

The 2018 Alberta Chapter Conference, *Diversity & Inclusion: Creating Equitable Learning Environments*, was held in scenic Jasper, Alberta March 7-9, 2018.

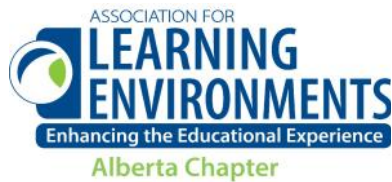
Keynote speaker Evelyn Porter, Civil Engineering Manager for Williams Engineering and role model in society on behalf of visible minorities/ transgender folks spoke about *Trans Issues: Identity, Acceptance, Self-worth & Leadership*. Conference delegates “walked a mile in her shoes” as she shared personal stories about her journey as a transgender person. Thoughtful discussion about the human spectrum, and creating environments where children feel safe to be themselves followed throughout the conference.

Kaitlynn Theal, Provincial Projects Coordinator with Ever Active Schools got everyone up and moving (Twitter @CalgaryJLJ) at the start of her presentation, *Don't Sit Still on A Dime*. Ever Active Schools promotes activity permissive learning environments as active kids learn better. The one size fits all classroom has gone the way of the dodo bird. Active classrooms have standing, seated, and floor zones, to respond to the diversity of learning abilities, and provide opportunities for children to self-regulate.

Lesley Woodland, Post-occupancy Evaluation Coordinator with Alberta Infrastructure provided insight from her experience producing post-occupancy evaluations. Often strategies to get kids into schools are not optimized when there is a disconnect between the designer’s intent and the end user’s requirements. Alberta Infrastructure has a repository of lessons learned from these studies that are available to the public.

Joanne Wright, Principal with Archiasmo Architectural Works Ltd. shared her experience in First Nations Community Development in her talk, *Feasibility Studies for First Nations Schools: Understanding Demographics, Special Education, Traditional Pedagogies and Community and Social Needs*. She illuminated how First Nations Schools are chronically underfunded, as the demographics often do not reflect the total number of children who require additional support. Video clips from First Nations Educators provided insight into the importance of mentorship, community and cultural identity in education.

Josephine Duquette, land development and property management planner with Edmonton Public Schools, Marc Labonte, Director of Administrative and Financial Services Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord, and Doris Paquette, Educational Planner at Elk Island Public Schools presented *School Community Renewal Initiatives*. These three Edmonton-area school boards came together and engaged the community to come up with a strategy for underutilized schools. The community-driven plans resulted in some schools being replaced on the existing sites, and some schools being repurposed. Joint-use agreements, reflect the unique needs of the communities, and fulfil the mandate of providing educational equity; all students can access high quality education and learning environments regardless of their postal code.



Stephen Bugbee, Partner at Zeidler Architects & Baby boomer, and Basima Roshan, Senior Consultant with Innovia & Millennial, were the closing keynote speakers and presented on *Leading Millennials in Creative Practices*. Zeidler Architects has proactively engaged Innovia to come up with a talent management strategy to address the generation gap in the workforce and foster the culture of collaboration in design. Millennials are different than any other generation before them because of the way they were parented, the self-esteem movement, 24-hour customer service, and technology/ social media. They want regular feedback; the annual review is insufficient. If they are meeting/ exceeding expectations, Millennials want to be compensated for it. If they are not meeting expectations, they want you to invest in their development and train them. Cross-generational training and inclusion keeps Zeidler in the lead in the race for creative talent.

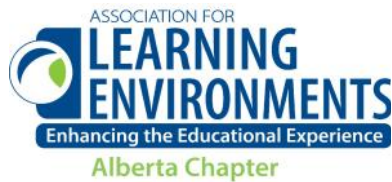
Francis Petit, Dust Collection Specialist with VETS Sheet Metal presented *Every Student Deserves to be Safe at School: Air Quality Risks in Learning Environments*. He provided case studies and described how to mitigate explosion from fine wood dust and fume risks in wood shop/ industrial design classrooms in schools. In addition, Francis shared some of the common air quality issues in the classroom, the risks involved, and what is required to properly remedy these issues as every student deserves to be educated in a safe and healthy environment.

The Conference closed with an *Alberta Education and Alberta Infrastructure Update* by Erin Owens, Director of Capital Planning South. A phased, gated approval process is used for prioritization and planning of school projects to meet the diverse educational needs of Alberta students.

The President's Award, for outstanding educational facilities in the Province of Alberta, was held on Thursday evening, and presented by 2017 A4LE Alberta Chapter President Johnathan Steel, Principal, IBI Group & A4LE Canadian Director, Ryan Bultena, Designer Group 2 Architecture Interior Design Ltd.



The Alberta Chapter would like to thank FWBA Architects, The Workun Garrick Partnership, and Stantec Architecture for providing the following submissions for consideration:



Project: Schuler School
Project Location: Schuler, Alberta
School Jurisdiction: Prairie Rose School Division No.8
Architect: FWBA Architects



Project: Onoway Junior/ Senior High School
Project Location: Onoway, Alberta
School Jurisdiction: Northern Gateway Public Schools
Architect: The Workun Garrick Partnership



Project: Grande Cache Community High School Modernization
Project Location: Grande Cache, Alberta
School Jurisdiction: Grande Yellowhead Public School Division
Architect: The Workun Garrick Partnership

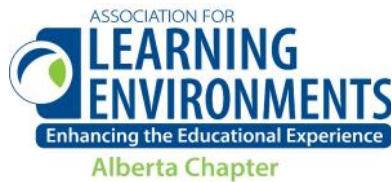
Congratulations to Stantec!



Project: Roy Bickell Public School
Project Location: Grande Prairie, Alberta
School Jurisdiction: Grande Prairie Public School Division
Architect: Stantec Architecture Ltd.

Thank you to the following vendors for showcasing in the tradeshow: Wood-Works, Caliber Sport Systems, Soprema Canada, Erv Parent, GameDay Flooring, VS America, Acoustic Solutions Ltd., Extron Electronics, Interface, Armstrong Flooring, Chandos Construction, Westcor Construction, Pitch Process, Lightspeed and VETS Group.

Kind regards,
Jennifer Lavier Jankovic, BA, PMP
A4LE Alberta Chapter President



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