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LEADERS & LEARNERS

THE VOICE OF THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF
SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS/L'ASSOCIATION
CANADIENNE DES ADMINISTRATEURS ET DES
ADMINISTRATRICES SCOLAIRES

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Upcoming Events

- The 2009 CASA Summer Leadership Academy will take place from July 9 to 12 at the Blackfoot Inn in Calgary.

Complete details start on page three of this newsletter.

Registration information is on the CASA website at www.casa-acas.ca.

Message From The President: The Importance Of Early Child Development

We have so much to learn from children and parents about early child development.

Those of us who provide leadership to publicly funded education in Canada have already learned so much in the last decade about transformational K-12 teaching and learning strategies. Now is the perfect time to deepen our understanding about early human development and truly integrate our learning and day-to-day operations with Early Child Development (ECD) professionals.

In the last decade, ECD researchers have published groundbreaking research in early human development to which we need to pay close attention.

Carnerio and Heckman in *Human Capital Policy* (2003) demonstrate that the highest return on any investment in learning is made for children between the ages of zero and six years old. Investments made post-school age show a greatly reduced rate of return. These researchers have projected that the rate of return for every dollar invested in children between the ages of zero and six is multiplied by a factor as high as \$17.

We also know from C. Nelson, *From Neu-*



Jim Grieve
CASA president

rons to Neighbourhoods (2000), that the sensing pathways for vision, hearing and language in a child are established in the first nine months and the higher cognitive functions before the age of six.

Early child development professionals are eager to share their deep understanding of human development with our professional staff.

There are many worthwhile initiatives across Canada where ECD and education professionals are integrating programs and focusing on the best possible development strategies for each child in their care. The best of these programs encourage ongoing parental involvement and support.

The CASA summer conference in Calgary, taking place from July 9 to 12 as outlined in the pages of this edition of *Leaders & Learners*, has a truly exciting theme of connecting early child development with education.

This is the perfect setting for all of us to delve deeply into effective strategies that support ECD and help to prepare all children for success in school and in life. In one spectacular setting, you and your colleagues

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Message From The Executive Director: Outstanding Speakers And Sessions At 2009 Conference

Large numbers of CASA's membership are registering for the 2009 summer conference in Calgary. Early Childhood Education is this year's theme and we have confirmed outstanding speakers: Michael Fullan (www.michaelfullan.ca), Fraser Mustard and Clyde Hertzman.

You can learn more about each of these respected individuals by visiting the following websites:

- www.michaelfullan.ca
- www.founders.net (click on "Fraser Mustard" on left-side menu)
- www.earlylearning.ubc.ca/ClydeHertzman.htm

The breakout sessions provide practical presentations on programs across Canada. The variety of ECE initiatives is exciting and everyone is bound to see a model or a plan that may be best in their district.

Research findings continue to emphasize the value of Early Childhood Education and provide stimulus for program development. These findings indicate that nothing is more important to student success than the setting of a firm and comfortable base for young people.

In Calgary this July, you will have the chance to listen to expert leaders, to dialogue with colleagues from across the nation and to socialize in an exciting city at a time when it is most active.

We hope to see you there.



Frank Kelly
CASA executive director

Message From The President, continued

(Continued from page 1)

will enjoy keynotes from Dr. Fraser Mustard, Dr. Clyde Hertzman and Dr. Michael Fullan, as well as attend numer-

ous workshops in which our colleagues from across Canada will describe the remarkable programs they have developed and implemented to connect ECD with schools. And there are many opportunities for you and your family to enjoy the best of the region, from exciting Stampede chuckwagon races to golfing in spectacular mountain settings to fascinating historical sites, during the pre-conference activities and conference social events.

I am delighted that we are able to present, yet again, such a rich learning opportunity for educational leaders across Canada. I do hope that you will make plans immediately to register for this very well subscribed conference. I look forward to greeting you in Calgary!



**All I ever needed to
know, I learned in
kindergarten.
—Robert Fulghum**



Calgary, a modern and diverse city with a rich history, is the setting for CASA's 2009 summer leadership conference.

Photo courtesy of Tourism Calgary

Early Childhood Education And The Wild, Wild West: Summer Leadership Academy 2009 Preview

Are you ready for a visit to the wild, wild west? How about spending time exploring a dynamic and diverse modern city where breathtaking scenes of nature are only minutes away? Want to bring your family on a trip where a glimpse into the past can mean a hundred years ago or 75 million years ago? Join us this July as CASA members gather for our annual summer conference and pre-conference activities in the always energetic city of Calgary, Alberta.

fur-trading era, the 1880s pre-railway settlement and the circa-1910 western town. Catch a ride on the steam locomotive, the SS Moyie sternwheeler or a horse-drawn wagon. At the Calgary Zoo (www.calgaryzoo.org), you can see live animals from Africa, Australia, Eurasia, South America or the Canadian wilderness. Dinosaur fans won't want to miss the zoo's own prehistoric park and those with a green thumb will enjoy the zoo's beautiful botanical gardens. The tour costs \$75 for adults, \$50 for children and includes



Beautiful downtown Calgary; cattlemen working under a big prairie sky; a majestic elk. *All photos courtesy of Tourism Calgary*

Pre-conference activities get underway on Tuesday, July 7. This first day offers two distinct takes on history and animals.

Take a step wayyyy back in history on the Dinosaurs Tour, which features stops at the world-renowned Royal Tyrell Museum (www.tyrellmuseum.com), the world's largest dinosaur (an 86-foot-high T-rex constructed almost entirely out of steel), the Hoodoos (tall thin spires of rock that protrude from the bottom of dry basins and badlands), a swinging bridge that was once used by miners, and the Atlas Coal Mine National Historic Site (www.atlascoalmine.ab.ca). This tour costs \$90 for adults and \$60 for children, which includes all transportation and admission fees. You are responsible for your own meal costs.

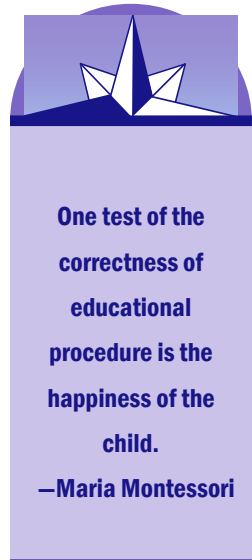
If live animals and the more recent past are your style, then be sure to join the Heritage Park and Calgary Zoo Tour. Heritage Park Historical Village (www.heritagepark.ca) recreates early western Canadian history through costumed interpreters, street theatre and over 150 buildings and exhibits. The park is divided into three time periods: the 1860s

transportation, park admission and an all-ride ticket. You must cover your own meal costs for the day.

Day two presents three fun-filled opportunities.

Spend a day in the mountains on the Rocky Mountain Tour with stops at the Columbia Icefield, Bow Summit and Peyto Lake (you won't believe the postcard-perfect blue colour of the water until you see it with your own eyes), Lake Louise, Banff, the Banff Gondola and the Buffalo Nations Luxton Museum. The museum tells the story of the First Nations people of the Plains through interpretive exhibitions, artifacts and dioramas. This tour costs \$140 for adults and \$100 for children under 16, and includes all transportation and admission fees. You are responsible for your own meal costs.

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Summer Leadership Academy 2009 Preview, continued

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If cowboys, horses and history are more your style, sign up for the Western Heritage Tour. Your day will include stops at the Bar U Ranch National Historic Site, which commemorates the importance and history of ranching in Canada, Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump Interpretive Centre (www.head-smashed-in.com), the Fort Macleod North West Mounted Police and First Nations Interpretive Centre (www.nwmpmuseum.com) and North West Mounted Police Musical Ride. This tour is a great bargain at just \$75 for adults or \$60 for children under 16, and includes all transportation and admission fees. You are responsible for your own meal costs.

And of course we haven't forgotten about those of you who love to golf. What better setting than gorgeous Kananaskis Country? You'll golf at an elevation of over 3,000 metres on one of Canada's premier courses surrounded by towering mountains. Cost is \$125 and includes transportation, green fees and shared power cart fees. You are responsible for your own club rentals if needed (but do feel free to bring your own) and meal costs.

Day three, which is also the first day of the conference itself (Thursday, July 9), also offers a chance to learn more about the history of this region. Visit Heritage Park (see previous page) and the world-class Glenbow Museum in downtown Calgary. The Glenbow contains intriguing stories from western Canada connected with extraordinary art and artifacts from around the world. You'll find a museum, art gallery, library and archives all under one roof. See how many of the more than a million artifacts and 28,000 works of art you can take in on your tour. Another great price at just \$50 for adults, \$35 for children, which includes transportation and admission fees. You are responsible for your own meal costs.

And that brings us to the start of the conference proper, which takes place at the Blackfoot Inn in Calgary and focuses on the theme of early childhood education.

The CASA executive and affiliate council meeting, sponsored by Education Canada, gets underway on Thursday, July 9, at 1pm in the Sierra Room.

The opening ceremonies for the 2009 summer leadership

academy start at 6:15pm in the Blackfoot Ballroom. Tickets are included with your registration package, and family members are welcome to attend. The list of speakers includes your MC for the evening and our national president **Jim Grieve**; **Penny Milton**, the executive director of the Canadian Education Association; **Mark Bielang**, president of the American Association of School Administrators; **Greg Woronuk**, the president of the College of Alberta School Superintendents; the minister or deputy minister of Alberta Education; and representatives from the Canadian School Boards Association, CAPS and our major sponsors.

At 7pm, we'll hold the 8th annual Xerox EXL Awards. Remember, it's not too late to put forth your nomination for a CASA member who you feel exemplifies outstanding leadership. The CASA Distinguished Service and Life Membership awards will also be presented at this time.

Canada's leading expert on education change, **Dr. Michael Fullan**, will deliver the conference's keynote address at 7:30pm. Dr. Fullan is professor emeritus of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto. He is recognized as a worldwide authority on educational reform and is engaged in training, consulting and evaluating change projects around the world.

Following this sure-to-be inspiring address, join us in the Heritage Ballroom at 8:30pm for a warm Alberta reception sponsored by CASS.

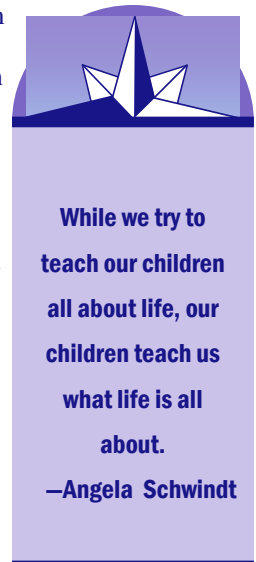


Golfing in the mountains.

Friday, July 10, starts off early at 8:50am in the Blackfoot Ballroom with a few opening remarks by CASA president Jim Grieve, followed by a keynote address from **Dr. Clyde Hertzman** at 9am. Dr. Hertzman is the president of the Council for Early Childhood Development and director of the Human Early Learning Partnership, an interdisciplinary research network.

From 10:45 to noon, you have your choice of breakout sessions. These include Responding to Diversity (with **Deborah Lewis**), Five Full Years of Learning (with **Tricia Stefanie-Weltz** and **Erica Raymond**), Black Gold Puts

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Summer Leadership Academy 2009 Preview, continued

(Continued from page 4)

Children First! (with **Dianne Butler** and **Denise Harrison**) and Better Beginnings, Better Futures Project (with **Ray Peters**).

After lunch on your own, take part in the early Friday afternoon breakout sessions from 1:30 to 2:45pm. These include On My Way: Beginning the Learning Journey

Now after all those informative sessions, you're going to be hungry. And when you're in Alberta, you can't help but think of beef. Join your colleagues for a delicious western barbecue featuring a variety of western entertainment and a karaoke party. This ticketed event costs \$55 per person and starts at 6pm.

Saturday gets underway at 8:50am with a few opening remarks



Whether it's the stories of those who settled here in more recent times, the truly ancient origins of the majestic Rocky Mountains or the fascinating legends of the people who first lived in this land, you're sure to enjoy learning about the history of Calgary and surrounding area.

(with **Janice Fulawka** and **Adrienne Sprecker**), Moving Early Literacy Learners Forward Through the Picture Word Inductive Model and Collaborative Teacher Efforts (with **Lisa Mueller** and **Cathy Bonnaventure**), Self Identification Oral Language Project (with **Jeannie McMaster**, **Larry Hope** and **Jack McMaster**) and Family Centred Practices: Where are we? Where are we going? (with **Barb Reid** and a parent from the program).

The second set of Friday afternoon breakout sessions are from 3 to 4:15pm. Choose from Bright Beginnings (with **Jodi Goodrick** and **Piet Langstraat**), Community as Collaborator: Key to Successful, Substantive Change (with **Frank Dunham** and **Kathy Blackburn**), Families & Staff, Working Together for the Learning Success of All Students (with **Jody Rutherford**) and Family Centred Practices: Where are we? Where are we going? part two (with Barb Reid and a parent from the program).

from our president, and then a 9am keynote address from **Dr. Fraser Mustard**. Dr. Mustard heads the Founders' Network, a virtual research group that boasts more than 1,000 actively participating doctors, scientists and researchers whose main mission is to emphasize the crucial importance of a child's experiences in the first six years of life. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society and an Officer of the Order of Canada in recognition of a lifetime achievement in his field.

Morning breakout sessions will start following a 10:30am coffee break. Take your pick from A Shared Vision: Peel District School Board Partnering with

(Continued on page 6)



Canadians have become increasingly aware of the benefits of early childhood development.
—Clyde Hertzman

Summer Leadership Academy 2009 Preview, continued

(Continued from page 5)

Success by 6 (with Jim Grieve and **Shirley-Ann Teal**), Getting Off to a Best Start: Collaborating with the Community to Make Hamilton “The Best Place to Raise a Child” (with **Debra Chabot, Sue Pasian** and **Jennifer Powell-Fralick**), A Comprehensive Approach to Early School Success (with **Dr. Lindy Zaretsky** and **Kathleen Corrigan**) and Parenting and Family Literacy Centres: An Innovative School Board Approach to Early Learning (with **Joanne Davis** and **Caroline Cote**).

Lunch is on your own from noon until 1:30pm. Why not invite some of your colleagues from across the country and continue the conversations started in the sessions you’ve already attended?

The first set of Saturday afternoon breakout sessions include Starting Off on the Right Foot: Fostering Home-School Collaboration to Better Support Students with Special Needs (with **Dr. Cindy Finn**), Every Child Ready for School: Results from an Evaluation of the Peel Early Years Hubs and Readiness Centres (with Jim Grieve and **Dr. Aimee Wolanski**), a look at the rapid expansion of Edmonton Catholic School District’s pre-K programs (with **Corine Gannon** and **Brenda Willis**) and another option still to be determined.

From 3 to 4:15pm, choose from the second set of breakout sessions, which include Hey 3 Year Olds! Ready, Set...Let’s Go to School (with **Mary Anne Alton, Lori Wilder, Bruce MacPherson** and **Catherine**



The bucking broncos and the guys and gals in cowboy hats are waiting for you at the Calgary Stampede!

Montreuil), Learn Through Play, The Integrated Preschool Advantage (with **Krimsen Summers** and **Renee Lukie**), a session exploring a made-in-Medicine Hat solution to a gap in kindergarten programming (with **Dr. Linda Rossler, Judy Hillier** and **Glenda Houlston**) and another option still to be determined.

When you’re in Calgary in July, there’s no hotter place to be than at the Calgary Stampede, and that’s just where you’re



Who knows—maybe you’ll find yourself out on the trail too!

invited for Saturday evening starting at 5:30pm. Grab your finest western duds and come join the fun at the Calgary Stampede Chuckwagon Races and Grandstand Show. This is a ticketed event and costs \$65 per person, and includes all transportation and admission fees.

Enjoy an extra half hour to sleep in on Sunday—opening remarks from Jim Grieve don’t start until 9:20am. As has been a final-morning tradition at many of our conferences, we’ll be treated to a discussion on the state of public education in the United States from a senior representative from the American Association of School Administrators at 9:30am.

After a quick coffee break, the final session of the conference gets underway at 10:50am. All CASA members are invited to listen in to a panel discussion on Early Childhood Education Initiatives: What It Looks Like (The All-Canadian Scene) featuring outgoing CASA president Jim Grieve, CASA president-elect **Carol Gray**, and members from CASA, CAPS and CEA.

Carol Gray will take over as 2009-2010 CASA president at this time and will offer the conference’s closing remarks at 12:15pm.

For more information or to register for events, contact Marion Holmes (a fine Calgary-born and -bred gal herself) from PD Pros by phone at (403) 386-3860 or by email at holmes3@telusplanet.net.

See you there this July, CASA cowboys and cowgirls!

When you lose, don't lose the lesson.
—anonymous cowboy saying

CASA PEOPLE: Faces In The Crowd



Chris Smeaton
Alberta

Chris is the deputy superintendent/corporate secretary of Holy Spirit Catholic Schools. The division encompasses the city of Lethbridge and surrounding towns of Taber, Pincher Creek, Coaldale and Picture Butte. He has also worked in Medicine Hat, Taber and High Prairie. His positions included senior administration, school administration and classroom teacher. Chris also enjoys speaking to educators on topics including effective schools, 21st-century learning and parents as partners.

He received his Bachelor of Education from the University of Alberta and his Master of Arts in Curriculum and Administration from Gonzaga University.

Chris and his wife of 25 years, Donna, have two children. He coaches high school and club volleyball, and is an avid sportsman.



Mary Anne Alton
Ontario

Mary Anne is director of education for Bluewater District School Board, on the shores of Lake Huron. She has worked in the Bluewater area since 1971. She has taught in all divisions in the elementary system, been a vice principal in elementary and secondary schools, and was principal of three elementary schools.

She is the 2004 recipient of the WR McGillivray Award from the Ontario Chapter of Canadian Parents for French for her contributions to French second language instruction.

Mary Anne is the mother of a university-educated daughter and a son still finding his way through college, allowing her to see the system through the eyes of two very different learners. She is a strong advocate for the power of effective instruction and caring staff members to compensate for the risk factors students face.



Barry Litun
Alberta

Barry serves as the superintendent for Lethbridge School District, a position he has held since 2006. Previously he was the deputy superintendent for Red Deer Public School, and has worked as a teacher and administrator in Lamont, Whitecourt and Red Deer. He is the 2008/2009 second vice president for the College of Alberta School Superintendents.

He earned his B. Ed. from the University of Alberta and his M. Ed. from the University of Victoria. The majority of his teaching assignments early in his career were Physical Education and Math.

Barry enjoys a wide range of athletic/outdoor activities in his free time, and hopes to someday master the art of getting a golf ball into the hole without having to take a tour through the trees. He is married to Gail and they have two sons.

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Our Mission:

CASA will advance quality public education and excellence in system level leadership through advocacy and national collaboration.



Our Beliefs:

CASA believes that:

- Cultural diversity is a unique strength that enriches our nation.
- Communication and collaboration with parents and other partners is integral to successful student learning.
- Quality public education provides the best opportunity for a nation to enhance the lives of all its citizens.
- Effective system, provincial and national level leadership enables and supports excellence in teaching and learning.
- A comprehensive education, equitable and accessible to all, is the key to meeting the diverse needs and securing a successful future for our youth.

Specific strategies to advance the mission:

- Establish position papers on specific topics as they relate to the beliefs and interests of the association.
- Recruit new people.
- Establish a national representation.
- Establish a three-tier public relations and publications strategy.
- Establish a funding team to create an operating budget.

How To Put Your School Division In The Spotlight: Contribute To *Leaders & Learners*

Just as the front page of this newsletter states, *Leaders & Learners* is the voice of the Canadian Association of School Administrators. We want to hear your voice. Consider putting forth your ideas, articles and photos for future editions.

Maybe there is a success story happening in your neck of the woods and you want to share it. Perhaps there is an issue in education you would like to see discussed by a cross-country panel. You may want to share your reaction to what a panelist said at a recent CASA conference, at your provincial affiliate's meeting or at other education events. *Leaders & Learners* would like to hear about your ideas.

You don't have to worry about being a professional wordsmith to contribute. Your newsletter editor can help you. Your rough ideas can be written into full-length articles for you, and your submitted articles and photographs can be professionally edited.

Regular readers of *Leaders & Learners* know that in most issues we run a feature called "Faces In The Crowd."

It is a section in the newsletter set aside to allow our members to get to know one another a little better. This isn't always easy when CASA members are spread out across such a huge but sparsely populated country with only a few opportunities each year to meet in person. We hope that this feature helps to bridge the distances between us.

Do you know a CASA member who deserves to be in the spotlight? Is there a colleague that you would like everyone to meet? Maybe you'd even like to share your own story in a future "Faces In The Crowd." Don't be bashful! Please get in touch and share the news about your colleagues or yourself.

Regular editions of the newsletter come out six times a year, with a special double issue following the annual summer leadership academy. Give yourself at least six to eight weeks lead time if your idea is at all time sensitive.

If you have story ideas, questions, concerns or comments, please contact the editor, **Tara Lee Wittchen**, via email at tarawittchen@eastlink.ca.