

OVER THE HORIZON

The Future of Work and Learning
Opportunities for Continuing Education

CAUCE CONFERENCE
HALIFAX
MAY 29-31 | 2018

CONFERENCE SUMMARY





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PARTNERING WITH CONTINUING EDUCATION LEADERS

In May 2018, continuing education practitioners from across Canada gathered in Halifax to explore emerging trends, the future of learning, as well as how continuing education is the catalyst to not only support transitions and innovative educational opportunities for the future but also be responsive to the ongoing changes in lifelong learning.

The Canadian Association for University Continuing Education (CAUCE) conference, held annually since 1954 and hosted by the College of Continuing Education, Dalhousie University for 2018, provided nearly 200 delegates with a platform for educational opportunities, networking and idea exchange.

CAUCE is dedicated to enlarging the scope and quality of educational opportunities for adults at the university level. Reaching more than 550 deans, directors, senior administrative personnel and practitioners from 45 universities across Canada, CAUCE seeks to foster professionalism in program development, management and administration, and to stimulate and disseminate creative ways to provide programs that continue to meet the ever-changing cultural and vocational needs of adults.

“This is an innovative and interesting conference! I was honored to present at it and it was such a supportive atmosphere for a first-time presenter.”

— 2018 delegate

“Love this conference, great job Halifax people. It keeps getting better.”

— 2018 delegate



STATEMENT FROM CAUCE PRESIDENT GARY HEPBURN



The 2018 CAUCE Conference provided participants with opportunities for engagement and learning related to University Continuing Education. As our work takes on an increasingly greater strategic importance for our Universities, these opportunities to get together to advance our collective practice become all the more vital. It is even more rewarding when we get to do this important work in wonderful and inspiring places like Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia.



STATEMENT FROM THE CONFERENCE CHAIR ANDREW COCHRANE

CAUCE 2018 – “Over the Horizon – the Future of Work and Learning” was enriched by the collective contributions of presenters, delegates, sponsors, committee members, the CAUCE Secretariat, the Board of Directors and local organizers. Adding to all that challenging work – the weather office smiled on us as well. Halifax looked great under blue skies and (somewhat) warm days.

Conference, travel and accommodation costs are seen by many as barriers to hosting or even attending a national conference. As many will know the format for this year’s conference was experimental. As host, Dalhousie University College of Continuing Education worked with the Secretariat, the Board, the national Program Planning Committee and the national Conference Planning Committee to present a conference “on campus” for the first time in a long time. Through this experiment we intended to demonstrate that on campus hosting – along with student residence as an alternative accommodation, are within the range of possibility for smaller schools and offer

a budget sensitive alternative. Delegates who preferred more upscale accommodations were hosted in two area hotels.

The new format was a learning experience for the host, but the very heavy lifting of program development was capably handed by the National Program Planning Committee (another experiment). The division of labour because of the creation of this committee, made sure that many hands made light work (relatively speaking).

By all accounts the experiments were successful. We heard from many of you how much you enjoyed the venue, the learning and sharing, the networking and the campus.

On behalf of all the organizers, we hope that the program and social events provided you with inspiring opportunities for your own professional development and the chance to make new friends. It was a pleasure to host you in Halifax and hope that you return to visit our University, our city and our province again.



OPENING KEYNOTE: DR. ARTHUR LEVINE

Dr. Arthur Levine, president of the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, discussed continuing education's crucial role in a world where computer automation threatens traditional labour markets. The former president of Columbia University Teachers College said universities are unprepared for the massive upheaval to come, and that continuing education units are uniquely placed to champion the innovation they need. He noted that continuing education has already innovated a good deal of the advances in online education and flexible program delivery that will allow for the just-in-time education that will be needed in the future.

"You're the people who are going to drive your institutions futures. Continuing Education leads change in higher education"

—Dr. Arthur Levine



SECOND KEYNOTE: DR. MIKE SMIT

Dr. Mike Smit, an award-winning Dalhousie professor, drew on his background in computer science for a thought provoking discussion of how society should leverage advances in artificial intelligence while mitigating its risks. He presented a range of exciting new directions AI will take the world and the problems it could solve, but also cautioned that computers are not yet able to replicate the key human trait of empathy. The solution he said is to focus on educating people for areas that are “irrevocably human” and stand ready to help those who will be most affected.

“Are we ready for Artificial Intelligence? In case you aren’t already an AI expert, here’s a spoiler alert – the answer is no.”

—Dr. Mike Smit



CLOSING KEYNOTE: THE HONORABLE DR. WANDA THOMAS BERNARD

Canadian Senator Wanda Thomas Bernard offered an inspirational perspective on how the continuing education sector can help break down societal barriers and improve lives. As a leading champion of diversity and inclusiveness in Canadian society, she shared her perspective and personal stories that illuminated the state of access to education in Canada and the importance for continual improvement. She pointed to Canada's active role in supporting developing nations, while overlooking communities within its own borders whose standard of living falls well below the national average. She reminded the audience that it has an important role to play in ensuring equal access to educational programs that have power to lift people up.

“I want to help you challenge the status quo and figure out how best to bridge town and gown to expand the reach of continuing education and break down systemic barriers.”

*— Dr. Wanda
Thomas Bernard*



CONCURRENT SESSIONS

The conference offered 42 concurrent sessions, which were categorized into this year's six [Communities of Practice](#):

- Leadership and program management
- Learning and administrative technologies
- Online learning and instructional design
- Indigenous and decolonizing programming
- Marketing, enrolment and student services
- Research and scholarship in Continuing Education

The goal of our conference program was to provide delegates who work in any of these six areas with the opportunity to discover what other institutions are learning and doing in the field of continuing studies.

In lieu of a gift for presenters, donations were made to [The Association of Black Social Workers](#).

Our thanks to all the presenting organizations that led our concurrent sessions:

*Appendo Learning Gateway
Athabasca University
Dalhousie University
Destiny Solutions
MacEwan University
McMaster University
Mount Saint Vincent University
Nipissing University
Queen's University
Ryerson University
Simon Fraser University
St. Francis Xavier University
University of Alberta
University of British Columbia
University of Calgary
University of Guelph
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University of Toronto
University of Victoria
University of Waterloo
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