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# WHISTLER CONFERENCE

Friday, May 6, 2016 - Whistler Hilton Resort

**Adrienne Gear**

Nonfiction Writing Power  
Effective writing instruction

**Victoria Olson**

Screencasting to explain everything  
Passion-based learning

**Naryn Searcy**

Assessing the new curriculum  
Indigenous perspectives

**Rome Lavrencic & Stacia Johnson**

New core French curriculum

**Katherine Mulski**

Web applications



Photo: Mike Crane

REGISTER AT  
[www.bctela.ca](http://www.bctela.ca)

## Adrienne Gear

is an internationally-acclaimed speaker and author who keeps herself rooted in the classroom by teaching part time in Vancouver. Her practical “power” approach to reading and writing instruction is implemented in many school districts across the country. She has presented internationally and her books have been translated into multiple languages. She is the author of four books for teachers: *Reading Power* (2006), *Nonfiction Reading Power* (2008), *Writing Power* (2011), and *Nonfiction Writing Power* (2014).

### Morning Workshops 9:30-11:45

**Nonfiction Writing Power:** Writing in the content areas  
Tired of the same old animal reports? Come to this engaging workshop with Adrienne Gear as she shares some ideas from her new latest “power” book – *Nonfiction Writing Power* (Pembroke, 2014). Adrienne will explain the different forms of nonfiction, including description, instruction and persuasion and the importance of teaching students intent, language and structure of each form. She will model several lessons and shares how different forms of writing can be linked to your content areas. As always, she shares many student samples and highlights favourite anchor books to support the lessons. Participants will receive a handout with some reproducible templates and a recommended list of anchor books. Grades 5–9.

**Screencasting:** You and your students can explain everything  
Explore the potential of visible thinking and learning on the premier iPad screencasting app, *Explain Everything*. Learn how to import and annotate custom files to create your very own screencasted videos for presentations, explanations, or directions. Victoria will provide concrete examples of how screencasting can be used to empower authentic student learning and self-assessment skills. Get your students creating with screencasting!  
Grades 4–9.

**Assessing the new curriculum**  
The new curriculum will increase opportunities for students to engage with their learning in personal, meaningful, and relevant ways; however, at the end of the day teachers are still responsible for assessing what students have learned and communicating that information to others. How do we evaluate the many unique and creative ways that students might demonstrate understanding? Where do the core competency profiles fit in? This session will provide specific examples, along with clear and practical recommendations for effective assessment.  
Grades 4–12.

**Getting a grip on the new core French curriculum**  
Presenters: Stacia Johnson and Rome Lavrencic  
In order to understand the Ministry’s guidelines in the most recent FSL curriculum draft, Stacia and Rome will highlight its significant elements. This transformative curriculum focuses on concept-based learning, imbeds the First Peoples Principles of Learning, and highlights the importance of one’s sense of place in the world through language learning. The presenters will help put you at ease by discussing the similarities and additions to the new curriculum as well as providing sample lesson ideas, hands-on activities and assessment and evaluation tools. Workshops will be in English with examples in French.  
Grades 5–12.

### Afternoon Workshops 1:15-3:30

**Effective writing instruction:** Setting up for success!  
What is the key to a successful writing program? How can we design explicit lessons to help our students become more confident and competent writers? In this session, Adrienne will share her ideas for setting up a successful writing program which is based on the key principals of the writing process: Plan-Draft-Revise. She will explain how she sets up her weekly writing routine which includes explicit instruction and opportunities for regular writing practice. She will give examples of effective “mini-lessons” that will to help improve students’ writing techniques and, as always, link her lessons to authentic picture books. Come to this session and leave with some great ideas for refining your writing program!  
Grades 4–7.

**Passion-based learning:** Genius Hour & 20% Time  
Want to get students excited to come to school and create projects based on their passions? Get ready to run Genius Hour or 20% Time including planning, implementation, and logistical tips. Leave ready to run these passion-based activities with strategies for getting past obstacles, and loads of resources!  
Grades 4–9.

**Indigenous perspectives that benefit all students**  
The new K–9 curriculum, set for full implementation in September 2016, integrates Aboriginal content and perspectives throughout all grade levels and subject areas. The First Peoples Principles of Learning are compatible with current focuses on self-regulation, social-emotional learning, differentiated instruction, and place-based learning. Teachers will leave with practical examples of engaging strategies as well as recommended resources that will increase motivation and improve outcomes for all students.  
Grades 4–12.

**Avez-vous WiFi?:** Web applications for the French classroom  
Presenter: Katherine Mulski  
Explore and play with some tried, tested, and true web-based applications. Highlighted applications will help add to your tech tool belt for the facilitation of teaching the French Language in the intermediate and high school classroom. Katherine will provide concrete examples and troubleshooting tips to help you gain confidence applying these applications and having fun in your classroom. Have WiFi?: Will have fun with French! Participants are strongly encouraged to bring their own laptops as there will not be devices available for loan. A handout with links, tips and tricks will be provided. Workshops will be in English with examples in French.  
Grades 4–9.

## Registration Rates

BCTF members \$125 until April 10, \$145 starting April 11.  
Non-BCTF members, out-of-province and administrators \$145.  
TTOCs, student/retired teachers, para-professionals, and SEAs \$65.  
Register as a group of three or more and receive 10% off.

Space is limited; register early to avoid disappointment.

Registration includes PSA memberships. Participants may choose to receive memberships in all three of the co-sponsoring PSAs. Coffee to start your day as well as mid-morning refreshments are included. Lunch is on your own to take advantage of Whistler’s many interesting options.

## Whistler Hilton Resort Rates

4050 Whistler Way V0N 1B4  
604-932-1982 • 1-800-515-4050 • [www.hilton.com](http://www.hilton.com)  
[reservations@hiltonwhistler.com](mailto:reservations@hiltonwhistler.com)  
Rate code: My Pita Conference Booking Code: MYP

\$149 per night plus taxes for a double occupancy standard room with two double beds or king/queen junior suite with kitchenette. Other room options are available.

Book by April 5, 2016. Room rates are applicable from May 2–10, 2016. \$20 for each adult over double occupancy. \$22 per night for parking. Reservations guaranteed with credit card or advance deposit.

## Naryn Searcy

teaches English First Peoples and is a district helping teacher in Aboriginal Education in School District 67 (Okanagan Skaha). For the past three years, Naryn has led a district team of 70 K–12 teachers in exploring non-traditional methods of instruction and assessment. Her passion is finding ways for students to use their strengths in the classroom, and her current school has been nationally recognized for innovative instructional practice.

## Stacia Johnson

has taught high school French, Japanese, English, and ELL in urban and rural settings for the past 22 years. She has presented at the BCATML Conference, World Congress of Modern Languages, and the University of Ottawa. Currently, she is a mentor and curriculum collaboration teacher in SD 85.

## Rome Lavrencic

has taught high school Core French and French Immersion for the past 20 years. He is the current president of the BCATML and a member of the Ministry’s Core French Curriculum Working Group, which is writing and revising the new curriculum. In addition to presenting at the BCATML’s annual Conference for the past decade, he has presented at the World Congress of Modern Languages, and BCTF New Teachers’ Conference.

## Katherine Mulski

is currently a seconded teacher working as an Inservice Faculty Associate for Field Programs at Simon Fraser University. When not teaching diploma programs for teachers, you can find her assisting colleagues as a Digital Literacy Coach and teaching grade seven French Immersion in Langley. Kat advocates for purposeful leveraging of technology and fun in the classroom.

## About the presenting PSAs



The Provincial Intermediate and Middle Years Teachers' Association (myPITA) is one of BCTF's largest Professional Specialists' Associations. myPITA helps teachers in these ways:

- Advocacy for Intermediate and Middle School teachers. Annual Fall Conference, to be held this year in the Lower Mainland on October 21 and 22, 2016 with over 65 workshops to choose from.
- Annual mini-conferences in Prince George, Whistler, and sometimes other locations around the province.
- Newsletters mailed to members multiple times a year—full of tips and lesson ideas.
- Password protected web resources at [www.mypita.ca](http://www.mypita.ca) including
  - Classroom management with community building games
  - Drama activities and resources
  - Novel study materials with: chapter summaries and tests for over 300 novels
  - A variety of great resources specifically targeting new and developing teachers, in a range of subject areas



British Columbia Teachers of English Language Arts (BCTELA) is a Provincial Specialist Association. We are made up of English Language Arts teachers from all over the province of British Columbia and the Yukon Territory. As an affiliate of both NCTE and BCTF, our mandate is to provide support for our members in their practice and professional development. BCTELA is coordinated by an executive committee, but powered by each and every member educator throughout the province. We provide members with support, an award winning professional journal, a newsletter, a bookclub, as well as an annual conference.



The BC Association of Teachers of Modern Languages (BCATML) represents teachers of French, German, Japanese, Mandarin, Punjabi, Spanish and other languages at the elementary and secondary levels.

We provide a wide range of services to our members:

- BCATML's *Celebrating Languages* annual Fall conference offers over 35 workshops as well as a joint membership to the Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers (CASLT) at no additional cost!
- A regional mini-conference in Whistler (May 2016) supporting elementary and intermediate teachers
- Three issues of our electronic newsletter *Speak!* and CASLT's *Réflexions* newsletter
- Access to BCATML's two iPad lending libraries to try in your classroom
- Requests for language specific workshops in your area of BC for you and other BCATML members
- Full access to the members' only password protected areas of our website [www.bcatml.weebly.com](http://www.bcatml.weebly.com) with lesson ideas, activities, resources, and tools to enhance your teaching



**BECAUSE THERE'S A FOODIE IN EVERY TRAVELER.**

The Hilton Whistler Resort & Spa welcomes back MyPITA in May 2016!

You work hard. You deserve to be pampered. While you are here for your May conference, we are delighted to offer you a 20% discount on Food & non alcoholic Beverage in our Cinnamon Bear Bar & Grille. Eat, drink, relax, repeat.



For room reservations please visit [hilton.com](http://hilton.com) or call 604-932-1982

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