

Northern Region Meeting and Program

Navigating the unique educational challenges and opportunities in Northern Ontario

Saturday, October 26 and Sunday, October 27, 2024
Thunder Bay, [Valhalla Hotel and Conference Centre](#)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26

Valhalla Hotel, Ballroom 3

5:00 p.m. Registration

5:30 p.m. Welcome, Board Profiles Showcase

6:30 p.m. Working Dinner and Keynote Speaker:

Working with the Public Education System – The State of Modern Mining in Ontario and Opportunities for Students in the Sector

Presented by Bryan Wilson, VP & General Manager of Côté Gold Mine

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

Valhalla Hotel, Ballroom 3

8:30 a.m. Breakfast

9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Use of a Strengths-Focused Assessment Approach in a Collaborative Education-Based Pediatric Clinic

Presented by:

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, Lakehead DSB

Dr. Linda Bakovic

Dr. Ed Rawana

Maggie Fredrickson

Lakehead District School Board (LDSB) is in its fifth year of offering a unique collaboration between a local paediatrician and the School Board. This clinic provides urgent comprehensive medical and psychological assessments to LDSB students who have medical, behavioural, developmental or mental health concerns that are impacting their ability to be successful in the school environment. Students have an initial medical consultation with the paediatrician and are also assessed by the board psychologist. There is then a meeting involving the paediatrician, the board psychologist, the superintendent, the principal of special education and school principal and school representatives. Individual concerns and assessments of the student are discussed and a comprehensive strength-based plan for addressing these concerns is developed. Parents or guardians join the collaborative meeting to hear about the plan and give their perspective and insight. The Northern Ontario Academic

Medicine Association (NOAMA) has approved funding for a research project associated with this innovative clinic.

10:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Networking Break

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Superior Greenstone DSB Partnerships with local First Nations, the development of an engagement framework and collaboration with the Anishinabek Education System

Presented by:

Shy-Anne Bartlett, Manager of Indigenous Education, Superior Greenstone DSB

Alex Marten, Superintendent of Business, Superior Greenstone DSB

Will Goodman, Director of Education, Superior Greenstone DSB

The session will explore how SGDSB developed strong relationships while navigating a path to a new interpretation of Education Service Agreements with First Nation partners. Speakers will share how Education Service Agreements became transformative vehicles that led to strong partnerships of trust and an Engagement Framework that represents our shared commitment as leaders in education.

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Lunch

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Northern Regional Council Meeting

2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Networking Break

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Student Transportation - Unique Challenges and Opportunities in the North

Presented by:

Jennifer McIntyre, Director of Policy, OPSBA

David Wright, Finance Advisor, OPSBA

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Experiential Learning, Indigenous Learning and Academic Excellence

Presented by Darren Lentz, Principal, Lakehead DSB

**This presentation will also feature a hands-on birch bark activity*

5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

"Is there a role for school board trustees in Indigenous language revitalization and immersion?"

Presented by Dr. Paul Cormier, Lakehead University

This presentation will ask a critical question for school board trustees in Ontario: Is there a role for school board trustees in Indigenous language revitalization and immersion? To investigate this question, trustees will be asked to consider their role in governance as trustees and the impact of legislation and policy on the ability for Indigenous groups to address this urgent issue in their communities. Some questions to be considered will be: Does the current approach to language instruction in public school's work? What is the connection between pedagogy and Indigenous language learning? What is the connection between Aki (land), language, and cultural transmission? Why is Indigenous language important? What do we mean by language revitalization? What do we mean by immersion?

The presentation will draw on current research, examples from community based language immersion / revitalization projects, and the work of Keewatinase- The Department of Indigenous Education at Lakehead University in developing community based language teacher training programs.

6:00 p.m.

Dinner on your own

Hotel Accommodations

Attendees are responsible for booking their own hotel accommodations. OPSBA has secured a special rate at the Valhalla Hotel & Conference Centre. Rooms will be available for booking until **Friday, September 27, 2024**, or while inventory lasts. To book your hotel stay, please visit: [Valhalla Hotel & Conference Centre](#) and enter OPSBA group code "1245338". Or call the hotel toll-free at 1-800-964-1121 and quote OPSBA group code "1245338".

Registration

A Registration Fee of \$340 +HST, includes a full day of Professional Development, dinner, breakfast, lunch and coffee breaks. To register, please visit: [2024 Northern Region Meeting and Program Registration Page](#).

Please direct any questions about the 2024 Northern Region Meeting and Program to the OPSBA Events Team, at pdevents@opsba.org.