



## CONFERENCES 2004/05

**Confronting Water Scarcity: Challenges and Choices** (Jul 13–16, Lethbridge, U of L). 403 329 2244. [www.confronting-water-scarcity.ca](http://www.confronting-water-scarcity.ca). Thomas Homer-Dixon (*The Ingenuity Gap*), former Alberta premier Peter Lougheed and others will explore possible solutions to Alberta's looming water crisis. FYI: The Oldman and Bow rivers are the most widely used for irrigation in the country.

**The Science of Changing Climates: Impact on Agriculture, Forestry and Wetlands** (Jul 20–23, Edmonton, U of A). [info@csas.net](mailto:info@csas.net). [www.csas.net/Edmonton2004.html](http://www.csas.net/Edmonton2004.html). The science of climate change. Environment Canada's John Stone, chief Canadian negotiator of the Kyoto agreement, will keynote. FYI: The average Albertan produces five tonnes of greenhouse gases each year.

**Soroptimist International of the Americas Conference** (Aug 4–7, Calgary, Telus Convention Centre). 215 557 9300 ext 3003. [www.soroptimist.org](http://www.soroptimist.org). Soroptimist is a volunteer service organization whose mission is to “make a difference for women.” Women from around the world will speak. FYI: SIA holds consultative status with the UN's Economic and Social Council, which oversees UN activities and policies promoting human rights.

**Inuit Studies Conference** (Aug 11–14, Calgary, U of C). 403 220 6229. [www.ucalgary.ca/aina/inuit/guidelines.html](http://www.ucalgary.ca/aina/inuit/guidelines.html). The Arctic Institute of North America's 14th annual conference. Speakers from Greenland, Alaska and Canada will discuss environmental and social conditions and current issues in the Arctic. FYI: The population per square kilometre in Nunavut is 0.01; in Alberta, the figure is 4.5.

**Green Party of Canada Annual Convention** (Aug 26–29, Calgary, Camp Kiwanis). 866 868 3447. [www.greenparty.ca](http://www.greenparty.ca). The first federal AGM and policy convention held in the West. “If the Green Party can have a convention in the heart of Kyoto-hating Alberta, well, then maybe things are starting to change,” says Alberta Green Party leader George Read. FYI: The Greens ran a full slate in the recent federal election, but were not allowed to participate in the televised leaders' debate.

**Writers Guild of Alberta AGM and Conference** (Sep 18, location TBA). 780 422 8174. [www.writersguild.ab.ca/event-frame.htm](http://www.writersguild.ab.ca/event-frame.htm). Readings, expert panels, workshops, a book fair and a poetry slam. Develop your writing skills, network or simply ogle Alberta literati. FYI: Red Deer poet Leslie Greentree was shortlisted for the \$40,000 Griffin prize for the best English-language poetry collection of 2003.

**Wildlife Society Conference** (Sep 18–22, Calgary, Telus Convention Centre). 301 897 9770. [www.wildlife.org/conference](http://www.wildlife.org/conference). Albertans concerned about wildlife can join biologists and habitat managers from across North America for this four-day discussion of wildlife science, management and policy—the first time the Wildlife Society has held their annual conference in Canada. FYI: The grizzly bear population in Alberta is estimated to have shrunk from 8,000 in the 1800s to approximately 500 today.

**Alberta Association, Canadian Institute of Planners Conference** (Sep 23–25, Edmonton, Shaw Conference Centre). 888 286 8716. [www.aacip.com/public/events.html](http://www.aacip.com/public/events.html). Want to know more about the “why” behind urban plan-

ning? Of interest to land use planners, city administrators, politicians, engineers, designers, architects and the general public. FYI: The University of Calgary offers Canada's only Ph.D. program in environmental design.



**Mountain Communities Conference** (Sep

23–27, Banff, The Banff Centre). 403 762 6675. [www.banffcentre.ca/mountainculture/mtn-conferences/irmma](http://www.banffcentre.ca/mountainculture/mtn-conferences/irmma).

Alberta is famous for its mountain communities,

but what are the unique environmental challenges and responsibilities facing such towns? Parks Canada and The Mountain Initiative's conference will explore the effect of human habitation on mountain ecosystems. FYI: Canmore's population has tripled in the past 16 years, from 4,400 in 1988 to 13,200 in 2003.

**Alberta Green Party Annual Convention** (Oct 2 & 3, Lacombe, Gull Lake Baptist Camp). 403 289 6609. [www.calcna.ab.ca/politics/province/abgreens/abgreens.html](http://www.calcna.ab.ca/politics/province/abgreens/abgreens.html).

Party members and the general public are welcome to attend this, their AGM and policy convention. FYI: The Alberta Green Party first appeared on the provincial ballot in the 1993 election, with 11 candidates.

**Canadian Institute of Forestry Conference** (Oct

2–6, Edmonton, venue TBA). 613 234 2242. [www.cif-saf-2004convention.org/natcon/index.cfm](http://www.cif-saf-2004convention.org/natcon/index.cfm). Joint gatherings of the Canadian Institute of Forestry and the Society of American Foresters occur only once every 10 years. "One Forest Under Two Flags" will offer curious Albertans a chance to learn more about forest policy in both nations. FYI: Combined, Canada and the U.S. contain 15 per cent of the world's forest cover.

**Third Gathering for Aboriginal Health Conference**

(Oct 4–6, Calgary, Sheraton Cavalier Hotel). 403 620 1418. [www.health-in-action.org/News/October/Aboriginal\\_Conference.pdf](http://www.health-in-action.org/News/October/Aboriginal_Conference.pdf). Health issues of the past (such as traditional medicine and healers), the present (emotional and mental health, suicide) and the future (HIV prevention, careers for aboriginals in the health field). FYI: The incidence of diabetes is three times higher among aboriginals than in Canada's general population.

**Canadian Asian Studies Association Conference** (Oct

7–10, Calgary, Marriott Hotel. 514 848 2280. [canadianasianstudies.concordia.ca/htm/confe.htm](http://canadianasianstudies.concordia.ca/htm/confe.htm). Global security, wars, natural disasters, sustainable development, emergent infectious diseases, human rights and uneven development as they relate to both the Canadian and the Asian-Canadian community. FYI: CASA celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2004.



Stephen Lewis

**National Child and Youth Care**

**Conference** (Oct 13–15, Calgary, Westin Hotel). 780 448 7254. [www.garthgoodwin.info/C4Main.htm](http://www.garthgoodwin.info/C4Main.htm). Stephen Lewis, the UN’s Special Envoy on HIV/AIDS in Africa, will give the keynote address to an audience of teachers, caregivers, social workers and parents from across Canada.

FYI: Approximately 20 per cent of Alberta’s children live below the poverty line.

**Western Canada Water and Wastewater Association**

**Conference** (Oct 17–20, Calgary, Telus Convention Centre). 877 283 2003. [www.wcwwa/Conference.htm](http://www.wcwwa/Conference.htm). David Schindler will keynote this weekend of workshops examining public/private partnerships, cogeneration, watershed management and wastewater treatment. FYI: Every Canadian will use the equivalent of 125 million litres of water in their lifetime.

**Canadian Association for Suicide Prevention**

**Conference** (Oct 20–23, Edmonton, Shaw Conference Centre). 780 436 0983 ext 229. [www.buksa.com/casp](http://www.buksa.com/casp). For crisis intervention workers, policy makers, students and survivors. FYI: According to the Canadian Mental Health Association, suicide is the leading cause of death in Alberta among males age 10 to 49.

**Netspeed 2004** (Oct 21–23, Calgary, Glenmore Inn).

780 414 0805. [www.thealbertalibrary.ab.ca/netspeed/netspeed2004/info2004.html](http://www.thealbertalibrary.ab.ca/netspeed/netspeed2004/info2004.html). Organized by the Alberta Library Trustees Association for librarians, technical staff, trustees and researchers to look at new technology affecting Alberta’s libraries. FYI: In 2001, ALTA launched a search engine that simultaneously searches the collections of 253 of Alberta’s public, post-secondary and special libraries.

**Alberta Assessment Consortium Annual Conference**

(Oct 21–23, Edmonton, Fantasyland Hotel). 780 447 9420. [www.aac.ab.ca/annual.html](http://www.aac.ab.ca/annual.html). “Assessment: Telling the Story” will allow educators and parents to examine current student assessment strategies. FYI: Assessment, from the Old French *assesser*, refers to “the process of collecting information on student achievement and performance.”

**Alberta Recreation and Parks Association Conference**

(Oct 28–30, Jasper, Jasper Park Lodge). 780 415 1745. [www.2004.arpaonline.ca](http://www.2004.arpaonline.ca). “Parks and recreation are not extras in any culture,” says ARPA. “They are an integral part of our economic, environmental and cultural foundation.” Rural and urban parks alike enhance Albertans’ well-being, community vitality and natural resource conservation. FYI: Calgary’s Nose Hill Park contains 198 wildlife species and is the largest urban park in Canada.

**Canadian Bioethics Society Annual Conference** (Oct 28–31, Calgary, The Palliser Hotel). 403 208 1619. [www.bioethics.ca/english/am/2004/index.html](http://www.bioethics.ca/english/am/2004/index.html). This is the 16th annual meeting of the CBS. Social workers, physicians, nurses and theologians will focus on “Home Care: The New Frontier of Health Care Ethics.” Among the speakers will be former Reform Party leader Preston Manning. FYI: According to the CBS, health care workers are encountering an unprecedented number of challenging ethical problems as more patients demand a role in decision-making.

**Canadian Public Works Association, Alberta Chapter AGM** (Nov 1–3, Red Deer, Capri Centre). 780 465 7586. [www.publicworks.ab.ca/annual\\_conference.htm](http://www.publicworks.ab.ca/annual_conference.htm). An exhibition, conference and AGM centered on public works (roads, hospitals, schools). FYI: The Alberta government is experimenting with so-called P3s—public/private partnerships—for public works projects.

**Kaleidoscope 8** (Nov 4–6, Calgary, Telus Convention Centre). [www.kaleidoscopeconference.ca/index2.htm](http://www.kaleidoscopeconference.ca/index2.htm). Teachers, writers, parents and Harry Potter fans, take note: three days aimed at heightening appreciation for the artistic processes involved in the creation of literature for children. FYI: Kaleidoscope is held only once every four years, and attracts authors, illustrators, editors, publishers and performers from around the globe.

**Playworks Ink 2004** (Nov 2004; dates, location and venue TBA). 888 422 8160. [www.theatrealberta.com/playworks\\_ink\\_2003.htm](http://www.theatrealberta.com/playworks_ink_2003.htm). Theatre Alberta’s 2004 conference will feature workshops, guest speakers and panel discussions on theatre. Readings by the 2004 Alberta Playwriting Competition winners. FYI: Theatre Alberta runs the only fully circulating, independent play script library in the country; members can borrow any of 13,000 scripts.

**The Provincial Literacy Conference** (Nov 4–6, Calgary, Coast Plaza Hotel). 403 410 6990. [www.literacy-alberta.ca/events.htm](http://www.literacy-alberta.ca/events.htm). Anyone with an interest in promoting a culture celebrating literacy can attend. Humorist Susan Sneath and A-Channel’s Dave Kelly will keynote. FYI: Literacy problems cost Canadian employers an estimated \$4-billion per year and the country \$10-billion annually.



**Alberta Music Conference** (Nov 4–6, Edmonton, Shaw Conference Centre). 877 687 4239. [www.musicalberta.com/amc2004.html](http://www.musicalberta.com/amc2004.html). Speakers and—fittingly—a wide variety of live music. This year marks the second annual presentation of the Orpheus Awards, which recognize individuals or groups who contribute to the development and/or appreciation of music in Alberta. FYI: In 2004, Alberta became just the second province to commission a provincial song.



Raj Pannu at ND Convention.

**Alberta ND Convention**

(Nov 5–7, Edmonton, Chateau Lacombe Hotel). [www.newdemocrats.org](http://www.newdemocrats.org). 780 474 2415. Both members and non-members can attend and discuss policy and election strategy. FYI: The precursor to the NDP—the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation—was founded in Alberta in 1932.

**98th Annual Alberta Urban Municipalities Association Convention**

(Nov 17–20, Edmonton, Shaw Conference Centre). 800 661 2862. [www.munilink.net/convention/default.asp](http://www.munilink.net/convention/default.asp). Last year’s conference featured seminars, a trade show, interaction with government ministers and a keynote from retired general Lewis MacKenzie. FYI: 81 per cent of Albertans live in cities, and this percentage is steadily increasing.

**Third Biennial Rural Health Conference**

(Nov 18–20, Canmore, Howard Johnson Hotel). 403 220 6799. [www.health-in-action.org/News/November/Nov2004.shtml](http://www.health-in-action.org/News/November/Nov2004.shtml). Organized by the U of C Faculty of Nursing, “Rural Health: From Practice to Research” is for health practitioners and anyone interested in learning about the challenges of delivering health care in rural settings. MLA Janice Tarchuk and Calgary Health Region CEO Jack Davis will keynote. FYI: The “Supernet” project ([www.albertasupernet.ca](http://www.albertasupernet.ca)) aims to narrow the gap between rural and urban health care service.

**Parkland Institute 8th Annual Conference**

(Nov 19–21, Edmonton, U of A). 780 492 8558. [www.ualberta.ca/~parkland](http://www.ualberta.ca/~parkland). Join active citizens and speakers from around the world to discuss how individuals and societies can revitalize democracy and the role of government, build a just and sustainable economy and improve quality of life for all. FYI: Naomi Klein and Michael Parenti were among the speakers at the Parkland’s 2003 conference.

**Safe Schools Conference**

(Nov 25–27, Edmonton, Westin Hotel). 780 421 3564. [www.aasro.com/conference.htm](http://www.aasro.com/conference.htm). For teachers, police officers, social workers, probation officers and parents. Seminar topics include “Violence and Females,” “Brain Research and Aggression” and “Reclaiming Youth at Risk.” FYI: School resource officers are veteran police or RCMP officers whose roles in schools include law enforcement, mentoring and counselling.

**Farmtech 2005**

(Jan 26–28, Edmonton, Mayfield Inn). 866 327 6832. [www.farmtechconference.com](http://www.farmtechconference.com). Alberta’s—and possibly Canada’s—biggest agricultural conference features speakers from as far away as Brazil and Ukraine and showcases the latest in technology, environmental issues, agronomy and farm management. FYI: As of 1996, there were 59,006 farms in Alberta.



**Teachers Conventions** (Feb/Mar; Calgary City, Central Alberta, Central East, Greater Edmonton, Mighty Peace, North Central, Northeast, Palliser District, South Western, Southeastern; various locations and venues). 780 447 9400. [www.teachers.ab.ca/services/conventions/index.cfm](http://www.teachers.ab.ca/services/conventions/index.cfm). FYI: There are 33,000 certified teachers in Alberta.

**Industrial Heritage Preservation Conference** (Sep 29–Oct 1, Lethbridge, Lethbridge Lodge). 866 320 3898. [www.galtmuseum.com](http://www.galtmuseum.com). Museum professionals, municipal planners, heritage volunteers and students gather to discuss how we want to preserve our industrial heritage. Site tours include a trip to the coal mines of the Crowsnest Pass. FYI: Canada's worst mine disaster killed 189 men at the Hillcrest mine in 1914, and that history is now part of Crowsnest Pass tourism.

**Alberta Harm Reduction Conference** (Mar 23–24, Grande Prairie, Grande Prairie Inn). 780 538 3388. [www.albertaharmreduction.com](http://www.albertaharmreduction.com). Open to the public, this annual conference raises awareness of harm reduction principles—“a set of practical strategies to help reduce harm associated with engaging in risk taking behaviour.” FYI: According to the Canadian AIDS Society, the philosophy of harm reduction “recognizes that poverty, social class, racism, homophobia, social isolation, past trauma and other social inequities have an impact on people’s vulnerability.”

**U of A Faculty of Arts Community Forums** (Spring 2005, Edmonton). [www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/arts](http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/arts). Every spring, the U of A Faculty of Arts hosts a community forum. In April 2004, more than 100 people took part in a day-long dialogue on how different faiths can work together for a healthy society. In past years forums have explored Western foreign policy in an unstable world (“Why Do They Hate Us So Much?”) and multiculturalism in Canada (“Is It a Model for the World?”). FYI: According to speaker Bilal Kuspinar, Islam embraces religious diversity as “part of the wisdom of God” and different tribes were created to know each other, not to despise one another.

**Alberta Library Conference** (Apr 28–May 1, Jasper, Jasper Park Lodge). [freenet.edmonton.ab.ca/alconf](http://freenet.edmonton.ab.ca/alconf). The annual Alberta Library Conference is one of the most popular library conferences in Canada and is attended by a veritable who’s who of Alberta writing. Stuart McLean and Jane Urquhart spoke at ALC 2004 and there were nearly 1,000 delegates for the dozens of seminars, readings and social events. FYI: Roch Carrier, Rex Murphy and Buffy Sainte-Marie have all keynoted the ALC in recent years.

**Get Publishing! Conference** (May 13–14 2005, Edmonton, Grant MacEwan College). 780 497 4571. [www.outreach.org/getpublishing](http://www.outreach.org/getpublishing). Grant MacEwan College, with the Canadian Authors Association, the Periodical Writers Association of Canada and the Writers Guild of Alberta, sponsor this annual opportunity to get tips, techniques and wisdom from writers, publishers and booksellers on how to earn a livelihood putting words to work. FYI: The May 2004 conference featured a “pitch camp” in which attendees could book one-on-one time with experts.

**iCORE Summit** (Aug 2005, Banff, The Banff Centre). 403 210 5335. [www.icore.ca](http://www.icore.ca). This second annual iCORE Banff Informatics Summit will bring together leading information and communications technology (ICT) researchers for three days in June 2005. iCORE, which stands for the Informatics Circle of Research Excellence, was established by the Alberta government in 1999. FYI: The field of informatics encompasses computer science, electrical and computer engineering, physics and mathematics.

**Vitalize 2005** (June 9–11, Calgary, Telus Convention Centre). [www.cd.gov.ab.ca/all\\_about\\_us/commissions/wild\\_rose/vitalize](http://www.cd.gov.ab.ca/all_about_us/commissions/wild_rose/vitalize). Bringing together more than 1,100 agencies and over 150 municipalities, this annual provincial voluntary sector conference—now in its 17th year—is an opportunity for volunteers and staff to attend development sessions and meet and mingle with colleagues. FYI: Vitalize 2004 in Edmonton was dedicated to recognizing the diversity of volunteerism in Alberta and across Canada.

**Sheldon Chumir Foundation for Ethics in Leadership Symposium** (Oct or Nov 2005, Calgary). 403 244 6666. [www.chumirethicsfoundation.ca](http://www.chumirethicsfoundation.ca). The Chumir Foundation promotes an active, involved citizenry and principled leadership, hosting a symposium on ethics and values every 18 months. The May 2004 conference was called “Canadian Values in the World Community: Building Trust, Balancing Global Power.” FYI: The foundation was created from a bequest by Sheldon M. Chumir, a lawyer, businessman, civil libertarian, and Alberta MLA from 1986 to 1992.

**Alberta Civil Liberties Research Centre Conference** (Upcoming program TBA) [www.aclrc.com](http://www.aclrc.com). Topics of previous conferences were Engaging Students and Social Responsibility, 2003; Health, Culture and Oil & Gas: Some Human Rights Issues, 2004. 