

# PARTNERSHIP MATTERS

OISE MASTER OF TEACHING SCHOOL-UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP NEWS

## PRACTICUM DATES 2017-2018

### Fall 2017 Practicum

Observation: Oct 20 and Oct 26

Practicum: Oct 30 to Nov 24

### Winter 2018 Practicum

Observation: Feb 2 and Feb 8

Practicum: Feb 12 to Mar 9

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

### Associate Teacher Workshop

October 24, 5-7pm @ OISE

(Details to come in September)

### Principals' Breakfast

November 2017, Date TBD

### Associate Teacher Appreciation

April 3 (2018) 5-7pm @ OISE

## They're here! Why gender-neutral pronouns matter for educators

Dr. Lee Airton

Unless you've been on a digital detox, you'll know that transgender people are becoming increasingly visible, including in education. Transgender people are those whose gender identity (internal experience of gender) does not align with the sex we were assigned at birth. While some ways of being transgender have been well-represented in the media, the incredible diversity of identities under the transgender umbrella is beginning to emerge into public consciousness. One way this is happening is through non-binary (etc.) transgender people - who do not identify with either the M or F box - coming out and asking others to use our pronouns, which are often gender-neutral. The most common is singular they/them. Linguists confirm that using they/them for a single person is grammatically correct, but it can take some time and effort to get it right when using it for someone you know. Get ready, because you'll likely work with a student or family member who uses this pronoun in the next five years or so.

I identify as non-binary and have been using they/them as my pronoun since 2012, and I founded [theyismypronoun.com](http://theyismypronoun.com) to answer questions on gender-neutral pronouns from users and allies, including teachers. I tell my students to expect making mistakes as they learn to use my pronoun, but to make *good* mistakes: to say sorry in a neutral tone (no drama), re-phrase, and move on. You can also make a point of always sharing your own pronouns with students ("Hi! I'm [name] and my pronouns are he/him!") so that students know that you're a teacher who gets it. It's also helpful to avoid engaging a gender-neutral pronoun user in a political or intellectual debate about their pronoun; you likely have questions, but continually giving (or receiving) a lecture can be very tiring and can actually keep us from asking you to use our



pronoun, at all. And for a student, being continually mis-gendered with the wrong pronoun could mean disengaging from school. I founded the No Big Deal Campaign ([www.nbdcampaign.ca](http://www.nbdcampaign.ca)) to help people show their willingness to use transgender peoples' pronouns. Printing, posting or sharing the NBD badge (inset) is one way to let students know that you will do your best to meet this basic need, because it should be NBD!

*Dr. Lee Airton is an instructor in the MT Program. As of July 1<sup>st</sup>, they will be an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Education at Queen's University. Their research and teaching focus on preparing teachers to welcome gender and sexual diversity. You can learn more about or contact Lee via their [website](#).*

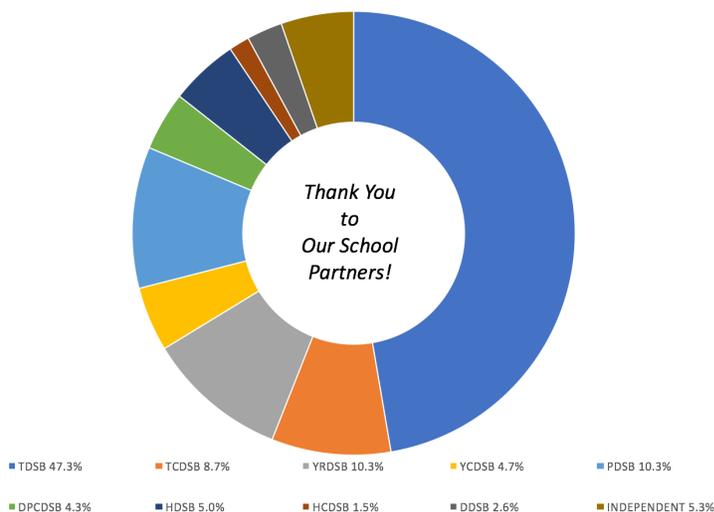
**A sigh of relief, but no surprise:  
OCT extends OISE's accreditation**

This past fall, the Ontario College of Teachers (OCT) began its planned accreditation review of OISE's two OCT-track programs, the Master of Arts (MA-CSE) and the was Master of Teaching (MT). The OCT Accreditation panel conducted its visit to OISE on October 19-20, 2016, and included interviews with the MT and MA-CSE leadership, faculty, practicum coordinators, Teacher Candidates, Associate Teachers, and OISE alumni. It came as no surprise that the OCT panel was more than satisfied with the comprehensive evidence demonstrating OISE's ongoing commitment to quality education and preparation of our Teacher Candidates and therefore extended OISE's accreditation for another five years. In a report to OISE Faculty Council, Professor Glen Jones (Dean) thanked all those responsible for the successful accreditation review, noting the tremendous efforts and contributions made during this very important and resource-intensive process. In turn, we thank our Associate Teachers, without whom the success of the MT and MA programs would not be possible!

**Year 1, Practicum 1: Striking an appropriate balance**

During the 2016-2017 year, the MT program introduced a more gradual transition into Year 1, Practicum 1 responsibilities. Feedback from Year 1 TCs and their ATs during the Fall 2016 practicum overwhelmingly suggests that TCs do need extra resources to support their growth during Week 1 but that they also need clarity about what their tasks should be during that first week. Expect further clarification about this for Fall 2017 as we seek to strike the appropriate balance of providing support and setting high expectations for teaching performance.

OISE Master of Teaching, Winter 2017  
Distribution of Teacher Candidates by Board



**MT Partnership Advisory  
Committee (PAC)**

The PAC's primary purpose is to hear *the voice* of MT school partners and to foster collaborative exploration of emerging issues, concerns, opportunities and/or areas of mutual interest. Membership includes Associate Teachers, principals, vice-principals, liaisons, MT faculty and OISE leadership. A special thank you to our 2016-2017 PAC:

- |                         |                             |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>John Masciarelli</i> | <i>Zara Nalian</i>          |
| <i>Anu Bahri</i>        | <i>Josephine Scavuzzo</i>   |
| <i>Charlene Blake</i>   | <i>Sanjukta Roy</i>         |
| <i>Dana Di Loreto</i>   | <i>Daniel Maveneka</i>      |
| <i>Anne Thomson</i>     | <i>Anne Marie Chudleigh</i> |
| <i>Altaf Qadeer</i>     |                             |

If you are interested in joining this valued committee for 2017-2018, contact Anne Marie Chudleigh, the Practicum Partnership Coordinator, [a.chudleigh@utoronto.ca](mailto:a.chudleigh@utoronto.ca). The fall PAC meeting will be at OISE on Tuesday November 7, 2017, from 5-7pm.

***Thank you Associate Teachers, Liaisons, Vice-Principals and Principals for your partnership with the MT program this year. Have a safe and enjoyable summer. We look forward to new beginnings in September 2017!***

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