

Program Chair Report
April 17 & 18, 2015
Submitted by Andrea Craigie

- Thank you to everyone who played a role with the program!
 - Larry for ensuing speaker facility and AV needs were met
 - Bertha and Sherry for ensuring everyone was paid
 - Derek for highlighting the program via social media
 - Program sub-committee for co-creating program
 - Entire Board for promoting and facilitating

- General Recap of 2015 program:
 - Keynote speakers received mostly positive feedback
 - As usual, overall program evaluation comments ran the gamut from “Loved it!” to “Hated it!” and “There was nothing for me!” to “Too many to choose from!”
 - Many people missed having an onsite book vendor
 - Sched app was again popular with those who knew about it
 - Full Day offsite sessions (Wood Working, Outdoor Certification) were very popular
 - Pre-registration system seemed to work well

- Possible recommendations for 2016
 - Try to have at least one, mainstream recognizable name as keynote
 - Continue to schedule blocks of room by level (ie – Telus rooms all Elementary) but move Elementary Literacy and Math sessions to larger, MacLeod rooms
 - Maintain / increase number of offsite sessions
 - If we go with Epcor again create a mini-program with more details for those sessions (not just “offsite”)
 - Have all tech sessions in Hyatt (or CTCC) on just one day and provide WiFi here (???)
 - Bring back book vendor (already have a lead – thanks Larry!)
 - Every session will have option to be labeled and filtered by up to two curricular areas as many sessions overlap
 - Bertha has already made some adjustments to online proposal form, in order to gather more specific information about speakers/sessions
 - Could we start Thursday keynotes at 8:45 (with Welcomes, etc at 8:30) in order to provide 11:30-1:25 as an extended lunch option for those who choose it?
 - First-Aid certification?

- 2016 Program Sub-Committee
 - members to be selected at May meeting
 - members to focus on personally soliciting proposals around specific subject areas so as to ensure balance
 - “meet” (possibly online / remotely?) in July to vet proposals

- Calling ALL Board members:
 - PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE start spreading the word - and sending the link - to our Speaker Proposal Site. We would love more local speakers and welcome new content. The deadline for submissions is June 30th and this comes up quickly!!