

EDUCATING FOR THE COMMON GOOD

CONFERENCE

PROGRAM

HILTON TORONTO AIRPORT HOTEL & SUITES
— 5875 AIRPORT ROAD, MISSISSAUGA —

OCTOBER 6 - 7, 2026

ONTARIO ENGLISH
Catholic
Teachers
ASSOCIATION



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE | EDUCATING FOR THE COMMON GOOD CONFERENCE 2026



As Catholic teachers, our commitment to advocacy and social justice is at the core of who we are, and the Educating for the Common Good conference has long been central to advancing these efforts and deepening our understanding of Catholic Social Teaching. Our classrooms and communities are more complex than ever, but the care and social teachings you live out in your classes remain constant. Your work brings hope and uplifts students, families, and communities at a time when this is more important than ever. Through a trauma-informed, culturally relevant and responsive approach, this conference reflects our ongoing commitment to fostering communities grounded in dignity and solidarity, and to upholding the common good.

While we work to ensure our Association reflects the voices and lived experiences of our diverse membership, we also play a broader role as Catholic teachers in Ontario's publicly funded education system in fostering awareness, understanding, and respect for others. Every day, Catholic teachers demonstrate extraordinary care, professionalism, and commitment – preparing students for an increasingly complex world and equipping every student entrusted to our care with the tools and knowledge to navigate relationships, wellbeing, and belonging. The conference's focus on the inherent dignity of the human person speaks directly to this responsibility. By creating safe, inclusive, and welcoming learning and working environments, we advance the causes of equity, dignity, and human rights.

Teachers' unions have always been on the front lines of advocating for progressive social change – challenging the status quo through social justice, the teachings of our faith, empowerment, and collective action. We engage in the important work of advancing the collective and common good, rather than the individual. It is through this lens of deeply held and shared values that OECTA has evolved into who we are today and continues to shape who we aspire to become.

Catholic education calls us not only to respond to challenges but also to cultivate hope – hope grounded in solidarity, compassion, and our shared responsibility to build communities where every student and teacher can flourish. As this conference explores topics including trauma-informed practice, culturally responsive pedagogy, inclusion, neurodiversity, and the ethical implications of emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence, we are reminded that Catholic education must continually respond to the realities facing students, teachers, and members of our communities with compassion and purpose.

The Educating for the Common Good conference reflects the mosaic that is OECTA – the intersection of justice and activism, unionism and politics, and the teachings of our faith. By bringing together members and partners committed to strengthening our understanding and practice of Catholic Social Teaching in today's world, I hope this conference will renew our commitment to one another and inspire meaningful action, so that together we can build a better future – a more just and hopeful one.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'R' followed by several horizontal strokes.

René Jansen in de Wal
President

AGENDA

EDUCATING FOR THE COMMON GOOD CONFERENCE

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6

9:00-10:00 A.M.

Registration

10:00-11:15 A.M.

Welcome, Opening Liturgy

11:15-12:15 P.M.

Keynote Speaker

Cara E. Yar Khan

12:15-1:15 P.M.

Lunch

1:15-2:30 P.M.

Session A

Workshops

2:30-2:45 P.M.

Break

2:45-4:00 P.M.

Session B

Workshops

4:15-5:15 P.M.

Session C

Workshops

8:00-10:30 P.M.

Games Night & Social



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7

8:00-9:00 A.M.

Breakfast & Registration

9:00-10:15 A.M.

Plenary Session

10:15-10:30 A.M.

Break

10:30-11:45 A.M.

Session D

Workshops

11:45-1:00 P.M.

Lunch

Visit Resource Tables

1:00-2:15 P.M.

Session E

Workshops

2:30-3:00 P.M.

Closing & Prizes

SESSION A

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6 | 1:15-2:30 P.M.

A1

TEACHERS! WHEN IT COMES TO A.I., GO IN EYES WIDE OPEN EVERYONE

Artificial intelligence is advancing faster than any technology we have previously encountered in education. While proponents emphasize efficiency and convenience, AI also introduces serious risks that can cause lasting harm if left unchecked.

Educators have a responsibility to defend what it means to be human in an age of automation. This workshop examines AI through the lens of professional judgement, public education, and human-centered teaching.

Participants will explore how uncritical adoption of AI can undermine privacy, academic integrity, and the relational and ethical foundations of teaching.

The session emphasizes the unique and irreplaceable role teachers play in fostering critical thinking, problem-solving, compassion, and moral development; and outlines why safeguards and clear boundaries are essential when AI enters educational spaces.

A2

BUILDING COMMUNITY AND S.T.E.A.M. THROUGH INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVES EVERYONE

This presentation explores how Indigenous ways of knowing can enrich STEAM learning by fostering belonging, strengthening community, and supporting students in achieving, believing, becoming, and thriving. This presentation invites educators to reflect on inclusive practices that honour identity, culture, and meaningful learning experiences.

A3

SEEING THE WHOLE STUDENT: UDL, NEURODIVERSITY, AND CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHINGS IN ACTION EVERYONE

This session explores how Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and neurodiversity-affirming practices align with Catholic Social Teaching to support the dignity and potential of every learner. Participants will learn practical strategies to create inclusive, barrier-free classrooms where all students can access curriculum and demonstrate their learning.

Grounded in the principles of human dignity, care for the most vulnerable, and solidarity, the session highlights that inclusion means creating conditions where every student can succeed. Educators will explore ways to design flexible learning environments that support diverse learners while maintaining high expectations.

This session is rooted in honouring the whole child, academically, socially, and spiritually, while fostering equitable and compassionate classrooms.

PREVENTING SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND SEX TRAFFICKING

GRADES 7 - 12

A4

Sexual crimes against children are rising at an alarming rate in Canada. Education is key to protecting our students. This session will explore educator tools, resources, and lesson plans to discuss child sexual exploitation and sex trafficking at a developmentally appropriate level in your Grades 7-12 classroom. We will explore resources developed by the White Ribbon Campaign, in partnership with OECTA that will assist teachers in addressing these sensitive topics through a Catholic lens. Lessons are preventative, safe, and positive learning experiences. Participants will leave with a complete toolkit of lesson plans linked directly to the Ontario Curriculum, including the religious education and family life expectations.

CHANGING THE NARRATIVE: BREAKING MYTHS, CONFRONTING DENIAL, AND ADVANCING JUSTICE IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION

EVERYONE

A5

Unpack the myths and mindsets that sustain racism in this transformative workshop inspired by Phillipe Copeland's thought-provoking article, "The Art of Denial." This session will guide participants in examining the pervasive myth of reverse racism, the roots of denial and defensiveness, and their impact on meaningful dialogue about equity and justice. Through interactive discussions and reflective exercises, participants will explore how denial operates as both an individual and systemic mechanism to maintain power imbalances. Drawing from Copeland's insights, we'll delve into strategies for identifying and addressing defensiveness and biases in ourselves and others, fostering courageous conversations, and building capacity for allyship and anti-racist action. This workshop is designed for educators and leaders ready to challenge harmful narratives, confront uncomfortable truths, and cultivate a more just and inclusive learning environment. Let's rewrite the story together!

WHOLE AND HOLY: BECAUSE CATHOLICISM SHOULD BE INCLUSIVE

EVERYONE

A6

In this session, we discuss the overlap between Catholic theology and accessibility, inclusion, diversity, and equity with a specific focus on 2SLGBTQIA+ inclusion in schools. Through a thoughtful, engaging dialogue, we will discuss the connections between human dignity found in scripture and tradition, and equity-centered approaches in Catholic education tied specifically to Catholic Social Teaching. We will also review case studies on the intersection of queer identities and Catholicism to collectively discuss pathways forward.

INTRODUCTION TO TAKING A TRAUMA INFORMED APPROACH IN THE CLASSROOM

EVERYONE

A7

This workshop will provide educators with a deeper understanding of trauma and the effect it has on students. We will examine what a trauma informed approach looks like in education and how to foster a safe learning environment for all students. We will explore ways in which trauma responses can be masked by disengagement, withdrawal, classroom outbursts, aggression, and behavioural challenges. We will explore strategies that can be implemented within the classroom and school to gain a deeper understanding of students and improve student engagement, motivation, and behaviour.

SESSION B

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6 | 2:45-4:00 P.M.

B1

BUILDING COMMUNITY AND S.T.E.A.M. THROUGH INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVES EVERYONE

This presentation explores how Indigenous ways of knowing can enrich STEAM learning by fostering belonging, strengthening community, and supporting students in achieving, believing, becoming, and thriving. This presentation invites educators to reflect on inclusive practices that honour identity, culture, and meaningful learning experiences.

B2

TRAUMA-INFORMED SPIRITUALITY WITHIN CATHOLIC EDUCATION EVERYONE

In this workshop, we demonstrate the need to take seriously Pope Francis' synodal call to listen to one another by sharing current research with 2SLGBTQIA+ students in the Catholic system focusing on faith-formation. We will review the concept of spiritual abuse, and consider how faith formation can and should take seriously mental health and well-being. Through sharing our doctoral and community-based research, we challenge each Catholic educator to consider how we address the spiritual growth of queer students in Catholic schools. We will also share the joys students have articulated, and the best practices for inclusion in Catholic religious spaces.

B3

SEEING THE WHOLE STUDENT: UDL, NEURODIVERSITY, AND CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHINGS IN ACTION EVERYONE

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This session is rooted in honouring the whole child, academically, socially, and spiritually, while fostering equitable and compassionate classrooms.

B4

CULTURALLY AND HISTORICALLY RESPONSIVE PEDAGOGY AND BLACK, INDIGENOUS, AND RACIALIZED STUDENT ALLYSHIP EVERYONE

This workshop challenges educators to examine the messages present in texts and media used in teaching. What story does your classroom library tell? This session will explore how texts used in the classroom can contribute to inequities. Participants will examine ways to incorporate culturally and historically responsive teaching and learning while creating safe, anti-racist, and inclusive learning spaces for students. Through reflective discussions, participants will explore the importance of incorporating historical and present-day successes of racialized groups, especially when teaching about oppression and ways to focus on cultivating joy and belonging in our classrooms. Participants will also explore meaningful and practical ways to use stories and media to challenge and dismantle the “single story” and incorporate a culturally relevant and responsive educator mindset in the classroom, while providing a safe learning environment and fostering student allyship.

B5

TEACHING BOYS IN THE AGE OF THE ALGORITHM: DEBUNKING THE MANOSPHERE AND PROMOTING POSITIVE MASCULINITY GRADES 7 - 12

Across social media, podcasts, gaming communities, and algorithm-driven content feeds, many boys and young men are encountering online narratives that influence their understanding of masculinity, identity, relationships, and belonging. This session introduces Grade 7–12 teacher tools, resources, and lesson supports aligned with the Catholic Graduate Expectations and the Ontario Curriculum to help students embrace positive masculinity and commit to ongoing allyship. Teachers will examine resources from the White Ribbon Campaign and consider effective methods of debunking untruths while promoting relationship-building, restorative dialogue, and cultures of belonging that foster healthy understandings of self and others. Participants will leave with classroom ready resources, tips for navigating, and strategies for working through challenging conversations.

B6

ROOT CAUSES OR SYMPTOM RELIEF? EVERYONE

Is your community outreach at school or in your unit addressing root causes of injustice? How can we look at ways to align advocacy, justice, and Catholic Social Teaching with our existing charitable works in a way that creates foundational change? We will explore options for enhancing typical charitable work (for example, food drives, Christmas campaigns, and clothing drives) with justice and awareness initiatives, and we will consider advocacy around food insecurity, fast-fashion, consumerism, and many other issues central to the wellbeing of the common good.

CENTERING BLACK STUDENTS AND AFFIRMING THEIR IDENTITIES IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION

EVERYONE

B7

This session invites educators into critical reflection and dialogue on centering Black students and affirming their identities within Catholic education. Grounded in lived experience, Afrocentric ways of knowing, and research-informed practice, the session explores how systemic barriers impact Black students' achievement, identity formation, and sense of belonging.

Through an examination of key tensions such as: when identity and faith do not fully align; the impact of Eurocentric norms; and the realities of conditional belonging, participants will deepen their understanding of the Black student experience but also be invited to reflect on how they can do so in their own pedagogy. The session also reframes dominant narratives by shifting from the concept of “achievement gaps” to “education debt,” as coined by Gloria Landson Billings to emphasize systemic responsibility over student deficit.

Participants will engage in dialogue and practical strategies to move from inclusion to authentic belonging, including affirming Black spirituality, embedding diverse voices in curriculum, and reimagining classroom and school practices. The session concludes by supporting educators in identifying concrete actions to sustain this work in their daily practice.

SESSION C

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6 | 4:15-5:15 P.M.

C1

FACING THE FALLS - FILM SCREENING **EVERYONE**

Facing the Falls, is a 34-minute Oscar qualifying short documentary film, directed by Celia Aniskovich, produced by Liz Yale Marsh, and executive produced by Hillary Clinton and Chelsea Clinton that tells the story of international humanitarian, Cara Yan Khan. Deep in the throes of an aggressive, fatal muscle-wasting disease and no longer able to walk unassisted, Cara ventures out on a daring, 12-day expedition through the Grand Canyon.

Cara's journey to live an extraordinary life and shatter stigma against people living with disabilities unexpectedly becomes a deep dive into fear, trust and vulnerability. As the entire expedition team grapples with unanticipated dangers in a truly remote wilderness, they also come face to face with their individual demons, insecurities and internal conflicts. *Facing the Falls* is a story of fear, adrenaline, ambition, determination, courage, and perseverance against the odds. It is a film for anyone who's ever found themselves on the edge of a cliff.

Watch the trailer <https://youtu.be/7r217ksddf8?si=feGcST3waeBEoGFz>

C2

YIN YOGA **EVERYONE**

Relax and Reset.

After a busy day of listening and learning to meaningful lectures and conversations, give your body and mind an opportunity to pause and soften with a guided yin yoga practice.

This grounded session invites you to slow down on your mat as you move through a series of deep and accessible stretches designed to reset your nervous system and release tension around the shoulders, back, and hips. We'll close with supporting sounds of a singing bowl to help lighten the mind and restore your energy before you return to the rest of your day.

No experience is needed, and you do not need to be flexible to enjoy this practice. Please consider bringing a yoga mat or towel to lie on. Blocks and straps are beneficial, but entirely optional.

C3

SOCACIZE **EVERYONE**

Get ready to sweat, vibe, and wine up at the Socacize Fitness Jam Session — a high-energy workout experience powered by feel-good vibes and nonstop movement! Expect a fun mix of dance fitness, cardio, and community energy that will leave you feeling empowered and refreshed.

Beginner-friendly with no dance experience needed! Just come ready to move at your own pace and have fun.

Wear comfortable workout clothing, supportive sneakers, and bring a towel and water bottle. Dress to sweat and vibe!

SESSION

D

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7 | 10:30-11:45 A.M.

D1

CIVIX CANADA – HAVING BETTER DISCUSSIONS WITH POLITALKS **GRADES 4 - 12**

These days, it can feel harder than ever to have meaningful, constructive discussions about important topics, especially when it comes to political, social, or ideological issues. Instead of shying away from having difficult conversations, young people need to learn how to talk to people they disagree with in ways that lead to deeper understanding and don't turn into arguments. The PoliTalks program helps students develop the knowledge, attitudes, and skills they need to have more constructive discussions. The program equips educators with tools to create discussion-friendly classrooms and supports students in navigating complex or sensitive topics with confidence and curiosity. This workshop will provide an overview of PoliTalks resources for Grades 4-12, including the constructive discussions guide for educators, elementary lessons on perspective-taking and active listening, and secondary lessons on perspective-taking, cognitive biases, and constructive discussion.

D2

EGALE CANADA – BOLD LEADERSHIP IN UNCERTAIN TIMES: 2SLGBTQI INCLUSION **EVERYONE**

As equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) efforts face mounting resistance, 2SLGBTQI leaders are uniquely positioned to lead with boldness, care, and clarity. This session invites participants into a collaborative space to explore what courageous leadership looks like in this moment — across sectors, identities, and movements.

D3

USING THE CANADIAN GEOGRAPHIC INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ATLAS FLOOR MAP **IN THE CLASSROOM** **GRADES 7 - 12**

The Canadian Geographic Indigenous Peoples Atlas Floor Map is an interactive learning experience that invites participants to explore the histories, cultures, languages, and contemporary realities of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples across Canada. Through movement, discussion, and inquiry-based activities, participants engage with the giant floor map to deepen their understanding of Indigenous perspectives, relationships to land, and the impacts of colonization and resilience. This workshop supports meaningful conversations and provides educators with practical ways to integrate Indigenous education across curriculum areas. The session will also include the process by which schools can book the map and ways that teacher resources, including digital versions of the map and lesson plans, can be accessed.

D4

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE - “COOKIE MINING” AND OTHER INTERACTIVE **LESSON PLANS** **EVERYONE**

Do your students have a passion for social justice? D&P offers dozens of free lesson plans and resources to break down big issues in engaging ways... all through the lens of faith! Join Emily as she walks you through these hands-on, Catholic Social Teaching-inspired resources.

D5

LIFE LESSONS FROM THE COURT: TEACHING IDENTITY, RESILIENCE, AND GOAL SETTING WITH RESOURCES FROM NFB EDUCATION

GRADES 7 - 12

Discover classroom-ready resources that bring powerful, Canadian storytelling into the classroom with the National Film Board of Canada's Education team. This interactive workshop will highlight new films, formats, and resources: mini-lessons; curated age-specific film playlists; and comprehensive study guides that support critical thinking, media literacy, and social-emotional learning.

D6

OPHEA — DISRUPTING HARM IN H&PE: BUILDING SPACES WHERE EVERY STUDENT THRIVES EVERYONE

In recognizing health and physical education (H&PE) learning environments as a site of potential harm for students, the Ontario Physical Health Education Association (OPHEA), acknowledges the collective responsibility to re-imagine these spaces through an inclusive, identity-affirming lens. Doing so will help ensure that every student is supported in reaching their learning potential and meeting curricular goals of developing an appreciation for lifelong healthy, active living. Join us in this session as we:

- Explore the intersections between H&PE and some of the various marginalized identities students may hold.
- Participate in discussion about shifting practices to create the conditions for safe, supportive, and identity-affirming conversations at home, in schools, and throughout school communities.
- Learn about OPHEA's Stop, Start, Consider! resource to support educators in providing alternative strategies and encourage meaningful discussion about how expanded equity-driven considerations might be implemented in a variety of settings.

D7

AFFIRMING EVERY CHILD: IDENTITY, BELONGING, AND EQUITY IN PRIMARY AND JUNIOR CLASSROOMS

PRIMARY JUNIOR

This session explores the importance of affirming all student identities in the early years. Grounded in curriculum and informed by equity-focused research, participants will examine how identity, belonging, early learning, and student success are deeply connected. Drawing on insights from the Ontario Human Rights Commission, including the Dreams Delayed report, the session will highlight how early educational experiences shape long-term outcomes for students, particularly those who have been historically marginalized. Participants will also engage with ideas from the facilitator's contribution to "The ABCs of Blackness in Our Schools: Affirming Identity, Fostering Belonging, and Celebrating Learning," centering the ways young learners already hold and express complex knowledge about identity, culture, and community. Educators will explore ways in which foundations of language and mathematics, problem solving and innovating, belonging and contributing, and self-regulation and well-being can be used to support identity-affirming, culturally responsive, and inclusive practices.

This session offers both reflection and practical strategies to support educators in creating classrooms where all students feel seen, valued, and capable from their earliest school experiences.

SESSION E

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7 | 1:00-2:15 P.M.

E1

MAKE SPACE FOR INDIGENOUS VOICES IN THE CLASSROOM: A NEW INTERACTIVE RESOURCE FROM THE NATIONAL FILM BOARD **GRADES 7 - 12**

Indigenous Voices is a dynamic new media-based learning resource from the National Film Board (NFB) of Canada, launching in Fall 2026. Designed by Indigenous educators in close collaboration with the NFB, this innovative platform offers students across Canada an authentic and meaningful opportunity to engage with themes of history, community, justice, and Reconciliation as they relate to the Indigenous Peoples of Turtle Island.

E2

SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH ONTARIO – SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL SKILL DEVELOPMENT AT SCHOOL **EVERYONE**

Join us for an interactive workshop designed to equip educators with knowledge and tools to support students' social-emotional skill development. Through hands-on activities, participants will learn simple, practical strategies they can immediately apply in their classrooms/schools. We'll provide foundational knowledge, explore resources aligned with curriculum (K-12), and highlight Catholic connections. Participants will also reflect on their own social-emotional skill development and how it can help support their well-being.

E3

WILFRID LAURIER UNIVERSITY – BUILDING BRIDGES: YOUTH EDUCATION ON HOMELESSNESS **GRADES 9 - 12**

In this workshop, we will provide an overview of Wilfrid Laurier University's Building Bridges curriculum and how it aligns with key teaching objectives and Catholic Graduate Expectations. Participants will then break into groups and engage with some of the activities embedded in each lesson. Participants will leave the workshop with practical tools on how to integrate curriculum about homelessness into their classrooms, including providing lesson plans and activity materials (i.e. videos, worksheets, games, and activity instructions).

E4

JACK.ORG'S - BELONGING, IDENTITY & MENTAL HEALTH IN TODAY'S CLASSROOM **GRADES 7 - 12**

Young people experience mental health through many interconnected parts of identity, including culture, faith, community, relationships, values, and belonging. This interactive session explores how youth-centred digital storytelling and meaningful classroom conversations can strengthen belonging, reduce stigma, and support student wellbeing. Participants will examine practical strategies for creating compassionate, psychologically safer learning environments, while reflecting on how identity and lived experience shape mental health. Grounded in student voice and inclusive mental health education, this session offers accessible tools and resources to support connection, empathy, and wellness across diverse classrooms.

OPHEA – DISRUPTING HARM IN H&PE: BUILDING SPACES WHERE EVERY STUDENT THRIVES EVERYONE

E5

In recognizing health and physical education (H&PE) learning environments as a site of potential harm for students, the Ontario Physical Health Education Association (OPHEA), acknowledges the collective responsibility to re-imagine these spaces through an inclusive, identity-affirming lens. Doing so will help ensure that every student is supported in reaching their learning potential and meeting curricular goals of developing an appreciation for lifelong healthy, active living. Join us in this session to:

- Explore the intersections between H&PE and some of the various marginalized identities students may hold.
- Participate in discussion about shifting practices to create the conditions for safe, supportive, and identity-affirming conversations at home, in schools, and throughout school communities.
- Learn about OPHEA's Stop, Start, Consider! resource to support educators in providing alternative strategies and encourage meaningful discussion about how expanded equity-driven considerations might be implemented in a variety of settings.

CIVIX CANADA – DIGITAL MEDIA LITERACY IN THE AGE OF AI GRADES 4 - 12

E6

The internet has long been full of false and misleading information, but the introduction of AI tools has added a new dimension of complexity to the problems of finding reliable and trustworthy information online. Regardless of how you feel about AI, there's no doubt that the internet is a very different place than it was just a few years ago. In this session we will help you and your students learn the digital media literacy skills needed to navigate today's increasingly complex digital world. You will leave with free, classroom-ready tools from the CTRL-F: Digital Media Literacy program. These bilingual resources, designed for students in Grades 4 to 12, include lesson plans, slide decks, activities, videos, online interactives and more.

EGALE CANADA – COMBATting ANTI-2SLGBTQI HATE IN SCHOOLS EVERYONE

E7

Designed to build on current anti-bullying efforts within schools, this workshop equips educators with practical tools to prevent and address the spread of disinformation and hate-motivated rhetoric targeting 2SLGBTQI people in popular media and within the school community. Participants will gain a better understanding of the context and impacts that anti-2SLGBTQI rhetoric occurring online and offline has on 2SLGBTQI youth and families.

DAY 1

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6 | 11:15 A.M. - 12:15 P.M.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER - CARA E. YAR KHAN



Cara E. Yar Khan is a professional public speaker, international humanitarian, disability rights advocate, and producer of the Oscar-qualifying short documentary [Facing the Falls](#), executive produced by Hillary Clinton and Chelsea Clinton. Born in India and raised in Canada, Cara is a proud graduate of Ontario's Catholic education system and has built a global career advancing inclusion, dignity, and social justice. She spent ten years with UNICEF, serving in countries including Angola, China, Madagascar, Mozambique, Thailand, and Haiti, where she was the first person with a severe physical impairment to serve in a UNICEF emergency operation. In 2023, Cara was appointed by the White House to serve as a senior advisor on international disability rights at the U.S. Department of State. She has spoken and moderated at the United Nations, the G7, the Global Disability Summit, the Paris

Paralympic Games, and Global Citizen Festival. Through her work and storytelling, Cara challenges audiences to rethink fear, courage, disability, and the responsibility each of us has to create a more just and inclusive world.

DAY 2

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7 | 9:00 - 10:15 A.M.

PLENARY - FACING HISTORY: NAVIGATING CRUCIAL CONVERSATIONS

HOW DO WE TALK ABOUT THINGS THAT MATTER?

In this interactive plenary, we will explore tools and resources from Facing History & Ourselves' [Fostering Civil Discourse](#) guide that support respectful conversations, introduce strategies for handling different types of classroom moments, and share ready-to-use tools for navigating crucial conversations that center the human dignity of all stakeholders.



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