



# MIGHTY PEACE TEACHERS' CONVENTION

MARCH 8-9, 2018



The Alberta Teachers' Association



## Thursday Opening Keynote: Bill Carr

For over thirty years, Bill Carr has been making people laugh at what's trivial while helping them think deeply about what counts. His unique blend of humour and insight inspires laughter and offers his audiences a fresh perspective on what they face every day.

Carr's career has seen him perform on stages across the country most notably in Nova Scotia at Neptune Theatre, Mermaid Theatre and the Atlantic Theatre Festival. He has written and performed in numerous radio dramas and news programs for CBC and has appeared on countless television programs, several movies and more advertisements than he would care to think about.

Carr is a dedicated volunteer and serves in various capacities for a number of good causes such as the Alzheimer Society of Nova Scotia, Community Justice Society, ACTRA, Unicef, Canadian Breast Cancer Society, CNIB, YMCA, and the Abilities Foundation. He is an honorary Trustee of the IWK Hospital for Children and helps to host the IWK Telethon each year. He is a founding partner of the Atlantic Restorative Company, a social entrepreneurship focused on creating space for authentic human exchange and the use of restorative practices in all aspects of social life.

## Friday Opening Keynote: Dean Shareski

Dean Shareski is the Community Manager for Discovery Education Canada. He taught grades first through eighth for 14 years and spent nine as a digital learning consultant for Prairie South School Division in Moose Jaw, SK. In addition he teaches pre-service teachers at the University of Regina. His blog consistently ranks among the top educational blogs. Dean also blogs for Tech Learning and the Huffington Post. In 2010 he won the ISTE Award for Outstanding Leader of the Year. Dean has had the opportunity to speak to a variety of education audiences both nationally and internationally. His passion remains helping teachers explore the affordances of technology for learning. Dean believes humor and humility go a long way in supporting and advocating transformational practices in teaching and learning.



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### Connect with MPTCA

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Twitter: @mptconvention #mptca

Facebook Group:  
[Mighty Peace Teachers' Convention](https://www.facebook.com/MightyPeaceTeachersConvention)

Website: [mptca.teachers.ab.ca](http://mptca.teachers.ab.ca)



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## The 2018 Program is Only on SCHED

For the last few years the program has only been available online, through the SCHED site and we will be using this site again this year.

We are expecting the program to be ready and online at [mptca2018.sched.com](http://mptca2018.sched.com) by Feb. 1, 2018.

When teachers create accounts and build their tentative schedules on SCHED, the program committee can see the number of teachers who are planning on attending those sessions. Having this information prior to



Build your schedule on your computer and with the mobile web app.

Convention allows the program committee to make changes to rooms and even add sessions if possible. Another great feature of SCHED is that we can email all the teachers who

have added that session to their schedule with any updates or cancellations, keeping our teachers informed.

If you are not familiar with [sched.org](http://sched.org) please check out the support section of their site which is dedicated to showing Convention attendees how to get the most from the features they offer - [tinyurl.com/schedsupport](http://tinyurl.com/schedsupport).

Please see the support section if you would like to make your account private, so that others do not see which sessions you are adding to your tentative schedule.

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

Teachers are obligated, professionally and legally, to attend and participate in teachers' convention. Section 78(1)(d) of the School Act defines "teaching day" to include the two days per year on which teachers' conventions are held. These days are for attending sessions at the convention authorized by the Alberta Teachers' Association. Convention days are, by law, teaching days for which teachers receive pay.

- **If you are sick (or cannot attend convention for other personal reasons)** then the provisions in the collective agreement apply and you must follow the same procedures for obtaining sick leave (or other forms of leave) that you would if it was a normal teaching day.
- **Any teacher wishing to engage in other professional development activity** during teachers' convention must complete the Alternate PD application form from the MPTCA website ([mptca.teachers.ab.ca](http://mptca.teachers.ab.ca)). Based on specific criteria set out by the provincial ATA, the attendance committee will make a judgment regarding the request. Requests to be absent from the Mighty Peace Teachers' Convention for **reasons of alternate professional development** are to be made prior to **January 25, 2018**.
- **Part-time teachers** are being paid "only for the time the teacher teaches" (*School Act* (Section 103(b))). Your teaching assignment is your *shift*, which is a defined time. Any addition to or adjustment of time must be done with your agreement and proper compensation. In simplest

terms, whatever is consistent with your assignment for that day is your obligation. Notwithstanding all of the above, part-time teachers **aren't prevented from voluntarily attending sessions**.

- **Any teacher required to coach at an ASAA Provincial Finals Event** during teachers' convention must complete the online form <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ConventionAttendance2018>. Teachers are not excused from Convention to coach zone events.
- **Substitute teachers can attend Convention!** As soon as a substitute teacher teaches for one day in any of our member locals they are an Associate Member of the ATA and are eligible to attend Convention at no cost. Substitute teachers can register on Wednesday between 1 - 5:00 p.m. or on Thursday or Friday during regular convention hours. Proof that they have taught during the current school year is required. Since adult supervisors do not hold an Alberta teaching certificate they are not entitled to Convention privileges.

School boards have the right to deduct pay from teachers absent from convention without legitimate reason, and in fact, have done so. A charge of unprofessional conduct under Association discipline bylaws may also be lodged against a teacher who fails to attend and participate in teachers' convention.

More details can be found online <https://goo.gl/vFDAwS>.

## Engaging Learners in Reading and Writing for the 21st Century

Dr. Katherine McKnight is an author, educator and consultant. Her career in education began as a high school English teacher in the Chicago Public School system more than 25 years ago. She received her B.A. degree from George Washington University, her M.Ed. from Northeastern Illinois University, and her Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She currently serves as a Distinguished Professor of Research at National Louis University. She travels worldwide as a professional development consultant and a sought after speaker in the fields of adolescent literacy, inclusive classrooms, Common Core State Standards, Interdisciplinary literacy, and integrating technology in the 21st century classroom. She is passionate about creating curricula that engage all students in the regular education classroom. And she is completely committed to the development, sharing, and promotion of ideas and strategies that develop literacy skills in all students so that they can grow to be active, creative adults. Dr. Katherine McKnight will be presenting at Convention on Thursday, March 8th. Visit <http://engaginglearners.com> for more information.



### PROVIDING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR OUR MEMBERS IMPROVES THE STORY OF EDUCATION

As a professional organization that advocates for public education, the ATA puts learning first, ensuring the story of education is a positive one.

Find out more at [storyofATA.com](http://storyofATA.com)



The Alberta  
Teachers' Association

