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**Greetings to colleagues** across Alberta, as well as Canada. Currently Albertans face some challenges, but we have faced these challenges before and flourished over time. It is important to maintain a longer term focus on the health of our society and support for the post-secondary sector will be a key driver in the success of that pursuit.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the annual ACIFA conference in Jasper. This time of bringing together peers is time well spent in conversation and enjoyment.

Recently we have had some burgeoning developments in the postsecondary landscape,

**A meeting with the new Minister of Advanced Education, Marlin Schmidt** took place on Monday March 7, 2016 with Mark McCutcheon, President CAFA,

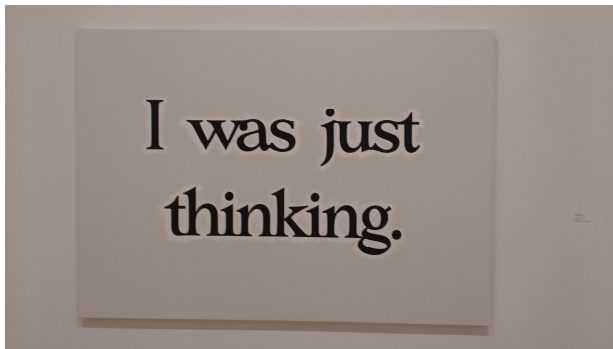
John Nichols, Executive Director CAFA, and Doug Short, ACIFA President. It was pleasant and encouraging. We, of course, had said the same thing following our January 28, 2016 meeting with the previous minister, Lori Sigurdson, just before she changed portfolios.

The Ministry of Advanced Education for many years has not had a Minister for any extended period of time. This has raised our concern that Advanced Education has been a lower priority for government. Minister Schmidt, however, expressed a desire to get to know the portfolio and some senior public servants in the portfolio who have now been in there positions for some time.

Minister Schmidt expressed, as did Minister Sigurdson, a commitment to advanced education as the government moves forward. There was no commitment to the promised 2% increase in base funding, but we remain hopeful. Go oil prices!

With the Minister we discussed:

- The strike/lockout amendments to the PSLA, with a legislative target now for the fall seating, to include consultation on the designation issue
- A "limited" comprehensive review of campus Alberta, reportedly to focus on the vision, who does what and who pays [the funding formula]
- Our concern about the "corporatization" of our educational institutions and the diminishment of the academic voice in decision-making [recent problems at Athabasca, Lethbridge College, Red Deer, and



I was just  
thinking.

Taken from the Whitney Museum, NY, Ricci

- Keyano were identified]. Additionally we spoke to the increasing use of consultants to guide/ make decisions at our institutions
- The need for diversified BOGS representation, with a transparent, well defined process for selection [note the subsequent speech from the throne]
- We agreed to quarterly meetings with the Minister and to work to coordinate meetings with faculty representatives.

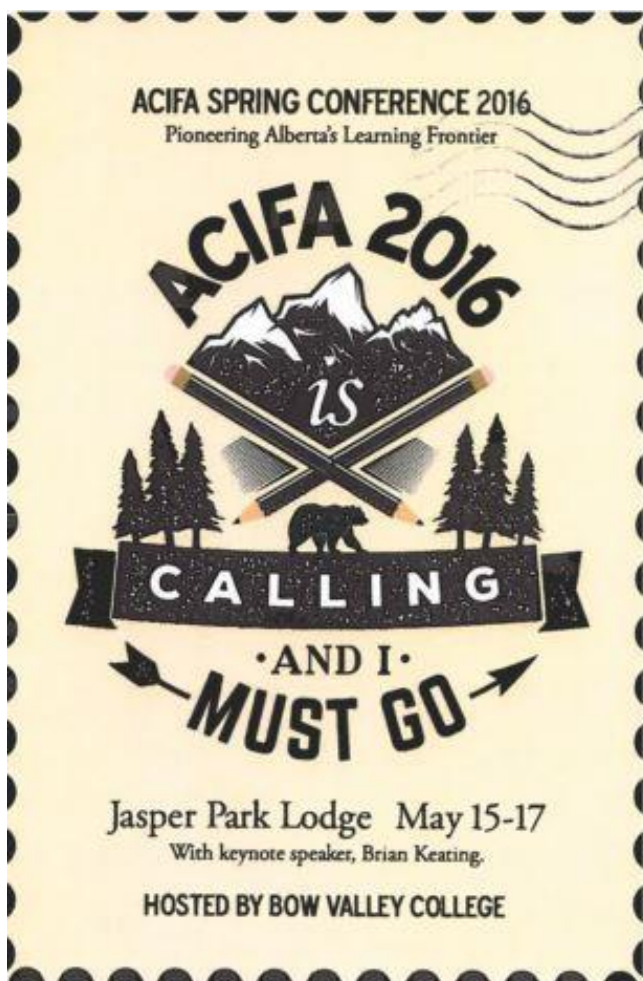
**The Alberta throne speech of March 8, 2016** announced that the government “will introduce the Reform of Agencies, Boards and Commissions Act.

Over the years, compensation practices between the public service and our province’s agencies, boards and commissions have diverged – in some cases, significantly so. This reform will address this issue by introducing a framework to narrow and rationalize this growing divergence.

This act will also improve public oversight and stewardship over these important public bodies, which will become more transparent and accountable and follow good governance practices.”

ACIFA will watch closely for the impact on our institutions in the post-secondary sector.  
Slainte!

### **ACIFA President, Doug Short**



**Have you registered for the ACIFA Annual Spring Conference yet?**

**It's not too late! See details on page 4.**



# 2016 ACIFA Conference

## Keynote Speaker Preview

### Brian Keating

Keynote Address & 1-Hour Session "A Natural Relationship"

**Are you overwhelmed with everyday demands at work and at home? Is the pace of life leaving you breathless? Wondering what you can do to de-stress and re-charge? If so, Brian Keating's magical presentations allow you to forget your problems and be whisked off to many of the world's most wondrous places will leave you feeling like you got the break you needed. A celebrated wildlife expert and world traveller, Keating takes audiences on adventures from jungle safaris and mountain climbs, inspiring audiences toward wanderlust and exploration.**



For over 20 years, Keating ran the Calgary Zoo's nature-based travel program. Presently, he is the Zoo's honorary conservation advisor to their outreach efforts, and a part-time adjunct assistant professor of anthropology at the University of Calgary.



In the media, Keating has hosted a weekly nature column for the CBC, and has been featured on a bi-weekly wildlife segment on the Discovery Channel. He is also the director of the documentary *Going Wild in Madagascar*, which aired worldwide on Discovery HD-TV, and the author of five children's books celebrating nature.

Keating was named the "Canadian Hero of the Year" award (2006) from *Readers Digest* Magazine for his global environmental efforts, and holds an Honorary Doctor of Science degree from Brandon University (2009) and an Honorary Doctor of Laws from the University of Calgary (2011).

(Introduction excerpted from Speaker's Spotlight webpage: <http://www.speakers.ca/speakers/brian-keating/>)

## Please welcome, Brian Keating!

# 2016 ACIFA CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

The Registration Form for the **ACIFA 2016 Annual Spring Conference** can be found Online at:  
<https://event-wizard.com/ACIFA2016/0/register/>



The registration fee for the ACIFA Conference 2016 is **\$600.00** per person. Meal ticket prices are available through the registration link.

Payments for Registration and Meal Tickets may be made by **Cheque, PayPal, or Credit Card.**

Payment will be accepted only after Online Registration has been completed.

Please order meal tickets in advance. Meal tickets will **NOT** be sold at the registration desk, as meal numbers must be reported to the hotel in advance of the conference.

**NOTE: Contrary to what has been practiced in previous years, the ACIFA registration desk WILL NOT be taking in meal tickets from attendees who will not be using them. There will be no wait list for tickets at the time of the conference. All extra meal tickets for family members or guests need to be purchased and paid for at the time of registration. Thank you for your cooperation.**



# 2016 ACIFA CONFERENCE ACCOMMODATIONS

## Base room rates:

CKN/CQ1N/CQ2N/CT2N FAIRMONT (Mountainside)	Double 2 people
Room	219.00
Service Charge	24.00
Sub Total	243.00
GST and Tourism Taxes	26.73
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 268.50</b>

More information can be found on our Accommodation page:

<http://acifa.ca/acifa-annual-spring-conference/acifa2016/accommodations/>

To book a room @ **Jasper Park Lodge**

BOOK via phone: 1 866 540 4454

or online: <https://aws.passkey.com/event/13269225/owner/56381/home>

Ask for the ACIFA Conference RATE and indicate the nights you are staying  
**Jasper Park Lodge has a booking deadline of April 14, 2016**

**Please note cancellations made after March 15, 2016 will be charged the room rate of the first night stay plus tax.**

*\* Delegates are responsible for their own accommodation arrangements*

For the most up-to-date information about all things Conference, visit:

<http://acifa.ca/acifa-annual-spring-conference/acifa2016/>

# 2016 ACIFA CONFERENCE TIMELINE

Below you will find a brief timeline of events for this year's 2016 ACIFA Conference:

## **Sunday May 15, 2016**

Presidents' Council Meeting  
Registration & NAC/PAC Meetings  
Opening Reception

## **Monday May 16, 2016**

Keynote Address & 1-Hour Session  
Breakout Sessions  
Awards & Banquet  
Entertainment TBA  
Silent Auction

## **Tuesday May 17, 2016**

ACIFA Annual General Meeting  
Breakout Sessions  
Barbeque  
Close of Silent Auction







## 2015 Award for Innovation in Teaching Winner “Canadian Electrical Code (CEC) Trivia Game”

Name: Martin Jones  
Position: Electrical Instructor  
Institution: Keyano College, Fort McMurray

Designed to mimic the popular game Trivial Pursuit, the Canadian Electrical Code (CEC) trivia game pits a team of electrical instructors against teams of electrical apprentices, representing different periods/classes. This past paced, competitive, cooperative learning activity not only enables competency with electrical code, a critical learning outcome for electrical apprenticeship, it also promotes team building and the development of essential skills such as reading comprehension, document use, oral communication and critical thinking.

The Canadian Electrical Code (CEC) trivia game has been developed and implemented successfully three times (to date) at Keyano College. It consists of six preselected sections of the CEC; if answered correctly, the winning team is declared and bragging rights prevail! To date, approximately 20 questions have been developed for each of the six code sections. These questions and sections can, and do, change based on the periods/classes involved.

Observations prove that students are actively engaged in the activity and devise team strategies for success, such as appointing a team leader and assigning each team member a different task. In addition, due to the competitive nature of the game, students' study preparation for success on game day was subsequently evident on the AIT branch exam. In all the years Martin has taught the CEC, this is the first activity that has truly engaged, and peaked student interest, in the electrical code.

The Canadian Electrical Code (CEC) is at best difficult and challenging to understand, at worst it can be considered unintelligible and boring. Thus, it is challenging to get electrical students enthusiastic about the CEC, even though this legal document governs almost every aspect of their job. This game engages participants to not only know where to find rules and information about specific topics, but to comprehend what the CEC is trying to get across. Due to the fact there are six different topics to choose from, the game provides opportunities for students to gain proficiency in several different sections of the CEC at one time, rather than focusing on one topic. This active learning strategy enables different periods/classes of electrical apprentices to interpret the Canadian Electrical Code quickly and accurately, while competing in a friendly environment. This activity reinforces the importance of code basics and enhances the students' abilities to navigate their way through the code book, all of which is required for the AIT branch exams and is directly applicable throughout their careers as technicians.



*Above from left to right: Gina Jackson, Keyano College Faculty Association President; Randy Pearson, Johnson Inc. Insurance; Martin Jones, Winner of Innovation in Teaching Award, Keyano College; Rod Corbett, Former ACIFA VP Professional Affairs, Mount Royal University.*

**Congratulations Martin, on winning the Innovation in Teaching Award of 2015. The next Innovation in Teaching Award 2016 is set to be announced at the ACIFA Conference 2016 at the Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge.**



*The aim of the Distinguished Instructor Award is to recognize teachers who exhibit commitment to teaching, learners and learning through a variety of measures. This province-wide award attracts both recognition and a financial award of \$1500 for the faculty member or team and \$500 for the faculty member's faculty association.*

#### **Eligibility**

The Award is open to all ACIFA members who instruct at least one course. The instructor may be someone who instructs learners in any learning platform. A learner is considered any individual who is enrolled in a credit or non-credit course at an ACIFA institution. The nomination may be for an individual or a group/team. Nominations for the Award are made by colleagues with the consent of the innovator(s). Nominations must adhere to the *Format for Applications* below.

An instructor who wins the award is not eligible for the award for 5 years following the winning of the award. An instructor who has been nominated, but has not won the award, is immediately eligible for the award for the following year.

#### **The Nomination Process**

Upon determining that a faculty member is a qualified candidate for this award, a nominator or nominators will prepare a two to three page document expressing the nominee's skills and qualities that make him or her a distinguished instructor. The ACIFA Awards Committee, established by the Professional Affairs Committee of ACIFA, will select the winner of the award from nominees put forward by each of the participating local faculty associations.



### **Selection Criteria**

*Instructional Qualities.* An instructor may qualify for the Distinguished Instructor Award if he or she demonstrates commitment to learners and learning through a variety of measures including:

- Responds to the individual needs of learners in and out of the classroom by addressing questions in a respectful and timely manner and by respecting the diverse talents and ways of learning.
- Promotes a quality, respectful and positive learning environment by encouraging cooperation among students, and by giving prompt feedback
- Demonstrates innovative teaching and learning strategies, including communicating high expectations and encouraging active learning.
- Demonstrates a thorough knowledge of subject matter and strives to keep current in his or her field of expertise.
- Explores professional development opportunities with interest and enthusiasm.
- Models professional attitudes and values.

*Other Qualities.* A nominee may possess other qualities that the judging panel may consider in determining the winner include:

- Cooperative spirit
- Positive personality
- Professional approach
- Reliable
- Open to new challenges

*Supporting Documentation.* Nominations **may** be supported with a collection of resources to showcase the skills and attributes of the nominee:

- Letter of support from colleague(s) (to a maximum of two)
- Letter of support from immediate supervisor
- Professional biography
- Student testimonial(s) (to a maximum of three) (Note that students need not be currently enrolled in the nominee's course(s))
- Curriculum Vitae
- Performance Evaluation
- Video of Nominee in Action
- Equivalent Documents

**Format for Applications: 2-3 page limit plus appendices**

Please provide information on the nomination form that includes:

1. Name, position, and place of work of nominee
2. A description of the nominees instructional qualities (as described in the selection criteria)
3. A description of other qualities (as described in the selection criteria)
4. Name, position and contact information of nominator
5. Any supporting documentation (as described above)

Please submit application electronically via email.

**Provincial Judging Panel**

Five members, elected on an annual basis from and by the Professional Affairs Committee of ACIFA, will select the final award winner from the list of nominees

**Mutual Obligations**

The ACIFA Awards Committee will undertake to award the winner of an Innovation/Creativity Award in Teaching with:

- An announcement in the ACIFA newsletter
- \$1500 made available to the winner and another \$500 to the winner's faculty association
- A formal presentation at the ACIFA Annual Conference

The Award winner will be expected to:

- Attend the ACIFA Annual Conference to accept the Award
- Agree to submit for publication in the ACIFA newsletter a description of the commitment he or she has made to learners and learning.

**Application Dates**

Applications must be submitted to the faculty member's faculty association by the date set by the local faculty association. Each Association's selection process must be completed in time to submit their nominee to ACIFA by **March 15<sup>th</sup>** at midnight.

The ACIFA Awards Committee will make the final decision by the first week of April to allow sufficient time to arrange for the recognition of the winner at the ACIFA Annual Conference.

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## Member Associations

Alberta College of Art and Design Faculty Association  
Bow Valley College Faculty Association  
Grande Prairie Regional College Academic Staff Association  
Grant MacEwan University Faculty Association  
Keyano College Faculty Association  
Lakeland College Faculty Association  
Lethbridge College Faculty Association  
Medicine Hat College Faculty Association  
NAIT Academic Staff Association  
NorQuest College Faculty Association  
Northern Lakes College Faculty Association  
Olds College Faculty Association  
Portage College Faculty Association  
Faculty Association of Red Deer College  
SAIT Academic Faculty Association

The views expressed in Faculty Circuit are those of individuals and do not necessarily reflect ACIFA's policies and positions.

Please address all inquiries and submissions to:  
Pam Anderson, Administrative Officer  
Alberta Colleges & Institutes Faculties Association  
412, 10357 109 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 1N3  
P (780) 423-4440 F (780) 423-4515  
E [pam.anderson@acifa.ca](mailto:pam.anderson@acifa.ca) W [www.acifa.ca](http://www.acifa.ca)

## Upcoming ACIFA Dates

March 11, 2016	Executive Council	<b>Calgary</b>
March 12, 2016	Presidents' Council	<b>Calgary</b>
May 7, 2016	Executive Council	<b>Edmonton</b>
May 15, 2016	Presidents' Council	<b>Jasper Park Lodge</b>
May 15, 2016	Negotiations Advisory Committee Professional Affairs Committee	<b>Jasper Park Lodge</b>
May 17, 2016	Annual General Meeting	<b>Jasper Park Lodge</b>
May 15 – 17, 2016	Spring Conference	<b>Jasper Park Lodge</b>



## Join the Conversation!

**FACEBOOK:**

<http://www.facebook.com/ACIFAcA>

**TWITTER:** <http://www.twitter.com/ACIFAcA>