

## CASS ASBOA Summer Learning Conference 2019 Highlights

CASS/ASBOA Summer Learning Conference delegates represented over 200 system leaders from 68% of Alberta Public/Separate/Francophone School Authorities. 9 Charter and private school authorities were in attendance as were 3 First Nations School Authorities. This Conference provided an opportunity for in-depth learning based on “Professional Learning Modules” during a family-friendly event in beautiful Kananaskis Country. Survey responses were 100% positive (strongly agree or agree) stating that the learning opportunity deepened understanding of professional practice, that delegates will apply their learning and that they learned a research and/or practice informed basis for how to lead /growth related to personal or system practice.

Professional Learning Modules are designed to deepen and apply system leaders’ professional practice with opportunities to examine Alberta context through a community of inquiry approach based on research. (Coherent with the SLQS professional practice and/or the ASBOA professional practice standards.) Learning modules begin with a focus on personal capacity leading to the valuable role system leaders play in supporting quality school leadership and teaching to create optimum learning for all students in Alberta.

CASS members were surveyed to request which modules they wished to attend at the 2019 conference. As a result, Visionary Leadership and Governance were offered from the original 5 as two new modules were designed and delivered for 2019. Employment Law for HR Leaders (Co-designed and developed by ABBOA and CASS) and Learning for Inclusion (CASS Designed). ASBOA wished to also offer Ethical Leadership in Education and the SLQS Certification In-Service was also offered. All CASS module materials are posted online at <https://cassalberta.ca/professional-learning-modules/>

Delegates survey responses were very positive sharing that the value of the learning was based on learning from and with colleagues, expertise of facilitators – including allowing for time for dialogue, sharing experiences/stories with others and the extended time to learn. Also mentioned was the balance of research and practice and time for exploring how to adapt for individuals’ contexts. The importance, in specific modules, of having ASBOA and CASS leaders learning alongside one another was mentioned. Both CASS members and ASBOA members have practice profiles focused on supporting members growth. CASS Practice Profiles are available at: <https://cassalberta.ca/resources/practice-profile/>

A survey of CASS members will be shared this fall seeking ideas and opinions on different delivery designs for module learning. (e.g. follow up cohorts, learning in zones, online learning). Survey data will be reviewed by the SLQS Professional Learning Advisory committee and then shared with the Board to determine next steps.

Next year's CASS ASBOA Summer Learning Conference is planned for August 16-19, 2020 at the Pomeroy Kananaskis Mountain Lodge. Information posted once planning complete at <http://cassalberta.ca/conferences-workshops/>

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### Selected delegate Quotes

*"The work is complex, and the learning conversations need to continue. Although I appreciate the opportunity to have this initial high view, there is lots more that can be done with these materials to support intelligent, ethical leadership in applying these competencies in various contexts."*

*"The learning materials are thorough and excellent; I will be using them to support conversations with colleagues in the coming months."*

*"I would love to meet with this group regularly, we learned so much from each other, and the conversations were productive and dug deeper."*

### The Superintendent Leadership Quality Standard

Quality superintendent leadership occurs when the superintendent's ongoing analysis of the context, and the superintendent's decisions about what leadership knowledge abilities to apply, result in quality school leadership, quality teaching and optimum learning for all students in the school authority.