

# Assessment for Learning: A Collaborative Community



PRESENTED BY

**Damian Cooper, Michele Jones & Cheryl Babin**



SERIES SESSIONS

Date	Time
November 24, 2021	5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
January 19, 2022	5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
February 16, 2022	5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
March 09, 2022	5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
April 13, 2022	5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
May 11, 2022	5:00 PM - 6:30 PM



LOCATION

**Online**

FEE

**\$80.00**

QUESTIONS?

Contact Us:

[crc-register@arpc.ab.ca](mailto:crc-register@arpc.ab.ca)  
**403-291-0967**

REGISTER ONLINE

Visit our website to register:  
[crcpd.ab.ca](http://crcpd.ab.ca)

## Program

**TARGET AUDIENCE:** This collaborative community will be of interest to K-12 educators and leaders, post-secondary instructors, pre-service teachers and students. **It's NOT TOO LATE to join. Registrations will be accepted throughout the series. Bring a friend!**

Join our online Collaborative Community of educators, authors, and thinkers in conversations about the current assessment issues that are on your mind in our changing world.

Together we will...

- create a community space and supportive network to engage in assessment conversations with practitioners from across Canada
- unpack emerging research and pedagogy
- feel empowered to improve the student experience through assessment for learning

## Hot Topics for Deep Conversations

**Session 1: Inspiring Hope in the Face of "Doom and Gloom" Data**

The pandemic has changed every aspect of the educational landscape immeasurably.

Let's consider our collective and individual notions of student gains, losses, and the acquisition of "21st century skills" during the past 18 months. We feel the tension. We'll share two perspectives and then discuss...

What IS the best way forward?

## **Session 2: Balancing the demands of accountability with the mental health needs of students and teachers**

Educators use a multitude of tools to measure and document student learning.

Is the data collected being used to address student learning needs?

How would you describe the "assessment culture" where you live and work? What impact is it having on students and/or teachers?

Are there alternative ways to hold schools, teachers and students accountable for learning?

**Sessions 3 - 6:** The scope of topics will be determined by the emerging needs of the group after sessions 1 & 2. Our collaborative community will culminate with a Panel Discussion during session 6 focusing on the hot topics uncovered throughout the series.

Panel members will be made up of authors, thinkers and practitioners representing various bodies of research and diverse perspectives.

**Possible** themes include:

- The effect of student and teacher assessment mindsets on learning
- Tools, targets and tasks... are we missing the mark with criteria?
- Recognizing and valuing professional judgment
- Student agency and assessment capability
- Leveraging multiple and flexible ways to uncover and gather assessment evidence
- Collecting valid assessment evidence from school, home and afar
- Assessment through a lens of compassion
- Creating a culture of assessment for learning

This collaborative community will be designed and facilitated by Damian Cooper, author and CAfLN co-founder, Michele Jones, Executive Director of the Alberta Assessment Consortium and Cheryl Babin, CRC Designer of Professional Learning.

---

## **Presenters**

### **Damian Cooper**

is an independent education consultant who specializes in helping schools and school districts across Canada, the United States, and internationally, to improve their instructional and assessment skills. In his varied career, Damian has been a secondary English, Special Education, and Drama teacher, a department head, a librarian, and a school consultant. He has specialized in student assessment for more than thirty years. Damian served as assessment consultant to the School Division of Nelson Education. Prior to that, he was Co-ordinator of Assessment and Evaluation for the Halton District School Board in Burlington, Ontario.

Damian is a co-founder and Past President of The Canadian Assessment for Learning Network (CAfLN).

Damian's international reputation rests on his wide-ranging experience as an educator, his deep understanding of assessment, and his no-nonsense, common sense approach to what works in schools.

Damian's publications *Talk About Assessment: Strategies and Tools to Improve Learning (2007)*, *Talk About Assessment: High School Strategies and Tools (2010)*, and *Redefining Fair: How to Plan, Assess, and Grade for Excellence in Mixed-Ability Classrooms (2011)*, are all best sellers. Damian and his colleagues launched an online professional learning course for educators in 2017 called *VOCAL: Validating Observation and Conversation when Assessing Learning*. In November 2021, Solution Tree will publish *Rebooting Assessment: A Practical Guide for Balancing Conversations, Performances, and Products* which is based on the VOCAL material.

### **Michele Jones**

is the Executive Director of the Alberta Assessment Consortium, where her work focuses on assessment research and advocacy. Michele is an accomplished facilitator and speaker who is known for her ability to connect and engage with fellow educators on the emerging issues of assessment. Through resource development and professional learning opportunities, Michele is committed to developing assessment literacy amongst educators and interested stakeholders across the province of Alberta and beyond.

### **Cheryl Babin**

M.Ed., is a Designer of Professional Learning with the Calgary Regional Consortium. With experience in public, international and independent schools, Cheryl has held many roles including classroom and lead teacher, experiential learning coordinator, instructional coach, IB workshop leader and university sessional instructor. Cheryl currently designs and facilitates professional learning opportunities for teachers and leaders in the region. Specific areas of interest and experience include making learning meaningful through critical thinking, conceptual understanding, student engaged assessment, and the development of international-mindedness and global perspectives.

---

## **Registration Notes**

Recordings will be provided to registrants after each session. The recordings will include all whole-group experiences only. Small group discussions held in break-out rooms will not be recorded.

**PLEASE NOTE ALL TIMES ARE MOUNTAIN STANDARD TIME**



**Providing Quality Professional Learning  
Opportunities to K-12 Education Staff**