



February 2026

FROM THE EDITOR



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About the Editor:

Kim Wrathall is a Kindergarten Teacher from the Calgary Area working in a High Needs school for 21 years. She has a Masters in Educational Research-Interdisciplinary Studies (Design Thinking and Creative Collaboration, Socially Just Schools and Educational Research) with her final paper focusing on Mindful Practice in K-3 Classrooms.

Not the start we expected...

Well to say we started differently this year would be an understatement. As a teacher in this province the level of overwhelm, pressure and emotions has been a lot to say the least. Many in our profession are reflecting on next steps, ways to navigate an ever changing climate and where we go from here. It was not the outcome we were looking for and moving forward will be challenging both in the classroom and in our province as a whole. New legislation and expectations will impact our work.

I do want to acknowledge something that was remarkable in this turmoil. We as a profession came together in large numbers to build awareness, use our voices and stand up for what is right. That in itself is admirable as it is what we work to instill in our students each day. Although the result is not as we have wished, many in the province, our country and across the world have been in support of our efforts. As a profession we know who we are, what we do and what impacts we make to build the education of students from K-12.

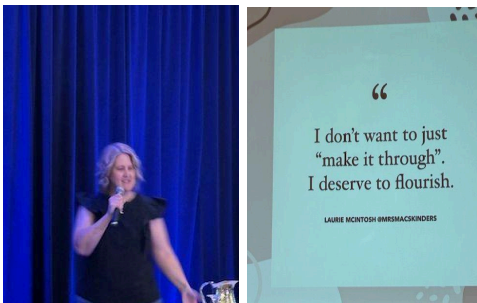
Will this be hard, absolutely. Will this be heavy, 100%. Doing what is needed in your own circumstance will be important. I encourage you all to do what is in the best interest of yourself and surround yourself with people that support you in whatever that process might be. I truly wish the best for all educators in this province whatever you decide you need.

Looking Back....

April 2025 a conference like no other



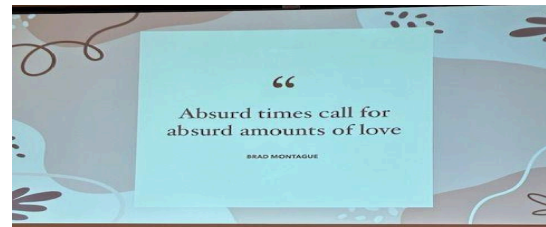
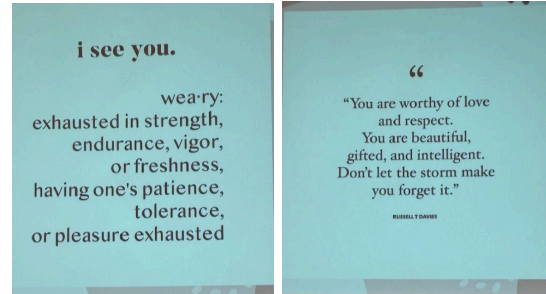
This past April we had the honour of listening to so many amazing speakers at our Annual Conference in Edmonton. As a profession our adaptability was centre stage when some last minute changes resulted in our Key Note Speaker being unavailable and once again the amazingly talented and wonderful Laurie MacIntosh stepped in to save us all. Quite honestly it was the breath of fresh air we all needed from our incredible Alberta colleague in that moment. Once again she delivered with poise, grace and raw and real situations that brought us all together as one.



She spoke many times over the course of the conference and gave ideas, made connections, had us laughing, crying and nodding all in unison. There wasn't a person I spoke to after any of her speeches that didn't speak of her wonderful way of making us all feel seen. Her gifts are not just of resources and ideas though they come with an invitation to take risks, build relationships with colleagues, students and

families. She truly brings you into her world with a warm embrace and you leave feeling better having been in her presence.

Thank you again Laurie for all you do to lift us up, renew our faith and send us back into our classrooms swirling with ideas.



Social Event: Thursday Night

Make and Take with Michelle Bezubiak

The beginning of our conference also allowed all those in attendance to partake in a Make and Take Social Event with Michelle Bezubiak. She took us on the journey of how she incorporates the use of plasticine into the self portrait work that students have done in her classroom over the years. This could then be extended in an abundance of ways over grades and subject areas. Participants were then given time to create their own pieces which included self portraits, landscapes, animals and other loves. It was a fun and social time had by all.





This conference did not end there though with numerous breakout sessions that spoke to all areas of our profession such as art, physical and mental wellness, math, literacy, science, social studies and more. Beautiful works were created in so many sessions and the buzz in the hallways of how to bring journals to life, build in math games and numeracy, make books the main stage in learning and general excitement was such a rejuvenation at a time when we needed it most.



The amount of amazing vendors with various items from teaching materials, fashion, stationary, wellness, etc. Was a hum in the hallways of the Fantasyland hotels conference rooms. Conversations between colleagues spoke to the ways to implement new things, share materials and bring a renewed energy back to their collective classrooms really was a joy to watch.

Attendance at our AGM was full of welcoming colleagues of the past and embracing new faces. Having time to share some of the wonderful new things and Professional Development we have coming as well as new mailouts that would

be arriving to members, and next steps we plan to take as a council. This time was also a chance to vote on and introduce executive council and conference committee members. The snacks and prizes were also fun too!

Closing our conference was truly such a moving moment with Elder Christina Fox sending us back to our classrooms with many messages of hope, love and making connections to Indigenous Ways of Knowing. Her moving presentation had an incredible impact on all those in attendance. A true reminder to listen to the stories of those around us, learn from Indigenous culture and make it part of classroom conversations in order to learn from the past and make things better in the future.



This conference truly was a lift up by all those who spoke and offered their knowledge, understanding and support. What an amazing April 2025 looking forward to April 2026 in Kananaskis.

Awards:

Distinguished Service Award

Lynne Novak



For her incredible contributions to the profession through years of service, impact on children and instilling a love of learning in her unique classroom setting at the Edmonton Valley Zoo and the amazing impact this work has had on the profession as a whole.

Advocate for Young Children

Sherry Woitte



For her advocacy to the profession through both classroom teaching, post-secondary guidance to undergraduate and graduate students and using her voice to reinforce the importance of the early years.

ECEC Award

Keri Devlin



For her continued commitment to this profession through impacts to students, colleagues and overall support in building relationships with families, colleagues and students in this province.

As always we would love to hear from you with any ideas or thoughts for future newsletters please reach out.

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