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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.

In 2013, the Centre adopted the new logo in order to retain visual identity for Western University as a whole.

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 2013

This has been another busy year at the Centre. We were very focused on creating the synergy across the country. In July 2013, we officially changed our name to reflect the Canadian scope of our Centre.

The work of a number of our team members was published in a special issue of the Canadian Journal of Education. I was the guest editor for the issue “What Is Inclusive Education in Canada”. It was the culmination of some good discussions around how we can move the agenda of inclusive education forward in Canada.

In the 2012 annual report, we indicated that we had submitted a grant application to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada’s Partnership Grant Application. We were very disappointed that we were not awarded it as it was ranked with great promise at the letter of intent stage. We held our general meeting the day before the Canadian Society for the Study of Education
conference in Victoria, BC. At the meeting, we discussed plans to move forward and have submitted another letter of intent for the Partnership Grant. We all feel very committed to the cause and felt it was worth another try.

A great accomplishment was the new website. We have created it for the Canada-wide team of university and community partners:  http://www.inclusiveeducationresearch.ca/

This year also saw the journal *Exceptionality Education International* move from the University of Alberta to Western. Our Centre has assumed responsibility for the journal. Current editors are Dr. Tim Loreman from Concordia University College of Alberta and me. Associate editors are Dr. Gabrielle Young and Dr. Sharon Penney from Memorial University in Newfoundland. We have had quite the adventure moving the journal and thank all of the former team for assisting us in this process. We could not have done it without their amazing support. Special thanks to Dr. Christina Rinaldi, Dr. Nikki Nosworthy and Dr. Holly Stack-Cutler. We have now published two issues and are well on our way to a third: http://ir.lib.uwo.ca/eei/

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. This past year, we had an exciting development. Working with our partners from Community Living Ontario, Inclusive Education Canada, the Ontario College of Teachers, the Ontario Ministry of Education and Drs. Sheila Bennett and Tiffany Gallagher from Brock, we hosted a 3-day symposium entitled “Meeting the Diversity Challenge”. It was very successful and plans are in the works to continue to have the discussion of inclusive education with Boards of Education in 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 Cloutier  
Graduate Student Research Assistant (as of September 1, 2012)
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. Carla DiGiorgio, Associate Director, Curriculum Planning, Centre for Learning and Teaching, Dalhousie University, Halifax NS
Dr. Tara Flanagan, Assistant Professor, McGill University, Quebec
Dr. John Freeman, Professor, Queen's University, Ontario
Dr. Tiffany Gallagher, Associate Professor, Brock University, Ontario
Prof. Anne Hill (Retired, 2013) Fanshawe College, 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
Dr. Anne Marshall, Professor, and Director, Centre for Youth and Society, University of Victoria, British Columbia
Dr. Donna McGhie-Richmond, Associate Professor, University of Victoria, British Columbia
Dr. Jamie Metsala, Professor, Mount St. Vincent University, Nova Scotia, Gail and Stephen Jarislowsky Chair in Learning Disabilities (appointed July 1, 2011).
Dr. Elizabeth Nowicki, Associate Professor, Western University, Ontario
Dr. Sharon Penney, Assistant Professor, Memorial University of Newfoundland
Dr. Steve Sider, Assistant Professor, Wilfrid Laurier University, Ontario
Dr. Linda Siegel, Professor, University of British Columbia
Dr. Jacqueline Specht (Associate Professor, Western University
Prof. Roberta Thomson, Course Instructor, McGill University, and LaSalle College, Quebec
Dr. Scott Thompson, Associate Professor, University of Regina, Saskatchewan
Dr. Vianne Timmons, President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Regina, Saskatchewan; President of the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disabilities
Dr. Jessica Whitley, Associate Professor, University of Ottawa, Ontario
Dr. Gabrielle Young, Assistant Professor, Memorial University of Newfoundland
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Contact Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alberta Association for Community Living</td>
<td>Bruce Uditsky, CEO, 11724 Kingsway Ave., EDMONTON, AB T5G 0X5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annapolis Valley Regional School Board</td>
<td>Cynthia Giffen, Co-ordinator of Student Services, 121 Orchard St., BERWICK, NS B0P 1E0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British Columbia Teachers’ Federation</td>
<td>Charles Naylor, Senior Researcher, 100-550 West 6th Ave., VANCOUVER, BC V5Z 4P2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canadian Centre on Disability Studies</td>
<td>Youn-Young Park, Senior Researcher, 56 The Promenade, WINNIPEG, MB R3B 3H9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Living Ontario</td>
<td>Kimberley Gavan, Director of Community Development, 240 Duncan Mill Rd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edmonton Public Schools</td>
<td>Heather Raymond, Director, Inclusive Learning, One Kingsway, EDMONTON, AB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edmonton Regional Coalition for Inclusive Education</td>
<td>Wendy Sauve, ERC Chair, 8048 – 15A Ave. NW, EDMONTON, AB T6K 4E2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Solutions Manitoba</td>
<td>John Van Wallegham, Manager, 46 Ashland Ave., WINNIPEG, MB R3L 1K4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>Contact Person</td>
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<tr>
<td>GRIT Program (Getting Ready for Inclusion Today)</td>
<td>Barb Reid, Executive Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inclusive Education Canada</td>
<td>Gordon Porter, National Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>London District Catholic School Board</td>
<td>Terry Spencer, Research Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manitoba Education</td>
<td>Karen Priestley, Co-ordinator Program &amp; Student Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manitoba Teachers Society</td>
<td>Lia Baksina, Staff Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Brunswick Department of Education &amp; Early Childhood Development</td>
<td>Kim Korotkov, Specialist, Resource Teachers Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newfoundland Department of Education,</td>
<td>Jackie Fewer-Bennett, Consultant for Inclusive Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newfoundland &amp; Labrador Assoc. for Community Living</td>
<td>Sherry Gambin-Walsh, Executive Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Vancouver School District 44</td>
<td>Julie Parker, Director of Instruction</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ontario College of Teachers  
Déirdre Smith, Manager, Standards of Practice & Education  
101 Bloor St. West, TORONTO, ON M5S 0A1  
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

Pembina Hills Regional Division #7  
Robert McGarva, Director of Student Services  
5310 – 49 Street, BARRHEAD, AB T7N 1P3  
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

Provincial Integration Support Program BC  
Chris Jenkins, Program Co-ordinator  
1525 Rowan St., VICTORIA, BC V8P 1X4  
www.pisp.ca

Saskatchewan Ministry of Education  
Tim Galeval, Executive Director, Student Achievement  
2220 College Ave., REGINA, SK S4P 4V9  
www.education.gov.sk.ca

Saskatchewan Teachers’ Federation (STF)  
Gwen Dueck, Executive Director  
2317 Arlington Ave., SASKATOON, SK S7J 2H8  
www.stf.sk.ca

Seven Oaks School Division  
Edie Wilde, Assistant Superintendent, Student Services  
830 Powers St., WINNIPEG, MB R2V 4E7  
www.7oaks.org

Research Activities

Research Grants Obtained by National Team


Gallagher, T. (2013). Supporting Literacy Coaches as they Facilitate Teachers’ Professional Learning. Brock University Office of Research Services 4A Funding Support. $1,000


Marshall, E. A. (2013). Walking in two worlds for indigenous communities counsellors in training. Counselling Foundation of Canada Grant. $180,000


McGhie-Richmond, D. & Murphy, K. (2012-2013). Integrating iPads within a universal design for learning framework to support pre-service teachers’ instructional planning for diversity. Learning and Teaching Centre Development Grant. University of Victoria. $5,312


Sider, S. (2013). *Case Studies of School Leadership in Inclusive Schools*. Wilfird Laurier University Short-Term Research Grant. $5,000


Specht, J. (Principal Investigator). (2012-2013). *Graduating teachers: are they ready for the inclusive classroom?* Western University Faculty of Education Research Committee. $1,555

**Publications by National Team**


Presentations by National Team at Conferences


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) 57nd annual provincial conference, Niagara Falls, ON.


Dare, L., & Nowicki, E. (2013, November). Why accelerate? Words from the WISE. Poster presented at the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), Niagara Falls, ON.


Porter, G., Specht, J. & Bennett, S. (2013, November). The Steps Forward: wrap up session to identify next steps both at a personal and systemic institutional level. Presented at Meeting the diversity challenge: Can schools be both effective and inclusive within a special education context? London, ON Canada.


Specht, J. (2013, February). What we know from research about inclusion and accommodating students with diverse learning needs. Panel discussion with Dr. Sheila Bennett, presented at Meeting the Challenge: Accommodation and Inclusion, Toronto ON. (invited)

Specht, J. (2013, February). Inclusive education: It’s all about relationships. Presented at the Let’s Talk Education Series. Faculty of Education, Western University, London, ON Canada (invited)

Specht, J. & Bennett, S. (2013, November). Inclusion Look-fors: How do we know if your school or classroom is inclusive? Presented at Meeting the Diversity Challenge: Can schools be both effective and inclusive within a special education context? London, ON Canada.


**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


Theriault, Crystine Louise. *Soutenir les élèves du secondaire en minorité sexuelle: un outil pour les enseignants francophones du Nouveau-Brunswick.* Maîtrise en enseignement, mention enseignement-ressource (Master's program in Education).

**Aylward, 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.


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


Gillis, Ed. *Helping teachers and administrators understand the needs of at-risk adolescents.* M.Ed. project.


Rombough, Kate. *Promoting resiliency for young males at risk of incarceration.* M.Ed. thesis.


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


**Katz, Jennifer**, University of Manitoba

Marshall, Anne, University of Victoria, BC


McGhie-Richmond, Donna, University of Victoria, BC

White, Renee. M.Ed. thesis.

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


Cutting, Cambri. *Young elementary students’ perceptions on disability and difference.* M. Ed. thesis. Curriculum and Instruction.


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

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

Inclusion Activities at Western University

February 12, 2013: “Inclusive Education: It’s all about relationships”

As part of the Complimentary Speaker Series at Western’s Faculty of Education Jacqueline Specht addressed an audience of educators, parents, teacher candidates and graduate students about how to create inclusive communities that promote academic success. By including all students, caregivers can create communities that appreciate the unique contributions and diversity of all people, and help everyone feel that they belong.

June 14, 2013: 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 2013 Graduate Research Award to Sarah Copfer, Lynn Dare, and Christina Yarmol. These students were acknowledged at Western’s Faculty of Education Awards Ceremony on June 14, 2013. They each received a certificate, and a cash award of $750.

In 2013, 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 again to Sarah Copfer for her research proposal, “Investigating the provision of student support and accommodation for students with learning disabilities (LD) in Canadian post-secondary institutions. She received a certificate and a cash award of $1,000 at the Awards Ceremony. For more detailed information about Sarah’s proposal, please visit: http://www.edu.uwo.ca/Inclusive_Education/grad_research.asp

Sarah Copfer

October 25, 2013: Coaching to Inclusion Conference

On Friday, October 25th, 2013, the 16th annual Coaching to Inclusion Conference with the theme of Inclusive Inquiry in the 21st Century Classroom 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.

Approximately 125 educators from the South Western Ontario region attended. Keynote speaker this year was Kerri Steel, District Principal, Student Support Services, Qualicum School District, BC. She provided many
resources and video-taped examples of resources for Gradual Release of Instruction and Response to Intervention, and literacy and numeracy instruction. To facilitate greater access and to reduce paper, participants received “take-away” resources electronically following the conference.

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. The Inukshuk is used to represent the ideal of cooperation among people and the aboriginal belief that ‘together we can do even greater things’.

Symposium, November 27-29, 2013

This three-day symposium focused on inclusive educational practice from a legal and human rights perspective as well as school improvement and ensuring student success in learning. Sessions explored the challenges and opportunities that face every school and district in Canada. Customized sessions provided opportunities for individual participants to work in school-board based teams to explore and address challenges in their working environment. Participants interacted with the symposium team and each other to develop strategies for moving forward.

Can schools be both effective and inclusive within a special education context?

The 9-0 ruling by the Supreme Court of Canada (SOC) in the Moore vs B.C. case has created a new reality for District and School Education Leaders in Canada. The decision breaks new ground in compelling appropriate accommodation to meet the education needs of students with disabilities. There are a number of important aspects to the decision. The symposium featured:

- Human Rights and the Supreme Court of Canada decision in Moore vs B.C.
- The inclusion mandate for schools, and what research tells us about inclusive practice
- Assessing and building school and classroom practices that make inclusive education work
- “Strengthening Inclusion, Strengthening Schools” – connecting school improvement to inclusive practices
- Inclusive education through the lens of parents and students with disabilities
• Building an “Action Plan” to strengthen inclusion in your school, district and community
• Roles and staff functions in inclusive schools
• Dialogue and problem solving with colleagues

Promotional Activities

**New Web Site:** This past year, the Centre’s web site was re-imagined to reflect the mandate of the Canadian Research Centre on Inclusive Education. There is now information about the education and community partners from across Canada, and detailed descriptions of the research project strands.

Visit the new site at [www.inclusiveeducationresearch.ca](http://www.inclusiveeducationresearch.ca)

**Plans for the Future**

**Conference 2014:** 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. Dr. Donna McGhie-Richmond, professor of education at the University of Victoria BC and a research associate of the Centre, will be the keynote speaker. Educators from participating school boards will present a series of workshops covering several topics on inclusive education.

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

**Accessible Web Site:** The research co-ordinator worked with our web site designer, Murray Clark, to ensure that the content on the site is accessible by people who may be using a screen reader or other alternative devices with their internet browsers. In 2013, we continued to upgrade the web site to serve as a model of the accessibility standards as set by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C). These standards include features that enable easier navigation around the web site, selection of desired text size, access to descriptions of images on the pages, and the ability to see or hear definitions of acronyms. The site is the primary means of communication for the Centre, providing access to electronic copies of the newsletter, upcoming conference notices, and application forms for the research awards, along with links to other relevant sites. The site may be viewed at [www.inclusiveeducationresearch.ca](http://www.inclusiveeducationresearch.ca)

**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.

**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.