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About the Canadian Research Centre on Inclusive Education

The Canadian Research Centre on Inclusive Education, located in the Faculty of Education at the Western University, is a research association composed of faculty members, research associates, and graduate students across Canada who share an interest in inclusive education research.

Mission

The goal of the Centre is to encourage collaborative investigations of theories and practices in an effort to enhance the educational opportunities for all students with exceptionalities. The Centre is committed to sharing research findings and resources with academics, educators, families and community organizations.

Why inclusive education is important

Classrooms singularly create possibilities for Canadian society to shape the values of the next generation. By including and valuing all members of the classroom, educators provide caring communities that appreciate the unique contributions and diversity of all people. The current mandate in all Canadian educational jurisdictions is to ensure equitable access to education for students through their regular grade placement in neighbourhood schools. While all Canadian educational jurisdictions recognize the critical contributions of classrooms to an inclusive society, each province and territory has evolved an approach to inclusive education that responds to its particular needs.

Message from the Director: The Year 2014

In 2014 we continued to work together to spread the word of Inclusive Education across Canada. You will see the many accomplishments of our members in the publications, conference presentations and research grants mentioned in this report.

We applied for a SSHRC insight grant to investigate the development of inclusive practice in beginning teachers. As the members of the Centre are all in faculties of education, we felt that this would be a good way to bridge our teaching and our research. If successful, we will follow preservice teachers as they progress through their programs and out into their first few years of teaching. In addition, we will work with our partners to develop professional development opportunities for newly hired teachers.

We continued with the journal Exceptionality Education International publishing two issues. A special issue on At-Risk youth under the guest editorship of Dr. Nancy Hutchinson from Queen’s University and Dr. Nancy Perry from the University of British Columbia is well underway and should be published early 2015.
As always, we continue to provide development opportunities for local educators and graduate students through activities such as co-hosting the annual Coaching to Inclusion Conference, participation in research-related activities and events at Western’s Faculty of Education, and adjudicating two annual graduate research awards. In 2013, we co-hosted a 3-day symposium entitled “Meeting the Diversity Challenge”; throughout the year 2014 we continued discussions with local school boards with meetings sponsored through funds from Community Living Ontario.

We are very excited to continue our mandate in the coming year so that all students in Canada can experience an environment of belonging.

Jacqueline Specht, Ph.D.
Director
Canadian Research Centre on Inclusive Education

Our People

Faculty and Staff at Western

Jacqueline Specht  Academic Director
Elizabeth Nowicki  Western University Faculty Member
Grace Howell  Centre Co-ordinator
Sarah Copfer  Graduate Student Research Assistant

Research Associates at Post-Secondary Institutions

Dr. Angèla AuCoin, Professor, University of Moncton, New Brunswick
Dr. M. Lynn Aylward, Associate Professor, Acadia University, Nova Scotia
Dr. Sheila Bennett, Professor; Brock University, Ontario
Dr. Kim Calder Stegemann, Assistant Professor; Thompson Rivers University, British Columbia
Prof. Jenn deLugt, Lecturer, University of Regina, Saskatchewan
Dr. Tara Flanagan, Assistant Professor, McGill University, Quebec
Dr. John Freeman, Professor, Queen’s University, Ontario
Dr. Tiffany Gallagher, Associate Professor, Brock University, Ontario
Dr. Nancy Hutchinson, Professor, Queen’s University, Ontario
Dr. Jennifer Katz, Assistant Professor, University of Manitoba
Dr. Tim Loreman, Professor, Concordia University College of Alberta
Dr. Wanda Lyons, Assistant Professor, University of Regina, Saskatchewan
Dr. Kimberly Maich, Assistant Professor, Brock University, Ontario
Community Agencies and Organizations

Members of the national research team have partnered with these agencies and school boards to share information about current and proposed research projects, and to make presentations at professional development day workshops.

Alberta Association for Community Living
Bruce Uditsky, CEO
11724 Kingsway Ave., EDMONTON, AB T5G 0X5
www.aacl.org

British Columbia Teachers’ Federation
Charles Naylor, Senior Researcher
100-550 West 6th Ave., VANCOUVER, BC V5Z 4P2
www.bctf.ca

Canadian Centre on Disability Studies
Youn-Young Park, Senior Researcher
56 The Promenade, WINNIPEG, MB R3B 3H9
www.disabilitystudies.ca

Community Living Ontario
Kimberley Gavan, Director of Community Development
240 Duncan Mill Rd. Suite 403, TORONTO, ON M3B 3S6
www.communitylivingontario.ca
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization Name</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Edmonton Public Schools</td>
<td>Heather Raymond, Director, Inclusive Learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>One Kingsway, EDMONTON, AB T5H 4G9</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.epsb.ca">www.epsb.ca</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Edmonton Regional Coalition for Inclusive Education</td>
<td>Wendy Sauve, ERC Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8048 – 15A Ave. NW, EDMONTON, AB T6K 4E2</td>
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<td><a href="http://sites.google.com/site/edmontonregionalcoalition/">http://sites.google.com/site/edmontonregionalcoalition/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Education Solutions Manitoba</td>
<td>John Van Wallegham, Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>46 Ashland Ave., WINNIPEG, MB R3L 1K4</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.educationsolutionsmb.ca">www.educationsolutionsmb.ca</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>GRIT Program (Getting Ready for Inclusion Today)</td>
<td>Barb Reid, Executive Director</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14930 – 114 Ave., EDMONTON, AB T5M 464</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.gritprogram.com">www.gritprogram.com</a></td>
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<td>Inclusive Education Canada</td>
<td>Gordon Porter, National Director</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>York University, 4700 Keele St. TORONTO, ON M3J 1P3</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.inclusiveeducation.ca">www.inclusiveeducation.ca</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>London District Catholic School Board</td>
<td>Terry Spencer, Research Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5200 Wellington Rd. S., LONDON, ON N6A 4X5</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.ldcsb.on.ca">www.ldcsb.on.ca</a></td>
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<td>Manitoba Education</td>
<td>Karen Priestley, Co-ordinator Program &amp; Student Services</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1181 Portage Ave., WINNIPEG, MB R3G 0T3</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca">www.edu.gov.mb.ca</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Manitoba Teachers Society,</td>
<td>Lia Baksina, Staff Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>McMaster House, 191 Harcourt St., WINNIPEG, MB R3J 3H2</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.mbteach.org">www.mbteach.org</a></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>New Brunswick Department of Education &amp; Early</td>
<td>Kim Korotkov, Specialist, Resource Teachers Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Childhood Development</td>
<td>250 King Street, Fredericton, NB E3B 5H1</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.gnb.ca">http://www.gnb.ca</a></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>New Brunswick Department of Education,</td>
<td>Jackie Fewer-Bennett, Consultant for Inclusive Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3rd Floor, West Block, 100 Prince Philip Dr., ST. JOHN’S, NL A1B 4J6</td>
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<td>Organization</td>
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| Newfoundland & Labrador Assoc. for Community Living | Sherry Gambin-Walsh, Executive Director  
74 O'Leary Ave., ST. JOHN’S, NL A1B 3N7  
[www.nlac.ca](http://www.nlac.ca) |
| North Vancouver School District 44 | Julie Parker, Director of Instruction  
810 West 21st St., NORTH VANCOUVER, BC V7P 2C1  
[www.nvsd44.bc.ca](http://www.nvsd44.bc.ca) |
| Ontario College of Teachers | Déirdre Smith, Manager, Standards of Practice & Education  
101 Bloor St. West, TORONTO, ON M5S 0A1  
[www.oct.ca](http://www.oct.ca) |
| Ontario Ministry of Education | Zheng Xu, Education Officer  
14th Flr, Mowat Block, 900 Bay St., TORONTO, ON M7A 1L2  
[www.edu.gov.on.ca](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca) |
| Pembina Hills Regional Division #7 | Robert McGarva, Director of Student Services  
5310 – 49 Street, BARRHEAD, AB T7N 1P3  
[www.phrd.ab.ca](http://www.phrd.ab.ca) |
| Prairie South School Division 210 | Lori Meyer, Superintendent of Learning  
1075 9th Ave. NW, MOOSE JAW, SK S6H 1V7  
[www.prairiesouth.ca](http://www.prairiesouth.ca) |
| Provincial Integration Support and Outreach Program BC | Chris Jenkins, Program Coordinator  
1525 Rowan St., VICTORIA, BC V8P 1X4  
[www.pisp.ca](http://www.pisp.ca) |
| Saskatchewan Ministry of Education | Tim Caleval, Executive Director, Priority Action Team  
2220 College Ave., REGINA, SK S4P 4V9  
[www.education.gov.sk.ca](http://www.education.gov.sk.ca) |
| Saskatchewan Teachers’ Federation (STF) | Gwen Dueck, Executive Director  
2317 Arlington Ave., SASKATOON, SK S7J 2H8  
[www.stf.sk.ca](http://www.stf.sk.ca) |
Research Activities

Research Grants Obtained in 2014 by National Team

**Bennett, S., Gallagher, T., Somma, M., Shuttleworth, M., & Wlodarczyk, K. (2014). The Avon Maitland District School Board’s inclusion coaching project.** Research contribution, Avon Maitland District School Board. $10,000


**Craig, W., & Pepler, D., with J. Freeman, Co-investigator (2011-2015). A societal approach to achieving healthy relationships and eliminating violence.** National Centres of Excellence Knowledge Mobilization Grant. $1,600,000


**Flanagan, T., & Nadig, A. (Co-principal Investigators). (2011-2014). A service delivery model to better support young adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders in the transition from school to the community.** Max Bell Foundation. $154,300

**Maich, K. (2014). Autism in education: An Atlantic partnership.** Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority. $9,500


**Maich, K. (Principal investigator), & van Rhijn, T. (2014-2015). Remote assistive technology training in rural schools in Newfoundland and Labrador: is there a need?** Brock University-SSHRC Institutional Grant. $4,474

**Maich, K. (Principal Investigator), & Hill, R. (2014). Canadian school programs for students with emotional/behavioral disorders: A decade of programs, policy, and practice.** Brock University Graduate Research Assistance Development Fund. $1,708
Selected Publications by National Team

Note: Faculty members’ names appear in **bold** type; graduate students’ names are underlined.

### A. Policy and School Leadership


### B. Professional Education and Teaching


C. Socio-cultural Inclusion


Selected Presentations by National Team at Conferences

A. Policy and School Leadership


**B. Professional Education and Teaching**


Association of Directors of Education (OTF/OADE) Conference, "Creating Circles of Hope in Teacher Education", Toronto, ON.


**Wlodarczyk, K., Bennett, S. & Missiuna, C.** (2014, November). *Partnering for change: Building educator capacity and improving outcomes for students with developmental coordination disorder.* Presented at the annual conference of the Ontario Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), Niagara Falls, ON.

**Young, G.** (2014, August). *Universal design for teaching and learning: Technology tools to support students with learning disabilities and their teachers.* Presented at the annual Educators’ Institute, LD@School, Mississauga, ON.

**Young, G.** (2014, November). *Using assistive technology within a framework of universal design for learning to support students with learning disabilities in their attainment of literacy skills.* Learning Disabilities Association Conference, St. John’s, NL.


### C. Socio-cultural Inclusion

**Bennett, S., Gallagher, T. L., Servos, J., & Donato, K.** (2013, November). *Does inclusion make a difference? Young adults with intellectual disabilities transitioning from school into community.* Presented at the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) 57th annual provincial conference, Niagara Falls, ON.

**Maich, K.** (2014, November). *Peer play in inclusive childcare: The impact of a peer-mediated social skills program in Ontario.* Lecture presentation for the Ontario Council for Exceptional Children, Niagara Falls, ON.


### Graduate Student Research Supervision by National Team*

*Team members are thesis or dissertation supervisors of graduate student work in progress at their universities, unless otherwise noted.

**AuCoin, Angela,** Université de Moncton, NB


**Aylward, M. Lynn,** Acadia University, NS


Bruce, Cynthia. *Negotiating accommodations: Exploring the experiences of disabled university students and university faculty in Nova Scotia.* Inter-university Doctoral Program in Educational Studies.

**Bennett, Sheila,** Brock University, ON


**Flanagan, Tara,** McGill University, QC


Dansereau, Francesca. *Autism spectrum disorders and online communication.* Ph.D. Human Development.


Marfull, Marisol. *Inclusive pre-school and Chile.* Ph.D. Human Development.


**Freeman, John,** Queen's University, ON


Hanash, Paul. M.Ed. thesis on the topic of depression.

**Hutchinson, Nancy**, Queen’s University, ON


**Katz, Jennifer**, University of Manitoba


**Maich, Kimberly**, Brock University, ON

Barr, Michelle. *Training parents in evidence-based practices for supporting their children with ASD*. M.Ed. research project.
Henning, Megan. *Peer perceptions of children with exceptionalities*. M.Ed. research project.

**Marshall, Anne**, University of Victoria, BC

Spowart, P. *Young native men’s work experiences*. M. A. thesis.

**McGhie-Richmond, Donna**, University of Victoria, BC

On sabbatical leave, 2014-2015
Nowicki, Elizabeth, Western University, ON


Penney, Sharon, Memorial University of Newfoundland

Croke, C. Perceptions of students with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and the Impact Inclusive education has on their educational experience. M. Ed. thesis.

Furlong, R. An investigation of the development and implementation of Pathway 4 alternate courses in social skills training for students with autism. M. Ed. thesis.


McDonald, C. Teachers’ attitudes toward inclusion in Newfoundland. M.Ed. in Counselling Psychology.


Sider, Steve, Wilfrid Laurier University, ON.


Specht, Jacqueline, Western University, ON


Thompson, Scott, University of Regina, SK


**Young, Gabrielle**, Memorial University of Newfoundland


Careen, Christine. *Examining the use of iPads to support learning*. M.Ed. thesis.


Whittle, Joshua. *Using educational technology to promote communication and social skills*. M.Ed. thesis.


**Knowledge Creation and Mobilization Activities**

**Collaborative Roundtable Series, 2014**

Three roundtable sessions were held in 2014 as a follow up to the November 2013 “Diversity Challenge” symposium in London, Ontario. University and partner organizations of the Centre have come together with Ontario School Boards to further the cause of inclusion. Discussions with people who can effect change are necessary for change to occur. Western and Brock Universities, Community Living Ontario, and Inclusive Education Canada served as hosts and organizers for the school boards which included London District CSB, Thames Valley DSB, Avon Maitland DSB, Huron-Perth CDSB, and also the Thunder Bay CDSB.

The sessions occurred over three full days with 20-25 people attending each day to discuss:

March 27 – Presentations on research on inclusion and invited the New Brunswick Department of Education and Early childhood Development to report on their move towards inclusive classroom policy.


Nov 28 — *Leadership for Collaboration: investigating research on collaboration and applying it to case studies of schools who have effectively included children with high needs.*

**June 13, 2014: Graduate Student Research Awards**

The **Inclusive Education Graduate Research Award**, sponsored by the **Canadian Research Centre on Inclusive Education** and funded by Foundation Western, is presented annually to up to three graduate students in education at Western. To be eligible for the award, a student must undertake a research project that is part of the thesis/dissertation requirement for the completion of the program, and the research proposal must address an issue that is related to the inclusion of children with special learning needs. The Centre for Inclusive Education presented the 2014 Graduate Research Award to [list of recipients].
Award to Le Chen, Sarah Cloutier, and Mithila Vidwans. These students were acknowledged at Western’s Faculty of Education Awards Ceremony on June 13, 2014. They each received a certificate, and a cash award of $750.

In 2014, the **Jessica Jean Campbell Coulson Award**, sponsored by the **Canadian Research Centre on Inclusive Education** and established by Foundation Western, was presented to a graduate student who is conducting research in the area of Special Education. This award is funded by Mr. David R. Campbell (BA ’38) in memory of his daughter, who was an exemplary special education teacher. Congratulations to Sarah Cloutier for her research proposal, “Professional learning communities in urban elementary schools: An in-depth case study with science teachers and school principals” Sarah received a certificate and a cash award of $1,000 at the Awards Ceremony.

**October 24, 2014: Coaching to Inclusion Conference**

On Friday, October 24th, 2014, the 17th annual Coaching to Inclusion Conference was held in London at the Best Western Lamplighter Inn. This one day event is an annual collaboration between the **Canadian Research Centre on Inclusive Education** and the **Coaching to Inclusion Committee**, which includes representatives from approximately ten school boards in the region. In 2014, a new logo was designed for a new web site for the conference so that participants could register online, receive updates about the conference, and have a year-round resource. The web site is at [www.coachingtoinclusion.com](http://www.coachingtoinclusion.com).

Under the theme of **Inclusive Education: Making it Work!** Dr. Donna McGhie-Richmond, professor of education at the University of Victoria BC and a research associate of the Centre delivered the keynote address. She reminded participants of the impact that “making it work” can have on the lives of children with exceptionalities. Following the keynote, participants selected from eight different workshops presented by colleagues and specialists from surrounding boards in southwestern Ontario.

During the conference, **Champion of Inclusion Awards** were presented to nine educators from school boards in southwestern Ontario. This award is given to educators who are nominated by their school boards and who exemplify and inspire best practices in inclusive education. Each recipient was presented with an Inukshuk statue. The Inukshuk is used to represent the ideal of cooperation among people and the aboriginal belief that “together we can do even greater things”.


Promotional Activities

Web Site: This past year, the Centre's web site was migrated to Western's Web Content Management System (Cascade Server). The web site address has not changed, but visitors can access the site directly or through the faculty of education web site. In addition, updates can be added to the site quickly and easily by the co-ordinator and graduate student assistants. More updates, and more frequent events listings are now possible.

Visit the site at www.inclusiveeducationresearch.ca

Plans for the Future

Conference 2015: The Centre will be partnering once again with a number of school boards in southwestern Ontario to host the Coaching to Inclusion conference and the Champion of Inclusion Awards in October.

Newsletters: The Centre is investigating the potential for more interactive dissemination of information relating to current issues in inclusion through weblogs or wikis.

National Advisory Board: The Centre will create an advisory board and continue to build the national structure of the Canadian Research Centre on Inclusive Education.

Research Funding for National Projects: The national team will maintain contact through electronic media such as Skype and teleconference meetings to move forward with securing additional research funding such as SSHRC grants that will allow us to continue to work together. Currently, the Centre is awaiting word on an application for an Insight Grant to continue preliminary research that has been conducted on the development of inclusive educational practices for beginning teachers.

Courses on Inclusion for Members of the Community: There is a need for people other than teachers to learn about inclusion. In the coming year, we will discuss plans with several stakeholders to develop a short program of courses that could be offered to the general public. These could be delivered locally and/or nationally.