leaders & Learners* e-newsletter.



## CASSA Conference 2017: Hotel, Travel and Excursions Information

THIS IS THE year to enjoy east coast hospitality! Join your CASSA colleagues at the 2017 conference in Halifax, Nova Scotia, from July 5 to 7. It will be held at the Westin Nova Scotian, the ideal spot to access the city's scenic waterfront and historic downtown.

Located steps from the Halifax harbour, the "Nova Scotian" opened its doors in 1930 and has an interesting history. It's one of the original railroad hotels owned by Canadian National Railways (an elegant passenger train station still operates right next door). Today you're just as likely to spot luxury cruise ships coming into port right behind the hotel as you are to spot the passenger trains. This grand hotel has even hosted royalty, including Queen Elizabeth and the late Princess Diana.

CASSA delegates can access a special room rate of \$189 per night for dates between July 4 to 9. Guests receive complimentary wi-fi in guest rooms as well as access to the hotel's health club, indoor pool and hot tub. This special rate will be held until June 2. You can access the rate through CASSA's conference website at [conference.cassa-acgs.ca](http://conference.cassa-acgs.ca) or simply call the Westin Nova Scotian at 902.496.8585 and let staff know you are part of the CASSA 2017 conference.

CASSA delegates are once again being offered a special 10 per cent discount on the base fare for travel between Halifax and anywhere WestJet flies in North America. Be sure to use coupon code NAAOOGG



The Harbour Hopper cruising along the Halifax waterfront at dusk.



The Halifax Town Clock at night.

when booking or share promo code YHZ01 with your travel agent. Check the CASSA conference website for details on travel and blackout dates.

Each of our conferences has offered delegates opportunities to explore the host city and surrounding

## CASSA Conference 2017: Hotel, Travel and Excursions Information

area. This year, delegates and family members will be able to take part in several optional tours.

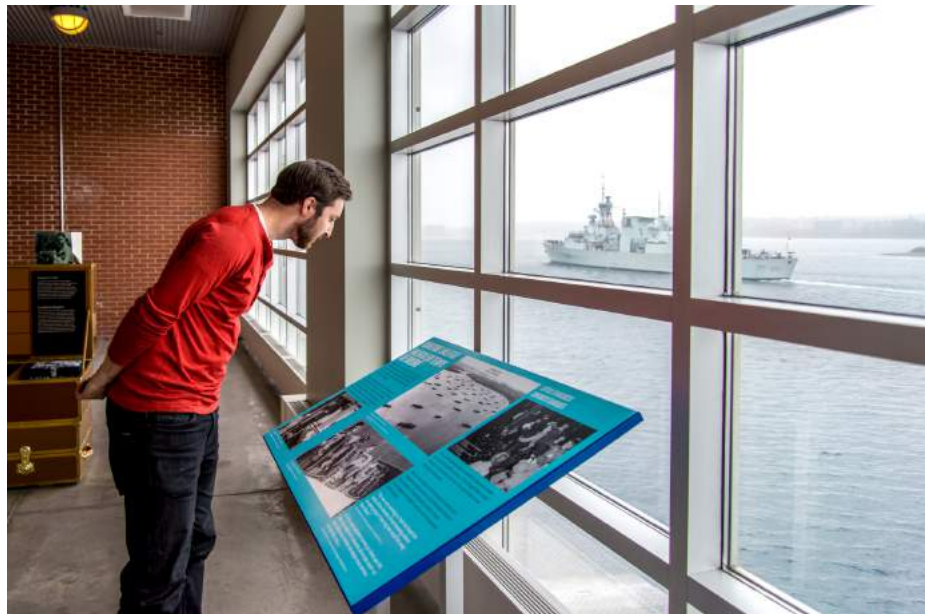
On Wednesday, July 5, join in a half-day guided tour of beautiful Peggy's Cove. Visit the world's most photographed lighthouse, explore the quaint fishing village and savour the sea safely on the rugged rocks. You'll be transported by coach bus, which leaves Halifax at noon. This optional tour costs \$40.25 per person, taxes included.

On Thursday, July 6, explore the streets of historic downtown Halifax aboard the Harbour Hopper, a unique amphibious vehicle. You'll stop at points of interest such as St. Paul's Church, Citadel Hill, the Halifax Public Gardens (designated a National Historic Site in 1984), Government House, City Hall, the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic and more. This is a city by the sea, so what better way to explore it than by casting off into the harbour. You'll learn all about the harbour's history, including the Halifax Explosion. This optional tour begins at 10am and costs \$42.67 (adults), \$38.40 (seniors), \$24.37 (youth age 6 to 15), \$14.62 (children age 1 to 5), taxes included.

Your 2017 conference registration fee includes a guided tour of the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 on Thursday, July 6, at 2:45pm. The museum is just steps from the host hotel. Discover the museum's exhibition dedicated to the years when Pier 21 was open as an immigration shed. Listen to the personal stories of immigrants from



The much-photographed lighthouse at Peggy's Cove.



A visitor exploring an exhibit at the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21.

all over the world in a 20-minute contemporary film. Research your family's immigration history in the Scotiabank Family History Centre and add your immigration story to its growing collection.

We hope to see you in Halifax this July.



# CORWIN'S Monday Afternoon Webinar Series

*Your no-cost platform for superior professional learning*

**JANUARY**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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29	30	31				

**Jan 23: JON SAPHIER** on Making the Growth Mindset Come Alive in Classroom Practice

**FEBRUARY**

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**Feb 6: JEFFREY D. WILHELM** on Diving Deeper Into Nonfiction: Using Readers Rules of Notice

**Feb 13: RICK STIGGINS** on Keys to Achieving Excellence in Local Assessment Systems

**MARCH**

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**Mar 6: KRISTIN ANDERSON** on Hattie's New #1 Effect Size: Collective Teacher Efficacy

**Mar 20: FRANCIS "SKIP" FENNELL** on Your Mathematics Formative Assessment Game Plan

**APRIL**

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**Apr 3: DIANE STAEHR FENNER & MARGO GOTTLIEB** on Strategies for Building ELLs' Language Power

**Apr 17: GRAVITY GOLDBERG & RENEE HOUSER** on What Do I Teach Readers Tomorrow?

**MAY**

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**May 1: ZARETTA HAMMOND** on Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain

**May 22: SIMON T. BAILEY & MARCETA F. REILLY** on Releasing Leadership Brilliance

**JUNE**

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**Jun 5: JAMES NOTTINGHAM** on The Learning Challenge: How to Make the Most of the Learning Pit

**Jun 12: KARA VANDAS** on Teacher Clarity: A Catalyst to Student Clarity and Success

**FREQUENCY:**

An average 2 webinars per month

**WHEN:**

Almost always on a Monday afternoon

**DURATION:**

One hour

**TIME:**

3:30 PDT  
6:30 EST

**COST:**

**Free!**

For more information, visit [www.corwin.com/webinars](http://www.corwin.com/webinars).  
Can't make a webinar? No worries. Post-event, all webinars will be available on demand at no cost.



## Conference Speakers: Dr. Stan Kutcher and Dr. Kathryn Short

ONCE AGAIN, THE annual CASSA conference will feature top leaders as keynote speakers. The “Healthy Schools, Healthy Communities, Healthy Futures” theme at the 2017 event will feature two experts in mental health: **Dr. Stan Kutcher** and **Dr. Kathryn Short**. They join the list of expert speakers at previous conferences such as **Dr. Paula Barrett**, **Dr. Michael Fullan** and the late **Dr. Fraser Mustard**.

### Opening Keynote Speaker: Dr. Stan Kutcher

Dr. Kutcher is an internationally renowned expert in adolescent mental health and an international leader in mental health research, advocacy, training, policy and services innovation working at the IWK Health Centre and Dalhousie University.

He first stepped into the role of Sun Life Financial Chair in Adolescent Mental Health in the fall of 2006. Prior to accepting the chair, Dr. Kutcher was Dalhousie’s Medical School’s first Associate Dean of International Medical Development and Research. He first joined Dalhousie in the 1990s as professor and Department Head of Psychiatry.

He is the author of more than 300 scientific papers and numerous medical textbooks. Dr. Kutcher continues to break new ground in the vital area of mental health. He has received numerous awards and honours locally, nationally and internationally for his work, including the Order of Nova Scotia, Excellence in Education Award (CACAP), Best Doctor in Canada Award, Doctors Nova Scotia Health Promotion Award, Dr. John Savage Memorial Award for outstanding humanitarian contributions to global health, Canadian College of Neuropsychopharmacology Gold Medal, Lifetime Achievement Award of the Canadian Psychiatric Research Foundation and the Ruedy Award for Innovation in Medical Association from the Association of Faculties of Medicine Canada. A distinguished fellow of the Canadian Psychiatric Association and a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences, Dr. Kutcher has been honoured by the Canadian Psychiatric Association with the JM Cleghorn Award for his contribution to mental health research and the Paul Patterson Award for his innovations in psychiatric education.

Internationally, Dr. Kutcher has been involved in mental health work in over 20 countries. One of his recent projects was leading the development of a national child and youth mental health framework for Canada: Evergreen. Dr. Kutcher’s current focus is on knowledge translation pertaining to improving mental health literacy, mental health care in schools and primary care, and the development, application and evaluation of an electronic personal health record that focuses on youth mental health engagement and self-care. He continues his innovative youth mental health development and research across Canada, and globally in China, South America, Latin America and Africa.



Dr. Stan Kutcher

**Dr. Stan Kutcher is the author of more than 300 scientific papers. He has been involved in mental health work in over 20 countries.**

## Conference Speakers: Dr. Stan Kutcher and Dr. Kathryn Short

### Closing Keynote Speaker: Dr. Kathryn Short

Dr. Short is a clinical child psychologist with research and practice interests that focus on school mental health promotion, knowledge mobilization and implementation science. She is the Director for School Mental Health ASSIST, a provincial team designed to help Ontario school boards to support student mental health and well-being.

She was appointed to the Mental Health and Addictions Leadership Advisory Council for the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, and is the Chair for the Mental Health Promotion, Prevention and Early Intervention Work Group for the Council. She has also recently been invited to serve on the Student Well-Being Advisory Committee for the Ministry of Education.

Dr. Short is a member of the national School-Based Mental Health and Substance Abuse Consortium, and led the Knowledge Translation and Exchange Team for this association of Canadian researchers and school mental health practitioners on a national project for the Mental Health Commission of Canada. She also chairs the newly formed School Mental Health International Leadership Exchange, also known as SMHILE.



Dr. Kathryn Short



**Healthy Schools,  
Healthy Communities,  
Healthy Future.**

HALIFAX - JULY 5-7, 2017

## CONTACT CASSA

1123 Glenashton Drive  
Oakville, ON  
L6H 5M1  
Canada

T: (905) 845-2345  
F: (905) 845-2044

[ken\\_bain@cassa-acgcs.ca](mailto:ken_bain@cassa-acgcs.ca)

[www.cassa-acgcs.ca](http://www.cassa-acgcs.ca)

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Tara Lee Wittchen  
[tarawittchen@eastlink.ca](mailto:tarawittchen@eastlink.ca)

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