

Conference Planning Committee Annual Report (2025–2026)

The 72nd Annual CAUCE Conference was hosted by Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, from May 13–15, 2026.

Guided by the theme, *Thriving in Change and Complexity: Rising to the Challenge in Continuing Education*, the conference brought together continuing education leaders, practitioners, and partners from across Canada to explore how our sector can adapt, innovate, and lead amidst an increasingly dynamic and complex higher education landscape.

Throughout the conference, attendees engaged in thought-provoking keynote presentations, interactive workshops, concurrent sessions, networking opportunities, and informal conversations that reflected both the challenges and opportunities facing continuing education today. From discussions about innovation and learner needs to institutional resilience and future-focused leadership, the conference demonstrated the strength, creativity, and commitment of the CAUCE community.

Perhaps most importantly, CAUCE 2026 reinforced the value of coming together as colleagues. The exchange of ideas, sharing of experiences, and development of new connections continue to be among the most meaningful outcomes of our annual gathering.

Conference Highlights

- **Host Institution:** Dalhousie University
- **Conference Dates:** May 13–15, 2026
- **In-person attendees:** 202
- **Number of first-time attendees:** 82
- **Keynote Speakers:**
 - *Opening:* Jackie Pichette, Policy Lead, Skills & Higher Education, RBC Thought Leadership, RBC
 - *Closing:* Celina Caesar-Chavannes, Neuroscientist, Consultant
- **Number of sponsors:** 19
- **Sponsorship Revenue:** \$75,500

Key Outcomes and Themes

Several themes emerged throughout the conference:

- Navigating complexity and uncertainty in higher education
- Building institutional resilience and adaptability
- Supporting lifelong learners in a rapidly changing world
- Leveraging innovation and emerging technologies

- Strengthening partnerships and community connections
- Exploring new opportunities for continuing education leadership

Acknowledgements

The success of CAUCE 2026 reflects the dedication, collaboration, and generosity of many individuals and organizations.

On behalf of the Conference Planning Committee, I would like to extend sincere thanks to the team at Dalhousie University, whose hospitality, leadership, and commitment helped create an exceptional conference experience. Halifax provided a welcoming and inspiring backdrop for learning, networking, and community building.

I would also like to thank our keynote speakers, presenters, sponsors, exhibitors, and attendees. Your willingness to share knowledge, experiences, and innovative practices continues to make the CAUCE conference one of the most valuable professional development opportunities in our sector.

Special appreciation is extended to the members of the Conference Planning Committee, the Program Planning Committee, Sponsorship Committee, the CAUCE Executive Committee, and the CAUCE Secretariat. The countless hours devoted to planning, coordination, communications, fundraising, programming, and logistics ensured another successful conference for our members and partners.

2026 Conference Planning Committee

- Darcy MacPhail, Dalhousie University
- Mary-Eleanor Power, Dalhousie University
- Flavia da Cruz Silveira, Dalhousie University
- Nathan Cheney, Brock University
- Kristen Kopp, University of Victoria
- Hajime Kataoka, University of Victoria
- Deanna Wolfe, University of Saskatchewan (CAUCE)
- Coral Sawchyn, University of Saskatchewan (CAUCE)
- Ewa Wasniewski, Concordia University of Edmonton
- Michelle Aarons, York University (Chair)

2026 Conference Program Planning Committee

- Julia Denholm, Lifelong Learning, Simon Fraser University
- Jennifer Farrell, St. Francis Xavier University, Centre for Online Learning & Professional Studies

- Juan Mavo-Navarro, School of Continuing Studies, University of Toronto
- Barb Mercer, Brock University, Professional and Continuing Studies
- Natasha Rajcevic, University of Calgary Continuing Education
- Dawne Ramsahoye, School of Continuing Studies, McGill University
- Tony Rusinak (Chair), Dalhousie University, Faculty of Open Learning & Career Development
- Coral Sawchyn (Liaison), CAUCE Secretariat, University of Saskatchewan
- Janna Wilson, University of Victoria, Continuing Studies

2026 Sponsorship Committee

- Deepa Acharya, University of Calgary, Continuing Education
- Jonathan Belgrave, Brock University, Professional and Continuing Studies
- Liz Bowman, University of Victoria, Continuing Studies
- Anne Dwyer, McMaster University, Continuing Education
- Loretta Gerlach, University of Regina, Continuing Education
- Mary-Eleanor Power, Dalhousie University, Faculty of Open Learning & Career Development
- Ewa Wasniewski (Chair/Liaison), Concordia University of Edmonton, Learning Innovation and Professional Studies
- Deanna Wolfe, CAUCE Secretariat
- Stacey Woods, University of Manitoba, Extended Education

Looking Ahead

Planning is already underway for CAUCE 2027, hosted by University of Victoria, from May 12-14, 2027.

As our sector continues to evolve, the annual CAUCE conference remains an important opportunity to learn from one another, strengthen our professional community, and advance the role of continuing education in Canada. The momentum generated in Halifax will undoubtedly continue to influence our work and inspire new ideas in the year ahead.

On behalf of the Conference Planning Committee, thank you for your engagement, your contributions, and your continued commitment to lifelong learning and continuing education.

With gratitude,

Michelle Aarons

Conference Planning Committee Chair; President-Elect
CAUCE 2026