

CENTRE NEWS

LETTER FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2024. As a reminder, we are hoping to share exciting news and updates from our colleagues in this formal way. Thank you to Annie Beatty for all of her organization and support in gathering and reporting the information.

It was great to be back in person for our meeting at CSSE in 2023. I am excited for CSSE 2024 and the opportunity to meet again. Please plan to be in Montreal for the afternoon of June 12, 2024, for our meeting. More details to follow.

I wanted to acknowledge the retirement of Donna McGhie-Richmond. She was one of the 4 people that met for a coffee while we were at the ISEC 2010 conference in Belfast. We had to go to another country to consider this wild idea of getting together people across Canada who were interested in the area of inclusive education. That conversation led to what we have today. Inclusive education is such an important area for research and practice and I am forever grateful for those initial chats to get us going to bring us where we are today with an amazing group of passionate and committed people. Donna worked alongside me for all of those years in so many ways and it was a blast. All the best my friend on your next journey.

WE'LL MISS YOU, DONNA!

After 15 years at the University of Victoria's Educational Psychology and Leadership Studies and an incredibly successful career as an inclusive education researcher, Donna McGhie-Richmond is retiring. Her contributions to the field of inclusive education and to the Canadian Research Centre on Inclusive Education are just some of her many accomplishments throughout her career.

On behalf of the Centre, we want to wish Donna a wonderful retirement spent with family, friends and filled with new adventures. We hope that you will stay close to the Centre!

Read Donna's retirement reflections [here](#)!



**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!**

RESEARCH UPDATES

Jacqui Specht, Jess Whitely, and Nicole Neil in partnership with Inclusion Action Ontario are starting a new project titled *Navigating the Special Education System: Parents Supporting Parents*. Caregivers of children with disabilities will be interviewed regarding their experiences maneuvering the Ontario education system. Themes from the interview will be used to inform a 4-6 module series available free to Ontario parents to learn more about the system and advocacy. Keep an eye out for recruitment information on social media!

Monique Somma and John Freer, in collaboration with ParaSport Ontario and Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities, conducted a research study with students in the Niagara Catholic District School Board wherein teachers and students learned about disability and diversity and subsequently had the opportunity to learn about and play sledge hockey with Parasport athletes. Their findings have been presented at various conferences and featured in the ParaSport Magazine Summer 2023 Issue. Congratulations!



MEMBER CORNER

See what your colleagues are up to, reach out and collaborate!

Currently reading...

Coaching High School English Teachers in Guided Reading for Struggling Readers by **Tiffany Gallagher**, Arlene Grierson and Catherine Susan. Read it [here](#).

"You have the right to love and be loved": participatory theatre for disability justice with self-advocates" by **Leyton Schnellert**, Leah Tidley, RRR Co-creators and Rachelle Hole. Read it [here](#).

... and coming soon!

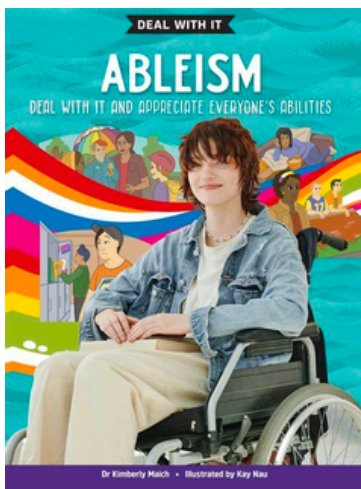
Come join the party: Lessons learned fostering inclusion in online learning by Christie Schultz, **Scott Anthony Thompson** and **Jenn de Lugt**.



Congratulations to our director, Dr. Jacqui Specht for being the recipient of the 2023 CAEP Robbie Case Memorial Award, for her major contributions and leadership in Educational Psychology. Such a well-deserved award!



Congratulations to Dr. Kimberly Maich who published the book *Ableism: Deal with It* in 2023. This book provides case studies, quizzes and Q&As directed at children and youth to provide information regarding ableism, looks like in today's society, and offers strategies for change.



GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS

Dr. Jacqui Specht is partnering with Umesh Sharma at Monash University alongside 24 collaborators in a global study. They are investigating parent perceptions of school for their children with disabilities. Particularly, they aim to explore their decisions in sending their children to mainstream or special education schools. As they recruit Canadian participants, **keep an eye out for our posts and please share!**



OUR 2024 RESOLUTIONS:

- 1** Increase our social media footprint
- 2** Conduct meaningful research
- 3** Promote and facilitate Centre collaboration



What's happening on X?



Mélissa Villella, Ph.D.
@MLVillellaPhD

I am pleased to share with you an article that I wrote with [@drstevesider](#) in French about French-language school principals in Canada and their perspective on violence and aggressive behaviours: [link](#).



Lead to Include
@leadtoinclude

"Leadership for Inclusive Schools" is an enlightening book written by [@drstevesider](#) and [@kimberlymaich](#). This book is one of the most recent additions to the Lead to Include website's "Resources" page! Visit our website to read the 27 case stories in this book.

Don't forget to tweet, tag us, and reshare!

Check out our Linktree for all links related to the Centre!

[Click HERE](#)

