2026 PAA

EDMONTON
10/2026

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

WELCOME!

CONNECT. LEARN. ENGAGE.



Matthew Cairns, R.Psych.
Director of Career Affairs & Conference Co-Chair

Welcome to the PAA 2026 Conference! We are grateful to our presenters for sharing their knowledge, experience, and ideas with us. This year, we're bringing together more than 25 presenters, four keynote speakers, 10 exhibitors, and 14 poster presenters—with enough session hours to keep you learning for the equivalent of a road trip from Edmonton to Mexico City! Over the next few days, I hope you find opportunities to learn, be challenged, and strengthen your work. Just as importantly, I hope you find connection. Our profession is stronger when we know one another, share our experiences, and make space to learn from each other. Thank you for being here and for being part of this community.



Dr. William Hanson, R.Psych.
Chief Executive Officer & Conference Co-Chair

Welcome! On behalf of PAA, I'm delighted to welcome you to our 2026 conference and three days of connecting, learning, and engaging. Learning happens best when we truly engage, that is, when we focus our attention, remain curious, and connect meaningfully with others. This year, we are fortunate to welcome outstanding speakers and presenters from across North America, along with colleagues from throughout Alberta and as far away as Yukon and Manitoba. Whether you're here to gain new knowledge, reconnect with friends and colleagues, or meet someone new, I hope you leave energized, inspired, and better connected. Thanks for being here!

REGISTRATION

October 1 @ 3:00 – 6:00 PM
Start here.
Check in at the Registration Table and pick up your conference materials.
Arriving on Friday or Saturday?
Visit the PAA Welcome Booth to check in.

WELCOME BOOTH

Your conference home base.

- Find conference information
- Check in on Friday or Saturday
- Shop PAA merchandise
- Get CCP tracking form
- Learn more about PAA
- Pick up PAA brochures & resources

PROFESSIONAL HEADSHOTS

Friday, October 2 @1:30 - 5:30 PM
Stop by the Hotel Atrium for ***one free complimentary headshot,*** courtesy of Origin Story Studios.

***Origin Story Studios will be at the Expo during these hours only.*

PARKING

Conference attendees receive complimentary parking.
If you park in the hotel lot, please pick up an exit parking pass from the PAA registration desk each day.

If the hotel lot is full, you may park in the Airport Value Park Lot, preferably on Level 2. Please bring your Value Park ticket to the hotel front desk for validation so you can exit at no charge.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Friday, October 2 @4:00 - 6:00 PM
Stop by Champlain A to view poster presentations and meet presenters from across the psychology community.

Best Poster Award will be presented Friday, October 2 @ 6:00 PM.

CONFERENCE EXPO

Thursday, October 1
@ 4:00 - 6:00 PM
Friday, October 2
@ 8:30 AM–12:00 PM, 1:00 - 6:00 PM
Saturday, October 3
@ 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Visit the Expo throughout the conference to meet organizations, explore resources and discover services supporting psychology and psychological practice.

Exhibitors
Helcim
Jane App
Psych Guard
Consentia
Owl Practice
TD
WCB
Sunshine Coast Health Centre
BMS
CMHA

MORE QUESTIONS?
Visit our FAQ Page.

FULFILLING CCP HOURS?
Utilize our CCP tracking form.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

FIND YOUR SESSION

Use colours to identify session types, symbols for key event information, and session numbers to find more details in the Session Directory (pg. 6).

SESSION FORMAT

- **Keynote Presentation**
- **Presentation**
- **Workshop**
- **Round Table**

EVENT TYPE

- Food or refreshments will be served during this time.
- Conference sessions are taking place during this time.
- Time to connect and network with follow attendees.
- Tickets are available for purchase at an additional cost.

THURSDAY OCTOBER 1, 2026

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS — 1:00 PM

($) Tickets are available for purchase at an additional cost.

	CHAMPLAIN A	CHAMPLAIN B	CARTIER A	CARTIER B
1:00 PM	1:00 PM - 4:00 PM **Ethics & Financial Sustainability (12)** Dr. Jaleh Shahin & Dr. Harpreet Gill	1:00 PM - 4:00 PM **Interventions with Separated Families (11)** Dr. Stephen Carter	1:00 PM - 4:00 PM **Building Resilience (14)** Dr. Michael Ungar	1:00 PM - 4:00 PM **Complex Cases & Conflicting Data (13)** Dr. Michael Sornberger
2:00 PM				
3:00 PM				
4:00 PM				

OPENING COCKTAIL RECEPTION & NETWORKING — 4:00 PM

DOORS OPEN - OPENING REMARKS — 6:00 PM

EVENING SESSIONS — 6:30 PM

6:30 PM - 7:45 PM - Cartier C
Re-Centering Our "Why": Ethical Practice, Cultural Safety, and Shared Responsibility (4)
Dr. Gina Wong & Dr. Gwendolyn Villebrun

8:00 PM - 9:15 PM - Cartier C
"Diagnosing" Resilience Across Cultures and contexts: Seeing the positives in people even when there are serious problems (3)
Dr. Michael Ungar

BOOK SIGNING — 9:15 PM

FRIDAY OCTOBER 2, 2026

7:30 AM — PLATED BREAKFAST WITH THE BOARD - CARTIER C

8:30 AM — MORNING SESSIONS

	CHAMPLAIN A	CHAMPLAIN B	CARTIER A	CARTIER B	CARTIER C
8:30 AM	8:30 AM - 9:30 AM **Cultural Humility & Competence (9)** Dr. Sandra Dixon	8:30 AM - 9:30 AM **Beyond PTSD (18)** Samantha Greenwood	8:30 AM - 11:30 AM **AI in Psychology (5)** Dr. Stéphane Bouchard	8:30 AM - 10:00 AM **Supervision Best Practices (26)** Dr. Terilyn Pott, Aimee Reimer & Dr. Michelle Soucy Dahl	8:30 AM - 10:00 AM **Supporting Disabled and 2SLGBQTIA+ Clients (24)** Amanda Montey
9:00 AM					
9:30 AM	9:30 AM - 11:00 AM **The Ethics We Don't Teach (6)** Dr. Damien Cormier				
10:00 AM		10:00 AM - 11:00 AM **Bill 13 & Ethical Practice (29)** Dr. Gina Wong & Dr. Gwendolyn Villebrun			
10:30 AM					10:30 AM - 12:00 PM **Facts, Bias & Professional Opinion (20)** Dr. Harpreet Gill
11:00 AM	11:00 AM - 12:00 PM **Kids & High-Conflict Divorce (15)** Dr. Jeff Chang	11:00 AM - 12:00 PM **Neuro & Queer-Affirming Practices (23)** Amanda Montey			
11:30 AM					

12:00 PM — LUNCH

1:00 PM — AFTERNOON SESSIONS

1:00 PM	1:00 PM - 2:00 PM **PAA Annual General Meeting - Cartier A/B**		
2:00 PM	2:00 PM - 3:15 PM - Cartier A/B **Play & Nature: Everyday Pathways to Engagement and Meaning in Life (1)** Dr. Holli-Anne Passmore		
3:00 PM	3:15 PM - 4:30 PM - Cartier A/B **Why Beliefs & Values Matter: 30 Years of Theory, Research, & Practice (2)** Dr. Craig N. Shealy		
4:00 PM		4:00 PM - 6:00 PM **Poster Presentations** Hotel Atrium	
5:00 PM	5:30 PM - 6:00 PM: **Poster Award & Closing for the Day - Hotel Atrium**		

6:00 PM — NETWORKING DINNER

($) Tickets are available for purchase at an additional cost.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 3, 2026

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST - CARTIER C — 7:30 AM

MORNING SESSIONS — 8:30 AM

	CHAMPLAIN A	CHAMPLAIN B	CARTIER A/B	CARTIER C
8:30 AM	8:30 AM - 9:30 AM **Anonymous Feedback in Supervision (25)** Dr. Terilyn Pott	8:30 AM - 10:00 AM **Clinical & Cultural Practice (28)** Leigh Sheldon	8:30 AM - 10:00 AM **A Conversation with CAP (27)** Dr. Richard J. Spelliscy, Dr. Troy Janzen & Dr. Heather Gower	
9:00 AM				
9:30 AM	9:30 AM - 10:30 AM **The Future of Assessment (22)** Samuel Li-Rousseau & Dr. Liz Grose			
10:00 AM				
10:30 AM		10:30 AM - 12:00 PM **Psychedelic-Assisted Psychotherapy (8)** Dr. Kevin St. Arnaud	10:30 AM - 12:00 PM **Psychologists & Lawyers in Court (17)** Dr. Ann Marie Dewhurst & Tracy Brown, J.D.	10:30 AM - 12:00 PM **Spirituality & Psychology (21)** Dr. Beth Hedva & Wilma Spear Chief
11:00 AM	11:00 AM - 12:00 PM **Selecting Practicum Students (19)** Dr. Elaine Greidanus, Dr. Thea Comeau & Dr. Aya Cheaito			
11:30 AM				
12:00 PM	12:15 PM - 1:15 PM **Encouraging Supervisee Disclosure (7)** Dr. Julie Curley	12:15 PM - 1:15 PM **Working with Insurers (10)** Carmen Bellows	12:15 PM - 1:15 PM **Culture & Healing (16)** Dr. David Danto & Beverly Keeshig-Soonias	
12:30 PM				
1:00 PM				

CLOSING & SNACKS FOR THE ROAD — 1:15 PM

GALA COCKTAIL RECEPTION — 5:00 PM

($) Gala tickets are available for purchase at an additional cost.

GALA — 6:00 PM

($) Gala tickets are available for purchase at an additional cost.

SESSION DIRECTORY

KEYNOTES

(1) Play & nature: Everyday pathways to engagement and meaning in life.
Holli-Anne Passmore, Ph.D.

(2) Why Beliefs & Values Matter: 30 Years of Theory, Research, & Practice.
Craig N. Shealy, Ph.D.

(3) "Diagnosing" Resilience Across Cultures and Contexts: Seeing the Positives in People Even When There are Serious Problems
Michael Ungar, Ph.D.

(4) Re-centering Our "Why": Ethical Practice, Cultural Safety, and Shared Responsibility
Gwendolyn Villebrun, Ph.D, R.Psych.
Gina Wong, Ph.D, R.Psych.

INVITED SPEAKERS

(5) The Use of Artificial Intelligence in Psychology in 2026: An Overview of its Clinical and Ethical Implications
Stéphane Bouchard, Ph.D.

(6) The Ethics We Don't Teach: Preparing Psychologists for Private Practice
Damien Cormier, Ph.D., R.Psych.

(7) Encouraging Supervisee Disclosure Through the Supervisory Relationship
Julie Curley, Ph.D., R.Psych.

(8) Core Principles of Psychedelic-Assisted Psychotherapy
Kevin St. Arnaud, Ph.D., R.Psych.

FEATURED PRESENTERS

(9) Cultivating Cultural Humility and Clinical Competence: The Free-Flowing Model of Faith & Spirituality
Sandra Dixon, Ph.D., R.Psych.

(10) How Psychologists can more Effectively Work with Insurers
Carmen Bellows, R.Psych.

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

(11) Psychological Interventions with Separated, Divorced, and Never Married Families
Stephen Carter, Ph.D., R.Psych.

(12) Ethical Practice & Financial Sustainability: Navigating the Intersection of Psychology & Business
Harpreet Gill, Ph.D., R.Psych.
Jaleh Shahin, Ph.D, R.Psych.

(13) Complex Cases, Conflicting Data: Clinical Reasoning in Psychological Assessment
Michael Sornberger, Ph.D., R.Psych.

(14) Working with Children, Youth and Families with Complex Needs: Skills to Build Resilience
Michael Ungar, Ph.D.

PRESENTERS

(15) Working with Kids in High-Conflict Divorce: Safe, Effective, and Ethical Practice for the "Average" Therapist
Jeff Chang, Ph.D., R.Psych.

(16) On Culture and Healing: A Conversation about Land, Language, Ceremony, Relationships, and Reconciliation
David Danto, Ph.D., R. Psych.
Beverly Keeshig-Soonias, R. Psych.

(17) Exploring the Roles and Relationship between Psychologists and Lawyers in Court Proceedings; Fear Not!
Ann Marie Dewhurst, Ph.D., R.Psych.
Tracy Brown, J.D.

(18) Beyond PTSD: The Importance of Regular OCD-Screening in First Responder and High-Pressure Professional Populations
Samantha Greenwood, R.Psych.

(19) What Influences Supervisors' Decisions When Selecting Students for Practicum Placements?
Elaine Greidanus, Ph.D., R. Psych.
Thea Comeau, Ph.D., R.Psych.
Aya Cheaito, Ph.D., R.Psych.

(20) Ethics Roundtable: Facts, Bias, and Professional Opinion: Where Does Ethical Clinical Judgment End?
Harpreet Gill, Ph.D., R.Psych.

(21) A Conversation Café on Multi-Faith Spirituality and Psychology: Ethically Integrating Transpersonal Techniques into Clinical Practice
Beth Hedva, PhD., R.Psych.
Wilma Spear Chief, R.Psych.

(22) The Future of Clinical Assessment: AI, Adaptive Tools, and Responsible Innovation (Presented by Pearson)
Samuel Li-Rousseau, M. Psy.
Liz Grose, Ph.D.

(23) Introduction to Neuro-Affirming and Queer-Affirming Practices
Amanda Montey, R.Psych.

(24) Round Tables Part 1: Supporting Disabled and 2SLGBQTIA+ Clients in the Current Political Landscape
Amanda Montey, R.Psych.

(25) Enhancing Supervision Through Anonymous Feedback: A Practice-Based Case Study
Terilyn Pott, Ph.D., R.Psych.

(26) Supervision Best Practice, Lessons learned, a Practical Guide: Voices of the Supervision Community of Practice
Aimee Reimer, R.Psych.
Terilyn Pott, Ph.D., R.Psych.
Michelle Soucy Dahl, Ph.D., R. Psych.

(27) A Conversation with The College
Richard J. Spelliscy, Ph.D., R. Psych.
Troy Janzen, Ph.D., R.Psych.
Heather Gower, Ph.D., R.Psych.

(28) Bridging the Divide between Clinical and Cultural
Leigh Sheldon, R.Psych.

(29) From Hidden Load to Shared Responsibility: A Collective Conversation on Bill 13 and Ethical Practice
Gwendolyn Villebrun, Ph.D., R.Psych.
Gina Wong, Ph.D, R.Psych.

POSTER PRESENTERS

Braedin Bauer, BA
Taymy Joseda Caso, Ph.D.
Prakriti Gupta, Ph.D.(c)
Laura Hernandez, Ph.D.(c), MSc
Jiya Juneja, BSc
Ellen Klaver, MEd, R.Psych.
Alexis L. Knee
Milica Miskic, MEd
Abigail Oloriz, BSc
Annika Rorem, BA
Danielle Shinbine, MSc
Sebastian Toews, BA
Shaima Ahammed Thayyilayil, R.Psych.
Lakota Wood, MA, MEd
Isabella Yip, BA

CELEBRATING OUR

2026 PAA AWARD RECIPIENTS



Dr. Jon Amundson
Pettifor Lifetime Achievement Award



Dr. Sandra Dixon
John G. Paterson Media Award



Debbie Jabbour
Excellence in Community Service



Henna Hans
Masters Thesis Research Award



Jessica Cooke
Doctoral Dissertation Award



Dr. Wendy Hawkins
Excellence in Clinical Supervision Award



Michael Huston
Excellence in Teaching Psychology



Abby Oloriz
Undergraduate Thesis Research Award



THANK YOU

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