

2017 AAFSLW Conference - Session Info and Bios

Wednesday Evening Social:

Beer and Pizza Mixer

We have booked a suite at the Pomeroy Hotel and Conference Centre to provide an informal opportunity for mingling with fellow colleagues.

Thursday Morning Interactive:

The Brain Game, facilitated by the County of Grande Prairie FCSS staff

The Brain Game is a tabletop game experience that builds understanding of the powerful role of experiences on early brain development – what promotes it, what derails it, with what consequences for society. Participants will gain a memorable, compelling perspective on the lifelong impact of early childhood experiences.

Thursday Morning Presentation:

Navigating the AAFSLW Website, by Christine Payne

Did you know that the AAFSLW has a website? There is a ton of resources and information that can be obtained from our website. This short demonstration will show what can be found there.

Thursday Morning Keynote:

St. Stephen's School Administrative Staff

The staff of St. Stephens School are pleased to share with you the journey our school has taken over the past 6 years. They will discuss their approach to dealing with such issues as drugs, poverty, attendance and school culture, and how they adopted a Positive Behavior Approach to help them in these areas. Thinking outside the box and building relationships are key components to their presentation.

AAFSLW AGM:

We will be holding our annual AGM during the last half of the lunch break.

Thursday Afternoon Presentation:

GP Youth Council Video Presentation "From Redneck to Rainbow"

We will be viewing a compelling documentary created by members of the City of Grande Prairie Youth Council. Youth Council members Spencer Valen and Truelee Love will be present to hold a discussion after the presentation.

Bios:

Spencer Valen is a grade 10 student at St. Joseph Catholic High School in Grande Prairie, Alberta. As an active member of The City of Grande Prairie Youth Council, Spencer is a passionate advocate for the LGBTQ+ community. Spencer holds the position of president for the Gender & Sexuality Alliance group at his school and has recently been a recipient of a training and travel scholarship from the Canadian Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity in Ottawa. The training provided Spencer with leadership in best practices for running a GSA, Indigenous cultural teachings and provided networking opportunities to connect with youth across Canada. Spencer hopes to shed light on the LGBTQ+ community through education, awareness and building safe and inclusive environments.

Truelee Love is a freshman at the Grande Prairie Regional College and has been a City of Grande Prairie Youth Council member since 2014. As a multi-award-winning youth leader in the Grande Prairie community, Truelee recently completed a two-year journey directing the documentary, From Redneck to Rainbow, in partnership with C.I.A. Solutions. The film created a platform for conversation around safe and inclusive environments for LGBTQ+ youth in Alberta. It is currently being submitted to film festivals internationally.

Thursday Afternoon Keynote:

Carmen Moore, Inclusive Education Coach for Peace Wapiti School Division 76 - "Everything I wish I knew then that I know now..."

This session is a sharing of a unique perspective of a teacher, administrator, inclusive education teacher/coach, educational assistant and parent of a child with challenges. It highlights both sides of the family and educational experience for families that have children with any extra needs/diagnosis/struggles. It is within a story framework with a few hints on how to better relationship, communication and better understanding to move forward with more trust and cooperation.

Bio:

Carmen Moore is currently an inclusive education coach with Peace Wapiti School District. She has had twenty years in the field of education as a teacher, principal, and inclusive education coordinator. She is a freelance writer, contributed to curriculum content, has recently attained her Masters of Education, and is a public speaker on a variety of topics. However, she most enjoys her time as a wife and mother.

Thursday Evening:

Self Care!

We will provide information in your registration package that includes a number of local attractions for you to check out at your leisure. For those interested and weather permitting, there will also be a backyard social - complete with snacks, lawn games, campfire and music, thanks to the generous hospitality of our own Vaughn Dueck, (BYOB and a lawn chair, if possible.)

Friday Morning Keynote:

Shawn O'Grady, MSW RSW

Shawn brings a great deal of expertise in designing and overseeing treatment programs for children and families, as he draws from his experience in child and family treatment programs at Hull Services over the past 19 years. Shawn is currently the Director of the Preadolescent Treatment Program at Hull Services. He has trained extensively with Dr. Bruce Perry and the Child Trauma Academy in the Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics (NMT) in the area of early childhood trauma and the ways that can impact children and even adults later in life. Shawn also has a specialty in parental capacity assessments, with a particular focus with families struggling as a result of domestic violence, high-risk child behaviour, and complex needs children. He has considerable skill and expertise in the area of crisis intervention and in family counseling, and he draws heavily on his understanding of other treatment and assistance programs to create plans that will help families. Shawn received both his Bachelors and Masters

of Social Work, with a Clinical Specialization from the University of Calgary and is a Registered Social Worker with the Alberta College of Social Workers.

Additional Details:

Breakfast: A buffet breakfast is included with hotel stay.

Wellness Breaks: We will be providing refreshments during Thursday morning/afternoon and Friday morning wellness breaks.

Lunch: Lunch will be provided on Thursday.