

LEADERSHIP UPDATE

Volume 17

A publication for Alberta's school administrators

Number 2

Greetings everyone!

This November 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 and central office teachers and leaders you need only remember 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. **The next uLead conference will take place from April 11–13, 2021 in Banff with**

full-day preconference workshops taking place on Saturday, April 10. The call for proposals for uLead 2021 is open, and the next round of presenters will be selected in November. Hundreds of delegates from around the world have already registered for this made-in-Alberta event. Please visit uLead.ca on a regular basis as the events and news will change frequently.



Professional capital is about creating a fraternity of teachers and school leaders who think and operate as a community of committed professionals.

—Pak Tee Ng



Council for
School Leadership

Leadership Essentials for School Leaders Conference

The Alberta Teachers' Association holds a Leadership Essentials for School Leaders conference annually. Principals, assistant principals, associate principals and vice-principals who are within the first five years of their appointment or who are new to the province are eligible to attend.

This year, given our current circumstances, we will be offering a six-part leadership speaker series. All principals, assistant principals, associate principals, vice-principals and central office leaders, regardless of their time in their respective roles, are welcome to attend. There is no registration fee for members of the Association with the highest level of membership available to them in their leadership role.

Leadership Essentials speakers for 2020–2021

- November 23, Linda Allen-Hardisty: Levels of Trust in Workplace Relationships
- January 18, George Myers: Difficult or Different?
- February 8, Elena Aguilar: Cultivating Individual and Team Resilience to Foster Leadership
- March 18, John Hall: Being Top of Mind So You Can Accomplish More With Less
- April 8, Sabre Cherkowski: Leadership for Flourishing: Noticing, Nurturing and Sustaining Well-being in Schools.
- May 18, David Marquet: Leadership Is Language: The Hidden Power of What You Say—and What You Don't.

Included is a poster outlining the series and registration information that you may wish to share with your school and jurisdiction leaders. To register for leadership speaker series

events and to read session descriptions and speaker biographies, please visit <https://surveys.teachers.ab.ca/s3/Leadership-Essentials-Speaker-Series-Registration>.

Council for School Leadership Professional Learning Events

Between now and April, a range of activities is available at no cost to Council for School Leadership (CSL) members that will be of interest to all Alberta school leaders and aspiring school leaders. School leaders and their site leadership team members are encouraged to consider participating in one or more of these initiatives. The CSL is the ATA's specialist council for school leaders, aspiring school leaders,

and central office teachers and leaders in Alberta. It is one of the pre-eminent organizations for school leaders in Canada and is widely respected worldwide.

Membership in the CSL offers the opportunity to participate in a network of leaders who share professionally, interact collegially and act as mentors to new colleagues while providing avenues for research and sharing best practices.

Let The Children Play Webinars and Community of Practice

A series of Let the Children Play webinars will be led by the renowned Pasi Sahlberg in collaboration with the CSL's Kris Hodgins. Kris will guide a community of practice around the ideas presented in Sahlberg's webinars and book for our registrants. There is no charge for participation in these webinars and community of practice for CSL members.

This is a wonderful opportunity for CSL members across the province to be part of a community of practice working around ideas shared by Sahlberg in several webinars

and through his groundbreaking book, *Let the Children Play*.

Participation in the Let the Children Play Community of Practice will allow participants to positively impact the professional learning culture of their schools and school divisions, while leading teacher learning with their colleagues and improving their own leadership practices.

- The first webinar with Pasi Sahlberg will take place on Wednesday, January 20 beginning at 4 PM.

- An additional webinar with Pasi Sahlberg has been scheduled for Wednesday, March 24 beginning at 4 PM.

Once you have registered for the webinars, we encourage registrants to order a copy of *Let the Children Play* wherever you prefer to acquire your books. A digital version can be purchased through the Apple bookstore at <https://books.apple.com/ca/book/let-the-children-play/id1468489991>.

Registration for the webinars and community of practice is free for CSL members.

To register for this event please visit www.surveymonkey.com/r/Playing2Learn.

Empowering Women for the School Leadership Journey Webinars and Community of Practice

The CSL has a proud history of hosting annual events across Alberta and at uLead to provide great opportunities for those interested in connecting with others around conversations on women in school leadership. This year, the CSL offers an opportunity to participate in the 2020/2021 Empowering Women for the School Leadership Journey webinars and community of practice led by the renowned Barbara Watterston in collaboration with CSL's Kimberlee Carson. There is no charge for participation in these webinars and the community of practice for CSL members.

This is a wonderful opportunity for CSL members across the province to be part of a community of practice working around ideas shared by

Watterston in several webinars and through her groundbreaking book, *Step In, Step Up: Empowering Women for the School Leadership Journey*.

Participating in these events will allow participants to positively impact the professional learning culture of their schools and school divisions while working to define the *why* of their leadership and to find partners who are also beginning, or already engaged in, their own leadership journeys to share ideas with and to share the journey.

- The first webinar with Barbara Watterston will take place on Wednesday, November 25 from 4:00 to 5:30 PM.
- Once the Empowering Women for the School Leadership Journey community of practice has been formed, we will determine together

possible meeting/conversation dates in December and January.

- An extra webinar with Barbara Watterston has been scheduled for Wednesday, February 3 from 4:00 to 5:30 PM.

Once you have registered for the webinars, we encourage registrants to order a copy of *Step In, Step Up: Empowering Women for the School Leadership Journey*. A print copy can be purchased from bookstores or online from Amazon. A digital version is also available from Chapters/Indigo at www.chapters.indigo.ca.

Registration for the webinars and community of practice is free for CSL members.

To register for this event please visit www.surveymonkey.com/r/ForTheJourney.

2020 CSL Teaching Sprints Webinars and Course Registration

The 2020 Running Teaching Sprints webinars and course led by the renowned Simon Breakspear allow Alberta school leaders and their school-based teacher-leader teams to actively engage their whole school in the teaching sprints process to build in practices to lead growth in teacher expertise.

There is no charge for participation in these webinars for CSL members. In addition, members will enjoy complimentary access throughout the 2020/2021 academic year to the related online course, Running Teaching Sprints Plus. This is a wonderful opportunity for CSL members across the province to develop school leadership teams that will allow them to positively impact the professional learning culture of their schools and school divisions while leading teacher learning with their colleagues and improving their own leadership practices.

This program will be of interest to all school leaders, division leaders and in-school teacher leaders who are interested in learning about leading teaching sprints as a pedagogical process in their schools or divisions. Registrants can access two webinars led by Simon Breakspear as well as have access for the year to the online Running Teaching Sprints Plus course (a \$99.00 per person value) at no-cost.

The collaborative professional learning approach of teaching sprints offers an opportunity to build teacher and team efficacy for teacher learning and continuous practice improvement.

The webinars and course are intended for school or division leaders and their teams of school-based teacher leaders.

Teaching sprints provides a simple, effective and field-tested approach to support your teachers in continually enhancing their practice. Teaching sprints is a flexible organizational routine that supports robust teacher professional learning. It consists of three phases: prepare, sprint and review.

During the prepare phase, teams engage in rich dialogue about student learning and consider relevant research to identify precise focus for improvement work. They then go into the sprint phase, where they test out their new learning through short, manageable cycles of teaching in the classroom. A teaching sprint ends with the review phase, an analysis of the evidence of student learning and consideration of how to transfer new pedagogical knowledge and skills into future practice.

Engagement in teaching sprints supports the adoption of evidence-informed practices and enables educators to collectively plan, act and evaluate their impact. The approach is aligned with the existing research evidence into the features of effective teacher professional learning and the science of behaviour change.

With teaching sprints, the mantra is “if it doesn’t work for teachers, it doesn’t work.” The teaching sprints process has been designed to be simple, relevant and manageable for already overloaded teachers and their leaders.

Most of all, it is designed to be adaptable to your school context and focused on the challenges specific to your classrooms and learners.

School leadership teams, working together, can take the small steps that add up to enormous gains in teacher efficacy and expertise. These dynamic one-hour webinars and the online course will provide district-level leaders, school leaders and teacher leaders with a thorough understanding of the teaching sprints approach so they can get started with teaching sprints in their school communities. This approach is a simple yet powerful teacher-learning and continuous practice improvement process.

Through teaching sprints, educators can

- make more effective use of available team collaboration time, supported by clear tools and protocols;
- benefit from more relevant, job-embedded professional learning that focuses on practical teaching and learning challenges in their classrooms;
- deepen their pedagogical content knowledge and be inspired to continually improve;
- better adopt and embed the use of research-informed practice and evaluate their impact through formative assessment;
- build trust within and across teacher teams and take collective action to help each other to improve; and
- more effectively share and spread best practices.

The next webinar for this program will take place on Wednesday, December 2 beginning at 4 PM, so you and your team members are encouraged to register soon.

To register for this event please visit www.surveymonkey.com/r/RunningSprints.

Podcasts for School Leaders

Some great podcasts are available for Alberta school leaders or anyone aspiring to learn more about school leadership. You can get them from Apple, Spotify or from other podcast sources. We recommend the following:

uLead Podcast

The CSL of the Alberta Teachers' Association is proud to share the uLead Podcast. This new way of getting information and professional learning is now available from iTunes, Spotify or wherever you get your podcasts.

We know that school leaders lead hectic lives and that accessing high-quality professional learning can often be difficult, whether it be because of a lack of time or because of proximity issues to great sessions. We hope that this new podcast will help you access professional learning on your terms. This podcast will feature sessions and interviews with professionals on topics relevant to both Alberta schools and to building your leadership expertise. <https://podcasts.apple.com/ca/podcast/ulead-podcast/id1493862765>

The Importance of Play

In this just-released podcast, Pasi Sahlberg discusses the importance of play in education. <https://podcasts.apple.com/ca/podcast/ulead-podcast/id1493862765?i=1000495536736>.

Scottish Educators Connect

The hosts of this podcast are joined by Gillian Hamilton, strategic director of Education Scotland, and the three talk about values, leaderships journeys

and Scottish education during the COVID-19 lockdown. To find out more, visit www.scottisheducatorsconnect.com or search @ScotEdConnect on Twitter. To explore Education Scotland's professional learning online materials, visit www.professionallearning.education.gov.scot. <https://podcasts.apple.com/ca/podcast/scottish-educators-connect/id1532751588?i=1000493188116>.

Bastow Educational Leadership Podcast

What are the big questions in education today, and what does leadership have to do with it? Subscribe to this podcast for conversations from Australia and around the world that explore a diverse range of views and perspectives through the lens of educational leadership and its impact on learners and communities. <https://podcasts.apple.com/ca/podcast/bastow-educational-leadership-podcast/id1451212671>

Intersection Education Podcast

Hosted by Alberta principal Corey Haley, the Intersection Education podcast speaks about teaching and learning to insiders and outsiders in the education field seeking to help improve schools in Alberta. The most recent episode features a conversation with Armand Doucet, who speaks about the importance of teachers during a pandemic and navigating change in education. <https://podcasts.apple.com/ca/podcast/intersection-education-toward-better-teaching-learning/id1380397181?i=1000497106058>

School Leadership Podcast

The leaders of Britain's national principal organization interview the

leading voices in education and cover topics at the heart of leadership and learning. <https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/the-school-leadership-podcast/id1161467668>

Conversations with Simon

Without a doubt, one of the most in-demand leaders in education in Alberta in recent years has been Simon Breakspear. His workshops as part of the ATA Agile Schools initiative have reached thousands of Alberta classroom teachers and school leaders. His keynote presentations at uLead have been praised throughout the world for their support for great school leadership as a foundation of the teaching profession, enhancing teacher expertise by teachers and for teachers. This podcast allows you to tune in regularly as Breakspear engages thought leaders in school leadership worldwide. In a recent two-part episode, he speaks with Steve Munby (a keynote speaker at uLead21 next April) about his past work with the world's first leadership institute in England, his recent book *Imperfect Leadership* and his work as a consultant on school leadership around the world. <https://podcasts.apple.com/ca/podcast/conversations-with-simon/id1511465793>

The Learning Exchange


Did the Conversations with Simon podcast pique your interest about Steve Munby? The following link is not a podcast, but it is a great resource on Steve Munby. Visit this website for a series of videos with Steve Munby on the subject of school leadership: <https://thelearningexchange.ca/projects/steve-munby-leading-in-a-complex-world/>.

uLead 2021 Call for Proposals

Do you have a school leadership story to share with colleagues from around the world? A unique opportunity awaits. Join educational leaders from around the world in the beautiful world heritage location of Banff, Alberta, at one of the world's foremost professional learning events for school-based leaders, district-level leaders, and provincial and state education leaders. Join us in April 2021 for a rare and historic dialogue with the world's leaders in education in a setting that has been called the jewel of the Rockies. A wide array of world-class keynote speakers will animate the

dialogue of those attending and there will be myriad opportunities for spouses and family members to explore one of the most pristine wilderness areas in the world during the conference. uLead 2021 is sponsored by the Council for School Leadership. We are expecting over 1000 principals, assistant principals, district leaders, education ministry representatives from around the world and national ministers of education to attend.


You are invited to submit an expression of interest to offer a presentation at uLead 2021. The call for presenters is open now and registrations for uLead will open again in November. We would love to have you share your Alberta leadership story with the world. If you would like to do so, visit [tinyurl\[dot\]com/PRESENT-AT-ULEAD21](https://tinyurl.com/PRESENT-AT-ULEAD21) to submit your proposal by the end of November.




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GRACIOUS AND
COMMITTED.**

They are the Educators and part of the FACE OF EDUCATION, and we believe in them.


THE FACE OF EDUCATION



The Alberta
Teachers' Association



uLead
visionary leadership
for today's learner



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 publications that are available online.

- ***The European School Heads Association (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 about organizing spaces and measures after COVID-19 and how to increase teamwork in leadership teams. www.esha.org/eshamagazine/
- ***Principal*** is a publication of the National Association of Elementary School Principals. The September/October edition features a wide range of articles related to school leadership. The rapid spread of coronavirus has forced school closures and introduced a new normal to schooling. How can principals lead through changing circumstances while ensuring educational equity for all students? What other changes to “traditional” school structures may lie ahead? This issue addresses recovering learning loss, SEL for students and

teachers, and best practices for virtual learning. www.naesp.org/principal-septemberoctober-2020-adapting-change/principal-septemberoctober-2020-adapting-change

- ***Principal Leadership*** is a publication of the National Association of Secondary School Principals. 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. The November 2020 edition features a great article on how school leaders might approach coaching for student growth. www.nassp.org/2020/11/01/principal-leadership-november-2020/
- ***Topics*** is a newsletter of the Australia Catholic Primary Principals’ Association that contains a variety of articles of interest to school leaders, particularly Catholic school leaders. <https://acppa.schoolzineplus.com/etopicsjournal?nid=23>
- ***Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL)*** The AITSL offers a massive, searchable and free archive of scholarly research materials on school leadership. www.aitsl.edu.au/tools-resources/most-popular-tools-and-resources

Council for School Leadership

As an Alberta school principal, Assistant principal or a central office teacher, you are encouraged to select the Council for School Leadership (CSL) as your automatically renewing specialist council. If you are not already a member of the CSL, please take a moment today to follow this link—www.surveymonkey.com/r/joincsl.

If you have colleagues who are school leaders or aspiring school leaders and have not yet become members of the CSL, please share this information with them and follow the steps to join this school leadership specialist council. It is custom-made for school leaders and aspiring school leaders and for all those to whom the new Leadership Quality Standard applies (principals, assistant, associate and vice principals, and also school jurisdiction leaders including central office teachers such as assistant superintendents, consultants and other certificated teachers). uLead Team, uleadconference@icloud.com



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