

CAUCE Communities of Practice

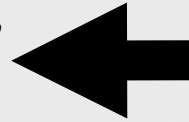
■ What are Communities of Practice?*

Communities of Practice are groups of people who share a concern or passion for something they do and interact regularly to learn how to do it better. Communities of Practice come in many forms – small to large, informal to formal, local to global. They have the following in common:

1. **Members share a domain of interest**
→ value their collective knowledge
2. **Members engage in joint activities and discussions**
→ learn from each other
3. **Members develop a shared repertoire of resources**
→ tools, templates, ideas, strategies for solving problems, updates on developments

Communities of Practice Networking Session

Monday, May 29
4:30-5:30 pm
Grand Ballroom



Interested in being part of a Community of Practice? This session will give you tools and techniques – as well as interest and motivation – to help establish and sustain a Community of Practice with colleagues across Canada. See conference program for more details.

■ How do they form and grow?

Communities of Practice are “**organic**” and often **voluntary** in nature. Members are attracted and engaged by practical discussions of ideas, issues and lessons learned. Groups are sustained by **regular interactions** (e.g., meetings, teleconferences, email discussions, one-to-one networking) that are **valuable** and **relevant**.

■ What benefits do they offer?

Communities of Practice provide an effective way for members to **share ideas and approaches, problems and solutions, knowledge and insights**. They offer an opportunity for new continuing educators to gain an introduction to the field and for seasoned professionals to stay informed about the latest developments.

■ Interested in learning more?

CAUCE is committed to fostering the formation and growth of Communities of Practice among members. If you are interested in collaborating with colleagues to establish a Community of Practice in a specific field, helpful references are available on the CAUCE web site (go to www.cauce-aepuc.ca and follow the “Professional Development” link).

* Information in this handout was adapted from content on Etienne Wenger’s web site (www.ewenger.com/theory).