

# LEADERSHIP UPDATE

Volume 13

A publication for Alberta's school administrators

Number 2



## Autumn Greetings Everyone!

This edition of the *Leadership Update* contains valuable information to support you in the work that you do and to inform you of some ways you can access very high-quality professional learning activities for school leaders in Alberta throughout the year.

### Professional Learning Opportunities and News

To obtain information about upcoming professional learning events and programs for school leaders you need only remember the following phrase—[www.uLead.ca](http://www.uLead.ca)—to access up-to-date news about school leadership in Alberta, provincial and regional professional learning events, and the uLead conference that takes place every year. This year, uLead will take place from April 9–12 in Banff. There will also be a French immersion and francophone uLead summit taking place in Calgary from April 7–9. Please visit [uLead.ca](http://www.uLead.ca) on a regular basis as the events and news will change frequently.

### Survey on the Work of School Leaders

The Council for School Leadership is supporting a national study by the Canadian Association of Principals (CAP) on the critical influences shaping the experiences of school leaders. This study, which began in June, includes opportunities for school leaders to have their views considered. Please follow the link <http://cap2016.ca/> to participate. Your voice is important! The survey takes approximately 15 minutes to complete and can be accessed now; however, if you've already completed it, we thank you and ask that you not take it again.

Thank you in advance for supporting the work of CAP and having your professional voice heard. **At the conclusion of the survey there is an option to have your name entered in a draw for an iPad mini.**

**Every student  
and teacher  
should be  
excited to come  
to school each  
day, where  
positivity and  
learning is  
contagious.**

**—Paula Leadbitter**

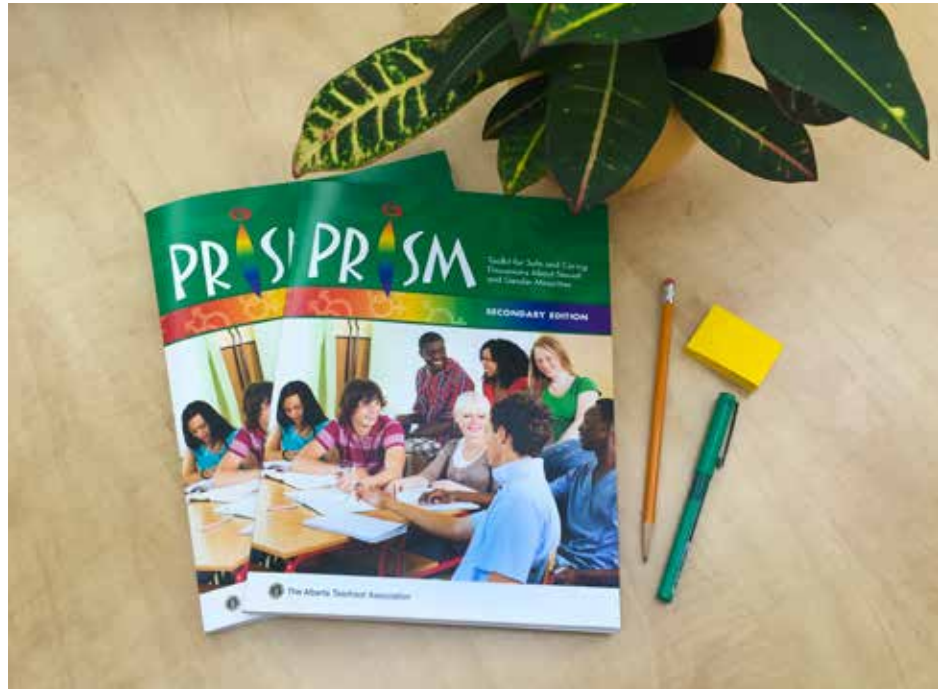


Council for  
School Leadership

# PRISM FAQ

We are pleased to share some timely information in the form of the attached *PRISM Frequently Asked Questions* (FAQs) document, which is also posted on the Association website. You'll find it by going to the ATA home page, clicking on News Room, then Web Extras and scrolling down to PRISM FAQs.

The primary intent of the document is to provide school leaders with answers to questions that they are having to answer in relation to the *PRISM Secondary Edition* toolkit, largely as a result of recent reporting in the mainstream media and on social media. The content will be of interest to a broader audience, and you are invited to share the document as you see fit.



## International Education Exchange Program

Short-term administrator exchanges are available as two-week job shadow experiences for Alberta school leaders. Participants are billeted by their exchange counterparts and work shadow in their exchange partner's school for one to two weeks. Participants then host their counterparts for one to two weeks so they can experience the Alberta education system. Administrators should arrange cultural visits to correspond with the interests of both parties. Opportunities exist in Australia, Germany, Spain, Denmark

and the United Kingdom. Exchanges occur during the summer months, and participants typically host their counterparts in September or October. Participants require an Alberta Permanent Professional Teaching Certificate and the approval of their superintendent. For a successful, engaging experience, participants should be flexible, adaptable, positive, open to other cultures and comfortable with ambiguity. They should, of course, have demonstrated leadership quality. Interested? Find out more at [www.ieep.ca](http://www.ieep.ca).

# Distinguished Leadership Awards

The Council for School Leadership (CSL) is pleased to invite nominations from throughout Alberta for the CSL Alberta Distinguished Leadership Awards. Recipients will be honoured in May.

The CSL Distinguished Leadership Awards create a learning community of outstanding principals throughout Alberta who can share professionally, interact collegially and act as mentors to new colleagues. It provides avenues for research and the sharing of best practices. The cadre of distinguished Alberta school leaders are people who are looking to challenge the status quo, improve learning in their contexts and be equipped for higher levels of leadership. These individuals will become role models in a vibrant network of educational leaders with the confidence and capabilities to lead innovative change for 21st century learning—the Council for School Leadership.

Please consider nominating a deserving school leader for this honour.

To nominate a school leader, click on the following link and complete your nomination online: <http://tinyurl.com/CSL-Leadership>.

Once you have entered the nomination site, you will be asked to

make a short comment related to your nominee's leadership in each of Alberta's Principal Quality Leadership dimensions. The following CSL Distinguished Leadership Awards primer will provide you with additional information about how to complete the nomination form once you click on the link to nominate a colleague.

The deadline for nominations is midnight, March 31, 2017. All nominees must be active members of the Council for School Leadership to be eligible to receive the award.

## What will I need to do?

- Once you have entered the nomination site you will be asked to make a short comment related to your nominee's leadership in each of Alberta's Principal Quality Practice Leadership dimensions.
- You will be asked to provide an indication that your nominee has consented to being nominated (required) and provide the nominee's school name, school telephone number and email address. Your nominee must be a member of the Council for School Leadership to be eligible to receive the award.

Nominees can join the CSL now at [bit.ly/joincsl](http://bit.ly/joincsl).

- You will then be asked to enter your supporting evidence (several sentences) for your nominee's leadership for each of Alberta's Principal Quality Practice competencies including
  - Fostering effective leadership
  - Embodying visionary leadership
  - Leading a learning community
  - Providing instructional leadership
  - Developing and facilitating leadership
  - Managing school operations and resources
  - Understanding and responding to the larger societal context

You will also be asked to describe a promising practice in leadership that your nominee, if selected to receive the award, would be prepared to share at a Council for School Leadership professional learning event in the following year.

Prior to submitting the survey you will also have an opportunity to enter additional comments regarding the nominee, should you wish to do so. Please consider nominating a worthy candidate today.

# French Immersion Leadership Summit

We are pleased to share that the Council for School Leadership is hosting a very special conference for French immersion and francophone school leadership teams from April 7–9, 2017 in Calgary at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. This professional learning event is being designed for French immersion and francophone school leaders to optimize growth within their schools by engaging school leadership teams from their sites together in impactful professional learning activities that will be of benefit both to the administrators in the schools and teacher-leaders. On the agenda are keynote sessions, plenary sessions, panel discussions and workshops to support school principals and teachers working in French immersion and francophone schools.

There will be a wide range of insightful sessions from education thought leaders. Sessions will be in French, but a number of sessions will also be offered in English for dual-stream French immersion school leaders whose first language may not be French.

Registration for the Francophone/ French Immersion Summit in Calgary is now open. Find out more at <https://event-wizard.com/uLeadFR/0/welcome/>.

# Council for School Leadership

As an Alberta school principal or assistant principal you are encouraged to select the Council for School Leadership as your automatically renewing specialist council. If you are not already a member of the Council for School Leadership, please take a moment today to follow the link [bit.ly/joincsl](http://bit.ly/joincsl), and follow the steps to join this school leadership specialist council. It is custom-made for school leaders and aspiring school leaders.



# uLead 2017 Conference in Banff—April 9–12, 2017

## About uLead 2017—The Summit of Educational Leadership

### Part Three of a Three-Year Trilogy of uLead Summit Events

This year's uLead conference will be part three of a three-year trilogy of uLead summit events. At uLead 2015 we explored challenges and harm arising from the Global Education Reform Movement (G.E.R.M.) worldwide. At uLead 2016 we explored new narratives for education and school leadership emerging throughout the world and engaged in a conversation about how to make those narratives live within our schools, school districts and provinces.

This year the conference will seek to equip those attending with the tools to create their own education story that can thrive and meet the needs of today's students. The focus is on agile leadership and will seek to answer the kinds of question that will allow the agile leader to lead a learning community driven by a vision that seeks to get better all the time. They ask, "Where am I going to take this

school or community next?" and "How will I lead this school or learning community on a radical incremental journey of growth, using the best of the past while designing for the future?"

Confirmed keynote presenters are as follows:

- **David Eggen**, Alberta minister of education
- **Adrian Piccoli**, New South Wales minister of education
- **Kate Jones**, Queensland minister of education
- **Simon Breakspear**, Agile Schools, Sydney, Australia
- **Carol Campbell**, OISE
- **Gillian Hamilton**, Glasgow
- **Dr Jim Watterston**, Queensland director-general of education and president of the Australian Council for Educational Leaders
- **Dr Reshan Richards**, Columbia University
- **Dr Dennis Shirley**, Boston College
- **Jelmer Evers**, the Netherlands
- **Pasi Sahlberg**, Finland
- talented educational leaders from around the world

Several additional ministers of education from around the world will also attend and participate in a panel discussion

There are two major uLead events this year. An international francophone and French immersion summit taking place at the Hyatt Hotel in Calgary from Friday, April 7 to Sunday, April 9. This will immediately be followed by the uLead English language conference from April 9–12 in Banff.

The second round of the call for proposals for uLead 2017 is currently open. If you would like to submit a proposal to share your story at uLead, visit [tinyurl.com/present-at-ulead17](http://tinyurl.com/present-at-ulead17).

You will find more information about the conference by visiting [tinyurl.com/ULEAD17](http://tinyurl.com/ULEAD17).

Register now at super-early-bird rates: <http://ulead.ca/Welcome.html>.

Registration for the francophone/French immersion summit in Calgary is also now open at [tinyurl.com/uleadfr](http://tinyurl.com/uleadfr).

NOTE: Super-early-bird registration prices for uLead are in place until November 31, 2016



Registration is now open at [www.ulead.ca](http://www.ulead.ca) with discounts for those registering prior to December 31, 2016.

This conference is rapidly filling up!

# Alberta Teachers on iTunes U

This month we highlight several new courses to support leadership for inclusive education called *Winning Strategies for Struggling Students*, *Differentiated Instruction: Leveraging Learning Preferences* and *Addressing Learning Disabilities in the Inclusive Classroom*. These are well worth subscribing to and are full of good ideas that principals and assistant

principals should consider regarding their leadership work in this area. They will also be of value to all Alberta classroom teachers. The courses provide an opportunity to look in depth at best practices for inclusive education within the Alberta context. To access the site, please visit [tinyurl.com/ATAiTunes](http://tinyurl.com/ATAiTunes) or scan the QR code below.



# Great Sources of News for School Leaders

Are you searching for interesting articles and ideas about school leadership? You will find some very timely articles in a range of school leadership documents that are available online.

## Canadian Association of Principals (CAP)

The CAP Journal is published quarterly and is the official voice of the Canadian Association of Principals. It's available at <http://cdnprincipals.org/blog/2016/06/20/winter-2016-cap-journal/>.

## European School Heads Association (ESHA)

ESHA magazine is published regularly throughout the year and contains very interesting articles that highlight issues Alberta school leaders share with their European colleagues. The most recent issue contains interesting discussions on the topic of entrepreneurial leadership. [www.esha.nogmeebezig.nl/eshamagazine/](http://www.esha.nogmeebezig.nl/eshamagazine/)

## National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP)

“Principal” is a document produced by the NAESP and features a monthly preview of the magazine. This month's preview features a great article about new approaches to instruction. [www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/manifest/principal\\_20161112](http://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/manifest/principal_20161112) You may also wish to check out their principal's blog which is full of great tips for school leaders at <https://www.naesp.org/front-page-blog-archive>.

## National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP)

“Principal Leadership” is a document produced by the NAESP and features a monthly preview of the magazine. Published monthly September through May, it focuses on school leaders' real needs, offering them practical, hands-on strategies for improving their schools in a constantly evolving educational environment. <https://www.nassp.org/news-and-resources/publications/principal-leadership/principal-leadership-archives/principal-leadership-volume-17-2016-17/principal-leadership-november-2016>

## Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL)

A massive, searchable and free collection of scholarly research materials on school leadership is available at AITSL's comprehensive archive. <http://www.aitsl.edu.au/school-leadership-ecollection>.

## iTunes U, Alberta Teachers on iTunes U

Each month, new courses and materials are added to the Alberta Teachers on iTunes U site at [tinyurl.com/ATAiTunes](http://tinyurl.com/ATAiTunes). A range of new courses on Alberta's School Leader Standards is currently being added to the site.

To find archived issues of *Leadership Update*, go to [www.teachers.ab.ca](http://www.teachers.ab.ca) and click on Other Publications (under Publications), then go to School Administrators.

Feedback is welcome. Please contact Jeff Johnson, executive staff officer, Professional Development, at [jeff.johnson@ata.ab.ca](mailto:jeff.johnson@ata.ab.ca).

