

Enriching Community Through Story: Strengthening Voice and Choice



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Teachers of English
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BC Teachers of English Language Arts

BCTELA PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE

October 20, 2017

George Elliot
Secondary School
10241 Bottom Wood Lake Rd,
Lake Country, BC

8:30 a.m.–3:45 p.m.

BCTELA's annual conference brings together educators who are committed to teaching practices that respect and engage all learners. This year's sessions will focus on topics such as exploring story and ourselves; fostering community and engagement through connections, reading, and writing; connecting ELA to the core competencies; considering gender identities; Aboriginal perspectives and principles of learning; exploring ELA 10–12 possibilities; voice and choice; inclusive practices; and a special panel tribute to the work and influence of Richard Wagamese.

Wine and Cheese Event at The View Winery Thursday, October 19, 7:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.

A Portage and Main sponsored event featuring the writing of Schnellert, Brownlie, and Moore in their upcoming book in the *It's All About Thinking* series.

Event included in registration.

**Friday Morning
8:30 a.m.–9:00 a.m.
Opening Welcome and
Student Authors**

Friday morning 9:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m. keynote: Somewhere Over the Rainbow Sticker



Ivan Coyote
Grades K–12

Ivan Coyote is the author of 11 books, the creator of four short films, six full-length live shows, and three albums that combine storytelling with music. Ivan is a seasoned stage performer and

long-time road dog, and over the last two decades has become an audience favourite at storytelling, writer's, film, poetry, and folk music festivals from Anchorage to Amsterdam and Australia.

The Globe and Mail newspaper called Coyote “a natural-born storyteller,” and the Ottawa Xpress once said that “Coyote is to Canadian literature what k.d. lang is to country music: a beautifully odd fixture.”

Ivan often grapples with the complex and intensely personal issues of gender identity in their work, as well as topics such as family, class, social justice, and queer liberation, but always with a generous heart, a quick wit, and the nuanced and finely-honed timing of a gifted raconteur. Ivan's stories remind us of our own fallible and imperfect humanity while at the same time inspiring us to change the world.

Ivan's 11th book, *Tomboy Survival Guide*, was released in the fall of 2016 with Arsenal Pulp Press. *Tomboy Survival Guide* was named an American Library Association Stonewall Honour Book in 2016, and this fall Ivan will be given an Honorary Doctorate of Laws at Simon Fraser University for their writing and activism.

Friday morning sessions 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

A1: How To Give A F.E.C. About Queer and Trans Youth

Ivan Coyote
Grades K–12

School can be a scary place when you are different. Bullying and exclusion often occur because a student falls outside of the mainstream, whether that be race, financial circumstances, language, ability, sexuality or gender identity. Because LGBTQ people have made such huge advances in terms of human rights and representation these last few years, more and more youth are feeling empowered enough to come out as queer or gay or lesbian or bisexual or trans, in secondary school, and even elementary school. We need

to make sure that we are ready for this, and that we have the resources, knowledge, and information at the ready to support them. We need to give a FEC about these youth. We will discuss the F (Facilities) the E (Environment) and the C (Curriculum) changes that need to happen to truly make school culture safer for all. This is an interactive workshop where each participant will be encouraged to share their own stories of both success and failure when it came to helping a student who was struggling because of real or perceived difference.

Ivan Coyote speaker bio: see keynote

A2: Writers at Work: Composing and communicating

Faye Brownlie
Grades K–3

How do we build a writing community in an inclusive primary classroom? What structures best support the development of young writers? How can the personal core competencies be included in a writing lesson? How does learning support best work in an inclusive writing community? These and other such wonderings will be explored through classroom writing stories from K-3 classrooms around the province. Experience how teaching writing is fun, rewarding, and doable—and leave with writing ideas to try next week.

Faye is a long-time BCTELA member, an avid reader and writer, and a passionate nurturer of readers, writers, and thinkers. She considers herself in a position of privilege as she works with teachers and learners throughout the province. It is these experiences that help continue to build her repertoire of literacy success stories.

A3: We Are All Connected: Exploring story and text to better understand ourselves, others, and the world

Adrienne Gear
Grades K–7

In this session, Adrienne will share some of the ways she has been integrating *Reading Power* into other areas of the redesigned curriculum. She will highlight details of her Aboriginal unit, *We Are All Connected*, as well as units exploring Canada, immigration, and global justice. Adrienne will highlight favourite picture books and share lessons and student samples. You will leave feeling inspired and ready to implement new ideas tomorrow!

Adrienne is a BC teacher, author and popular workshop presenter. She is the author of five books on Reading and Writing Power, and is well-known for her dynamic and practical workshops. She has presented throughout BC, Canada and internationally in the US, UK, and Sweden. She continues to stay grounded in classroom practice two days a week in Vancouver.

A4: Fostering a Community of Learners Who Find Joy in Reading and Writing

Kristi Fortuin and Lisa Wilson
Grades K–5

How do we foster a love of reading and writing and build confidence in our young learners? This session is about

building community and differentiation strategies that allow students to take risks and see themselves as readers and writers.

Kristi has taught Kindergarten to Grade 2 and has worked closely with her district’s early learning team for the past four years. She shares her passion for literacy with new and pre-service teachers in different mentorship initiatives within her district.

Lisa is a district-wide and school-based literacy support teacher. With 22 years teaching experience, she uses her strong understandings of literacy and instruction to address the differentiated needs of all students in her work with teachers.

A5: Exploring Story Through The Principles Of Learning

Belinda Chi and Don Blazeovich
Grades K–7

What is a story? Explore this question along with Grade 2’s with examples such as Totem Stones, Community Blanket, and personal writing. See how Grade 4/5 students discover their own stories/personal narratives through various forms of writing and through *The Principles of Learning*. Core competencies will also be highlighted in the examples being shared.

Belinda teaches a Grade 4/5 class in Burnaby. The focus in her classroom is building community and fostering a positive learning environment for her students to explore themselves through their writing.

Don teaches Grade 2 and believes in honouring student choice and voice in their learning. Through explicit instruction and the gradual release model, his students learn to deepen their thinking skills through an inquiry approach.

A6: Deepening Roots as We Utter Words of Deep Mystery

Kim Ondrik and other Co-creators of Vernon Community School
Grades: K–12

Every day at Vernon Community School (VCS)—with learners ages 11–60—we cultivate and nurture an inclusive community rooted in social justice. In doing so, we are reminded that much is going on beneath the surface (deep root growth) that we are often not aware of. Intentionally neglecting judgment and assumptions, and instead, providing feedback through questions and comments, learners (students, teachers, mentors, parents, and administrators) are developing a deep trust in one another, compassion for diversity, and an attuned responsiveness to circumstances, conditions, or relationships they deem concerning, wrong, or needing growth regardless of the personal cost or astonishing risk-taking required. At VCS, we are co-creating “spaces of dialogue ... spaces where we can take initiatives and uncover humanizing possibilities” (Maxine Greene, 1988). Every conversation and each perspective, no matter how difficult, is an experience full of mystery and provocation, and a power no one could orchestrate, as learner, teacher, and milieu collide with multiple outcomes and visions for future learning no one could predict.

VCS began in 2014—conceived of by Kim Ondrik and Murray Sasges—and initially co-created by 55 families and 56 students in Grades 7–9. Presently, it is an alternate school (of choice) composed of 80 students in Grades 7–12 who continue to co-create its makings. This year, two more teachers were added, April Olson and Doug Ondrik, as well as an educational assistant, Nicole Walker. VCS is considered “a school within a school,” and is situated within Fulton Secondary, comprising Grades 8–12

with 650 students. VCS is the first educational setting of its kind in the Vernon School District: free and inclusive of all learners and fully taking up the British Columbia Education Plan (2015). VCS has been short-listed for the Ken Spencer and Cmolik Educational awards for innovation, and has welcomed guests from all over the world. For more information: www.vernoncommunityschool.wordpress.com

A7: Powerful Readers: Fiction reading strategies for secondary students

Kyla Hadden
Grades 8–12

This workshop focuses on the reading comprehension strategies that are used when reading fiction. Through this hands-on workshop, teachers will explore five comprehension strategies using a variety of fiction works.

Kyla Hadden is a teacher in the North Okanagan Shuswap District. She has taught a variety of English and history courses at the middle and secondary level over the last 15 years. Kyla recently published her first book, *Powerful Readers: Thinking Strategies to Guide Literacy Instruction In Secondary Schools*, which she co-authored with Adrienne Gear.

A8: Inquiry Begins with Wonder

Corinne Penner and Melissa O'Byrne
Grades 8–10

With a focus on inquiry and literacy skills in the ELA Grades 8–9 classroom, come explore strategies such as making connections, inferring, and using oral language! Practical examples from a variety of sources, including BC iWonder8 and 9 resources.

Corinne teaches English, humanities and social studies in the Surrey school district. She is a district helping teacher and has the privilege of working with teachers from K–12 around instructional strategies, curriculum planning, and quality assessment.

Melissa has taught English, social studies, LST, and humanities with Grade 8–12 students in the Surrey school district for 15 years. She enjoys working with students on increasing their literacy and thinking skills across the curriculum.

A9: All That We are is Story: A tribute to Richard Wagamese

Jo Chrona (FNESC), Sara Davidson (UBC), Allison Hargreaves (UBCO) Kelley Iden (SD91), Judith King (SD67), Desiree Marshall-Peer (SD83/UBCO), Cindy Miller (SD54), Chelsea Nyeste Prince (SD83), Leyton Schnellert (UBCO), and Terry Taylor (SD10)

“All that we are is story. From the moment we are born to the time we continue on our spirit journey, we are involved in the creation of the story of our time here. It is what we arrive with. It is all we leave behind. We are not the things we accumulate. We are not the things we deem important. We are story. All of us. What comes to matter then is the creation of the best possible story we can while we're here; you, me, us, together. When we can do that and we take the time to share those stories with each other, we get bigger inside, we see each other, and we recognize our kinship—we change the world, one story at a time...”

Come celebrate the stories of Richard Wagamese and the stories he inspired. Educators from across the province will share ideas from their diverse engagements with Richard and his work including his impact on their perspectives and pedagogy, teaching examples related to or inspired by his work, anecdotes, and highlights from his writing.

A10: Offering Choice through BC's New ELA 10-12 Curriculum

Denise L. Clark
Grades 10–12

This session will update participants on the new ELA 10–12 curriculum, discussing goals, rationales, course descriptions, and implementation models.

Department Head of the Vancouver Technical Secondary's English and ELL Department, **Denise** is part of the Ministry's ELA 10–12 Curriculum Development Team and past member of Personal Responsibility and Awareness Competency Development Team. Denise teaches English 9–12, engaging students in inquiry, book clubs, poetry recitation, PSAs and other avenues that help bring ELA to life. She is a past executive member and presenter for BCTELA and has an MA in Language and Literacy Education.

A11: Using Aboriginal World Views and Perspectives to Improve Engagement and Academic Performance in a Language Arts Classroom

Naryn Searcy
Grades 9–12

Bringing Indigenous texts and pedagogy into the classroom positively impacts student engagement and academic performance. Effective resources will be discussed as well as practical instructional examples of Indigenous approaches. Stories, photos, and video examples of classroom activities as well as student interviews will be shared.

Naryn has experience teaching English Language Arts 8–12, Literature 12, and English First Peoples 10 and 12. She is currently a district helping teacher and her master's degree focused on integrating Indigenous and Eurocentric approaches in academic classrooms.

A12: Creating Place: A writing workshop for teachers*Ashley Cail and Sara Davidson*

Grades: K–12

This is a creative writing workshop for teachers focused on the theme of “enriching community through story.” When we nurture our own writing practice, this helps us to inspire and

motivate our students. Join us for this time to create and share in a supported and fun environment.

Ashley is an English teacher at Rutland Senior Secondary in Kelowna, and she has been an editor with BCTELA’s journal *English Practice* for the last few years. She strives to inspire confidence in her students through their writing.

Sara is a Haida educator and 12-month lecturer in Indigenous Education at UBC. She has taught secondary school in the Yukon and rural British Columbia. Her research interests include adolescent literacy, Indigenous education, and culturally responsive teaching. She is currently a co-editor for BCTELA’s journal, *English Practice*.

Afternoon sessions 1:00 p.m.–2:30 p.m.**B1: Beyond the Boxes: Bringing gender equality to the classroom***Ivan Coyote*

Grades K–12

This workshop is designed to challenge teachers to look at how rigid gender boxes and norms impact students of all genders, and to strategize solutions that will stretch the gender boxes so that each and every one of us can truly develop into our full human potential. We will touch on topics such as language, organized sports, music, movies, and tradition, using examples drawn from our own personal histories to deconstruct the gender boxes we were all placed in and strategize solutions to build classrooms and a curriculum that encourages students of all genders to reach for and believe in true equality.

Ivan Coyote speaker bio: see keynote

B2: It’s All About Thinking*Faye Brownlie*

Grades 4–7

Now that creative thinking and critical thinking are listed as core competencies in our redesigned curriculum, they are resurfacing as areas of interest for teachers. How does a focus on thinking permeate

our Grades 4–7 Language Arts class? What does this look like in a highly diverse class? Is this focus possible for English Language Learners and students who require additional learning support? Come and see how to design units and lessons that are woven together by thinking. See examples of what student work looks like in these lessons. See how to use the core competency profiles to support student self-assessment.

Faye is a long-time BCTELA member, an avid reader and writer, and a passionate nurturer of readers, writers, and thinkers. She considers herself in a position of privilege as she works with teachers and learners throughout the province. It is these experiences that help continue to build her repertoire of literacy success stories.

B3: We Are All Connected: Exploring story and text to better understand ourselves, others, and the world*Adrienne Gear*

Grades K–7

In this session, Adrienne will share some of the ways she has been integrating “reading power” into other areas of the redesigned curriculum. She will highlight details

of her Aboriginal unit *We Are All Connected*, as well as units exploring Canada, immigration, and global justice. Adrienne will highlight favourite picture books, share lessons and student samples, and you will leave feeling inspired and ready to implement new ideas tomorrow!

Adrienne’s bio: see A3

B4: Reimagining Early Writing Pedagogy: Supporting children’s innate ability as story makers, tellers, and writers*Nicole Crane, Lisa Wilson, and Donna Kozak*

Grades pre-K–2

When young children are viewed as composers of stories and invited into writing through multiple access points, they begin their authoring journey believing in their own agency to compose, create, and voice their experiences.

Nicole, Lisa, and Donna are early learning and literacy district support teachers in Central Okanagan public schools. They are passionate about meeting all learners where they are at by joining them on their learning journeys to becoming the best they can be.

B5: Learning for All: Developing vocabulary and inspiring writing

Lisa Schwartz

Grades K–7

Join Lisa for this hands-on workshop to learn engaging whole-class strategies that support students in expanding their vocabulary, composing their ideas, and writing. Strategies shared will be See, Think, Wonder, explode a sentence and word sort from a book. Lisa will show examples of how these strategies unfolded in classrooms from K–7 including integration of self-assessment of core competencies. Picture book titles that work well with these strategies will also be shared.

Lisa is a teacher consultant with the Richmond School District (SD 38). Prior to taking on the role as consultant, she taught Grades K–5 for 15 years. Lisa is passionate about early literacy, reading instruction, and success for all students. In the past four years, Lisa has presented her ideas and experiences in workshops throughout British Columbia.

B6: Powerful Readers: Non-fiction reading strategies for secondary students

Kyla Hadden

Grades 8–12

This workshop positions all teachers as teachers of reading and is targeted at both English teachers and content area teachers. Teachers will explore the research around reading comprehension and come away with concrete strategies to help students become powerful readers.

Kyla's bio: see A7

B7: No Communications Courses...So Now What? Designing inclusive, supportive, and challenging experiences in a senior language arts classroom

Naryn Searcy and Jo Chrona

Grades 10–12

BC's renewed curriculum reflects positive steps towards strength-based classrooms that provide varied opportunities for students to connect with and demonstrate their learning. This session will focus on designing a senior language arts classroom that engages and develops the competencies of all students.

Jo, Curriculum Coordinator for FNEESC, has 20 years teaching experiences in K–12 and post-secondary systems and has also been involved in various aspects of education transformation in BC. She is a member of the ELA and EFP curriculum revision teams, advises on First Peoples' content in other curricular areas, and has worked with school districts in the development of the core competencies.

Naryn's bio: See A11

B8: Voice and Choice: Engaging our students with New Media and Spoken Language

Kasha Duff

Grades 9–12

Have you read the new curriculum and are perplexed about where to begin? Sharing student work samples, this collaborative session will explore the use of essential questions and inquiry using the New Media and Spoken Language curriculum.

Kasha has been teaching English for 15 years in Surrey. Her master's

thesis examined why student choice encourages engagement. She loves trying new strategies and believes a classroom enriched with student voice is the ideal learning environment.

B9: Designing for a Range of Abilities: Success for all students

Shelley Moore and Katie Marren

Grades 9–12

This session will look at how our unit plans can be responsive to the needs of a group of learners that include a variety of abilities. We will discuss examples and strategies of how all kids can achieve success through strategic planning of goals and designing of supports. We will look at frameworks such as Learning Maps and the Planning Pyramid.

Shelley is an inclusive consultant in the Richmond School District, as well as various other districts and community organizations throughout the province. She supports systems, frameworks, and collaborative teacher professional development that create access to education for every learner. Her new book is *One Without the Other: Stories of Unity Through Diversity and Inclusion*.

Katie is a district support teacher for differentiation and inclusion in SD57 (Prince George). She works closely with schools and teachers to support inclusive practices at both the elementary and secondary level. Her support is based on Shelley Moore's framework for inclusion and her focus is on the implementation of that framework in the classroom setting, making it accessible for all teachers, all classes, and all subjects.

B10: Offering Choice through BC's New ELA 10–12 Curriculum

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Grades 10–12

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Department Head of the Vancouver Technical Secondary's English and ELL Department, **Denise** is part of the Ministry's ELA 10–12 Curriculum Development Team and past member of Personal Responsibility and Awareness Competency Development Team. Denise teaches English 9–12, engaging students in inquiry, book clubs, poetry recitation, PSAs and other avenues that help bring ELA to life. She is a past executive member and presenter for BCTELA and has an MA in Language and Literacy Education.

B11: English 10 First Peoples: One school's journey with mandating Indigenous content

Sara Davidson
Grades 5–9

This presentation is based on Sara's research in a school that decided to mandate enrollment in English First Peoples 10 for all students. It will explore the implications of the decision and the response of students, educators, and community members over the years since the decision was made.

Sara's bio: see A12



B12: Connecting to Texts through Book Trailers

Nicole Widdess
Grades 5–9

Have you ever had that class that just doesn't show any motivation and has a complex composition? Join me in my journey of trying to help a class connect to different texts through lesson sequences that work toward thinking with the end in mind, specifically looking deeper at symbolism, insightful quotes and music to create a powerful book trailer through iMovie.

Nicole currently works in the Richmond School District as a Vice Principal. She has been working for 17 years in both an elementary and secondary school setting. Multiple roles such as ELL teacher and resource teacher have benefited her in understanding individual student needs. She is committed to teaching diverse learners and is passionate about literacy. She is co-author with Leyton Schnellert and Linda Watson to *It's All About Thinking: Creating pathways for all learners in the middle years*.

Closing: TELA Talks 2:45 p.m.–3:45 p.m.

Join us for this showcase of leading BC educators as they take the stage for 10 minutes each to share their passions and present their ideas for supporting all of our learners.

Faye Brownlie
Adrienne Gear
Shelley Moore
Leyton Schnellert



Conference at a glance

Conference Sessions at George Elliot Secondary School

Friday, October 20, 2017
8:30 a.m.–3:45 p.m.
Registration: 8:00 a.m.

Opening morning speaker:
Ivan Coyote

Choose 2–1 ½ hour sessions (morning and afternoon) with presenters from British Columbia and beyond.

Lunch provided.



www.bctela.ca

Conference Host Hotel

Four Points by Sheraton Kelowna Airport
5505 Airport Way, Kelowna, BC V1V 3C3
(855) 900-5505

Ask for room block for BC Teachers of English Language Arts (BCTELA)

Conference Host School

George Elliot Secondary
10241 Bottom Wood Lake Road, Lake Country, BC, V4V 1Y7

To register, go to www.bctela.ca.

Registration closes **October 13, 2017 at 4:30 p.m.**

THURSDAY, OCT 19

Wine and Cheese Event

7:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.
 The View Winery,
 2287 Ward Rd, Kelowna, BC

A Portage and Main sponsored event featuring the writing of Schnellert, Brownlie, and Moore in their upcoming book in the *It's All about Thinking* series. Event included in registration.

FRIDAY, OCT 20

8:00 a.m.–8:30 a.m.	Registration
8:30 a.m.–9:15 a.m.	Opening and Welcome
9:15 a.m.–10:15 a.m.	Keynote
10:15 a.m.–10:30 a.m.	Coffee and Vendors
10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	Breakout Sessions
12:00 p.m.–1:00 p.m.	Lunch and Vendors
1:00 p.m.–2:30 p.m.	Breakout Sessions
2:30 p.m.–2:45 p.m.	Vendors
2:45 p.m.–3:45 p.m.	TELA Talks
4:00 p.m.	BCTELA Annual General Meeting

FEE SCHEDULE *

BCTF members	\$175
Non BCTF members	\$225
Host district teachers #23	\$125
TTOCs	\$100
Teacher candidates	\$50

* Conference fee includes a membership to British Columbia Teachers of English and Language Arts (BCTELA) provincial specialist association (PSA)