

#CAFLN18

*Welcome to the 5th Annual
Canadian Assessment for Learning
Network Conference and Symposium*

Sailing Forward With Assessment *for* Learning

*An Opportunity for Learning, Conversation and
Reflection*

Doubletree by Hilton, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
May 3rd, 4th and 5th 2018

CAFLN is a member-led, non-profit organization connecting people across Canada who are interested in the use of assessment for learning and the development of related research, policies, and practice in Education.

 **CAfLN**

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Sailing Forward With Assessment *for* Learning

An Opportunity for Learning, Conversation and Reflection

A Welcome from our President

Welcome to the 5th annual CAfLN conference.

The idea for CAfLN was born on a stormy winter Toronto night. The founders Damian Cooper, Lorna Earl and Ken O'Connor were talking about the fabulous AfL practices that they had seen across the county and lamenting the fact that these ground-breaking practitioners did not know about one another.

We are excited to be in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia after prior conferences in Winnipeg, Manitoba; Nanaimo, British Columbia; Kingston, Ontario and Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. As a non-profit organization, CAfLN is committed to fostering and promoting high quality Assessment for Learning across Canada. We operate as a network with a focus on connecting people, research, policy and practice to support assessment in the service of student learning. I am personally looking forward to meeting new colleagues and seeing long-standing ones. We hope you consider becoming a member. The relationships that are formed through the network are the connective tissue and the strength of CAfLN. Working together we can make a difference.

Thursday, May 3rd, 2018

6:00 – 7:00 <i>City Terrace</i>	Registration & Networking <i>Karen Fadum, Alison Creaser, Grant Page</i>
7:00 – 8:15 <i>Lake City Ballroom</i>	Evening Town Hall <i>Lorna Earl, Ken O'Connor, Damian Cooper</i>
8:15 – 10:00 <i>Lake City Ballroom</i>	Social Event and Networking <i>Snacks Provided and Refreshments Available</i>

CAfLN Presents a Town Hall Event

To open this year's conference and symposium our founding members, Ken O'Connor, Lorna Earl and Damian Cooper will be panelists in a town hall style session. Registrants were invited to provide us with questions that could be used for discussion during the town hall. Each of the founders will bring their own history and convictions to the conversation, share their powerful stories and engage with the audience in examining the past, present and future of AfL in Canada, as a driving force to create excellence and equity for all students in Canadian schools.

Presenter: Ken O'Connor

Ken O'Connor is an independent consultant on grading and reporting. A graduate of the University of Melbourne (B.A. Hon) and the University of Toronto (M. Ed), he has been a staff development presenter in 47 states in the USA, 9 provinces and one territory in Canada, and in 22 countries outside North America.

His 23 year teaching career included experience as a geography teacher and department head at 6 schools in Toronto and Melbourne (Grades 7-12) starting in 1967. Ken was a Curriculum Coordinator responsible for Student Assessment and Evaluation and Geography for the Scarborough Board of Education (and then the Toronto District School Board) from March 1990 to June 1999.

He is the author of *The School Leaders Guide to Grading*, Solution Tree, 2013, *A Repair Kit for Grading: 15 Fixes for Broken Grades*. Second Edition, Pearson, 2011, *How to Grade for Learning: Linking Grades to Standards*, Third Edition. Corwin, 2009, and *Fifteen Fixes for Broken Grades: A Repair Kit*, Pearson, Toronto, 2012.

Presenter: Lorna Earl

Lorna Earl is a retired associate professor from Ontario Institute for Studies in Education University of Toronto and currently president, Lorna Earl and Associates. She has written widely about assessment, using data for decision making, evaluation methods, knowledge mobilization, and networking for school improvement. Lorna is passionate about linking research and practice in real contexts of schools and classrooms.

Presenter: Damian Cooper

Damian Cooper is an independent education consultant who specializes in helping schools and school districts improve their instructional and assessment skills. In his varied career, Damian has been a secondary English, Special Education, and Drama teacher, a department head, a librarian, a school consultant and a curriculum developer. He has specialized in student assessment since 1986. Damian served as assessment consultant to the School Division of Nelson Education where he worked on the development of assessment principles and strategies for a wide variety of K-12 resources. Prior to that appointment, he was Co-ordinator of Assessment and Evaluation for the Halton District School Board in Burlington, Ontario.

Damian served on the executive of the Association of Educational Researchers of Ontario (AERO) from 1997-2002. In 2013, Damian and his colleagues, Lorna Earl and Ken O'Connor, launched The Canadian Assessment for Learning Network (CAfLN)

Friday, May 4th, 2018

7:30 – 8:15

City Terrace

Registration & Breakfast

Sponsor Booths Open

8:15 – 8:30

Lake City Ballroom

Welcome Address and Introductions

Lorna Earl (President). Bernie Van Doninck (Conference Chair)

8:30 – 8:45

Lake City Ballroom

Mi'kmaq Honor Song / Smudging

Student Support Worker - Sheila Porter, Mi'kmaq Elder Peggie Wentzell, Lacey Pennell, Danika Kaizer, Laine Young, Lexie Young

8:45 – 10:00

Lake City Ballroom

Keynote Performance: Halifax All-City Wind Ensemble

Conducted by Nathan Beeler, Moderated by Lorna Earl

10:00 – 10:30

City & Harbourside Terrace

Break and Networking

Nutrition Break Provided

10:30 - 12:00

Breakout Session #1: Each workshop runs for 90 minutes

Hawthorne Room - *Assessing Reading in the Primary Grades: A Conversation between the Child, the Book, and You* - Jackie Clarke and Damian Cooper

Sullivan Room - *Communicating Clear Learning: A BC Perspective* - Brooke Moore and Justin Green

Alderney Room - *Stories from the Frontier: Creating a Culture of Learning, an Independent School's Perspective* - John Kerr and Bryan Williams

12:00 - 1:00

City & Harbourside Terrace

Lunch

Provided

1:00 - 2:30

Breakout Session #2: Each workshop runs for 90 minutes

Hawthorne Room - *Levelling Up: Harnessing the Power of Digital Formative Assessment Tools* Erin Dunn-Keefe and Denise Dodge Baker

Sullivan Room - *Assessment for Learning When Percentage Grades Are Mandated* Ken O'Connor

Alderney Room - *Superintendents in Focus: Charting a Course for AfL and Building on Success* Lori Jeschke, Roberta Kubik, Elwin Leroux, Moderated by Geoff Cainen

2:30 – 3:00

City & Harbourside Terrace

Networking Break

Nutrition Break NOT Provided

3:00 - 3:30

Lake City Ballroom

Keynote Performance: Halifax All-City Wind Ensemble Return

Conducted by Nathan Beeler, Moderated by Lorna Earl

3:30 - 3:45

Lake City Ballroom

Closing Address: Building CAFLN in the East

Lorna Earl (President), Bernie Van Doninck (Conference Chair)

AM Breakout Session / 10:30 – 12:00

Assessing Reading in the Primary Grades: A Conversation between the Child, the Book, and YOU

Hawthorne Room - Jackie Clarke and Damian Cooper

In this session, Damian and Jackie will focus on the importance of observational and conversational assessment practices and how to seamlessly integrate technology in this process. Jackie Clarke will share her learning journey in assessing students' reading using simple technology sources, such as a smartphone and a laptop computer, to assist in validating her assessment and to help students build their self-regulation skills. Come learn from her 'ups and downs' in the world of children's literacy and join the conversation to discuss how we can best support our students and our assessment practices with technology.

Jackie Clarke is a teacher at Oodenawi Public School, Halton District School Board, Ontario

Damian Cooper, a CAfLN co-founder, is an independent consultant with Plan Teach Assess

Communicating Clear Learning: A BC Perspective

Sullivan Room - Brooke Moore and Justin Green

This session will engage participants in thinking about the various ways of communicating learning; at the beginning and through the learning process, and ultimately reporting this learning in meaningful and creative ways. During the session Brooke will share examples from Delta showing how teachers are using, creating, and sharing clear learning targets and success criteria from Grades K-12. She'll share how the District is explicitly focusing on this innovation in a very unorthodox way and how it has spread across the District in unexpected ways. Justin will then focus on how this intentional step in the learning process leads to incredibly authentic and meaningful reporting to parents. He'll share how the concept of Student Voice has been incorporated into the learning process and formalized in Communicating Student Learning to parents.

Brooke Moore is Delta School District's District Principal of Inquiry and Innovation. As part of her role, Brooke co-leads a collaborative teacher inquiry initiative called the "Coordinators of Inquiry" which supports teacher leaders in their work with colleagues using a collaborative inquiry cycle.

Justin Green is Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools' District Coordinator of Assessment, a Grade 3-4 Classroom Teacher, and currently the Vice-President for the Nanaimo District Teachers' Association. Justin is also the Resources Chair for the CAfLN. In all of his roles, Justin looks to build capacity with respect to Assessment for, as, and of Learning.

Stories from the Frontier: Creating a Culture of Learning, an Independent School's Perspective

Alderney Room - John Kerr and Bryan Williams

This session will aim to trace and relate our experiences as we continue to transition from a high school grading environment to a learner centred space, from classrooms that focus on percentage grades and summative assessments, to a model that promotes the importance of formative assessment and the role it can play in shaping student learning and understanding. We will aim to share our story and some of our practices, tips, and insights as our journey continues to evolve. Discussions will draw on our work with visible thinking strategies, cross-curricular teaching, and moving stakeholders from a place steeped in tradition to a place of best practice.

John Kerr and Bryan Williams are teachers at Balmoral Hall in Winnipeg, Manitoba

PM Breakout Session / 1:00 – 2:30

Levelling Up: Harnessing the Power of Digital Formative Assessment Tools

Hawthorne Room - Erin Dunn-Keefe and Denise Dodge Baker

Have you ever observed a child absorbed for hours in a video game? Is it a waste of time or a window into how 21st century learners engage in self-assessment, peer collaboration and grit in order to level up? If that's the case, is there a way to harness some of the features of these games to level up student learning? Check out this session to learn how digital tools like Quizlet, Showbie and others can help students to self-assess, evaluate their learning, capture their thinking, collaborate and share with you, the teacher. Participants are encouraged to bring a device.

Erin Dunn-Keefe is an Instructional Coach with the South Shore Regional School Board, Nova Scotia

Denise Dodge Baker is the Coordinator of Assessment and Quality Instruction with the South Shore Regional School Board.

Assessment for Learning When Percentage Grades Are Mandated

Sullivan Room - Ken O'Connor

The policy requirement for percentage grades in most Canadian provinces makes AfL more difficult but it can be done. Ideally, we should completely eliminate the use of percentages and use only 2-7 levels of proficiency, but provincial policy and procedures must be followed so we have to find ways to 'compensate for the compulsory' and look for 'the shades of gray.' In this session ways to assess and grade – for learning - and with percentages only at the end of the process will be provided and discussed.

Ken O'Connor, a CAfLN founding member, is an independent consultant with Assess for Success. A fourth edition of his book, "How to Grade for Learning," was released last fall.

Superintendents in Focus: Charting a Course for AfL and Building on Success

Alderney Room - Geoff Cainen

This session will feature a moderated panel discussion with three superintendents.

Topics to be explored will include challenges and successes with implementation of AfL, a review of what AfL means for student success and the importance of assessment literacy. In the true spirit of CAFLN, participants will establish a personal learning target and through networking, sharing and questioning and using each other as a resource, establish first next steps for themselves and their students. Group discussions, facilitated by three educational leaders, will focus on learning, the role of AFL and how it can be actualized regardless of the age or height of the learner!

Geoff Cainen is the retired superintendent of the South Shore Regional School Board in Nova Scotia

May 5th, 2018 – Symposium and AGM

8:00 - 9:00

Harbourside Terrace

Coffee and Conversation

Refreshments Provided

9:00 - 9:10

*Hawthorne and Sullivan
Ballroom*

Symposium - Welcome from the Symposium Chair

Lori Jeschke

9:10 - 9:35

*Hawthorne and Sullivan
Ballroom*

Inside / Outside Circle

Artifacts from Across Canada

9:35 - 10:40

*Hawthorne and Sullivan
Ballroom*

Table Group Conversations

How do we know that the work and practice of Assessment for Learning is impacting our students and adults as learners?

10:40 - 11:00

Harbourside Terrace

Break

11:00 – 12:00

CAFLN AGM

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