



2019 - 2020
Executive Board

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Program: Bob Garneau
Membership: Charlotte Rode
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President's Message From Ivon Prefontaine

As the incoming president of the U of A PDK chapter, I look forward to building on where we have been as we move moving forward. Familiar faces join me in the task of developing and delivering a program for the upcoming year. Some remain in their previous roles e.g., Charlotte Rode in Membership, Barb O'Connor as Secretary, Alain Levesque as Treasure, Bob Garneau as Program Coordinator, Matthew Kierstad as Director at Large, Bonnie Stelmach as liaison to the university, and Jeff Kuntz as Past President. We welcome two new faces to the executive in Audrey Hodgson-Ward as newsletter coordinator and Caylee Kreller coordinating our digital needs.

With new executive, two longtime executive members are leaving. We thank Edna Dach for her work in the area of managing our digital needs and Dolaine Koch who managed the newsletter and advertising.

In a recent conversation with an American colleague who has been involved as a PDK chapter executive for 35 years, we discussed the challenges facing local educational organizations such as our chapters. We agreed upon there is a need for educators of all stripes—K-12, Higher Ed, Alberta Education, Adult Education, and ATA—to gather in these small, intimate settings to share their experiences, research, and pedagogic practices.

Just as we encourage students to form resiliency and remain hopeful in challenging times, your PDK chapter, its executive, and its membership model resiliency and hope by expressing the value of what we do and who we are with others in the profession and beyond. When we meet, it is a rare opportunity to share each of our stories and what is important to each of us. I think what we do that is of greatest value. When I am asked, "What is the value of belonging to PDK and attending," my answer will be "We meet and share what we are doing."

Our dinner meetings serve as a time of companionship. There are times for fellowship before and after the formal presentations and during the meal itself. *Companion* comes from the Latin meaning to break and share bread with another on a journey. Becoming a teacher is a journey to be shared with others. In my research, interviewees remind me they want to spend time with other teachers and find out what is happening in the field. They express a desire to experience being companions on their journey.

Having noted the face-to-face opportunities, the executive spends considerable time exploring the challenges educators at all levels face to make the formal component of our gatherings relevant to those who attend. During the past year, local deans of education presented about challenges and opportunities they

President's Message Continued:

face in preparing teachers in the 21st Century. Denise Larsen offered insights from her research in the area of teaching hope in schools. Sarah Apedaile discussed fostering community and inclusive classrooms based on her research and experience. Phil McRae described the importance of resilience in these complex times with rapid change in our society and schools.

Remembering



KOBLUK, William (Bill) Douglas

1939 - 2019

It is with great sadness we announce the passing on April 7, 2019 of Bill at the age of 79 years. He is remembered by his wife of fifty years, Judy; daughters Chavala and Devorah; sister Marge (Ernie); sister-in-law Ethel, nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was predeceased by his mother Anna; father Nicholas; brother Stanley and infant sisters Mary and Evaline. As Bill requested, a private family burial service has been held. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to a charity of your choice, or to the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies - University of Alberta at (780) 492-2972 or cius@ualberta.ca.

The guestbook available through the Edmonton Journal website includes many memories of Bill as a Social Studies teacher, a post-retirement employee at Fort Edmonton and a dining car attendant on the C.P.R. while he was an Education student. He had a talent for languages and could greet people in Irish, Polish, Ukrainian and Arabic. He loved to give students and colleagues nicknames (as Bob Garneau can confirm) and remembered students' names when he met them years after they were in his classes. Bill was a long time member of the U of A PDK chapter and could be counted on to ask challenging questions of the speakers at dinner meetings.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Our chapter has grown over the past several years but there is still lots of room for more people at the tables on dinner meeting nights.

What can you do to help?

You can aim to bring a colleague to at least one dinner meeting during the 2019 – 2020 season. Think about that one educator you know who would enjoy involvement with PDK and consider membership. By doubling our membership, we will be ensuring this chapter's longevity and contribute to the diversity of its members. One of the benefits of attending PDK dinner meetings is the opportunity to exchange ideas with educators from a wide variety of institutions and points of view.

You can believe in the power of PDK and the role of personal connections in our profession. You have maintained your membership in PDK trusting that our chapter would continue to play an important role in our educational community.

You can spread the word about the benefits of belonging and participating in the PDK Chapter #144 University of Alberta. Educators join because they know the value of meeting with other teachers, school administrators, provincial employees and representatives as well as those educators from our colleges and the University of Alberta.

Wishing you a wonderful summer.
All the best and looking forward to next season!

Charlotte Rode
Membership Coordinator

Looking Forward to 2019 - 2020

What is the professional responsibility of educators for each student's success?

This has been proposed as the 2019 – 2020 focus for our PDK dinner speakers and discussions.

If you have suggestions for speakers or specific topics, please contact Ivon Prefontaine iprefontaine@zagmail.gonzaga.edu or Bob Garneau rggarneau@gov.ab.ca .

For example, one member of the chapter has asked for speaker/discussion as to why the phenomenon of the increase in mental health/anxiety needs in schools has exploded recently. Are there community connections/collaborations that are out there to assist?

Tentative meeting dates 2019 - 2020

October 7, 2019	Monday
November 6, 2019	Wednesday
January 23, 2020	Thursday
March 10, 2020	Tuesday
May 4, 2020	Monday

Phi Delta Kappa–Dinner and Speaker Series April 11, 2019



<http://philmcrae.com/blog.html>

Dr. Phil McRae is an adjunct professor of the Faculty of Education at the University of Alberta and an associate coordinator of research with the Alberta Teachers' Association. He has been a speaker at previous PDK dinner meetings and always has thought-provoking topics and ideas to present.

“How do You Hug a Porcupine? Change and Resilience in Complex Times”

Dr. McRae's presentation began by identifying the “thorny” issues of choice, growing inequality and technology.

Choice is problematic because people try to make perfect choices and every choice involves a compromise or loss. There are too many choices available which leads to anxiety; even Costco now offers fewer choices of products.

Growing inequality affects social cohesion as people worry about how they are perceived by others. There is an increasing polarization of wealth in Canada where the richest 20% of Canadians own 70% of the country's wealth.

Technology is both a blessing and a distraction from social interaction. Dr. McRae shared two publications called “Growing Up Digital” as part of his explanation about some of the concerns voiced by teachers, principals, parents, and grandparents about the use of technology.

Growing Up Digital (GUD) Alberta “is a 10- year, collaborative research project that examines the scope of the physical, mental and social consequences of digital technologies on Alberta's children and youth.” The partners in the project include the ATA, U of A, Boston's Children's Hospital, Centre on Media and Child Health and Harvard Medical School Teaching Hospital.

Parents' questions in one of the pamphlets include, “How are digital technologies affecting our relationships with each other?” and “How can we balance the use of technology as a teaching and learning tool with kids' ever-increasing addition to device use?”

Dr. McRae talked about some research findings about these issues. One of the benefits of some technologies is that they allow families who are physically separated to connect by sharing pictures and conversations through Skype, Facetime and similar applications. At the same time, though, dinner time, which should be family oriented is now often “alone together” as family members focus on their technology instead of the people sitting with them. Parents in the survey group admitted to being as distracted as their children and recognized that they are being a negative influence.

Another aspect of technology that concerns 45% of parents, according to the GUD pamphlet, is that their children have a mobile device with them after bedtime and students are not well rested and their emotional health is negatively affected. Physical activity is also a casualty of the availability of mobile devices according to 60 % of parents surveyed.

The second pamphlet shared by Dr. McRae contains results of surveys of principals and teachers. Their concerns echo those of
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parents and grandparents along with substantial findings of cyberbullying (56 % of teachers), emotional challenges (90% of teachers), and cognitive challenges like anxiety, depression and an inability to recover from adversity (up to 85% of teachers).

These findings are available through Dr. McRae's blog <http://philmcrae.com/blog.html>.

Dr. McRae concluded that we need to focus on **balance** in our lives and those of students.

Every child needs

- At least one person who cares for them every day
- Active connections to their environment
- Free play
- Stillness to allow for creativity to occur and
- Creative problem-solving opportunities.



His three “take-aways” for the participants at the April dinner were

1. Be balanced—no technology at food time. Let children talk. Talk with the children.
2. Be mindful – engage with young children under two. Do not be distracted.
3. Be present – build relational space.

Thanks to Barb O'Connor for contributing her notes from Dr. McRae's presentation.

**University of Alberta
Chapter #144**

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Not A PDK Member?

Not a problem.

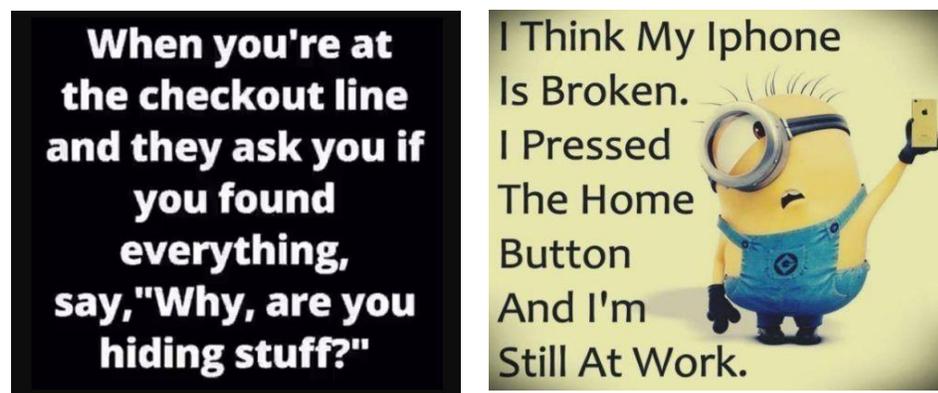
The U of A Chapter of PDK would like as many local educators as possible to attend our dinner and speaker presentation - so we are offering seats at a price only slightly above what members pay. That said, we are currently in the middle of a membership drive and would really like more Edmonton-area educators (teachers, administrators, students, researchers, teacher educators, ministry officials, and post-secondary instructors) to consider joining our organization. We are a small but vibrant organization of local educators from every role and experience level and we are dedicated to educational leadership, service and research.

Interested in Joining Us?

It's as easy as 1, 2, & 3.

1. Visit our website. <http://www.pdkualberta.com/>
2. Contact Charlotte Rode to learn how you join our group and make an immediate impact. charrode@shaw.ca
3. Complete the online registration process and to start receiving our updates and invitations, our newsletters, and the Kappan Magazine.
4. Choose the ***University of Alberta Chapter #144.***

Just for a laugh ...



Source: Pintrest