

Break-Out Sessions

1. Navigating Home Education in British Columbia

Presented by Steve Bastian

Are you feeling stuck with an educational choice for your child that doesn't bring you peace of mind, or do you want more of a Christ-centered focus but aren't sure how to get there? This workshop is designed for parents, churches, and educators to clarify the distinct paths available for home education options in B.C., helping families bridge the gap between their faith and their child's education. We will explore the primary options for educating your child at home, including their responsibilities, benefits, and how they fit within the provincial education system.

Steve Bastian's journey in education began as a home-educated student himself from grades 7-12, an experience that shaped his vision for learning and family discipleship. For the past 13 years, he and his wife have been home-educating their own children, walking alongside them in both academics and faith. Trained as a teacher and now serving as an administrator within the home education system, Steve combines professional expertise with personal experience to support families in their home education journeys. He is passionate about helping parents see that God has a unique plan for each child and believes education is a powerful tool for guiding children toward their calling and purpose.

2. Navigating Through Current Ideologies and Trends in the B.C. Curriculum

Presented by Berenice MacKenzie

In this seminar, Bérénice will examine prevalent ideologies and trends winding their way into educational thinking and practice across the world, and in particular, in British Columbia. Looking at the B.C. curriculum, we will discuss certain ideologies and trends and the potential impact that they can have upon educators, students, and students' learning. We will consider how to navigate the curriculum while maintaining a biblically faithful perspective. Some of the topics that we will touch upon include Critical Race Theory, Gender and Sexuality, Social Justice, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), Climate Change, as well as Indigenous History and Reconciliation. This seminar will help parents and educators recognize and interpret the core and curricular competencies in the B.C. curriculum so that they feel more aware and empowered when preparing lessons and choosing resources that align with a Christian worldview.

Bérénice is an educator with over 30 years experience in the K-12 education world. Having taught in French and in English in public schools, private/independent schools, and Christian schools in 4 different provinces at both elementary and high school levels, in Bérénice's experience as a teacher, a vice-principal, an Inclusive Education Lead, and a school principal she has seen the highs and lows of education and potential trajectories of educational thinking. Bérénice has a B.A. in French & English from UBC, a graduate Diploma in Education from McGill University, and an M.Ed. from the University of Portland. Presently, Bérénice is principal at the Phil & Jennie Gagliardi Academy in Comox, BC. Bérénice is married to a pastor and has 2 adult children and a cat!

3. Imaginal Education Q&A with Thomas Rudmik

Curious about Imaginal Education? Come to this Question and Answer session with your inquiries for Tom about Imaginal education and Christian education in general.

With more than 40 years experience as a teacher, principal, pastor, entrepreneur, and visionary leader, Thomas Rudmik is the founder of Master's Academy & College, in Calgary, AB, which has gained international recognition as one of the top-performing K-12 schools in North America. Tom's passion to transform communities, cities, & nations led him to start the Imaginal+ Schools, a global network of schools uniquely adapted to each country's

curriculum and culture. He has spent years equipping the next generation to shape history with wisdom, creativity, and faith.

4. Characteristics of a Vibrant Christian School

Presented by Jeff Keaton

Jeff is the founder and chairman of RenewaNation. Over the years, he has planted multiple churches, pastored two, founded a local Christian school and assisted with launching many others nationally, as well as begun several other ministries. He is passionate about seeing lost people come to know Jesus, encouraging Christians to surrender completely to Christ, and helping children develop a biblical worldview. He is the author of *The Life of Radical Faith* and *Saving Our Children In a World Gone Crazy*.

5. The Family, Church, and Education

Presented by Greg Needham

How did we get here?

- Track trends and statistics related to the Canadian family over the past fifty years.
- Review the results of a 2024 survey of Canadian churchgoers, Christians, and their beliefs.
- Look at the highlights of the Canadian Teacher's Federation survey of their own teachers.
- Discuss the Cardus' longitudinal research backing up recommended changes for your child's education.

Greg is the Project Director for the Canadian Christian Education Movement with a background in University Administration and Educational Psychology. Before launching CCEM, Greg traveled for TeachBeyond, working with Christian schools and start-ups in over 25 countries.

6. Patterns of Education in Scripture and Church History

Presented by Bruce Friesen

In this seminar, Bruce will present a Biblical worldview of education by looking at the Biblical mandate to disciple all nations, the historical precedent, and current accounts of discipleship through education. Biblical education is not merely cultural preservation or personal enrichment; it is a **covenant duty** rooted in God's commands to Israel, reaffirmed in Christ, and essential for transmitting faith, truth, and worldview from one generation to the next. Neglecting it is covenant unfaithfulness; obeying it sustains covenant blessing and flourishing.

Bruce Friesen is a visionary leader, dynamic speaker, and dedicated scholar with a deep commitment to empowering individuals and organizations through transformative insights and strategies. A seasoned connector and networker, Bruce brings his passion for national transformation to every initiative he undertakes. As the founder of *Children Arise*, Bruce leads efforts to disciple nations by nurturing the next generation through strategic educational frameworks. His co-founding of *Kingdomize Global* further reflects his dedication to advancing Christ's kingdom by equipping leaders to infuse kingdom values into their spheres of influence and sectors of society. Bruce also serves as a Global Ambassador for both the *Third Education Revolution and Imaginal Education*, embodying his vision to shape a world where education aligns with kingdom principles. Residing in Victoria, BC, with his wife Lorraine, Bruce celebrates over four decades of marriage and a growing family that includes three children and ten beloved grandchildren.

...Stay tuned...more seminars to come...