

2020 Northern Alberta Educational Assistants Conference

Registration Fee:

\$150.00

Registration Deadline:

March 1, 2020

Course Code:

NR.FFS20.004IE

Date(s):

Mar 05, 2020 - Mar 06, 2020

Session Location:

20 Knowledge Way, Grande Prairie, AB

About the Session:**Welcome to the 2020 Northern Alberta Educational Assistant Professional Development Conference****Conference Registration Fees:**

- 2 Day Conference **\$150.00**
- 1 Day Conference (either day) **\$100.00**
- Post-Secondary Student 2 Day Conference **\$50.00** (must provide student ID #)

Conference registration includes all keynote and breakout sessions - you MUST choose your conference attendance and breakout sessions during registration (some full-day or full-morning sessions will take place during keynote)

You can view/print the conference program by clicking "Conference Program" on the right (under the register box) or on the next registration page.

This conference DOES NOT include lunch.

For a complete listing of session click on PROGRAM to the right

About the Presenter(s):**Amanda Unsworth, MEd., CCC, RPsych**

Amanda Unsworth is a Registered Psychologist with Peace Collaborative Services (PCS). PCS serves Northwest Alberta with a team of specialists that supports staff and students from Preschool to Grade 12 participate fully in their educational programs and achieve their maximum learning potential. She has been working with children and adolescents for over ten years in various roles such as casework, counseling, and assessment. Amanda lives in her hometown of Grande Prairie with her two children and three dogs.

Ashley McPherson

Ashley McPherson is a teacher and resource developer at the Centre for Literacy. Since coming to the Centre for Literacy in 2017, she has been offering intensive reading remediation for students of all ages in French and English. Before teaching at the Centre for Literacy, she taught grades one and two at a Francophone school. Ashley was nominated for the Edwin Parr Teacher Award, which recognizes outstanding first year teachers, in part due to her excellent literacy instruction. She completed a B.Ed at the Campus Saint Jean in 2015 and recently completed a Masters of Professional Education in Literacy Studies at Western University.

Brigitte Benning

Born and raised in Grande Prairie, Brigitte is passionate about reconciliation through relearning Canada's history as a community and encouraging cultural pride in youth. As a Métis woman, she appreciates the opportunity to share her story as

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 varied experiences as an educator, administrator, inclusive education coach and parent have provided her with a unique perspective that she uses to help inform and entertain her audiences. Professionally, Carmen has now expanded to more public speaking, consulting, research, and writing as well as leading social groups for autistic children and teens.

Collin Dilon

Everactive Schools

Crystal Gaede

Crystal has worked as an Educational Programmer in GPPSD for 15 years and has a passion for supporting teachers with complex students. Prior to her current role she taught a variety of subjects and grade levels between K-9 and worked as the Special Education Coordinator at Crystal Park School.

Dana Antaya-Moore

Dana has worked as an educator in both Saskatchewan and Edmonton. She has also worked internationally, providing courses on instructional leadership and working with students with special needs. Dana's focus on strength-based education, and respecting and honouring student diversity, is central to her work as an educator and informs her work around supporting student success. By helping educators put faces to data, share innovative and doable practices, and engage in meaningful dialogue, Dana believes we can make a positive difference to for all students.

Dana Laliberte

Raised in Peace River, I grew up to teach in the same school I attended. Actually, I have not moved far. I ended my career in the same building as when I began Grade 1J For 32 years I worked for Holy Family C.R.D. #37 in Peace River as a Teacher, Supervisor of Special Services, Assistant Principal, Principal and Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, overseeing AISI, Professional Development and Mentorship. I have a Special Education background and a Masters Degree in Education Administration focused on leadership in the area of learning disabilities. I have a passion for students with challenges and like nothing better than to plan with teachers and brainstorm ideas on how to improve teaching and learning. I believe we must build on students' talents. I enjoy working with parents and feel we need to promote School-Community Partnerships, especially in rural AB. I enjoy doing workshops on many topics and to a variety of audiences. In 1999, I was fortunate to be recognized for my work when my staff nominated me for the CSA's AB Distinguished Service Award, leading to winning the Canadian Association's "Principal of the Year" Award. I have served on many boards and love to volunteer in my community. I particularly enjoyed my work on the AAC Provincial Executive. Retirement plans include spending time with grandchildren, camping, working as an educational consultant, and continuing my work as a Certified Presenter for the Climate Reality Project - my gift to the earth.

Darren Michalczuk

Darren Michalczuk has been a teacher for more than twenty five years and has taught everything from kindergarten to high school including music, homeroom and physical education. He has worked in rural Alberta school to big city private school in Queensland, Australia. He has coached and organised many events including Daddy/Daughter Balls, triathlons, national memory competitions and every school sport possible. He is able to juggle this while being a devoted husband and father of three. His passion and energy will draw you in, but his ideas will change your mind.

Dione Staples

Dione Staples (Menzies) is a teacher with Grande Prairie Public School District with 10 years of experience. Her experience includes teaching in grade 3 and 4 classroom, an Instructional coach, and is currently an educational facilitator with the Inclusive Education Support Team. Dione is passionate about working with teachers, EAs and school staff to support inclusive students that display problem behaviours, or have diverse learning needs to achieve success in the classroom. When working with schools, Dione uses a "positive behavior support" approach in working with school staff, outside agencies and families to improve student individual behavior.

Dr. Lilian Saltel

Dr. Lilian Saltel is the owner of Autism Directions. She completed her PhD, with major in Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA). She is a Board Certified Behaviour Analyst and provides services that are in accordance with the professional and ethical standards of her licensing board. Dr. Saltel has been working with children with autism and other disabilities for over eight years. Her expertise

Saltel's goal is to build functional skills that promote a better life quality for children with autism and their families.

Gerry-Lynn McCann

Gerry-Lynn McCann has been with the Grande Prairie Public School District for the past 8 years. She has her Masters in Reading and Literacy through Walden University and in 2017 she joined the Inclusive Education Support Team. Part of her role as an IEST facilitator is to work with the administration team, teachers, learning support teacher, educational assistants, and PCS team to support PUF students with inclusive education needs in a variety of ways. Her teaching experience includes Kindergarten and Grade One. She has a strong passion for life-long learning and a dedication to children's development and educational needs. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her husband and three beautiful daughters.

Heather Logan

Members of the PW Capacity Building Team. This team is dedicated to offering Tier 1 Universal supports to the PWPSD students, staff and families. This dynamic team promotes positive mental health by raising awareness, increasing knowledge, building skills and fostering positive community norms.

Jeanine Lundgaard

In her retirement, Jeannie's zest for sharing her knowledge with teachers, parents, and ultimately students are ongoing. She has provided sessions at District Professional Development Days, and in retirement continues to offer courses through Continuing Education and privately. In her teaching career of thirty-five plus years, she has served as a classroom teacher, a special education teacher, a school counsellor and a registered psychologist. Throughout her career and in her retirement, Jeannie demonstrates life-long learning. She is a certified Brain Gym Instructor, is a Master Practitioner in Neuro Linguistic Programming along with Cognitive Ability Patterning which has its basis in NLP. She is also trained in Voice Over techniques. Her compassion and caring are evident throughout. Jeannie enjoys being with friends, participating in the Singing Christmas Tree and Crescendo (a mental health fundraiser), creating stained glass stepping-stones, and BE-ing at the lake.

Kate Weber

Kathleen Robertson

As a Learning Associate with Jigsaw Learning, Kathleen Robertson has more than 20 years of teaching experience. Kathleen supports teachers and leaders through development of strategic plans, Collaborative Response practices, and coaching. Her expertise in literacy has been developed through her roles as a classroom teacher, participant as a lead teacher on a literacy committee and her role as instructional and literacy coach at the Elementary level. She has successfully led literacy and numeracy intervention, assessment and coaching.

Kathrine Nijenhuis

Kathy Wiebe Nijenhuis grew up in a Monnonite family in High Level, spending all twelve years of her education at High Level Public School. Kathy has been in education for the past 20 years, often with one or more English Language Learners in her classroom. She has been involved in Inclusive Education for most of these years and recently completed her Masters in Oral Language and Literacy Acquisition at the University of Alberta with a focus on language development for English Language Learners. Kathy is currently an Educational Consultant with the Grande Prairie Public School District where she works with classroom teachers and Educational Assistants to develop meaningful programs for students, often English Language Learners.

Kathryn Burke

Since 2013, Kathryn Burke has been the Executive Director of the Centre for Literacy, an organization which supports students with learning disabilities. She served for 5 years as the Executive Director of the Learning Disabilities Association of Alberta, where she initiated the Right to Read Program. Kathryn frequently serves as a guest lecturer on learning disabilities in many post-secondary organizations in Alberta. She earned a Master's Degree from the University of Calgary and has received numerous awards for her advocacy work.

Kathy Gadacz-Gould

Kathy Gadacz-Gould is a library technician for a high school of 1000 students in Grande Prairie, AB. When she isn't helping students find resources she's improving the organization of her department. She's all about efficiency and enjoys teaching others how to allocate their time so they can take on additional responsibilities and derive greater satisfaction in the work they do!

Kitty Parlby

Krista Van den Bon

Krista Van den Bon is a Wellness Coach with the Mental Health Capacity Building (MHCB) Initiative and works within the Grande Prairie Public School District. She provides tier 1 mental health support in whole classroom settings as well as education to

into the classroom, as well as Professional Development days. Lacy recently finished her Bachelor of Social Work and completed her practicum at the emergency youth shelter in Grande Prairie and is passionate about her ongoing work with youth.

Laurel Vespi

Laurel Vespi helps people find the sweet spot between going with the flow and getting stuff done. Through her company stone circle coaching, she brings to her clients more than thirty years of experience as a teacher, educational consultant and group facilitator. With a humorous and down-to-earth style, Laurel shares simple and practical strategies, so people can reduce stress, improve workplace productivity and create moments of calm in our hectic and distracted world. Laurel is a Professional Certified Coach, has a Master of Education degree, and is the author of two award-winning books.

Leah Montes

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.

Lorne Brown

Mike Heckbert

Mike Heckbert is a Psychologist with Peace Collaborative Services (PCS). PCS serves Northwest Alberta with a team of specialists that supports staff and students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 participate fully in their educational programs and achieve their maximum learning potential.

Rebecca McTavish

Rebecca McTavish has spent most of her life in a pool, was a National level competitive synchronized swimmer and worked as a swim instructor when 16 years old. After working in a few different careers, she came back to the pool and worked with the City of Grande Prairie in aquatics for about 10 years before moving to Crystal Park School. She co-developed the Tailored Aquatics Program for the City of Grande Prairie, and had the privilege of working with the Canadian Red Cross to develop an Adapted Aquatic learn to swim program that is now run nationally. At the Eastlink Center, she was able to take on a several roles; Adapted Aquatics coordinator, Lesson Coordinator, Head Lifeguard and a few other projects along the way. Rebecca loves what she does and enjoys sharing what she knows with others.

Samantha Naidu

Samantha Naidu, is the Tobacco Reduction Counsellor with AHS - Addiction and Mental Health. She recently completed her certification for a Certified Tobacco Educator. She is responsible for providing counselling services to clients and cessation programs or presentations within the community.

Shannon Gallant

Shannon Gallant is the Program Manager with the Mental Health Capacity Building (MHCB) Initiative, a partnership with Grande Prairie Public School District, Peace Wapiti School District, and Grande Prairie and District Catholic Schools. Shannon has been a registered social worker for the past 6 years and has worked in a variety of roles with children, youth and families. Growing up in Nova Scotia and then moving to Grande Prairie 4 years ago Shannon has become passionate about mental health accessibility across the country.

Sharon McLean

Sharon McLean is the Supervisor of Learning Services for the Literacy Priority with the Fort Vermilion School Division. Sharon began her career with the Fort Vermilion School Division as a teacher in 1989. She has held various positions at Fort Vermilion Public School, Hill Crest Community School and St. Mary's Elementary School and moved into a leadership role at Fort Vermilion Public School in 2003 as Vice Principal. Sharon has held various leadership positions in different capacities throughout her education journey. Sharon is passionate about reading and making a difference in the lives of kids.

TBA

Tamara Crozier

Tamara has spent the past decade working in the field of addictions. She has a counselling background in which she has worked with clients struggling with addiction and mental health. Tammy's a strong advocate for prevention within schools and she collaborates with teachers to plan, develop and implement prevention programming for students. Now, as a Certified Tobacco Educator, Tammy has narrowed her focus to tobacco reduction (including vaping) and alongside her colleagues is working towards a tobacco – free Alberta. Her belief that tobacco and electronic cigarettes are the gateway drug have fueled her passion for tobacco reduction and moving forward to a healthier lifestyle for all. Tammy works with the Alberta Health Services Provincial

as possible, and looking forward to where the next travel adventure will take her!

Tom Dirs

"Tom Dirs grew up on the tip of Cape Cod in Massachusetts. After graduating from university, he moved to Alberta, Canada for two years, which became a lifetime. After a successful career as a teacher, basketball coach, and a school administrator that took him and his wife, Margaret, to New England, Saskatchewan, and many communities throughout Alberta, they retired to Leduc, Alberta in 2008. He has published a series of children picture books based on true incidents involving one of Tom's grandsons who was diagnosed with ADHD early in his life. BJ is a real person who has a quick wit and is full of energy. Tom is a popular presenter to Teacher Conventions based on his experience with his grandson. Tom is currently available to do Facetime/Skype presentations to classrooms about writing. Tom worked as a freelance reporter for the Pipestone-Flyer Newspaper for three years. During that time, he wrote a series of articles on the history of Leduc and District that proved to be very popular and has resulted in him working with the Leduc Public Library on an updated local history book. Most recently he was contracted to write for Red Line Editorial's series titled Canada Turns 150. He wrote the first book in the series titled Canada becomes a Federation. His latest books published in September of 2018 was a children's picture book called To See a Deer and a history book called Leduc: Then & Now"

Vincent Mireau

Vince Mireau is a Registered Provisional Psychologist in Whitecourt, AB. He became a psychologist after several years in the classroom and working as a school counsellor. In private practice, he provides counselling, consultation, and assessment. He enjoys using play based approaches. He is the Past President of the Council of School Counsellors of the ATA. He proudly rural, Franco-albertan, and enjoys helping coach the local football team.

Wade Sorochan

"Wade Sorochan is a well-known radio personality in Edmonton, Alberta. Wade first gained recognition for his pioneering impact on the number one rated and "Canada's most unique" radio talk show The 11-2 Show. Nicknamed "The Tone Arm," Wade became the first broadcaster in history to spontaneously use song clips to enhance a radio talk show. He went on to produce and host the popular radio talk shows Life Talk with Wade Sorochan and Edmonton This Week. Wade is recognized as a talk show pioneer with a career that has spanned four decades. As a mental illness survivor, Wade is a sought-after motivational speaker sharing his inspiring personal story of living with mental illness at numerous events, including the 2011 International Symposium on Wellness and the 2017 National Mental Health Conference. Wade Sorochan is a national recipient of the CAMH "Difference Maker Award" and the "Canada 150 in 150 Award" and the Alberta Lieutenant Governor's "True Grit Award" and is the author of the groundbreaking book UNSocial Media: Virtual World Causing Real World Anxiety and his entertaining and inspiring autobiography Fastest Tone Arm in the West; Chasing a Radio Dream. "

Wilfred Buck

Wilfred Buck is a member of the Opaskwayak Cree Nation, currently employed with the MFNERC as a Science Facilitator. He obtained his B.Ed. & Post Bacc. from the University of Manitoba. As an educator Wilfred has had the opportunity and good fortune to travel to South and Central America as well as Europe and met, shared and listened to Indigenous people from all over the world. He is a husband, father of four, son, uncle, brother, nephew, story-teller, mad scientist, teacher, singer, pipe-carrier, sweat lodge keeper, old person and sun dance leader. As a Science Facilitator with MFNERC was given the mandate to "put a First Nation perspective in the sciences". The easiest way to go about doing this, he was told, was to look up. Researching Ininev star stories Wilfred found a host of information which had to be interpreted and analyzed to identify if the stories were referring to the stars. The journey began "The greatest teaching that was ever given to me, other than my wife and children, is the ability to see the humor in the world" Wilfred Buck

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.

Registration Notes: