

# Leaders & Learners



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

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## IN THIS ISSUE:

**PAGE 3**  
**AN EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE IN FRANCE**

Superintendents learn about Normandy, Juno Beach and Vimy Ridge with EF Educational Tours.

**PAGE 4**  
**CONFERENCE SESSIONS**

Updated information on this year's breakout sessions.

**PAGE 6**  
**EXL NOMINEES**  
Profiles of each of the four 2018 EXL Award nominees.

**PAGE 9**  
**SPONSORED MATERIAL**  
Learn how CrisisGo can support your schools during emergencies.

**PAGE 10**  
**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**  
A profile on Dr. Michael Ungar.

**PAGE 11**  
**CONFERENCE SPONSORS**  
Recognizing our returning conference sponsoring partners and welcoming new ones.

## Message from the President: Reflecting on the Work of CASSA

IT HAS BEEN an honour to serve you as President of CASSA for these past two years.

Coming together as colleagues across the country to focus on strengthening our education system has been a key priority for our members.

By forming a solid network of support, we, as leaders, are empowered to take action on our key priorities: student and staff well-being within a context of safe and healthy schools, building a model for success.

I was pleased to attend the Canadian Forum on Education recently under the theme of Learning to Realize Education's Promise. The forum's key messages were as follows:

- Schooling is not the same as learning.
- Schooling without learning is not just a wasted opportunity but a great injustice.
- There is nothing inevitable about learning in low- and middle-income countries.



Anne O'Brien  
President

Upon reflection of the work we do in our association, it is assuring to know that we are addressing issues that are common in education across the country and around the world.

In our mission we are called to strengthen the capacity of system leaders and influence the directions that affect

education and student learning. As I reflect over these past two years, I believe we have made significant strides and we continue to make progress in delivering on CASSA's mandate.

Our final strategic planning session for the year, which took place in February, made connections on how school boards are working with community partners to support the physical, mental, social and spiritual well-being of students.

This gathering was a meaningful culmination of our work in building safe and healthy schools.

*Continued on page 2*

## 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 President: Reflecting on the Work of CASSA

*Continued from page 1*

We extend further opportunity for professional development to our members at the 2018 CASSA conference, taking place from July 4 to 6 in Ottawa. We are excited to celebrate our accomplishments as leaders and explore current topics such as resilience and the role of technology in learning, all within the context of “supporting each student.”



I am grateful for the ongoing support of our CASSA members, our board of directors and our Executive Director **Ken Bain**. Serving in the role of President of this association has broadened my view of leadership through a national lens, and I am pleased that we have accomplished so much together with our educational and corporate partners, developing and improving our profession.

I offer my best wishes to **Reg Klassen**, Chief Superintendent at Frontier School Division, as he transitions into the role of President of CASSA for the next term. Reg’s passion for education and commitment to enhancing system leadership will benefit members as we build on the foundation that has been established over the history of the organization. Thanks to each of you for the role you play in making our broader Canadian education system the best it can be.

I very much look forward to seeing many of you at our national gathering this July. Enjoy your summer!

Downtown Ottawa on a summer evening.

## An Educational Experience in France with EF Educational Tours



Chris MacPhee, Canadian Rockies Schools Superintendent; Reg Klassen, Frontier School Division Superintendent; Barbara Fraser-Stiff, Limestone District School Board Superintendent; Anne O'Brien, Durham Catholic District School Board Director of Education; Todd Robinson, Lloydminster Public School Division Director of Education; Laura Elliott, Thames Valley District School Board Director of Education; Duane Brothers, Louis Riel School Division Superintendent; Gary Adams, Chignecto-Central Regional School Board Superintendent; David Mann, EF Education Tours Executive Director; Elwin Leroux, Halifax Regional School Board Superintendent; Mark Donovan, Anglophone North Superintendent; Gregg Ingersoll, Anglophone East Superintendent; Dave Driscoll, Palliser Regional Schools Superintendent; and Laura Palma, EF Educational Tours Senior Director, at Juno Beach.

THIS PAST FALL, EF Educational Tours brought a group of Canadian directors of education and superintendents to France to help inform programming for D-Day 75th anniversary events in June 2019.

The educators, including many CASSA members, had the opportunity to visit the Normandy beaches, participate in a workshop at the Juno Beach Centre and attend a Remembrance Day Ceremony at Vimy Ridge.

The feedback EF received from the educators will be integrated into the student experiences being developed for France, as well as in the Netherlands for the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe in May 2020.

Below is a quote from participant **Mark Donovan**, Superintendent at Anglophone North School District in New Brunswick.

“In November 2017, I was afforded the opportunity to travel with EF Educational Tours to France. The purpose of this trip was to give school district directors

and superintendents first-hand experience with what this company has to offer schools. Rest assured, EF did not disappoint!

During our one-week visit, we had the opportunity to become fully immersed in the language, cuisine and unique culture that is France.

This was experienced not only via the Parisian context but also through the lens of quaint villages, towns and cities of the Normandy coast. Caen, Vimy and the picturesque Honfleur, the last port of call for Samuel de Champlain as he set off for the New World, all deepened our understanding of that country's rich history and its people.

I can personally attest to the high quality of service provided by EF Educational Tours during this most worthwhile experience. The importance of these learning opportunities for students, along with the global perspective and insights gained therein, would be difficult to overstate!”

## **CASSA Conference 2018: Breakout Sessions Information**

*The theme for the 2018 CASSA conference in Ottawa is Supporting Each Student. In addition to the keynote speaker addressing this topic (see page 10 of this issue or the CASSA conference website for more details), there's an abundance of similarly themed breakout sessions from which delegates may choose.*

*Exact times and locations for all of the sessions will be updated on the CASSA conference website. They will also be published in your conference guide, available at registration. Here is a list of some of the breakout sessions you and your leadership team can attend this July.*

- **Exploring the Benefits of Pet Therapy in Schools** with Brigitte Valois

- **Supporting Each Student: How the Youth Engagement Toolkit Brings Youth Voice and Inclusion into School Communities** with Katherine Eberl Kelly

- **JCSH and the Newly Revised Positive Mental Health Toolkit: How Education and Health Ministries Work Together to Support Each Student** with Katherine Eberl Kelly

- **District School Student Achievement Visits Using Technology to Capture Evidence for Monitoring** with Gregory Tabone

- **Innovation Research Results Using a 1:1 iPad to Student Ratio** with Gregory Tabone

- **Active Recess: Bringing a Change to Recess Culture to Support Student Well-being** with Morris Hucal

- **All Schools Can Be Healthy Schools: Ophea's Healthy Schools Certification** with Sarah Christie

- **Together We Learn: Teachers and Students as Active Co-Learners** with Lucia Reece

- **The Reality of Leading for Learning** with Huguette Landry

- **Over Committing to Your School Board** with Philip Hicks

- **A Whole Community Response to Improving**

**School Outcomes: A Case Study of Three Kindergarten-Grade 8 Schools with a High Incidence of Poverty** with Irene Nordheim and Darcy Cormack

- **Using the Power of Digital Technology to Improve Learning and Communication** with Damian Cooper and David Haight

- **L'équité passe par la petite enfance** with René Déquier

- **Balanced Numeracy: A Focus on Curricular Competencies** with Kirk Savage and Kevin Bird

- **Mistahi Mêkowin: An Epistemology of Indigenous Leadership for School Improvement** with Gordon A. Martell, PhD



Boats on the Rideau Canal waterway with Parliament Hill in the background.

## **CASSA Conference 2018: Breakout Sessions Information**

- **Social Media and Internet Law in the Classroom** with Nadya Tymochenko and Gillian Tuck Kutarna

- **Let's Talk Science: Building Out-of-this-World Digital Skills for All Students** with David Lapides

- **Personalized Education: Every Student Matters** with Jeney Gordon

- **Toward Fully Appropriate Public Education in Manitoba: A 75-Year Journey** with Lesley Eblie Trudel

- **Student Sexual Abuse: Mitigating Risk and Building Capacity** with Noni Classen

- **Apps for Superintendents** with Thomas John Fauteux

- **Integrating Technology to Increase Engagement and Individualize Instruction: Blended Learning in Today's Classroom** with Kristie Clements

- **Developing a Continuing of Action: SEL to Positive Mental Health** with Pius Ryan and Jeremy Church

- **Supporting Student Success Through Agile Public-Private Partnerships** with Iain Riffel, Susan Schmidt, Leta Potter and Ted Fransen

- **At Your Schools But Off Your Plate: How Divisions Win Big by Hosting World-Class Parent-Paid After School Programs** with Dr. Kathi Weight, Ted Fransen, Susan Schmidt, Dr. Michele Wilkens

- **Supporting Capacity and School Effectiveness in First Nations Schools** with Stephanie Talsma

- **Teach Resiliency: Meeting the Diverse Needs of Teachers and**

Students with Stephanie Talsma

- **A Contemporary Focus on Comprehensive School Health in Canada** with Dr. Antony Card

- **Adult and Continuing Education: Meeting Diverse Needs of Learners and Communities** with Peter Atkinson

- **Relationships Matter: Supporting Multiple Pathways to Student Success** with David Tranter

- **Recess Project Canada and Physical & Health Education Canada present a National Strategy for Recess** with Dr. Lauren McNamara, Sharon Jollimore, Stephanie Talsma and Tricia Zakaria

- **Student Profiles and Cumulative Folders** with Darryl Denyes

- **Reimagining Health and Physical Education: Changing Our Minds Can Change Student Lives** with James MacKinnon and Ted Temertzoglou

- **Resilience in Leadership** with Barry Litun and Leanne Keyko

- **Mental Health of Young Canadians: Promising Programs for Prevention and Promotion** with Amy Fogarty

- **Changing Your LENSS** with Karen Edgar, Melanie Ferdinand, Matthew Sereda and Candace Parrack

- **Spaces and Places to Learn and Flourish** with

Karen Edgar, Gail Lalonde, Dan Evans and Russell Evans

- **Developing a Strategic Employee Wellness Program Framework** with Michael Gray



Elgin Street in downtown Ottawa.

## **CASSA EXL Award: 2018 Nominees**

*Each year, CASSA honours the EXL Award recipient at our summer conference. The ceremony for the 2018 award will take place on Wednesday, July 4, in Ottawa. The recipient is chosen from a selection of high-calibre nominees from across the country, representing a number of CASSA's regional affiliates. This national recipient will also go on to represent CASSA as the Canadian Superintendent of the Year at the annual American School Superintendents Association conference in 2019.*

*The 2018 nominees include individuals from the Northwest Territories Superintendents Association (NWTSA), the Association of Administrators of English Schools of Quebec (AAESQ), the College of Alberta School Superintendents (CASS) and the Ontario Catholic Supervisory Officers' Association (OCSOA). Thank you to Xerox Canada for its continued support as co-sponsor of the award.*

*Here are profiles on each of the four deserving nominees. Congratulations to them all. Leaders & Learners will feature award ceremony coverage in an issue later this year.*

### **Yvonne Careen**

#### **Northwest Territories Superintendents Association**

Yvonne is the Superintendent for the Commission scolaire francophone des Territoires du Nord-Ouest. She has held this position since 2014.

Previously Yvonne served as Principal of École Allain St-Cyr in Yellowknife, French Language Services Coordinator for Yellowknife Catholic Schools and Assistant Principal for École St. Joseph School in Yellowknife.

Yvonne received the Prix Jeanne Dube in 2006-07 for her contributions to the development of the francophone community. She was also named the NWT Francophone of the Year in 2013. In 2016, she received the Community Contributor Award from the Sport North Federation.

Since 2014, she has been a member of the Northwest Territories Superintendents Association, where she has been a strong leader and passionate advocate for French-language programming in schools throughout the Northwest Territories.

She has also sat on the SAER Committee and the NWT Curriculum Implementation Committee, and has

served as the Regional Inclusive Schooling Coordinator. Among her many other roles, Yvonne has served on the executive council of the Regroupement national des directions générales de l'éducation (RNDGE) and as a member of the Association Canadienne d'éducation de langue française (ACELF). She has been a member of CASSA for four years.

### **Steven Colpitts**

#### **Association of Administrators of English Schools of Quebec**

Steven is the Director of Educational Services for the Lester B. Pearson School Board in Dorval, Quebec. He has also been Assistant Director and Interim Director of Human Resources, Director of Schools and Director of International Programs within the board.

He has also served as a teacher, pedagogical consultant, in-school administrator and board-level administrator. He has a longstanding commitment to promoting excellent teaching and learning in both of Canada's official languages.

Steven is an appointed member of the Board of Governors at John Abbott College and an invited

## **CASSA EXL Award: 2018 Nominees**

member of the Quebec Ministry of Education's Table des Partenaires, a committee of education leaders within that province. At the international level, he has established partnerships with educators in China and Thailand.

He has contributed to Quebec education through his involvement with various provincial committees. He is the President of AAESQ, the President of the Association of Pearson Board Administrators and the Chair of the Directors of Human Resources Committee. Steven also sits on the CASSA Board of Directors. He has been a member of CASSA for nine years.

Some of his most significant accomplishments include his role in his board's recent reorganization of its International Programs Department, leading the board's Deep Learning Initiative with **Michael Fullan**, and reorganizing employee assistance programs and new teacher/administrator mentoring programs. In 2014, Steven was the recipient of the AAESQ Award of Merit in recognition of his service leadership.

### **David Keohane**

#### **College of Alberta School Superintendents**

David is the Superintendent of Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools in St. Albert, Alberta, a position he has held since 2009. Prior to this, he was the Superintendent of Schools for the Holy Spirit School Division in Lethbridge and the Superintendent of Schools for the East Central Catholic School Division in Wainwright.

He is known for leading by giving authority to those around him and he supports the model of sharing best practices while maintaining decision-making autonomy within the community. Among his many leadership accomplishments, David played a significant role in

Greater St. Albert Schools receiving a nomination for the 2018 Gallup Great Workplace Award; the district won the 2017 Gallup Great Workplace Award by ranking 11th in the top 40 of over a thousand organizations who took the QI 2 Employee Engagement Survey. He has also been recognized with an International Association of Business Communicators Award of Merit in 2016.

He is an internationally recognized advocate for Catholic education and a nationally known advocate for mental health education. He has published numerous articles and made many presentations at the local, national and international level.

David has served as a Canadian educator and administrator representative on an expert panel during the Northlands School Division review, as a CASS representative on the University of Lethbridge Master's Degree Advisory Committee, the President of the Council for Catholic School Superintendents of Alberta and the Chair of the Assured Learning Environment Response Team. David was the CASS representative on the Alberta Education Assessment Committee. He has been a member of CASSA since 1999.

### **Anne O'Brien**

#### **Ontario Catholic Supervisory Officers' Association**

Anne is the Director of Education for the Durham Catholic District School Board. She previously served as Superintendent of Education for the board. She has served as the President, Past President, Vice President and Regional Representative for the Ontario Catholic Supervisory Officers' Association (OCSSOA) Board of Directors and has sat on the CASSA Board of Directors for the past six years. She has been a member of

## CASSA EXL Award: 2018 Nominees

CASSA for 11 years and is just ending her two-year term as its President.

Anne has previously been honoured with the Ron Ste. Marie Award from the Council of Exceptional Children, the Distinguished Catholic Educator Award from the Durham Catholic District School Board and OCSOA's President Award.

Among her achievements in advancing educational administration, Anne has expanded the role of CASSA within Canada, represented directors of education on the Ontario Association of Deans of Education Advisory Committee, and worked at the provincial and local level on developing mental health policy. She has also worked with the Ontario Ministry of Education's

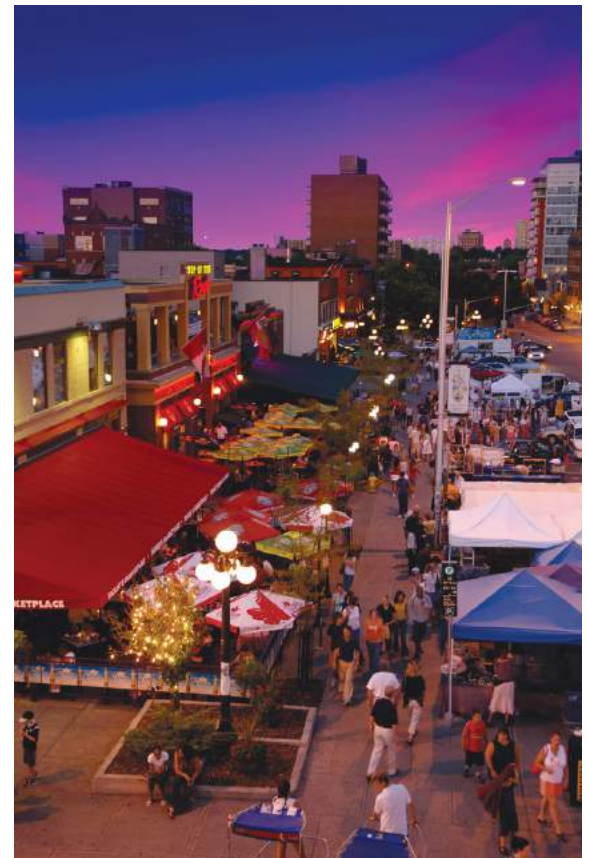
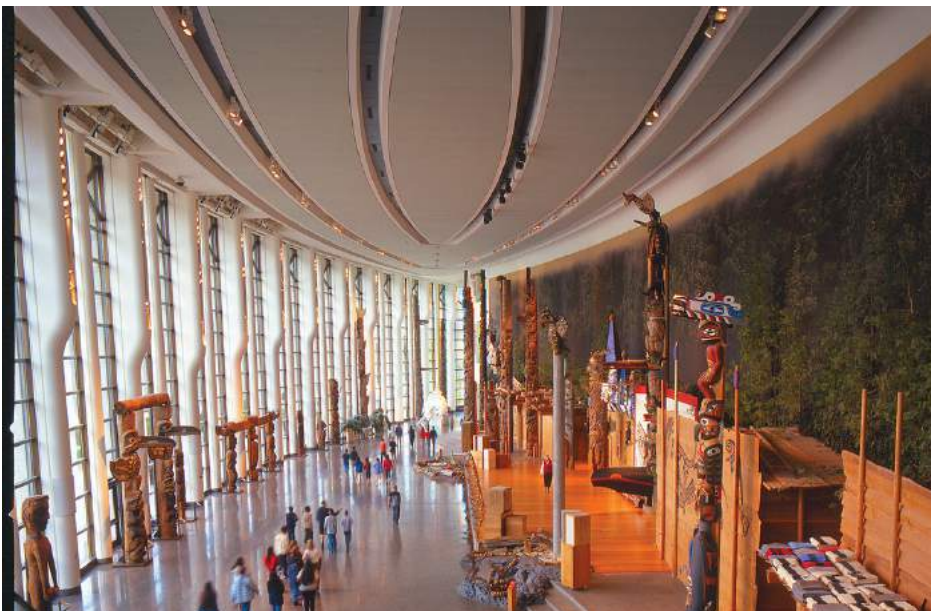
Technology and Innovation Pilot, and has served as a representative on the Council of Ontario Directors of Education's Legalization of Medicinal Marijuana in Education Working Group and Principal/Vice-Principal Workload Committee.

Anne has worked hard to support CASSA as a national voice for education in Canada, as seen in her work with recent conferences, papers, presentations, and advocacy on behalf of student and staff mental health. She has been involved in the development of CASSA's strategic plan, mission and vision statements, and has chaired its Board of Directors. She has also represented CASSA at conferences across Canada, in the United States and in cities like Paris and Krakow.

In addition to the EXL awards ceremony and breakout sessions, this year's CASSA conference offers a wide variety of choices for exploring the host city of Ottawa.

*Right:* Ottawa's Byward Market, which is just a few minutes away from the conference site.

*Below:* The Canadian Museum of History (formerly known as the Canadian Museum of Civilization), located across the Ottawa River in the Hull region of Gatineau, Quebec.







Instantly access your School Board's specific emergency response procedures and utilize key emergency response tools

## Emergency Response Plan



### Mobile Access

All of your personnel will have instant access to your emergency response procedures, as well as maps and safety-related how-to documents, right from their mobile devices.

### Role-based Checklists

Every staff member will have actionable sets of instructions that can be individualized based on each staff member's role within the organization. As a staff member completes the steps in their checklist, the Safety Team is informed of their progress.

### Emergency Communication

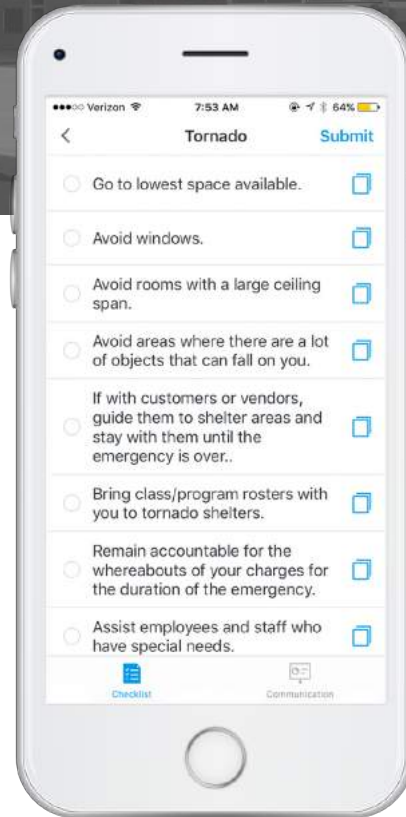
During crisis situations, your Safety Team can utilize the messaging tool to send out information through message groups to teachers and staff, students, and parents.

***"CASSA supports the health and wellness of students and staff. Safe and accepting schools promote the goal of student and staff health and well-being."***

Ken Bain Executive Director  
Canadian Association of School System Administrators



Download the CrisisGo app for free  
Learn more at [www.crisisgo.com/education](http://www.crisisgo.com/education)



CrisisGo's App turns your mobile devices into mobile safety assistants

### Benefits

- Safety Teams can set specific emergency instructions for every staff member through the checklist and observe their progress during a crisis.
- Through our messaging tool schools can keep their staff, their students, and the community continually informed.
- You can upload an endless variety of easily accessible maps and how-to documents that will be useful during a crisis.
- The checklist feature allows staff to follow instructions based on their role in the organization and report progress in reaching those objectives
- Staff will have instant access to emergency response procedures that have been developed for your organization

## Conference Opening Keynote Speaker: Dr. Michael Ungar

CASSA IS PROUD to present **Dr. Michael Ungar** as the opening keynote speaker at the 2018 conference.

Dr. Ungar is among the best known writers and researchers on the topic of resilience. His work has changed the way resilience is understood, shifting the focus from individual traits to the interactions between people and their families, schools, workplaces and communities.

He is the Canada Research Chair in Child, Family and Community Resilience, a professor of Social Work at Dalhousie University and a family therapist. Dr. Ungar is the author of 14 books that have been translated into five languages, as well as more than 135 scientific papers.

His immense influence comes from his ability to adapt ideas from his research and clinical practice into best-selling works like *Too Safe For Their Own Good: How Risk and Responsibility Help Teens Thrive* and *I*

*Still Love You: Nine Things Troubled Kids Need From Their Parents.*

Dr. Ungar is the founder and director of the Resilience Research Centre, where he coordinates over \$5 million in research in more than a dozen countries. He regularly provides consultation and training to organizations like the World Bank, UNESCO and the Red Cross. He is the former chair of the Nova Scotia Mental Health and Addictions Strategy and an executive board member of the American Family Therapy Academy. In 2012, Dr. Ungar received the Canadian Association of Social Workers National Distinguished Service Award for his outstanding contribution to clinical work with families and communities.

Dr. Ungar will deliver his keynote address at 7:15pm on Wednesday, July 4, at the Westin Ottawa. He will also present two workshops, one at 9:10am and the other at 10:45am, on Thursday, July 5.



## CASSA Conference 2018: Sponsors

CASSA THANKS ALL of our conference sponsors. We are especially pleased to welcome returning sponsors **Baragar**, **clevr**, **FreshGrade**, **EF Educational Tours**, **Miller Thomson** and **IBM K-12**.

### PLATINUM SPONSORS



### GOLD SPONSORS



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