

Trades Summit Series: Strengthening Teaching and Learning for the Future
Territory Acknowledgement and Opening Remarks
BCcampus: November 24, 2022, Day 1
Guest speaker: Clint Lalonde
Host: Tim Carson

TIM CARSON:

Welcome everyone. Thank you for your patience in helping us get set up for our Trade Summit 2022. This is an interesting year where we're doing a hybrid event and we're learning some things and that's good. So we appreciate your patience. And I just want to take a few moments to thank you for being here. And then I will introduce my colleague, my boss Clint Lalonde. So thank you. Anybody here from out of the provenance? A bunch of view. From up north? interior? Island? Oh, that's a good representation of the island. Nice work. No kidding. No kidding, no kidding. So just wanted to say that as we transition between speakers, just allow us a few minutes to get things, set up, and we'll be ready to rock and roll. We do have a support team, off in Victoria. so they are helping us run the event from the back-end, which is great. So at this time I want to pass it off to Clint Lalonde to do the opening remarks for us.

CLINT LALONDE:

Thank you. Good morning. And on behalf of BCcampus, I just wanted to welcome you to this Trade Summit Series: Strengthening Teaching and Learning in the Future. My name is Clint Lalonde. I'm the Acting Director of Open Education for BCcampus. For the next two days we're gathered in both virtual and physical spaces to look to answer this question: How do we strengthen digital teaching and learning in vocational education for the next generation of learners? Physically, we're gathered here at BCIT on the traditional territories of the Tsleil-Waututh, Squamish, and Musqueam Peoples. I reside on the traditional territories of the W̱SÁNEĆ people and Lekwungen speaking Peoples of the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, also known by its colonial name of Victoria, where I've been a settler since 1994. I originally come from Treaty 6 Territory on the prairies, which is home to the Cree, Chippewa, and Stoney Nations. And if you'll just indulge me for a moment, I want to dig a bit deeper into a little bit of my own personal history and the connection between my history, the place where I come from, and the Indigenous communities there, and the work that you do. I grew up in a small town in Northern Alberta called Lac La Biche. Lac La Biche is in the heart of Woodland Cree Territory with large Indigenous settlements of Beaver Lake, Saddle Lake, and White Fish Lake all in the immediate vicinity. As well there's two large Métis settlements Kikinow and Buffalo Lake, just outside of the town that I grew up in. And just north of Lac La Biche, about 15 km away sits the Lac La Biche Mission, which 1893-1898 was designated as an Indian residential school. Like every place in Canada, Indigenous roots are deeply woven into the fabric of the community that I grew up in. In 1974, my father moved his very young family from Regina to Lac La Biche as he had been offered a teaching position at a newly formed trades training centre in Lac La Biche called the Alberta Vocational Centre or AVC for short. It's a place where he taught masonry, brick laying, and adult basic education courses for close to 30 years. So technical and vocational education and training is a very near to my heart because of this connection through my father.

AVC Lac La Biche, I don't know if you know the story here of the AVCs in Alberta, but it's kind of an interesting one in Lac La Biche. It began life in 1968 as Alberta NewStart. Alberta NewStart was established in Lac La Biche as part of a federal government initiative to research basic adult education. NewStart offered instruction in areas as diverse as academic upgrading, trapping, wild fur management, and oil field management. However, in the winter of 1970, the federal government decided to close the facility and cease the research. A group of Indigenous students faced with the pending closure of their school, decided to challenge the government's decision to close the school and staged a 26-day sit in at the school. These were the peoples of the nations who I mentioned earlier in my land acknowledgment. The leaders from these nations understood that education was the pathway to a better life, and that Alberta NewStart was crucial to the betterment of their communities. After occupying the school for 26 days, the group was successful and the federal government awarded a grant to continue the NewStart program. And the school took on a new name called Pu-Ta-Pun, meaning New Dawn. In 1973, the provincial government took over the funding and operations of the school and it became the province's fifth Alberta vocational centre. This was when my father joined the institution as a trades instructor and he spent his career working with predominantly Indigenous students, helping them to develop the skills and create opportunities for themselves, which is exactly what you do and why your work resonates with me. I grew up seeing the difference that education and specifically trades and vocational education made to the people in my community through the work of my father. The work you do is impactful and it changes lives.

So as you gather here both physically and virtually to tackle the current challenges within your field, don't forget to stop and celebrate the work that you do. And recognize the impact that you have on the world because it is important and meaningful work. The specific challenge you here being asked to consider is, how do we strengthen digital teaching and learning and vocational education for the next generation of learners? It is a very timely question, especially in the context of where we find ourselves at this moment in time. The COVID pivot to online learning was a wake-up call in a number of ways, including highlighting the need to develop resilient and flexible ways of teaching and learning facilitated by digital technology. We've also experienced a natural and unprecedented natural disasters. Recent BC Auditor General's report showed that last year, British Columbia spent more on disaster relief in 2021 than had had in the previous 19 years combined. Floods and forest fires, which in the face of climate change will only get worse. Again, highlight the need for resilient and flexible pedagogies as many institutions in affected areas needed to pivot online in order to continue offering learners access to their education in the face of these disasters. To say nothing about the skills needed in our workforce to rebuild after the fact. We also have changing expectations from our learners who are increasingly wanting more flexibility with their learning, as highlighted in the recent CDLRA research. And we face the continued challenge of the high cost of education, which keeps many, including the most marginalized in our society, out of our institutions altogether. These are significant challenges, but all challenges where digital teaching and learning practices can help. Not the entire answer of course, but improving digital teaching and learning practices can help to create resilient and flexible pedagogies that we will need to

address these challenges. So I thank you for taking time out of your schedule to spend the next two days working on these challenges.

Just before I hand it back to Tim, I want to say a few thanks for to people who made this event possible. First to all the presenters who are here. Thank you so much for graciously coming and sharing your knowledge with us. Second to our funders, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training, who have provided the funding for this event. And finally, to our organizing community. Kaitlyn Zheng, Christy Foote, and Tim Carson who leads the BCcampus trades trading portfolio for their work in putting this event together. Thank you and enjoy the next two days.

TIM:

Thank you, Clint. Well, as I said, welcome to our third Trade Summit Series. The goal of the summit was to bring together trades faculty for the purpose of advocating for open educational resources in the trades and vocational education system across the province. I first started planning having these summits when I first got seconded back in 2019. And the first summit was really designed with a regional approach in mind. The plan was to travel across the four regions of the province and collaborate with host institutions to provide opportunities to highlight and showcase what everybody was doing in the trades. And to raise awareness for open educational resources and even open pedagogy. Then March 2020 happened, and that threw everything into turmoil and we had to change all of our plans. So we like others, pivoted for the next two years, conducting our summits online. And I have to say they were amazing. We have some really great facilitators, some great presenters, and some really good content. I think we in a small way started to build those connections. And here we are with our third conference continuing in that trajectory.

So again, I want to take the opportunity like Clint has, and take some space to acknowledge that I wouldn't be here if it were not for some key people. The first person I'd like to acknowledge is Amanda Coolidge. And the second person is Clint Lalonde. And then our presenters, our keynotes. Sally Vinden who is here with us in person. And Chad Flynn who will be joining us virtually tomorrow. Lucy Griffith as well. I want to say a special thanks to her. I also want to take some time to thank my mentors in the trade. I wouldn't be the person I am today if I didn't have those men mentoring me as I was an apprentice, learning and growing in my trade. I also want to take some opportunity here to say thank you to my mentors and trades education. Because moving from the field into the classroom as a complete career change. I come as an SME, I come with a background of knowledge, but I wasn't necessarily the greatest educator. I had to learn that again. I had to apprentice through that process. And so I'm very thankful for my mentors in trades education. And lastly, but not least, I want to thank my family, especially my wife. Again, I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for her and for their support in everything that I've been involved, not just in trades, but in education and also a BCcampus. I'm very thankful for them.

We have, I hope, one of the best conferences about trades teaching and learning that you will ever experience. There are not many of these. We have presenters in this conference from

across three provinces. We have some amazing presentations All of them are going to blow your socks off. I know they will. We have some great panels. We have an appreciative inquiry session lined up for you. And we also have two great keynotes. And I'm really looking forward to hearing from our keynote speakers. We also have some amazing technical support helping us make this Summit happened. Obviously delivered in a hybrid format. And we want to, I want to say a special thanks to them, our team over in Victoria and for Caitlin for joining me here today and helping me troubleshoot and set up. It's been a it's been a blessing to have them apart of this. So as we move through the Summit schedule, you will find that we have a number of small breaks embedded throughout the conference. And so this will allow our support team to queue up presenters. It's also a time for you to network and connect. We have some food and beverage in the back. And then we also have our Pints and Pedagogy happening after the conference today. So for those of you who are virtual, maybe we'll raise a pint for you, and you can join us virtually. But that's, that's the added benefit of being here in person is we get to sit around the table and enjoy a good beverage, and increase our connections. So I'm really looking forward to that as well. So we will be recording this event and with a plan to release the entire package in the new year. And so it'll be available, not only to you who are here, but also to others who couldn't be here. but also to others who couldn't be here. You can also contact me by email by using tcarson@bccampus.ca And I'm sure all of you will have clear access to that.

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