**Renewing the promise of Social Studies in Alberta: An invitation to a dialogue**

Alberta’s global reputation as a progressive force in curriculum and exemplary instructional practice flows from the efforts of teachers working across a number of subject areas - both supported and/or obstructed by a variety of provincial and jurisdiction programs and personnel. In this context you are invited to participate in a reflection on the past and current situation of social studies teaching in Alberta as a research team reports on two questions: *What did we hear from teachers? And what are the implications of what they told us?*

The day begins with a brief review of the aspirations of various iterations of the Social Studies Programs of Study since 1971 and their ground-breaking commitment to citizenship development through an inquiry and values-based curriculum. Following you will participate in a review of a comprehensive survey of 496 Alberta teachers that reflects their views on their aspirations, challenges and their perspectives as they strive to honour the intent of the social studies in Alberta classrooms today.

Throughout the day, participants will be invited to reflect on the survey report of the research team through a dialogue with leading experts on curriculum and citizenship education. The day will end with an invitation for continued engagement to provide their perspectives on issues related to enhancing curriculum and classroom instruction in social studies.

AGENDA OVERVIEW

10:00 Introductions and Welcome (ATA Social Studies Council)

10:10 Social Studies in Alberta: Renewing Alberta’s Promise (J-C Couture)

10: 20 Teaching Social Studies Today – The Voice of the Profession (Larry Booi and Hans Smits)

11:00  Invited Panel – Insight and Foresight

*What surprised us - what didn’t - regarding the curriculum and the practice of teaching social studies in Alberta and possible implications for action?*

11:45 Working lunch (time to ruminate)

*Participants will review the survey results, and offer their top 5 insights gained from the survey results regarding the curriculum and the practice of teaching social studies and the practice of teaching social studies in Alberta including 2 or 3 implications for action. This will feed the discussions in the afternoon session.*

1:00 Table groups discuss their top 5 insights and top 2-3 implications for action.

1:50  Reports from tables  (30 minutes: 20 minutes on top 5 insights with 10 minutes on 2-3 key implications for action)

2:20  So…what kind of citizen, curriculum and teaching?

Observations by Joel Westheimerimplications for the future of the social studies in Alberta.

2:45  Now what? Exploring next steps (for renewing curriculum and supporting exemplary instructional practice.)

3:00  Wrap-up (Social Studies Council)