

Tele-Video Broadcast

David Bouchard - *Order of Canada/Senior Editor for Rubicon and Pearson Publishers/Métis Author/Educator/Renowned conference speaker* - speaks via telephone and video broadcasting.

David has presented to educators, universities and schools via telephone and video.

David has done numerous telephone presentations from various locations around the world. He has also been broadcast far and wide via video from presentations on location, from studios in various locations, from the a-v studio at the University of Victoria in his home town. As shown in this image, David has also presented from his desk in his library at his own home.



David is accessible in countless ways. For more ideas or to ask about your own, contact Chris Patrick at 866-786-4237

Testimonial Letter:

Dear Chris:

I wanted to make a special point of thanking you for your flexibility in offering us a teleconference with David Bouchard. The Superior-Greenstone District School Board is a small Northwestern Ontario School Board with ten communities spread over a geographic region approximately the size of France. We use both teleconference and videoconference for professional learning and to bridge the distance between our schools.

We are extremely excited to have a literacy teacher in each of our schools this year. Our commitment to literacy included sending teachers to our regional literacy conference this summer and organizing a special workshop for our principals and vice principals about the principal's role in literacy. We were thrilled to be able to participate in a Keynote address by David Bouchard in Thunder Bay.

David's passion and enthusiasm grabbed our attention immediately. He continued to draw the audience into his magical storytelling by speaking of things that were relevant to teachers, administrators and parents. He combined a mixture of humour and realism to force us to confront the fact that we could be doing a much better job of teaching students. His address was powerful and inspiring. I was amazed to see the impact David had on our principals and vice principals. Literacy has become a main priority in both the elementary and secondary panels. They are excited and they are buying books! They are celebrating literacy and supporting students who are late readers.

The benefit of David's address carries on. We are talking and reflecting about our practices and we are committed to making things better for kids. As we were planning our literacy teacher training day, we wondered how we could get David to inspire our teachers, just like he inspired our leaders. The timelines were short, so a trip to Marathon seemed impractical...but a teleconference? Would he agree? Would he think we were crazy? You can imagine our excitement when we found out it was going to happen! Thank you just doesn't seem like enough, we have now had the benefit of having David inspire our leaders and our teachers!!!!

I did wonder if David would be able to convey his message through the phone line the same as he did in person. I ensured that each of the teleconference participants had a copy of his book *The Gift of Reading* and had some time before the teleconference to read the book and think of questions to ask.

The teleconference was magical. David's voice pulled the listeners into his world where he challenged practice, celebrated children and shared stories. The participants leaned forward, not wanting to miss anything; the room was still and quiet, except for the rich voice coming from the phone. The listeners were engaged and the conversation became a free-flowing exchange of ideas and beliefs. I watched in amazement as a participant, moved to tears by David, explained her renewed understanding of the importance of parental involvement in the reading process. I feel so fortunate to have been involved in this process and would definitely do this again. The evaluation forms were filled with words of gratitude for David's involvement, but beyond the

forms, there was a sense of excitement and energy in the air. The teleconference set the tone for the rest of the day; often participants would quote David or remind us of one of his key messages. Most importantly, it set the tone for the role of the literacy teacher. This was an excellent way to start literacy training and I am looking forward to making arrangements for a teleconference for our secondary school literacy teachers.

Thank you again for your flexibility and commitment to children.

Sincerely,

Patti Pella
Superintendent of Education
Superior-Greenstone District School Board