

# CMASTE

Centre for Mathematics, Science and Technology Education



UNIVERSITY OF  
ALBERTA

## CMASTE Seminar Series

Science and Mathematics Education in the Post-Truth Era

with

**Special Guest: John McNabb, PhD**

**Date: Wednesday, February 15, 2017**

**Time: 4:00 pm**

**Location: Education South, Room 229**

In November, the Oxford Dictionaries declared “post-truth” the word of the year for 2016. According to Oxford, the term is “relating to or denoting circumstances in which objective facts are less influential in shaping public opinion than appeals to emotion and personal belief”. The post-truth phenomenon is a threat to the Enlightenment heritage that underwrites much of modern liberal democratic society—a heritage that, in theory, supports and is supported by modern publicly funded education. This talk explores the phenomenon of post-truth, and offers an explanatory framework that runs counter to the Oxford definition. That is, post-truth is not an indifference to truth, but rather is a resistance to methodological inquiry. This re-framing leads to a reconsideration of education—Science and Mathematics in particular—that may contribute to a disciplined response to the circumstances of post-truth.