

Program Chair Report
Sept. 15, 16, 2023
Program Chair: Alison England
program@pdtca.org

WORK COMPLETED

-Thursday and Friday mornings start at 9:00am and both days go until 3:20pm. This is a change from starting at 8:30am. Thursday used to go until 4:00pm, and Friday used to end at 2:30.

-There are Five 60-minute time blocks on each day. This is a change from 5-75 minute blocks on Thursday, and 4-75 minute blocks on Friday.

-Sessions are now 60 minutes in length, with 20 minutes in between each session.

-There will be three keynotes, but they won't all present on Thursday morning. We will use Exhibition Hall E beside the Exhibits for the Keynote presentations. Sessions will be held at the same times as keynotes. This will enable people to see all three keynotes, if they choose, while still attending quality sessions. In addition, this will enable more choice for those who wish to by-pass the keynotes.

-Each keynote will present twice (Except Francophone), and these are the times:

Thursday, 9-10	Thursday, 10:20-11:20	Thursday, 1:00-2:00	Thursday, 2:20-3:20	Friday, 9-10	Friday, 10:20-11:20
Keynote A (Catriona Le May Doan)	Keynote A (Catriona Le May Doan)	Keynote B (Almost done contracts)	Keynote B (Almost done contracts)	Keynote C (Almost done contracts)	Keynote C (almost done contracts)
	Keynote D: Francophone (Still Searching!)				

-We have Catriona Le May Doan: Renowned Canadian Speedskater, Olympic Gold, Silver and Bronze medalist, Spokesperson for numerous charitable organizations, Office of the order of Canada in 2005. She shares her insights on achieving goals and the process during which one experiences trials and triumphs.

-I attended ATA Summer Conference, met some amazing people, did some collaborating with other convention program people, and attended some great sessions. One of the best sessions I attended was by Jonathon Teghtmeyer, who hosted a session on communication. All of the Conventions are struggling with higher costs, along with attendee apathy. We talked about ways we could better communicate, and I'm hoping we can make some impactful plans so delegates are excited and pumped about Teacher Convention. Also, I won a prize too.

Highlights:

1. Cool Things:

- a. Vanessa Vakharia, the "Math Guru" is one of our featured speakers on Friday morning: <https://www.themathguru.ca/>
- b. Dr. David Naylor, Physics professor from the University of Lethbridge is one of our featured speakers on Friday morning:

- c. University of Calgary Poster Series on Thursday
- 2. **Some Recognizable Names/Organizations Offering Sessions:**
 - a. Alberta Assessment Consortium, ATRF, ATRA, AHS, ASEBP, CRC, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS), Inside Education, ATA, Ever-Active Schools, LUNA Child Youth and Advocacy Centre AND MORE!
- 3. **Offsite Sessions So Far:**
 - a. Airdrie: Alternative Schools; Cooking
 - b. Downtown Calgary, Nose Hill Park, Fish Creek Park: Learning Outdoors
 - c. Okotoks: Fly-Fishing, Curling
 - d. High River: Wood-shop and Whittling
 - e. TBA: Learn to Sew
 - f. Picked up at the Convention Centre and go on a Trolley to the new Calgary Stampede
 - g. Telus Spark
 - h. Chestermere: Foods
 - i. Calgary Zoo
 - j. Fish Creek Park
 - k. Nose Hill Park
- 4. Almost 100 sessions are being put on by Palliser District teachers!

WORK IN PROGRESS/ACTION ITEMS

- Currently searching for Francophone keynotes
- Completing contracts for two keynotes: Phyllis Webstad (<https://orangeshirtday.org/phyllis-story/>) and Jared Cooney-Horvath
- Completing the program with sessions we still need: LGBTQ+, ELL, FRANCOPHONE.

Follow Program highlights on Facebook -Palliser District Teachers' Convention
See highlights on Twitter @palliserc

*****Please, please, please, pump this up!*****

In Addition:

- 5. Finally, I'd like to thank the following people who gave valuable hours of their summer to do program vetting and to help make our program:
 Kristine Hinton, Gloria Hunter, Kristi Muir, Christine Crane, Mike Shain, Jenn Munton, Carmen Wasylynuik, Amanda Caporicci-Urovitch, Carolyn Pawelko, Corrinne Fraser, Sandra Gammie, Yvonne Toney, Sarah Watson, Jenn Yersh: Thank-you, thank-you, thank-you! Your comments and advice were important, and essential and I really appreciate it.
 Thank-you to Bertha, who helped me all summer, took my calls, gave me incredible advice and caught my mistakes. She also answered lots of emails so I didn't have to,

and if it weren't for her, I wouldn't be sitting here telling you that we are almost done.

Thank-you to Paulette for your help this summer and Fall, your expertise and efficiency make it look easy.

Thank-you to Andre, for helping us to ensure our Francophone and French Immersion sessions are amazing.

6. Thank-you to the exec who helped with hard decisions and ideas. Making these small changes look like small changes, but they weren't and there were lots of unscheduled conversations and impromptu meetings to help figure out how our new schedule would work. Thank-you.