

May 19, 2019

## **School leadership and inclusion conference organized by Canadian university faculty to take place June 1 at University of British Columbia**

The inaugural “**Intersectionalities in leadership for supporting students with special education needs in Canadian schools**” conference will be held on **June 1 at the University of British Columbia** in Vancouver. The conference, spearheaded by Dr. Steve Sider, of the Faculty of Education at Wilfrid Laurier University, will welcome attendees and speakers from across Canada and abroad to discuss best practices and to collaborate with innovative and bold ideas on how principals can foster inclusive schools particularly for students with special education needs in the contemporary Canadian educational context. The conference specifically considers the intersection of inclusion, leadership, and Indigeneity.

The conference will be of interest to those in the K-12 school sector as well as university-based and school system-level stakeholders. Keynote speakers will include **Kevin Lamoureux**, former National Education Lead for the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, and **Dr. Sheila Bennett**, Associate Dean of Education at Brock University, both with a vast repertoire of experience in inclusive education.

Breakout sessions will provide the vehicle for a highly concentrated exchange of ideas among educators and policymakers from across English and French Canada. The intent of the conference is to catalyze sustained partnerships by considering the intersection of Indigenous knowledge, school leadership, and inclusive education to provide optimal support going forward for students with special education needs in the contemporaneous and continually changing context of today’s K-12 classroom. These small group sessions will be mediated by current experts in the education field, to promote pollination of ideas and partnerships – all intended to be brought back to each delegate’s home arena.

### **KEY DETAILS**

- The conference: **Intersectionalities in leadership for supporting students with special education needs in Canadian schools** is funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and organized by faculty from Wilfrid Laurier University, Western University, University of Victoria, University of British Columbia, and Memorial University, and will be held at the Irving K Barber Learning Centre at the **University of British Columbia on June 1, 2019**.
- In this inaugural year, the conference will focus on the creation of partnerships to promote ongoing collaboration between educators and policymakers regarding leadership and supporting students with special education needs.
- The conference is welcoming policymakers, researchers, Indigenous Knowledge Keepers, accelerators, and successful academics and administrators from across Canada, anglophone and francophone, and from abroad.

For more information, please view the conference website (<https://www.inclusiveeducationresearch.ca/events/intersectionalities.html>) or contact Dr. Steve Sider ([ssider@wlu.ca](mailto:ssider@wlu.ca)).