

# CONFERENCE PROGRAM

ALBERTA CORRECTIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION  
PRESENTS OUR 36TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

*Reset & Reconnect*

JOURNEY TO A MEANINGFUL LIFE

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

MARCH 2&3 2023



The Alberta Correctional Education Association would like to thank our sponsors for our 2023 Conference:

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# President's Remarks

“The teacher is of course an artist, but being an artist does not mean that he or she can make the profile, can shape the students. What the educator does in teaching is to make it possible for the students to become themselves”

Miles Horton & Paulo Freire

We Make the Road By Walking: Conversations on Education and Social Change

On behalf of your Alberta Correctional Association Board, I am pleased to welcome everyone to our 2023 online conference, “Reset and Reconnect: Journey to a meaningful life”. Although we are not meeting in person again this year, we are so glad you were able to join us virtually to learn and share.

The work you do is not for the faint-hearted. We know that people who are involved with the criminal justice system have disproportionate experience with individual and systemic trauma and barriers. As the quote above suggests, these experiences often stand in the way of people's ability to realize their full self - and we have a role to play in that journey. We hope that the program we have put together provides you some moments to reflect, to laugh, and to feel inspired.

We would like to thank our sponsors for the event, New Readers Press and the Government of Alberta. Without their generous support the conference would look much different.

As this is an election year, please consider joining the board to help organize next year's conference. I am honoured to have had the opportunity to act as President for the last 2 years, and I look forward to seeing you virtually or in person sometime soon. As always, you are free to reach out to the board generally, or me personally, at any time. Connection over shared experiences enriches our lives, and makes us better at what we do.

Nicole Patrie  
ACEA President



# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

## Thursday March 2

9:00-9:15 AM	ACEA Conference Welcome
9:15-10:15 AM	Kirk Mockford & April Klueh <b>Work Integrated Learning as a Transition from Correctional Education</b>
10:15 - 10:30 AM	Break
10:30 - 12:00 PM	The Prem Rawat Foundation's Peace Education Program <b>Discovering Meaningful Life through Peace Education</b>
12:00-1:00 PM	Lunch (Social Event at 12:30)
1:00-2:00 PM	Scott Tooker <b>Wellbriety Circle Programming in Correctional Facilities</b>
2:00-2:30 PM	<b>ACEA Annual General Meeting (AGM) Part One</b> Explaining Board Positions, Q&A, Door Prize Draw #1
2:30-2:45 PM	Break
2:45-3:45 PM	Dr. Ashley Oostvogels <b>Intersecting Journeys- Mapping the Complexities and Opportunities for Reciprocal Care and Influence in Correctional Education</b>
3:45 PM	Day 1 Closing Remarks

# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

## Friday March 3

9:00 - 10:00 AM	<p>Tina Clem</p> <p><b>Strong Not Wrong: Strength Based Practices for Supporting Youth in Redefining Themselves and Connecting to Community</b></p>
10:00 - 10:15 AM	Break
10:15 - 10:45 PM	<p><b>ACEA Annual General Meeting (AGM) Part Two</b></p> <p>Agenda, Elections &amp; Door Prize Draw #2</p>
10:45 - 11:00 AM	Break
11:00 - 12:30 PM	<p>Closing Speakers: Wendy Stevens and Leita McInnis</p> <p><b>Humanizing Substance Abuse: A Discussion of Creative and Compassionate Approaches</b></p>
12:30 PM	Day 2 Closing Remarks

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# Speakers

Kirk Mockford & April Klueh

## Work Integrated Learning as a Transition from Correctional Education

April has been a career coach with Work-Integrated Learning and Career Education at NorQuest College for several years, with an expertise in supporting foundational learners overcome barriers to employment. Prior to joining NorQuest, she was an originator of a grassroots employment program at Boyle Street Community Services. Serving those traditionally marginalized and underserved has long been her passion. Thus, April eagerly jumped the opportunity to develop an employability-based reintegration program for the Edmonton Remand Centre and Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Centre. The Career Transitions Program now acts as a bridge between Correctional Education and a brighter future outside institutional walls.

Kirk has been working in corrections for close to 20 years, and has been the instructor for the Print and Design program at Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Centre since 1997. With a background in advertising, he has been instrumental to the ongoing success and evolution of the print shop. With the goal of becoming more economically sustainable, the unique courses he has developed not only support the individual growth and overall employability of students. They are also enterprising in their approach. It is Kirk's dream that the program expand to serve more students through the reintegration process.

### Presentation:

As correctional educators, we work tirelessly to prepare our students for success as they return to their communities. We hope that the skills, knowledge, and credentials they acquire during their time with us will carry over, so that they never find their way back into our classrooms. However, there is currently a lack of transitional reintegration programming offered here in Alberta. The support students receive often comes to an abrupt end, along with their sentence. In response to the research suggesting that increasing overall employability reduces recidivism, a pilot program has been developed by NorQuest College. The Career Transitions Program offers both career development workshops and 1-1 career coaching, which is ongoing after release. This program presents viable pathways for formerly incarcerated individuals to successfully reintegrate as productive members of society.



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# Speakers

Scott Tooker

## Wellbriety Circle Programming in Correctional Facilities

Scott has been a correctional peace officer since 1996. For the past 2 years he has been piloting Indigenous programs at the Red Deer Remand Centre. He received training from the White Bison Company and became a facilitator of the 12-step Medicine Wheel for men called Wellbriety. Since 2021 Scott has been running Wellbriety circles at Red Deer Remand Centre with overwhelming participation and attendance. In September 2022 Red Deer hosted the first ever International Wellbriety conference, and Scott spoke about bringing Wellbriety into correctional facilities. Scott is a member of Sou'West Nova Métis Council / Nova Scotia Wampanoag Council, and has been apprenticing and studying Shamanism, ancient healing traditions, for 15 years.

### Presentation:

Implementing culturally accepted practice into an environment overrepresented by Indigenous individuals is critical to assisting them with connecting to life after their custodial placements. In this presentation, Scott will share his stories and experiences of offering Indigenous programming, specifically Wellbriety, inside the Red Deer Remand Centre. The Four Laws of Change in the Wellbriety program will be explained and outlined. Introducing ceremonial practices to correctional settings has a positive impact on participants.

Dr. Ashley Oostvogels

## Intersecting Journeys - Mapping the Complexities and Opportunities for Reciprocal Care and Influence in Correctional Education

Dr. Ashley Oostvogels has devoted much of the last decade to teaching and serving adult learners as an instructor, program Chair and, currently, as the Dean, Student Success at Northern Lakes College. A former correctional educator, Dr. Oostvogels understands the nuances and complexities that come with educating "on the inside". A graduate of the Doctor of Education program in Educational Research and Leadership at the University of Calgary, Dr. Oostvogels immersed herself into her past role to explore the experiences and meanings of care with her former student inmates through autoethnographic research. She looks forward to discovering how others in the correctional education field, and beyond, can connect to this research in their own, unique sense-making journey.

### Presentation:

A paradox exists for correctional educators as they seek to provide meaningful learning experiences for those they are tasked in teaching. "Perhaps it is surprising and seemingly incongruous to speak of care and prisons in the same breath" (Wright, 2004, p. 191). This presentation will attempt to map the complexities in developing and maintaining care as a correctional educator with student inmates. Participants will be encouraged to reflect upon and share in their own journey within correctional education and the landscape of care and compassion in their everyday practice.



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# Speakers

## The Prem Rawat Foundation's Peace Education Program Discovering Meaningful Life through Peace Education

Dena Hanley, PhD., is a correctional subject matter expert for The Prem Rawat Foundation. Her career has been focused on the design, implementation, and development of evidence-based practices throughout prisons, probation and parole. She has worked in, and with, numerous local, state and federal organizations/agencies. She is currently developing virtual tools that will increase program efficiency and success, while simultaneously decreasing officer workload. Dr. Hanley earned her PhD from the University of Cincinnati. Billa Nanra is the 2022 recipient of the New Leaf Network Volunteer of the Year award. The New Leaf Network consists of people with lived experience of the CJS, unifying and supporting others to develop personally and professionally. He facilitates the Peace Education Program at HMP Leeds, where he was previously incarcerated.

Willow Baker is the Program Director of The Prem Rawat Foundation's Peace Education Program, a member of the American Probation and Parole Association international relations committee, and a peace ambassador for the Institute for Economics and Peace. She is a former professor at CELSA school of communication of Sorbonne University, Paris, France.

Josselin Brain, of British Columbia, has been involved with the Peace Education Program for six years as both a participant and facilitator. With a 20-year background in business development, customer service and serving the needs of international visitors to Canada, she joined The Prem Rawat Foundation in 2021 in the role of Program Support Coordinator. She is passionate about her international role in promoting and supporting individuals and organizations who offer the program in their communities.

Michel Klamph, of Toronto, has combined a career as a navigator, educator, and social worker with her volunteer efforts on behalf of The Prem Rawat Foundation's Peace Education Program. With a diploma in special care counselling from Humber College, a Bachelor of Arts from Carleton University, and a certificate in Adult Education from the University of Calgary, Michel's focus has been with those who have faced systemic barriers to community integration and participation.

Annelies Bertsch has been volunteering with the Peace Education Program since 2013. A retired elementary school teacher, currently residing in Victoria, BC, she is part of a small team facilitating the program at William Head Correctional Institution. She is also working with staff at Stony Mountain Institution in Manitoba to get the program up and running there.

Marielle Comeau, of Québec, has been focusing her activities on human needs since she retired as a Registered Nurse. Passionate about life and humanity, she is involved with The Prem Rawat Foundation as a Representative for the Peace Education Program for the Eastern part of Canada.

### **Presentation:**

The Prem Rawat Foundation's Peace Education Program is an innovative personal development workshop series that helps people discover their inner resources. It has benefited over 100,000 people involved in justice and other carceral systems in 34 countries in 775 facilities. It is available in 40 languages. We will present an overview of the course, its potential impact and practical applications and strategies for implementing it.

Our speakers will demonstrate and explore the Program with the ACEA conference participants. Uplifting stories will include a returning citizen's experience of incarceration and how the Peace Education Program empowered him to kick a 22-year heroin addiction and eventually help others discover a meaningful life. Additionally, we will present an example of how the Program has been implemented in a Domestic Violence Intervention Court specialized docket, as well as provide highlights of results and outcomes from this program. Together, we will consider how this empowering workshop can help participants discover their self-worth, recognize the dignity and value of other human beings, and take significant steps in their journey to a meaningful life.

<https://tprf.org/peace-education-program/>



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# Speakers

Tina Clem

## **Strong Not Wrong: Strength Based Practices for Supporting Youth in Redefining Themselves and Connecting to Community**

Tina is a youth worker by trade and at heart and has 25 years experience working with vulnerable youth including residential treatment, positive youth development and prevention programming, comprehensive sexuality education and mentoring programming.

Tina combines direct service delivery experience with a solid understanding of youth development theories, frameworks and research when developing and delivering quality programming for youth.

As the Programs Director at CYJS, Tina supports a team of passionate high performers to deliver quality strengths-based programming and drives strategic change and growth for the organization through innovation and quality. Tina has a BA Psychology and CYCC Diploma.

### **Presentation:**

For 25 years Calgary Youth Justice Society has been helping young people find their way through challenging life circumstances and sometimes poor choices that can hold them back from reaching their full potential. Our approach is always strengths focused, seeing beyond what's wrong to nurture what's strong and every day we witness young people gain confidence, positive connections to community and hope for a brighter future. During this presentation we will highlight the strengths-based principles and practices utilized in our programs and provide opportunities for attendees to identify how they are or can utilize a strengths based approach in their work.



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# Speakers

Wendy Stevens and Leita McInnis

## **Humanizing Substance Use: A Discussion of Creative and Compassionate Approaches**

Wendy Stevens is the Peer Operations Coordinator with VCH's Overdose Emergency Response Team. Wendy is also a person with lived experience around substance use, sex trade work and HIV. Much of her role is educating professionals on topics such as; harm reduction, trauma informed care, stigma and working with people who use substances and are structurally vulnerable. She also trains peers/people who use drugs (PWUD) that are working in the overdose epidemic (more accurately; the intentional inaction around the poisoning of PWUD). Wendy is a proud cat mom and hopes to learn how to roller skate one day soon...with the minimum of injury.

LeitaMcInnis (she/her) is an organizer, advocate and therapist who supports folks experiencing incarceration, those impacted by policing and the criminal (in)justice systems as well as their families and loved ones. Sitting with the complexities of violence and harm, she is honoured to be a support for folks on their journeys of accountability, repair, transformation and healing. She is also a co-facilitator of Penn2Paper, a pen pal program connecting people in federal prison with community volunteers. She comes to this work with a deep commitment to radical compassion, dignity for all and the belief that no one is disposable.

### **Presentation:**

Wendy and Leita will facilitate an interactive conversation about the complexities of substance use: exploring who uses substances, the stigma substance users face, the current (inadequate) approaches to treatment as well as what is changing and what we can be doing differently. Drawing from Wendy's lived and professional experiences, she provides critical insight into working compassionately and effectively with those who use substances. Her knowledge will be woven together with Leita's experiences and approaches to working with folks both in and out of the criminal legal system, supporting folks in maintaining their humanity and exploring vulnerability and love as acts of resistance.



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# Current ACEA Board

The members of the ACEA board remain committed to producing a high-quality annual conference. If you have any questions regarding the ACEA, or contributions for the newsletter, please don't hesitate to contact us at [Albertacea@gmail.com](mailto:Albertacea@gmail.com).

For further information about the ACEA, copies of the Inside Education newsletters, or future conference plans, find us at [www.acea86.ca](http://www.acea86.ca) or on Facebook : Alberta Correctional Education Association

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