



Expanding Staff Opportunities Conference
Markham, Ontario - April 2-3, 2009

Keynote Speakers: Mr. Kelly Walker, Author, Musician and Motivational Speaker

One of Canada's experts on the questions of transition, change and burnout, Mr. Walker began his career as a preacher in the Dominican Order and as a former priest and therapist; he has guided thousands of people through their journeys. He uses music to illustrate his talks about opening up the right brain as an important element in adult learning. Kelly Walker is an inspirational speaker who has his audiences swing from tears to laughter in his uplifting dialogue.

Susan Stewart, Team Dynamics - The Secret to Succeeding Together

This "Live Well, Laugh Lots" presentation, offered by a former Learning and Development consultant with the Ontario Government and recovering stand-up comic, was both interactive and informative. She describes team success to be a combination of technical ability and team dynamics. She further elaborates by discussing five key dynamics of High Performance Teams. As well as delivering her energetic presentations, Susan is also an author.

Regional Meetings: Educational Services Officers were then divided into regional groups to discuss issues and ideas with others within their geographical areas. The Educational Service Officer at the Provincial level designated to your area facilitated these discussions.

ESC Carousel - Plenary Session: The Provincial Education Services Committee is divided into three subcommittees. Professional Growth and Training is presently planning, writing and editing various new professional development workshops that will be available for presentation soon. The second subcommittee, Educational Issues and Priorities, is currently discussing issues such as student suspension, Educational Teams and Student Success. Lastly, the Curriculum, Resources and Research (CRR) subcommittee is investigating, monitoring and researching educational issues concerning assessment, curriculum development and implementation. Specifically, they are creating monographs for Differentiated Instruction, the Implementation of Bill 212 and providing the Ministry feedback on Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting. Focus has also been on dealing with issues regarding the EQAO and documents dealing with Equity. The Ministry has recently completed the review of Science (Grades 9-12), Technology (Grades 9-12), Computer Studies (Grades 10-12) and the Arts (Grades 9-12) and is moving ahead on the review process for Health and Physical Education (K-12). Members of the CRR have been involved at the Board, Regional, and Provincial Levels in various Curriculum Review processes.

Addressing Harassment & Bullying in the Federation: Suzette Clark from Provincial Office presented a workshop for Educational Service Officers and various other members on Anti-Harassment Training. This workshop provided the strategies for prevention and intervention when dealing with Harassment in the Union. Proper policies and procedures were outlined for dealing with informal and formal complaints. Ms. Clark also addressed the Roles and Responsibilities of the Anti-Harassment Officer.

Workshop A: Inclusive PD
This workshop provided examples and suggestions on how to provide a successful PD Day. Members were given a list of the PD Workshops offered by OSSTF, as well as PD books and approved speakers. Helpful tips and ideas were provided to help attract many interested members to engaging, informative professional development opportunities.

Workshop B: Go With the Flow
Susan Stewart led this interactive workshop, which focused on improvisational games. The goal of this workshop was to learn to lighten up and not take life so seriously. It was a light-hearted, fun workshop that built team dynamics and happiness.

All materials from this conference can be obtained by contacting me, or the District 10 Office.