

### **13a. Elections – Open Positions on CATE Executive (Term: 2026 - 2028)**

- Vice-President / Program Chair
- Secretary - Treasurer
- Communications Co-Director
- Member at Large
- Graduate Student Representative

#### **b. Non-Executive Positions**

- (1? 2?) CATE Program Committee (2 year term 2026-2028)
- (1) CATE Rep on CSSE New Scholar Committee (2 year term 2026-2028)
- (1) CATE Award for Contributions to Research in Teacher Education Committee (2 year term 2026-2028)

### **Vice-President / Program Chair**

#### ***Dr. Mandeep Kaur Gabhi, Queen's University***

I am pleased to put forward my candidacy for the Vice President position with the Canadian Association for Teacher Education. Over the past seven years, I have been actively engaged with the Association in progressive leadership roles, currently serving as Co-Program Chair. Previously, I held the positions of Graduate Student Representative and Member-at-Large, experiences that have provided me with a strong understanding of CATE's governance, operations, and member engagement.

In these roles, I have hosted three pre-conferences, organized two scholarly panels, and coordinated two graduate student events. I have also supported conference operations both on-site and during virtual delivery. During these roles I have valued collegiality and collaborative leadership. I see myself as a committed team player who both supports colleagues and learns from their expertise and experience.

Beyond CATE, I am a Research and Learning Coordinator supporting cross-continental international development initiatives focused on advancing rehabilitation services for inclusion and accessibility in Ethiopia. This work is supported by the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program in partnership with Queen's University. I also serve on the EDIIA Action Plan Committee within Queen's Health Sciences, contributing to strategies that promote recruitment and access in health sciences for underrepresented and equity-deserving communities.

My research and professional commitments center on advancing equity in teacher education, particularly through promoting the engagement of underrepresented teacher candidates within the Canadian teaching workforce and teacher education programs. I bring sustained service, leadership experience, and a strong

commitment to equity and inclusion, positioning me well to serve as Vice President for CATE.

### **Secretary / Treasurer**

#### ***Dr. Adam Kaszuba, St. Francis Xavier University***

Adam Kaszuba is an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Education at St. Francis Xavier University. He has contributed to CATE both formally and informally: as a Member-at-Large on the executive for two years, he supported the Association's activities and helped organize pre-conference and panel sessions; he has also participated in the CATE working conference and co-authored a chapter in the resulting publication. He is eager to continue this service as Secretary-Treasurer.

His research focuses on French as a second language (FSL) teacher education and teacher professionalism. His recent work, published in *The Canadian Modern Language Review* and *The International Journal for Mentoring and Coaching in Education*, examines how inquiry, mentorship, and collaboration support language teacher candidates within professional learning communities.

### **Communications Co-Director**

#### ***Dr. Heather Birch, Tyndale University***

Having served as Communications Director for the past two years, I am seeking re-election to continue advancing CATE's digital communication strategies. During my current term, I focused on building meaningful membership engagement across our Facebook and LinkedIn channels by focusing on three types of communication, including invitation, inspiration, and information. Moving forward, my goal is to continue facilitating effective communication that keeps our membership connected. As a Canadian teacher educator, I am committed to supporting the mission of CATE, which includes promoting scholarly research that addresses our unique national context. I share the conviction of The Honourable Justice Murray Sinclair that "*Education got us into this mess and education will get us out of it.*" I look forward to continuing to ensure CATE's communications effectively connect our research community as we do this important work.

### **Member at Large**

#### ***Dr. Christie Fraser, Thompson Rivers University***

Christie Fraser (she/her/elle) lives and works on the ancestral and unsundered territory of the Secwépemc nation within Secwépemc'ulucw in Kamloops, BC, as an uninvited guest and settler. She is a daughter, sister, wife, and most importantly, a loving mother to her daughter Josie. Christie is an Associate Teaching Professor at Thompson Rivers University, where she teaches educational psychology; curriculum planning, instruction, and assessment; and literacy research and practice. She works primarily in the Bachelor of Education (BEd) program. Her focus is on developing teachers who value decolonized approaches and embrace Indigenous ways of knowing and being in their practice. Beyond her teaching, Christie is currently beginning a SoTL research project examining pre-service teacher readiness for

teaching reading upon completing their BEd program. She currently serves on the CATE Awards Committee and is seeking a Member-at-Large position on the CATE Executive Committee.

***Dr. Dima Zaid-Kilani, University of Ottawa***

I am pleased to put my name forward for the Member-at-Large position with CATE. I hold a PhD in Applied Linguistics and Discourse Studies and am a professor in the Faculty of Education at the University of Ottawa, with experience teaching in teacher education, TESL, ESL, and adult education contexts. My research and teaching focus on language teacher identity, equity, inclusion, and the experiences of marginalized educators, particularly within ESL and teacher education settings. As a scholar and educator committed to teacher education, belonging, and meaningful institutional change, I would welcome the opportunity to contribute more actively to CATE's ongoing work. I am especially interested in supporting initiatives that strengthen future teacher engagement, mentorship, and dialogue across diverse teacher education communities. Having served as CATE Graduate Representative, I have gained valuable insight into the association's work and would be honoured to continue contributing in a broader capacity as Member-at-Large.

**Graduate Student Representative**

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