

CAUCE Professional Development Committee – Annual Report

Summary of activities for the period of September 2025 to June 2026

According to the CAUCE Professional Development Committee’s terms of reference, the Committee “has a broad mandate to conduct needs assessments and, with Executive Committee approval, to design and offer professional development programs.” This report provides a summary of the Committee’s current membership and the activities undertaken to fulfill its mandate.

Membership

Presently, the Committee is comprised of the following members:

Member	Institution
Hajime Kataoka (Chair)	University of Victoria
Jen Gordon (Executive Committee Liaison)	Toronto Metropolitan University
Sarah Weisbrod	Toronto Metropolitan University
Nathan Cheney	Brock University
Marina DeBona	York University
Loretta Gerlach	University of Regina
Belinda (WanQi) Jin	Simon Fraser University
Kari Kumar	University of Manitoba
Christie McGaghran	McMaster University
Nicole Neufeld	University of Northern British Columbia
Partha Roy	NAIT
Michael Salvatori	University of St. Michael’s College
Samantha Stevens-Hall	University of Toronto

The Committee members met monthly during the reporting period and demonstrate a strong commitment to fulfilling the Committee’s mandate as a team.

Activities

Planning, promoting, and delivering the 2025-26 Professional Development Series via webinar

Two-Term Series Development (September 2025 – April 2026)

Near the end of the PD Committee’s 2024–2025 term, we agreed to shift our approach and plan a webinar roster twice each year. As we pilot this model, we used the September–December 2025 period to plan the roster for January–April 2026. We have also begun planning the roster for September–December 2026.

This approach was selected in part to ensure that sessions are offered closer to registration opening dates, and in part to meet the operational needs of the PD Committee. We intend to continue with this approach while incrementally improving our planning.

Update on New Webinar Formats

This year, under the new planning framework, we developed and delivered interactive workshop sessions and panel discussions in addition to the typical presentation-style lectures.

Most notably, the *Generative AI in Curriculum Design* webinar series appears to have attracted a audience from a variety of roles within the Canadian continuing education field. The interactive format and approach were well received and highlighted the need for facilitated peer-to-peer collaboration on certain topics.

In addition, we delivered an annual conference segue session for early 2026 in the format of a fireside chat featuring three panelists. The session provided participants with insights into the broader landscape of Continuing Education and CAUCE, as well as a preview of the conference experience. Participants appreciated the relaxed format and the range of perspectives offered by the panelists.

We will continue to explore effective formats for our PD webinar series.

Delivery

We delivered the following sessions:

Topic	Date	Participation	Presenters (Affiliation)
The October session was postponed to March, 2026	October, 2025	N/A	N/A
Mapping the Role of Generative AI in Curriculum Design - A Collective Exploration Part 1	November 4, 2025	63 registrants (30 attendees)	Rod Lastra (University of Manitoba)
Mapping the Role of Generative AI in Curriculum Design - A Collective Exploration Part 2	December 2, 2025	41 registrants (21 attendees)	Rod Lastra (University of Manitoba)
CAUCE 2026 Conference Fireside Chat	February 17, 2026	28 registrants (16 attendees)	Panelists: Jo-Anne Clarke (University of Victoria)

Topic	Date	Participation	Presenters (Affiliation)
			Mary-Eleanor Power (Dalhousie University) Lena Patterson (Toronto Metropolitan University)
How to Stand Out in a Crowded Marketplace	March 17, 2026 (Rescheduled from October 2025)	Attendance count unavailable; however, the session was well attended.	Katie Cabaret, Strategist Carla Fierro-McInerney Dimitra Fotopoulos Michal Waissmann (Mount Royal University)
Bridging the Gap: Continuing Studies Micro-credentials that Connect Academia and Industry	April 15, 2026	75 registrants (43 attendants)	Nicole Neufeld Laurel Bai (University of Northern British Columbia)

Planning the 2026-27 Professional Development Series

Series development

With the planning framework in mind, the Committee has determined the Fall 2026 sessions.

<u>October session</u>	<u>November session</u>	<u>December session</u>
<p>Topic: Is Your Program Still Market Relevant? A Practical Evaluation and Assessment Framework</p> <p>Format: Interactive presentation (40 min presentation; 20 min Q&A)</p> <p>Speaker: Partha Roy (Northern Alberta Institute of Technology)</p> <p>Date: October 6, 2026</p>	<p>Topic: Evolving Student Services: Innovation Across Canadian Continuing Education</p> <p>Format: Panel</p> <p>Speakers: Dr. Jessica Denenberg (York University) Dr. Terumi Taylor (University of Calgary Continuing Education) Anamaria Cardona (McGill University) Dr. Derek Tannis (McGill University)</p> <p>Date: November 3, 2026</p>	<p>Topic: Supporting Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) and Instructors through Collaborative Learning Design</p> <p>Format: Interactive presentation</p> <p>Speaker: Belinda Jin (Simon Fraser University Continuing Studies) Ezra Liu (University of Toronto)</p> <p>Date: December 1, 2026</p>

The Committee intends to arrange two to three sessions for the Winter 2027 term and will continue to solicit input from our members regarding session topics and formats. As our audience includes individuals in diverse roles within the continuing education field, we will diversify topics to ensure our professional development sessions remain current and meaningful to our members.

Other notes

New Webinar Development Process

The PD Committee has successfully navigated changes to our development process. Our offering included variety of topics in diverse format catering to the needs we observed in our survey. To ensure that this process remains effective in assessing needs, scheduling sessions in a timely manner, and selecting appropriate topics and formats, and ultimately continues to support our mandate, we will continue to review and reflect on input from our members gathered through webinar survey results and informal conversations with colleagues.

Committee Co-chair

Marina DeBona will step into the role of Co-chair for the Committee beginning in 2026-27.

Submitted by:



Hajime Kataoka
Chair, CAUCE Professional Development Committee