

ASEC Fall Conference 2023 – Thursday's Sessions

Session A (FULL 2-Days)

1. *Ribbon Skirts* with Muriel Halabisky

- In this workshop, each participant will create a straight-line ribbon skirt with 4 rows of ribbon. No sewing skills are necessary, but you will need a lot of patience!
- An additional charge of \$60 will apply for this option which will cover all supplies. Sewing machines will be provided, but if you have your own that you would prefer to use you are more than welcome to do so.
- Space will be limited to 12 spots and will be first-come-first-served.

Session B (FULL Afternoon - 1:00 pm - 3:45 pm)

2. *Literacy Teaching Strategies* with Marcey Cherniak

- The aim of this workshop is to provide adult educators with practical strategies for fostering and improving literacy in the context of the Manitoba Stages Framework. The workshop will expand on the resources used in the literacy classroom in the areas of digital technology, literacy and numeracy in order to support instruction in the literacy classroom. The expected outcome of the workshop is that instructors will leave with new tools and strategies for the development of reading, writing, oral communication, document use, numeracy and digital skills. In addition, it will help participants make professional connections with peers and mentors who have experienced success with different strategies and tools in the adult literacy classroom.

3. *Learning Disabilities & Employment* with Suzanne Beaver

- This presentation outlines the intersection of learning disabilities and career/employment. Key areas covered include understanding learning disabilities, dispelling myths, and exploring their impact.
- The presentation highlights the importance of identifying strengths, self-advocacy, and utilizing accommodations. It delves into strategies for finding the right career path, showcasing success stories of individuals with learning disabilities. Lastly, it introduces available support services, including LDAM's offerings.
- Overall, this presentation provides valuable insights into unlocking the potential of individuals with learning disabilities in their careers.

4. *Writing Workshop* with Duncan Mercredi

- The writer's workshop is an exercise in writing and sharing. In my workshops with students, I suggest a topic or just a word, example, "fall"(season), favourite memory or favourite activity one does during fall. Writing sessions are timed and range from 5 minutes to 15 minutes, then participants will share what they write and we go on to another topic. Of course sharing will depend on the number of participants. If we have a smaller group, all writing sessions will be shared. If we have a larger group, I will pick and choose who shares with each topic.

Session C (1:00 pm - 2:15 pm)

5. Mamàhtawisiwin: The Wonder We Are Born With—An Indigenous Education Policy Framework with Wanda Spence & Lola Whonnock

- Mamàhtawisiwin: The Wonder We Are Born With – An Indigenous Education Policy Framework outlines guiding principles, strategies, and actions for achieving the intended learning outcomes for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students, and for all students in Manitoba.
- Mamàhtawisiwin is a provincial policy directive and conceptual framework that supports the holistic achievements of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit learners by assisting Manitoba educators in incorporating Indigenous pedagogy, languages, and cultures into their teaching and practices. The provincial Indigenous education policy framework is intended to support educators by helping them to deepen their understanding and to progress along a path of Truth and Reconciliation in their schools, adult learning centres, post-secondary institutions, classrooms, and communities.
- It aims to empower Manitoba teachers to embed strategies and practices into their educational settings and classroom routines so that they reflect Indigenous languages, cultures, and identities. Ultimately, the core goal is to enhance the educational achievement and well-being of Indigenous students, setting them up for success in school and beyond.

Session D (2:30 pm - 3:45 pm)

6. Adult Learner Stories: A Documentary Project with Kevin Nikkel

- This session presents an overview of Adult Learner Stories, a short documentary project launching this year. Teachers and administrators are invited to join a conversation during this ASEC session on how the Adult Learner Stories documentary will be created. I am looking for collaborative ALCs that would welcome a site visit, and am looking for suggestions of potential candidates for interviews.
- At the Spring 2023 ASEC conference, teachers and administrators were asked for input on a proposed short documentary exploring the topic of adult learning as a means for advocacy and promotion of local adult education centres. Since the last ASEC conference the project has received the green light to proceed with filming in November 2023-January 2024. The project is generously funded by ASEC and the Manitoba Research Alliance, in collaboration with Jim Silver, University of Winnipeg Professor Emeritus.
- The goal for the production of Adult Learner Stories is to visit 15 ALCs across the province to record short interviews with learners, students, and administrators about their experiences as learners and educators. Site visits to gather interviews will be completed by the end of January 2024. The completed documentary will be presented at the Spring 2024 ASEC conference and will then be made available on line to promote ALCs and the work that they do

ASEC Fall Conference 2023 – Friday’s Sessions

Session E (FULL Afternoon - 1:00 pm - 3:45 pm)

1. *Brightspace* with Shannon Magee

- This workshop is designed to be hands-on, allowing you to dive deep into the functionalities and features of Brightspace LMS.
- **Bring your device** and have your courses (and questions) ready!
- During this time, you will have the opportunity to talk and learn from your peers, as well as obtain support and guidance from the session facilitator.
- This will be dedicated time for you to work on your courses within Brightspace LMS and gain the confidence to create engaging learning experiences that inspire and motivate your students.

2. *Indigenous Students and Deficit Thinking* with Randi Desmarais

- My presentation will cover the following: what is deficit thinking? and why this is harmful to our Indigenous Students?
- Often times, we focus on statistics regarding our Indigenous students and don't consider the policies put in place and the historical injustices that led to the intergeneration trauma we are seeing.
- We will go through a timeline of history and the policies the government put in place and how this has shaped deficit thinking. We will also do some group work with real life scenarios that will focus on a strength based approach.

Session F (1:00 pm - 2:15 pm)

3. *The Stories we Hear: Social Justice in the Classroom* with David Heilmann

- Working as an adult educator within a vast array of differing communities is an extremely rewarding career. Our role is to collaborate with adults who, for a plethora of reasons, were unable to complete traditional schooling, and as such, design a program which appeals to them and their future aspirations. Unfortunately, opportunities in many communities, especially those in remote Indigenous settings, are limited due to the oppression to which individuals continue to be subjected.
- A transformative approach to education, whereby the social injustices plaguing these communities are used as a base from which to educate, has the potential to enlighten not only the adult education students we work with, and whose stories we hear, but the greater community.
- To further the efforts put forth by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, we, as adult education teachers must discover in what ways adult education programs in not only Indigenous communities—but all communities—can be restructured using issues related to social justice as a base from which to educate, with a hope of increasing engagement and better accommodating the learning needs of individual students.
- This presentation aims to provide a means in which to accomplish this goal through embedding 21st century skill development in the interactions we have with our students while using collaboratively agreed upon social justices issues as a means from which to learn. Attendees will be challenged to be critical of one’s self both personally and professionally, encourage them to involve their immediate community in localized curriculum development, and provide a model to disrupt the way in which our, almost consistently, marginalized adult students learn.

4. Understanding the Literacy Student with Cat Cogle

- This interactive workshop gives you a glimpse into what the world is like for someone with low literacy skills. During the workshop, you will learn some tools for helping your student make sense of the literate world.

5. Director's Meeting with Jennifer Muir

- This session will be a facilitated forum for adult learning and literacy centre Education Directors. Directors will be given time to connect with peers; to share knowledge, success stories, and helpful resources; and, to review and discuss new and ongoing issues and challenges.
- Directors who cannot attend this forum are invited to submit their own contributions to jmuir73@hotmail.com. These submissions will be included in the discussions during the meeting.

Session D (2:30 pm - 3:45 pm)

6. Meeting learners where they're at: adaptable life skills programs for all learners with Savanna Busia (ABC Life Literacy)

- ABC Life Literacy Canada is a national nonprofit specializing in curriculum development and adult literacy training. We envision a Canada where everyone has the skills and opportunities to fully participate in learning, life, and work. We support community organizations by providing free foundational learning materials that are accessible and adaptable to meet learner needs.
- In this presentation, we will explore the range of programs offered by ABC Life Literacy, including our workplace skills training program, and demonstrate effective implementation within your community. We'll discuss how our learner-centered programs were developed to be inclusive and accessible for a wide range of communities. We will also touch on facilitation best practices when working with adult learners.
- To provide a comprehensive understanding, we will showcase examples from our workbooks and actively engage the audience as learners. This interactive approach will allow participants to experience our programs firsthand.
- Additionally, we encourage open participation and questions from the audience, fostering a group discussion that enables us to collectively apply these principles in practice.

7. It's Not All Bad: Teaching in the Age of A.I. with Judy Amy

- NOTE: This abstract was brought to you with help from ChatGPT!
- From Siri and Alexa to autonomous cars, artificial intelligence is rapidly advancing and impacting every aspect of our lives, including education. As artificial intelligence continues to advance, it is becoming increasingly integrated into our daily lives. High School ELA teachers are not immune to the effects of AI, and they must be aware of its implications for their profession.
- This presentation will explore the potential impacts of AI on High School ELA teaching, including the benefits and challenges it presents. We will discuss how AI can be used to enhance student learning and engagement and personalize instruction.
- We will also address the elephants in the room--concerns regarding the potential for AI to replace teachers, perpetuate bias, and undermine critical thinking skills. We will provide practical strategies for High School ELA teachers to incorporate AI in their teaching practices while promoting critical thinking skills. Attendees will leave with a better understanding of the implications of AI for High School ELA teaching and concrete ideas for how to navigate this rapidly evolving landscape.