

Robert Hogg, AAC Executive Director (1999 – 2009) offered these remarks on October 1, 2018 at the 25th Anniversary Celebration of the founding of the Alberta Assessment Consortium.

Good morning, everyone.

On this momentous occasion celebrating the past 25 years of the *Alberta Assessment Consortium... everyday assessment tools to support student learning*, I am taken back 26 years to the fall of 1992 to a special round table meeting held during a College of Alberta School Superintendents (CASS) leadership conference held at the Edmonton Inn. My school superintendent, Larry Johnson from St Albert Protestant Schools invited me (over curriculum and instruction) to join him at what we anticipated was going to be a meeting to consider large scale assessment – specifically how to develop a ‘made in Alberta’ alternative to the Canadian Test of Basic Skills (CTBS).

What we discovered was considerably different from and superior to that.

The round table was chaired by Ed Nicholson (Lakeland Public Schools) and attended by several leading educators from across Alberta including Frank Horvath (AB ED), Les Omotani (Medicine Hat), representatives from the ATA, and the late, great Dale Armstrong.

Though the language used and the ideas discussed during the genesis that would result in the creation of the Alberta Assessment Consortium was not identical to the following four main purposes that guide the consortium today, how wonderful it is that the underlying focus was so very similar.

- advocating sound classroom assessment practices,
- building assessment literacy in Alberta,
- developing a broad range of classroom assessment materials, and
- building teacher and leader assessment capacity.

All of this was to be in support of student learning. The ‘founding fathers’ would be so pleased to know that these are AAC’s purposes are in 2018... in a special way transformative and self-renewing.

The result of the round table discussion in 1992 was a determination to initiate an organizational meeting. CASS wasn’t prepared to lead out with this, but

left it to interested educational parties to elect to do so. The meeting was held in a school in Calgary in the spring of 1993. All who had attended the round table in Edmonton along with many others were there.

The decision was to proceed to create an educational partnership and to establish a board of directors. Several were nominated and elected.

As one who was elected, I subsequently served both as representative for my school district and member of the AAC board until November 1998. I applied for, was selected to become the second Executive Director, and served from January 1999 until June 2009.

During the weeks and short months following this important meeting in Calgary, the foundation for what would become the Alberta Assessment Consortium was laid. As a not-for-profit registered society its official, legal name continues to be the Alberta Student Assessment Network. It was determined that this consortium would be funded by membership, would seek to be recognized as an educational partner in Alberta, and be an independent voice. The consortium would engage the professional services of a contracted executive director. Doug Knight was selected and served in this capacity from 1993 until 1998.

Doug, the time is yours to talk to us about your experiences, thoughts, and the activity of AAC under your leadership.