

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 in June 2021 from the Grande Prairie Public School Division after 32 years of dedicated service as a classroom teacher, academic support teacher, teacher librarian, administrator, AISI coordinator, and Director of Teaching and Learning for the last 10 years. She holds a Bachelor of Education from the University of Alberta and a Master of Science in Education with a specialization in Elementary Literacy and Reading from Walden University. Currently, Angela teaches in the Teacher Education North program (University of Alberta) at Northwestern Polytechnic in Grande Prairie, where she inspires third- and fourth-year pre-service teachers to be lifelong learners and to strive toward becoming expert teachers. She also works part time as a Designer of Professional Learning with The Consortium, supporting the Northwest office. Angela is passionate about supporting teachers in curriculum, planning, and assessment. She believes effective teaching begins with knowing your students, having a deep knowledge of the curriculum, and drawing on a toolbox of proven, research-based strategies.

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 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.

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 is an Educational Consultant supporting Alberta teachers as a Designer of Professional Learning with the Alberta Provincial Learning Consortium (APLC). She has served as a Teacher, Administrator, Curriculum Director of Curriculum, Examiner with Alberta Education, and Author, Assessment & Pedagogical consultant on numerous resources. With 40+ years of experience and opportunities to amass a variety of resources and approaches to pedagogy and assessment, Chris continues to read and stay up-to-date with the current literature and research. "Deepening our students' learning begins with us as educators - having a deep understanding of our subject, and a toolbox full of strategies to pull out as needed". Come join Chris as she helps fill that toolbox and challenges your thinking!

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 reconnection is the answer to so many of the root problems we face. Her wildly popular book, Kids These Days, was published in 2019 and has sold 150,000 copies worldwide. Jody's message is as simple as it is complex: we are wired to do the hard things, but we were never meant to do any of this alone. With a Ph.D. in clinical psychology, work with major institutions and thriving clinical practice, she brings a depth of experience and insight that is unmatched in the industry. Jody lives in

today's rapidly shifting educational landscapes, and the constant role that digital literacy plays in keeping us all grounded in times of change. These days, much of her work focuses on exploring the evolving role of artificial intelligence in teaching and learning - so many possibilities, yet so many reasons to keep our eyes wide open! Janet is looking forward to sharing her passion for artificial intelligence in education with you this morning!

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

Katrin Sannig, MSc, R.SLP is a multilingual speech-language pathologist specializing in augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) and the support of learners with complex communication and developmental profiles, including autism, cortical visual impairment (CVI), and rare genetic syndromes. Based in Northern Alberta, she provides consultation and capacity-building to rural schools, working closely with educators, educational assistants, and families. Katrin has experience managing a Regional Collaborative Service Delivery (RCSD) team, coordinating interdisciplinary supports across school divisions and service providers. Fluent in German and experienced in supporting newcomer communities, she brings a culturally responsive lens to her work. Her approach emphasizes inclusive, relationship-centered practice that promotes communication autonomy, belonging, and meaningful participation for all learners.

Kim Barker-Kay

Kim is currently a consultant with the northwest region of The Consortium. Previously, Kim was a teacher, principal, and researcher in north western Alberta. Her work and research evolved into a focus on building educational equity. She spent many years involved in diversity leadership training which is now merging with an anti-racism focus. Additionally, Kim had a unique experience as the protégé of a Cree Elder for ten years. As a principal, Kim was able to put what she learned into practice with favourable student achievement results. She learned firsthand the complexities involved in building educational equity which led her to her current path with infusing Indigenous ways of knowing and being into new curriculum, as well as doing a deeper exploration into decolonization and anti-racism work. Kim continues to live in the High Prairie area. Her great passions include her family and the outdoors.

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

Tamara has spent the past decade working in the field of addictions. She has a counselling background in which she has worked

Tammy Novak

Tammy is a Health Promotion Facilitator with the Alberta Health Services, Healthy Schools Team. For over 7 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 Soletsky

Ulana Soletsky is a highly experienced mathematics and numeracy specialist, facilitating professional learning sessions for the Consortium since 2006. With a teaching career spanning over 26 years in Junior High mathematics, and consultant roles with Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools and the Consortium, she brings a wealth of expertise. Ulana has collaborated extensively with Pearson Publishers, acting as a First Steps in Math Facilitator and a reviewer/professional development provider for resources like Mathology and Math Progressions K-9. Her current focus includes collaborating and advising on the development of a Grade 1-10 Math Assessment. Ulana is a strong advocate for a cooperative, student-centered classroom, driven by her objective to ensure all students and staff comprehend, value, and confidently apply mathematics in their daily lives.

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 to connect the urban audience with where their food comes from and our rural roots in Alberta. Sarah joined the Agriculture for Life team in 2015 and has worked on the development and execution of several new Ag Education and Farm safety programs throughout Alberta including the Rural Safety Unit which has reached over 125,000 participants in the past two years. Jesse Veenstra Jesse is a public health professional with a passion for food security and community building. Prior to joining Farm to Cafeteria Canada in 2018, she spent a decade managing complex projects across the continuum of care at Vancouver Coastal Health and at BC's Provincial Health Services Authority. Since 2017 Jesse has served on the Vancouver Food Policy Council

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.