

CATE Co-President Report 2026

Leyton Schnellert & Philippa Parks, Acting Co-Presidents

Thank you everyone for a busy and productive year. This year, with Sheryl MacMath continuing on leave, Leyton Schnellert (Past-President) and Philippa Parks (Vice-President) served as acting Co-Presidents. We are deeply grateful for the steadfast support of the entire CATE Executive, and extend special thanks to Julia Rhéaume (Secretary-Treasurer) and Mandeep Gabhi (Conference Committee) for stepping up and providing exceptional support throughout the year. The CATE Leadership Team is now in the second year of their two-year terms. Philippa Parks completes her term as Vice-President/Program Chair and moves into a two-year term as President, Sheryl MacMath moves into a two-year term as Past President. Leyton Schnellert and Julia Rheaume complete their terms as Past President and Secretary-Treasurer.

Key CATE Initiatives 2025–2026

The CATE/ACFE Executive met seven times during the year using Zoom as our meeting platform. This year the Executive continued to focus on initiatives to further the work of the association and advance teacher education nationally and globally.

1. CSSE 2026 Conference

- This year's CATE keynote speaker is **Dr. Thomas Falkenberg**, whose keynote is titled *Flourishing through the Art of Living: Education for the 21st Century*, to be delivered on Tuesday, June 2nd. Dr. Falkenberg will develop and justify the idea that teaching and schooling is to be about helping children build and use capabilities needed for living a flourishing life—as children and as future adults—through developing and engaging an art of living suited to the social order that frames their lives.
- This year we are trying something new: instead of the annual CATE dinner, we are holding a **networking event following the AGM**. We look forward to connecting with members in this more informal setting.
- Thank you **Mandeep Gabhi and Sarah Ouellette** from the Conference Committee for organizing such an engaging program.

2. CATE Awards

- **Awards for Theses and Dissertations on Teacher Education:** Ten graduates were selected for this award in 2026. Their research extends our understanding of teacher education and of meeting the needs of diverse students everywhere. The awards ceremony will be chaired by Leyton Schnellert at the beginning of the AGM. Recognition of award recipients is available on the CATE website: <https://cate-acfe.ca/awards/>

- a. Award for Research on Teacher Education:** This award recognizes significant contributions to research in teacher education in Canada, including evidence of excellence through publications, presentations, and other contributions, as well as overall influence on the field nationally and internationally. We are pleased to announce that Dr. Teresa Strong-Wilson has received the 2026 award. Dr. Strong-Wilson's body of research conducted over the course of her career is both impactful and deeply relational. Dr. Strong-Wilson's nomination package demonstrated an exceptional depth and breadth of scholarship spanning 25 years. Dr. Strong-Wilson's sustained scholarship and service on research-related platforms reflects a deep commitment to positively influence teacher education research both nationally and globally through her supervision, mentorship, and editorial work. Her impressive peer-reviewed publication record includes books, five journal special issues, thirty-five articles of which many are in top-tier journals. Her research funding is equally noteworthy comprising 13 SSHRC grants totally over \$2,500,000, as well as a CIHR grant of \$1,500,000. Dr. Strong-Wilson has a dedicated history of working with students in teacher education, with particular attention to leadership and mentorship of graduate and doctoral students. Her research grants have been used to help foster those working in teacher education, including children's literature in multiculturalism and postcoloniality, and with Indigenous children's literature. As noted by one referee, "Many students and colleagues alike regard her mentorship as a gift in itself—an experience marked by intellectual generosity, careful listening, and a steadfast commitment to their growth."

3. International Connections

- WFATE Board of Directors: CATE Past-President and Vice-President have continued attending WFATE Board of Directors meetings.

4. CATE Elections

- As per the CATE Constitution, Executive positions will be elected at the 2026 AGM. These include: Vice-President/Program Chair, Secretary-Treasurer, Communications Director, Member-at-Large, and Student Representative. We will also be looking for a CATE representative on the CSSE New Scholar Committee, CATE Award for Contributions to Research in Teacher Education Committee, and CATE Conference Program Committee. All appointments are two-year commitments.

5. Updates from CSSE

- **Joining Congress at SFU 2027** As members will be aware, SSHRC's Congress did not hold a conference this year, which is why CSSE organized an

independent conference. Congress has now announced that it will host a conference at Simon Fraser University from July 5–9, 2027. The Executive invites members to share their thoughts on rejoining Congress. There are meaningful implications to consider: rejoining would reduce the workload on CSSE staff, who found organizing an independent conference particularly demanding. However, Congress charges a single consolidated attendance fee and does not offer catering options, which would require CSSE and its associations to collect membership fees separately and to forgo on-site catering at events.

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- **Canadian Journal of Education** The CJE board has been meeting regularly; however, representatives from all member associations have not consistently been included. CATE's representative was among those not invited to recent meetings. The Executive is actively working to ensure that CATE has appropriate representation going forward.
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- **CSSE Mission Statement** CSSE has formed a committee to develop a new mission statement. This presents a timely opportunity for CATE to reflect on and articulate its own mission statement. Members can expect more updates as this work develops.
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- **VoicEd Radio** CSSE supports VoicEd Radio as a platform for broadcasting and publishing education-focused podcasts. At present, however, the criteria for publication and the processes for posting and accessing content remain unclear or insufficiently defined, and effective editorial oversight is lacking. These concerns are being addressed. Leyton Schnellert will speak further to this item at the AGM.
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- **Ad Hoc Committee on Membership and Conference** An ad hoc committee combining membership and conference portfolios has been struck, with a representative from every association needed. This is a matter of importance for CATE, as securing funding typically collected through conference registration remains an ongoing priority.

Thank you to all CATE members, the Executive, and our partners for your continued dedication to teacher education in Canada. We look forward to a productive AGM and to the year ahead.