

2017 Palliser Convention: Year - End Program Report

Submitted by Andrea Craigie, Program Chair

April 7 & 8, 2017

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Total Sessions	223	210
On-Site	206	201
Off-Site	17	9
FREE Sessions (no cost to PDTCA)	33	25
Sessions by "Local" Presenters*	59	30

****ALL local submissions submitted by the June 30th deadline were accepted**

- General Recap of 2017 program:
 - All 3 Opening Speakers extremely well received; positive feedback / evaluations
 - Sched app was again popular
 - On-site book vendor was again popular / well-utilized
 - Having Board members monitor at on-site Pre-Registration session was a great improvement over previous year.
 - Free WiFi was a bit "sketchy" in CTCC but was appreciated
 - Early start did not seem to cause issues and earlier finish on Friday seemed to increase last session participation
 - Twitter and Face Book had greater presence and increased followers
 - Shading pre-registration sessions on large grids increased clarity for readers
 - Opening pre-registration early worked fine. There seemed to be no "downside" to the January start and would recommend doing this again.
- Possible recommendations for 2018
 - Ensure greater number of sessions presented in French, to accommodate Francophone teachers who will be joining Palliser in 2018
 - Continue to schedule blocks of room by level, as much as possible
 - Maintain / increase number of offsite sessions (SAIT offerings were missed this year; was only one. The Zoo sessions were extremely popular and well-reviewed.)
 - Discourage speakers from asking for tables unless absolutely necessary as this greatly decreases capacity in rooms
 - Maintain Thursday keynotes starting at 8:45 (with Welcomes, etc at 8:30) in order to provide 11:30-1:15 as an extended lunch option for those who choose it
 - Maintain (and grow) Social Media presence
 - Pursue "Project Heart" (through ATA)
 - Consider "Maker Space" for delegates (in Exhibition Hall, Pre-Con area or...???)
- Miscellaneous
 - Online Proposal site for 2018 opened April 2nd and will remain open until June 30th
 - New email address for Program Chair will be program@pdtca.org