

**Program Chair Report**  
**September 19 & 20, 2014**  
**Submitted by Andrea Craigie**

- **Wow** – what a busy summer creating and practically FINALIZING our whole program!
  - Thank you to the Program Subcommittee who met in July: Larry, Derek, Yvonne, Michael, Christine, Jennifer and Theresa
  - Thank you Ronda for hosting us at your beautiful school in Canmore
  - Thank you to Bertha for being quick on the email and even quicker on the upload button as we already have ALL of our onsite session contracts confirmed!
  - Thank you to Chris and Jen for “representing” at Summer Conference
- **Highlights of 2015 Program:**
  - Thursday Morning Featured Speakers:
    - Michelle Cederberg: Energized for Excellence in Education
    - Dr. Alex Russell: Helping Kids Thrive in Anxious Times
    - Dr. Ed Dixon: Helping Boys Learn: - 6 Secrets for Helping Boys in the Classroom
    - Eva Olsson (Holocaust Survivor): A Legacy of Caring Compassion and Character
  - Friday Morning Featured Speakers:
    - Robb Nash Project: Rediscovering Your Why
    - Dylan William: Title TBA (Assessment)
    - Mark Ramsankar: ATA President
- **By the Numbers:**
  - 188 on-site sessions currently scheduled (still seeking 2-4 more for French Immersion)
    - increase over previous years due to many more rooms being set with tables, thereby decreasing room capacity
  - 20 all new offsite sessions including (woodturning, kayaking, cross-country skiing, playwriting and directing, conducting, photography and Bollywood dance)
    - many of these at nearby Epcor Centre
  - 11 Ed Camp Sessions
  - 37 sessions by Local presenters
  - 34 FREE sessions
- **(Follow-up from April report) Possible recommendations for 2015:**
  - Schedule blocks of room by level (ie – Telus rooms all Elementary)
    - Yes! Telus mostly Elementary, Glen Rooms mostly Secondary, Hyatt a mix of both but mostly set with tables (or perimeter) and many Technology sessions there)
  - Have back-to-back sessions in same room on same topic (ie – all Secondary Math in Glen 203)
    - Not consistently but many rooms scheduled this way, where feasible
  - Increase number of sessions for Administrators
    - 5 / 9 timeslots (many other cross-over topics)
  - Increase sessions for High School Science
    - 7 / 9 timeslots
  - Increase / maintain number of sessions for French Immersion
    - currently 4, hoping for 8
  - Friday morning keynote?
    - see above! (A few concurrent sessions also running to meet capacity demands)
  - Keep EdCamp style but offer earlier in day
    - half offered first thing Friday, half in PM on Friday
  - Maintain / increase number of offsite sessions
    - see above!
- **What Else is New?**
  - a few specialty sessions now scheduled starting first thing Thursday morning
  - one Full Day Session, Thursday: “Educator Innovation Day” (collaborative project creation)
  - one Two Day Session: Outdoor Council of Canada – Level One Certification
  - overall, the new website (e-creation of contracts, auto-email updates,etc.) worked fabulously!
    - Check out the new look of some of our links! (Thanks Bertha!)
      - [http://www.palliserconvention.org/featured\\_speakers.htm](http://www.palliserconvention.org/featured_speakers.htm)
      - <http://www.palliserconvention.org/sessions.htm>
- **What's Next?**
  - We NEED an on-site book vendor!
  - Creating Program within Sched.org App