

**Title:** **SEDA in Canada**

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### **Session Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this session, delegates will be able to:

- Identify the way SEDA is perceived in Canada and the value of PDF
- Hear how SEDA values have been imported to Canada
- Describe the key cultural differences between Canadian HE and the UK
- Explain how the SEDA PDF has been used creatively to provide credentials for educational development activities at three Canadian Universities
- Consider lessons that can be learnt from the creative mirroring of the Canadian experience back to the UK

### **Session Outline**

Key issues to be addressed are:

Educational developers are familiar with the need to be creative in their approach to their work. As a newcomer to Canada (in November 2011) I was faced with a similar need. How to adapt my approaches to development in a new setting? One that on the surface appeared very similar to home, but very quickly proved to be different in some unsettling ways.

I will share my experience and my reliance on the familiar in an unfamiliar setting – how I used the SEDA PDF to give credibility and structure in a new teaching support unit. In applying SEDA PDF in this new environment, I drew on my past experience, but had to create new paths and approaches. I will share the advantages this route provided and the barriers (such as appearing neo-colonialist!). I will describe the three very different approaches taken by three Canadian universities currently using SEDA PDF and the reasons behind their approaches. Finally I will encourage participants (who I anticipate will be largely from the UK) to consider what might be learnt from a UK perspective from mirroring back the Canadian experience to a UK setting.

### **Session Activities and Approximate Timings**

25 minutes – description of:

The Canadian HE system – how it is similar to, and yet very different from that of the UK

The value of using SEDA PDF to frame the offering of a newly established teaching centre

SEDA PDF recognized courses at three Canadian Universities

The advantages of SEDA and the potential for Anglo-Canadian collaboration

20 minutes – discussion:

This will be driven by the participants, but indicative questions could include:

- What were the challenges that SEDA PDF helped to address?
- Why isn't there a SEDA equivalent in Canada?
- Who has the best deal – Canadian or UK academics/educational developers?
- How might SEDA members work collaboratively and creatively internationally?