

Learning

LONE LEADERS

RURAL AND REMOTE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP MATTERS

by

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School based leaders know that it is important to network beyond their own school and district walls, reaching across provincial and even international boundaries. In talking with Principals and Vice-Principals in the more rural and remote areas of BC, the desire to network is even stronger... and these BC leaders are not alone in their quest for connection.

A year ago, BCPVPA Directors of Professional Learning and Development, Elizabeth Bell and Jessica Antosz (retired), enthusiastically entered into a learning community with other leaders of professional learning in Ontario and Australia. Through ongoing conversation, the Global Network of Professional Learning Leaders (GNPLL) emerged. New BCPVPA PLD Directors Peter Johnston and Andrea McComb now share the BC voice with that group.

The GNPLL is made up of professional learning leaders from the BC Principals' & Vice-Principals' Association (BCPVPA), Ontario Principals' Council (OPC), the Queensland Association of State School Principals (QASSP), the Western Australian Primary Principals' Association (WAPPA), and the New South Wales Primary Principals' Association (NSWPPA). The group's purpose is to connect school leaders across the globe through shared learning and networking opportunities.

In a sharing of the common concerns and goals of the member organizations, it became clear that rural and remote leaders in various educational jurisdictions shared similar interests and challenges. To support those members, the GNPLL launched a webinar series to encourage school leaders who are on their own in rural or remote areas to share their stories, to learn both from each other and from specialists, and to build networks of understanding and support.

The first session of Lone Leaders: Rural and Remote School Leaders was held on October 16, 2021, and will be followed by sessions on February 24 and April 28, 2022. Members who missed the first session are welcome to consider joining us for the remaining two sessions.

In the first webinar, the discussion focused on maximizing educational outcomes for students in rural and geographically remote schools. It introduced school leaders from Ontario and Queensland who shared some of their leadership stories about ways of maximizing student outcomes in these areas. Following an opportunity for networking, Dr. Leyton Schnellert, Associate Professor, and Eleanor Rix, Professor in Rural Teacher Education at the University of British Columbia, shared their expertise. Responses were shared in small groups as networks were formulated.

The next two webinars in the series will follow a similar ninety-minute format. Participants will hear from experts from Canada and Australia who will speak

to different aspects of leadership in remote areas, local stories will be shared, and networks will be further solidified.

Topics considered for February and April may include schools as community hubs, staffing, and disaster response through trauma informed practice. Members working in rural and remote schools can contribute additional topics of interest through our registration form: visit bcpvpa.org/professional-learning/registration

As an organization, we are excited about developing new opportunities for our members, and we look forward to bringing you more professional learning through the Global Network of Professional Learning Leaders. Find out more about upcoming PLD events at bcpvpa.org, through eNews and in the Member Portal.

The Global Network of Professional Learning Leaders (GNPLL) brings together the professional learning managers from several Principals' and Vice-Principals' associations in both Canada and Australia. Through this partnership, they identify globally relevant professional learning topics, and develop affordable learning and networking opportunities which are open to Principals and Vice-Principals across the world.

Global Network of Professional Learning Leaders

