



BUILDING OUR FUTURE:
LEADING THE WAY FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

CAUCE CONFERENCE
WINNIPEG
MAY 17-19, 2023



CONFERENCE SUMMARY

CAUCE 2023



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BUILDING OUR FUTURE: LEADING THE WAY FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

Over the past several years, continuing education has emerged as central to the future of higher education due to new economic realities, social issues, the increasing need for Indigenous and decolonizing education, the global pandemic, increased demands for lifelong learner pathways, emerging micro-credentials, and changing global industry trends. With significant shifts in the labour force expedited by the pandemic, the world of work is changing at a pace that is difficult to comprehend. University continuing education units are adaptable and agile, and are vital assets to universities, provincial governments, and industry and we share a passion for what we do.

As university educators, we are committed to taking an inclusive approach to provide learners with the ability to adapt their skills to the evolving labour market and changing skill needs. We can help individuals and organizations increase capacity, confidence, and resilience. Through our ability to foster creativity, drive innovation, improve access, and deliver high-quality programming, we can respond quickly to socioeconomic shifts in the job market, upskill and reskill our citizens, and reduce barriers to education as we continue to move through the pandemic recovery.

Building on the conference themes from the past two years, we continue to explore our impact on university lifelong learning. We will consider programs, strategies, services, and partnership models that further the mission of increasing access. We will examine the growing importance of experiential learning in facilitating deeper understanding, developing skills, and obtaining professional experience. We will investigate how we create opportunities for our citizens to engage with our institutions in meaningful, thoughtful, and purposeful ways. We will look at how our continuing education divisions and schools are structured and supported and how the pandemic has impacted them. We will discuss what we've learned about resiliency and adaptability and how we can continue to offer meaningful personal enrichment opportunities. Lastly, we will learn more about the latest trends in alternate credentials, exploring new mechanisms for delivery, national frameworks, and CE's role in leading the future of alternate credentials.



"The conference was very well organized and executed. One of the best I've attended. Thank you!"

- CAUCE 2023 delegate

CAUCE 2023: WINNIPEG MB

In May 2023, continuing education practitioners from across Canada gathered in Winnipeg, Manitoba to participate in the Canadian Association for University Continuing Education's (CAUCE) 69th Annual Conference. Embracing this year's theme Building our Future: Leading the Way for Lifelong Learning, conference delegates also celebrated and recognized leaders in the field of continuing education.

Hosted at the Fort Garry Hotel in downtown Winnipeg, the event provided over 200 continuing education practitioners a diverse mix of plenary sessions, concurrent sessions, social events, and networking opportunities.

Held annually since 1954, this year's CAUCE conference continued to meet its mandate of enlarging the scope and quality of educational opportunities for adults at the university level. The conference also upheld CAUCE's goal of maintaining professionalism in program development, management, and administration, and stimulating and disseminating creative ways to provide programs that continue to meet the continuous changes in the workplace.

Thank you to those who attended this amazing event and thank you to all our volunteers and sponsors!



"I loved the opportunity to network and meet colleagues in person. Great hotel and location - abundant coffee and snack to get through the long days. Thank you for the amazing hard work!"

- CAUCE 2023 delegate

"It was great to see colleagues from other institutions in-person and to share what is going on at each institution."

- CAUCE 2023 delegate



STATEMENT FROM CAUCE PRESIDENT CHRISTIE SCHULTZ



What an amazing week at the Canadian Association for University Continuing Education (CAUCE) Conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba! We started with an opening keynote from Kevin Chief, Principal of Chief Partnerships Manitoba Incorporated, who reminded us that we might never know the difference we can make when we approach our work as educators with compassion; and we ended with a closing keynote from Chris Dede, a Senior Research Fellow at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, who emphasized that we will never know exactly what the future will hold. And so, as I drove home to Regina, I found myself thinking about the ways in which, through the work we do in the present, we are shaping the future, and the future of lifelong learning and continuing education.

I'm filled with gratitude to have been able to serve as this year's CAUCE president and to work with some of the very best people on the CAUCE executive. And I'm full of appreciation for everyone who made the conference possible, including the organizers, presenters, sponsors, international guests, and every single attendee.

"This was a fantastic experience. I'm so pleased with the decision to join CAUCE. It improves the quality of my working life immeasurably to be part of this generous, good-spirited company of colleagues. Thank you!"

- CAUCE 2023 delegate

STATEMENT FROM THE CONFERENCE HOST ROD LASTRA



The 69th annual CAUCE conference, held in Winnipeg, signaled our eagerly-anticipated return to a in-person event. A lot has changed since Hamilton 2019. As one delegate stated, "the future rarely arrives in a fashion that is both predictable and convenient".

Indeed, looking back to 2019, it's evident that very few of us could have accurately envisioned the scale and magnitude of change the future had in store for us. Ranging from wide-reaching global disruptions, mounting conflicts, environmental degradation, global warming - all set against a backdrop of mounting economic uncertainty.

We've seen dramatic shifts in labour demographics and an aging population, underpinned by an inexorable technological transformation that has permeated all corners of society like a tsunami. Moreover, the rise in social inequities coupled with the concerning erosion of global democracies at the hands of disinformation peddlers and autocrats could have been taken directly from an Orwellian dystopian novel. And of course we cannot forget the emergence and impact of a deadly zoonotic pandemic that shook the world to its core.

Such a spectrum of challenges certainly underscores our collective resilience and resolve. It also serves as a stark and humbling reminder that change is a constant and formidable force and that a predictable future is largely an illusion. It is within this context that new, current, and veteran continuing education practitioners and professionals converged in Winnipeg to share their educational and social justice-oriented solutions to the uncertainty of our times. It became clear that despite our operational differences, our professional DNA is defined by the pillars of Adult Education, where access, civic/community education, social cohesion, economic mobility and the emphasis on individual learning are the universal principles that guide our work and informed the themes of this year's presentations.

Throughout the conference we were reminded that continuing and extension units have always responded to the cross currents of change with innovation and in service of lifelong learners. The gathering served as a timely reminder of our enduring legacy, and our collective responsibility to build on our strengths. This commitment to lifelong education and to each other is what we need in times of change - it is how we'll continue to meet the challenges of the future together. On behalf of the University of Manitoba Division of Extended Education, it was an honor to host our esteemed CAUCE colleagues and dear friends in Winnipeg.

STATEMENT FROM THE CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE CHAIR JEN GORDON

In partnership with Extended Education, University of Manitoba, CAUCE 2023 brought together a diverse community of educators, administrators, and professionals dedicated to advancing continuing education and lifelong learning. With a focus on "building the future" and strengthening the impact of universities through excellence in continuing education, the conference provided a platform for insightful discussions, inspiring keynotes, and collaborative networking.

CAUCE 2023 successfully achieved its goal of building bridges, fostering dialogue, and strengthening the role of universities in lifelong learning. The conference provided a platform for meaningful exchanges, empowered participants to lead the way in continuing education, and set the stage for future innovation and collaboration. As attendees departed, they carried with them the inspiration and knowledge needed to shape the future of education and make a lasting impact in their professional endeavors.



"I really enjoyed the main conference events, particularly the concurrent sessions."

- CAUCE 2023 delegate



OPENING KEYNOTE: KEVIN CHIEF



The conference commenced with an impactful opening keynote address by Kevin Chief, Principal of Chief Partnerships Manitoba Incorporated, which centered around stories of resiliency and reconciliation and emphasized the transformative power of education. Kevin Chief's address shed light on the crucial role that lifelong learning plays in empowering individuals, fostering social change, and building a better future for all. His powerful message moved attendees and inspired them to act in their respective roles.



CLOSING KEYNOTE: CHRIS DEDE



Chris Dede, a Senior Research Fellow at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, delivered the closing keynote. Chris Dede's thought-provoking talk focused on the evolving role of continuing education in the era of lifelong learning. He highlighted the need for universities to adapt and embrace new technologies, pedagogies, and strategies to meet the evolving needs of learners in a rapidly changing world. His insights challenged participants to envision the future of continuing education and explore ways to leverage emerging opportunities to drive lifelong learning initiatives forward.



CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Over 60 individuals presented over 40 concurrent sessions, organized within five streams:

- Championing access, services, programs, and partnerships
- Supporting experiential learning and student success
- Creating a pathway to lifelong learning
- Exploring effective structures, models, and teams
- Leading the way in alternative credentials



Thank you to all the presenters from the following organizations who shared their knowledge and expertise.

ABC Life Literacy Canada
Academica Group
Academy for Sustainable Innovation
BCdiploma
Bow Valley College
Brock University
CERIC
Dalhousie University
EvoLLLution,
A Modern Campus Illumination
Examity
Fanshawe College
Flywire

Indspire
CanCred by Learning Agents
MacEwan University
McGill University
McMaster University
Modern Campus
OCAD University
Queen's University
Royal Roads University
Saskatchewan Polytechnic
Simon Fraser University
Small Economy Works
Studiosity

Toronto Metropolitan University
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A huge thank you to all our sponsors for CAUCE 2023!

