

## Open Horizons: Affordability and Access through Open Education

Manitoba Open Education Symposium, June 11–12, 2025

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### Wednesday, June 11

9:00 a.m.–9:30 a.m.

#### **Welcome**

Ebony Novakowski, Copyright Officer, RRC Polytech

9:30 a.m.–10:45 a.m.

#### **Keynote Presentation: Open by Design: Provincial Leadership and Collective Impact**

Amanda Coolidge, Executive Director, BCcampus

Robert Luke, CEO, eCampus Ontario

Alexandra Marcaccio, Lead, Atlantic OER

Carley McDougall, Executive Director, Campus Manitoba

*Join leaders from BCcampus, eCampusOntario, Campus Manitoba, and the Atlantic OER Initiative for a cross-country conversation on how provincial collaboration is driving innovation in open education. This session will highlight key initiatives, cost-saving impacts, and the collective power of working together to expand access and affordability.*

*Through a panel discussion, we'll explore how provincial leadership can scale local efforts and what's possible when we align across regions. The session will close by inviting participants to reflect on opportunities for provincial and national collaboration, setting the stage for bold, creative thinking on Day 2.*

10:45 a.m.–11:00 a.m.

#### **Break**

11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

#### **Panel: The Manitoba Model: Advancing Open Education**

Moderator: Carley McDougall, Executive Director, Campus Manitoba

*This panel highlights how Manitoba's post-secondary institutions are shaping and advancing open education through innovative programs, strategic priorities, and cross-sector collaboration. Panelists will share insights into how their institutions are supporting affordability and access while navigating policy realities and system-wide coordination.*

*Through a candid and forward-looking conversation, panelists will explore strategic priorities, student involvement, institutional autonomy, and*

*system-wide coordination. They'll also share lessons learned, opportunities for collaboration, and bold ideas for what's next. Join us to gain insight into the Manitoba model—and leave with inspiration and actions to advance open education at your own institution.*

- Jordan Bass, Acting Associate University Librarian, Open Scholarship and Systems, University of Manitoba
- Carmen Kazikoff-Lane, Scholarly Communications, Brandon University
- David Larocque, Professor, Université de Saint-Boniface.
- Shannon MacGregor, Library Technician, Assiniboine College
- Ebony Novakowski, Copyright Officer, RRC Polytech
- Brianne Selman, Scholarly Communications and Copyright Librarian, University of Winnipeg

12:00 p.m.–1:15 p.m.

**Lunch**

1:30 p.m.–2:15 p.m.

**Panel: OER Projects from Across Manitoba**

Moderator: Janice Winkler, Associate Librarian, University of Manitoba

*A snapshot of OER projects recently published or currently being created by faculty and instructors at Manitoba post-secondary institutions. What kinds of OER are being created? How has the experience been of creating an open textbook or adapting an OER for a local context? How are these publications responding to the needs of students?*

2:15 p.m.–2:30 p.m.

**Break**

2:30 p.m.–3:45 p.m.

**Workshop: Creating OER with Students**

Facilitator: Apurva Ashok (Rebus Foundation)

*Join us for a hands-on workshop where we will explore practical, fun, and effective strategies for co-creating Open Educational Resources (OER) with students. We'll discover how open educational practices and renewable assignments can transform classroom dynamics by engaging students as active knowledge creators rather than passive participants. Together, we'll examine approaches to embedding accessibility and cultural relevance into your OER design process while also building digital competency skills for both educators and students. Through guided reflections and practical exercises, you'll develop the skills necessary to create more inclusive and representative learning materials alongside your students. Participants who complete the workshop activities will receive an*

online certificate and a digital badge recognizing their commitment to open education. The workshop is also eligible as credit towards the Canadian Certificate in Digital Humanities.

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## Thursday, June 12

9:00 a.m.–9:30 a.m.

### **Welcome**

Ebony Novakowski, Copyright Officer, RRC Polytech

9:30 a.m.–10:45 a.m.

### **Keynote Presentation: What if We Were 10x Bolder?**

Amanda Coolidge, Executive Director, BCcampus

Robert Luke, CEO, eCampus Ontario

Alexandra Marcaccio, Lead, Atlantic OER

Carley McDougall, Executive Director, Campus Manitoba

*What would open education in Manitoba look like if we let go of limitations and thought ten times bolder? In this interactive session, we'll challenge assumptions, spark creativity, and explore visionary ideas through a hands-on Liberating Structure activity.*

*Participants will co-create bold, future-focused concepts for collaboration, policy, and practice—no expertise required, just curiosity and imagination. The session will surface shared priorities and plant the seeds for a provincial community of practice, empowering us to turn today's bold thinking into tomorrow's collective action.*

10:45 a.m.–11:00 a.m.

### **Break**

11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

### **Panel: AI and Open: Teaching Tools and Ethical Tensions**

Moderator: Glenn Bergen, OER Specialist, University of Manitoba

- **“What are your rights with AI?”**

Andrea Sz wajcer, Research Services Librarian, University of Manitoba

Althea Wheeler, Copyright Strategy Manager, University of Manitoba

*Rights retention in scholarship and related legal protections are challenging issues in open scholarship generally. With the introduction of AI, the complexity of knowing your rights as a creator, asserting them and looking for legal recourse when material is used without permission is*

*compounded. While ambiguity and uncertainty in law comprises the large proportion of the complexity, it also requires skill and awareness in rights retention – what does it mean, how do you establish them, and how do you maintain them in third party agreements and licenses. In this presentation, we will review what creator rights are, how to establish and retain attribution and use rights, the challenges AI presents to common rights retention techniques, and what is the current legal status to protect and defend these rights when material is used in an unauthorized way for AI training.*

- **Introducing [Generative Artificial Intelligence: Practical Uses in Education](#)**  
Ebony Novakowski, Copyright Officer, RRC Polytech

*Written by Communication Instructor Troy Heaps, Generative Artificial Intelligence: Practical Uses in Education is focused on how AI tools can be used in polytechnic education and was produced for educators who wish to find positive and productive ways to incorporate generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools into their work. This includes:*

- *using AI tools to develop courses, lesson plans, activities, assessments, and rubrics;*
- *leveraging AI tools to enhance existing in-class activities and assignments;*
- *teaching students how to engage with AI effectively, ethically, and responsibly;*
- *utilizing AI tools to efficiently complete administrative tasks.*

12:00 p.m.–1:15 p.m.

**Lunch**

1:30 p.m.–2:15 p.m.

**Presentation: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in Open Publishing**

Ariful Hoq Shanil, Instructional Designer, Manitoba Flexible Learning Hub  
Kristy Lacroix, Special Projects Coordinator, Campus Manitoba

2:15 p.m.–2:30 p.m.

**Break**

2:30 p.m.–3:45 p.m.

**Facilitated Discussion: Building a Community of Practice in Manitoba**

Moderator: Carley McDougall, Executive Director, Campus Manitoba

*What would it take to stay connected, share what we learn, and support one another year-round? In this facilitated session, Carley McDougall will*

*guide participants through an engaging process to imagine and shape a community of practice for open education in Manitoba.*

*Building on the bold ideas and energy from earlier sessions, we'll explore what this community could look like, what it could offer, and how we might co-create its structure and rhythm. Whether you're new to open education or deeply embedded in the work, this is your opportunity to help shape a collaborative space that reflects our shared goals and strengthens our collective impact.*