

December 6, 2026

THE NCTCA NEWS

The official newsletter of the North Central Teachers Convention Association
Convention 2026 | February 5 & 6

As we step into this year's teacher convention season, NCTCA Executive would like to begin by recognizing you. This has been a year marked by constant change, heavy workloads, and challenges that have stretched even the most seasoned educators. What an unprecedented school year it has been so far!

Yet, through all the chaos, Alberta teachers have continued to show remarkable resilience, compassion, and creativity. Thank you for everything you've done to support students, families, and colleagues during a demanding year. NCTCA looks forward to providing you with rejuvenation, enlivenment, and reflection through professional development. Whether you're looking to deepen your expertise, refresh your toolkit, or simply recharge among peers who understand the journey, NCTCA is the place for you. Here's to meaningful learning, shared wisdom, and a much-deserved opportunity to breathe and grow. Convention 2026 season will soon be upon us! SCHED is live, pre-registered sessions are open, and planning for Partners in Education luncheon is well underway. We are very excited about the feature speakers that are lined up such as: Math expert Peter Liljedahl, Tiktok educator Joanna Johnson (unlearn16), disability advocate Bean Gill, human trafficking advocate Paul Brandt, teacher comedians - Leslie Robb and Gabe Dannenbring, and Fourth Industrial Revolution experts Carl Honoré in partnership with Dr Phil Macrae. We also have a mystery speaker that will be revealed over the coming weeks - Big Ed will be sharing clues!

Why not try something new? There will be shuttle buses from St. Albert, Sherwood Park, Beaumont and Spruce Grove to the Edmonton Convention Centre. More information will be posted on <https://myntca.com> soon.

This year's President's social will be held at the Westin from 7-10pm - join us for appies and karaoke on Wednesday, February 4th.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me at president@nctca.ab.ca.

Carryl Bennett

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Stay Connected...



[**@nctca**](#)

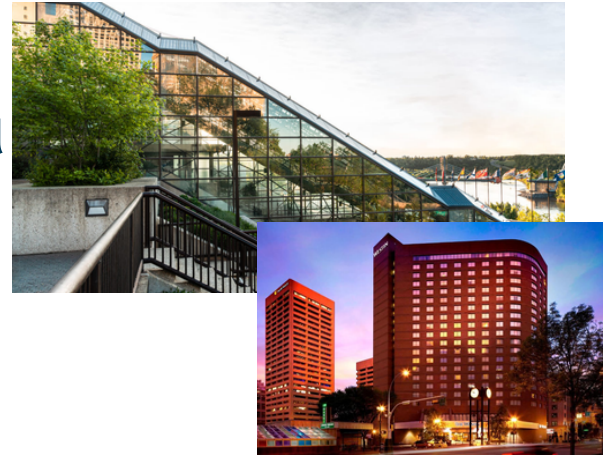


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[**myntca.com**](https://myntca.com)

Venues

In addition to our two main venues, ECC and Westin, we will once again have sessions at the Art Gallery, Saville Centre as well as some off-site CTF classrooms.



This is in addition to the sessions being offered at Fort Edmonton Park, Telus World of Science and the Royal Alberta Museum. Interested in to learn more about these sessions? Make sure to check out the highlights section of the newsletter.

Pre-registration

and Sessions Requiring Tickets

SCHED is now live for this year's convention

Eventbrite sessions include the sessions that have a limit to the number of attendees and/or are off-site for example. Registration for these sessions will open on December 8 at 7pm.



REMINDER

Saving a pre-reg session in SCHED

does not register you for that session.

If you wish to attend a pre-reg session you must obtain a ticket through Eventbrite!

Don't Forget!

Pre-registration sales close at noon on January 26, and some sessions are already sold out or close to selling out.

Purchased your tickets early to ensure your spot and to avoid disappointment!



Tech Corner

- Please note that there will not be dedicated NCTCA wifi at the Edmonton Convention Centre again this year.
- It is better to build your convention schedule in **SCHED** using a computer browser (rather than on your phone). Then at convention you can easily access your list of saved sessions using your phone/mobile device

REMINDER

- When attending a session requiring a device, it's always a good idea to ensure that your device is fully charged before the session. Although we try to ensure every session is in the best location sometimes the number of electrical outlets is limited.

Booking Accommodations Downtown?
If you are booking accommodations downtown for the convention and want to ensure you receive the group rate at the Westin you must book before **JANUARY 13**

After this date, you will be charged the regular room price.
More information can be found at <https://mynctca.com> under Attendees/Accommodations or by clicking the Book Here link.

BOOK HERE

YOUR 2026 CONVENTION EXECUTIVE

Carryl Bennett - President

Janet Vader - Past President

Cindy Christou - Director of Program

Carolyn Korolischuk - Director of Exhibits

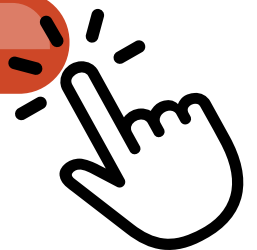
Tia Martini - Secretary

John Murphy - Director of Facilities

Nicole Lueke - Director of Communications

Robyn Oldham - Assistant to the Executive

Simon Christou - Finance Manager



Convention Highlights



**Check out these exciting Pre-registered Sessions for NCTCA 2026
Tickets on sale via Eventbrite on December 8 at 7pm**

Head to <https://mynctca.com> for more information

- **Incorporating Indigenous Ways of Knowing and Learning in the Foods Room with Mathew Christopher Tom-Kee**
- **Mosaics of Meaning: Art, Animals, and the Seven Sacred Teachings with Coreen Blenkhorne**
- **Pickleball for Beginners with Dave Oldham**
- **Let's Make a Visual Journal: Learn Bookbinding Techniques and Promote Metacognition Through Visual Journaling (ATA Fine Arts Council) with Darrin Wilson**
- **OMG - Planning for a Substitute in Foods 10-12 with Carmen Wasylynuik**
- **Talking Stick Transformational Art with Angela Hall**
- **CTS Foods - Appetizers with Mhairi Wallace**
- **CTS Mechanics - AM Tech Tools and Round Table PM EV Overview and Safety (includes lunch) with Scott Lawrence**
- **Learn to Paint and Old Abandoned Truck/Car in One Day with Willie**
- **Moccasins (Plains Two Piece) with Aster**
- **Timeless Modern Furniture - Hanging Wall Cabinet with Kyle Coxen**
- **Advanced Pickelball with Dave Oldham**
- **Inspired by Eric Carle - Mixed Media Art with Songs and Stories**
- **DIY Terrariums at the Muttart Conservatory**
- **Nailed It! Cake Decorating with Carmen Wasylynuik**
- **Artful Expression: Exploring Canadian Landscapes Through Oil Pastels and Artist Study with Coreen Blenkhorne**
- **Going Around in Circles: Ornaments Made of Math! with Margaret Currie**
- **Monet's Waterlilies: Draw & Inspire with Oil Pastels with Izabella Orzelski**
- **Journey Work and Transformational Art with Angela Hall**
- **Dentalium Shell/Hairpipe Earrings with Aster**
- **Learn to Use Watercolor to Free Your Mind and Create a Semi Abstract Painting with Willie**
- **Truth and Reconciliation Program and Fort Edmonton Park with Evert Poor**
- **Mandalas & Mindfulness: Art for Inner Balance with Izabella Orzelski**
- **Mapping Our Canadian Stories with Margaret Currie**
- **Colour Magic with Pointillism with Izabella Orzelski**
- **Asian Inspired Appetizers with Kelly Liusz Moser**

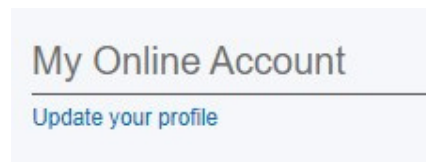
Don't Forget Your ATA Identification

If a session is full you may be asked to provide proof of ATA membership. Those of us who have been around for a while might be lucky enough to have a plastic ATA card.

If not you can pull up an electronic copy (or print) of your ATA membership card from the member's area of the ATA website. To do so:

- Navigate to teachers.ab.ca
- Log in with your ATA website login

Under My Online Account, click on Update Your Profile (Depending on where your viewing the site it might be on the right, or it may appear at the bottom of the page)

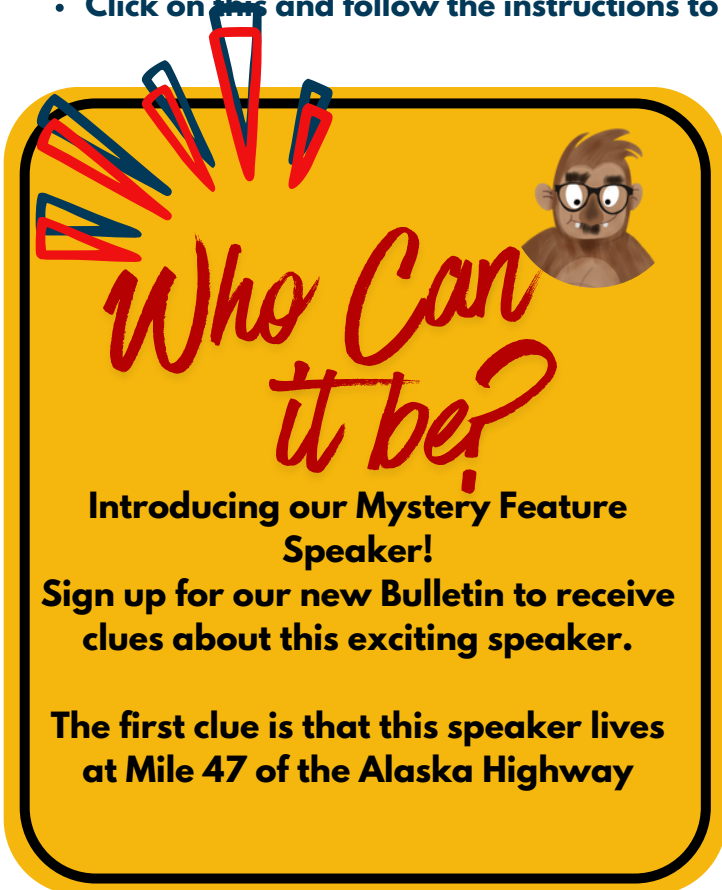


- **While you're here, it's a great opportunity to ensure your contact information is correct**
- This will bring you to a screen with a tab that says, Member Card

Profile



- Click on this and follow the instructions to print your card



Who Can it be?

Introducing our Mystery Feature Speaker!

Sign up for our new Bulletin to receive clues about this exciting speaker.

The first clue is that this speaker lives at Mile 47 of the Alaska Highway

Get All The Tea!



NCTCA has launched a new, bi-monthly news bulletin for members. This bulletin will include important, current, convention information. It is designed to be sent to your email twice a month from October to February. For more information and to sign up using the link Below.



FEATURE SPEAKERS



Bean Gill



Gabe Dannenbring



Leslie Rob - Bored Teachers



Christina Crook



Dr. Kathy Toogood



Joanna Johnson



Paul Brandt



Peter Liljedahl



Levi Stanford



Phil Macrae



Simon Lafrance



Vanessa Vakharia



Jared Wesley



Carl Honoré



Mystery Speaker



Partners in Education Luncheon featuring Christina Crook