



Message from Director, Dr. Jacqueline Specht

Greetings! This past year has seen many exciting changes within our Centre. In 2010, our Centre was reviewed by Dr. Judy Lupart, Canada Research Chair in Special Education from the University of Calgary. Dr. Lupart noted particular strengths of the Centre: (i) its support of graduate students through research assistantships, research awards, and funds for conference travel; (ii) its outreach to local educators with respect to inclusion; and (iii) its research agenda and output in the area of inclusive education. Dr. Lupart felt that the expertise of the Centre needed to be extended across Canada.

In response to this recommendation, I contacted Canadian researchers soliciting interest in a collaborative endeavour around inclusion. Ongoing electronic discussion culminated in researchers from 13 different postsecondary institutions across the country meeting for a one-day session in May 2011. In addition to the researchers, the Hon. Jody Carr, Minister of Education for New Brunswick, attended the meeting and highlighted the importance that inclusive education played **in his province and across the country, in his words, "one of the top three priorities in education."** Discussions from that meeting helped solidify our actions for the year. One of our main initiatives was to form an expanded and expanding team to develop a proposal to submit to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. If received, this funding will assist us in accomplishing our goal of creating a cross-Canada system of educational inclusion. Currently, we have 23 investigators from 17 postsecondary institutions and 22 community partners across Canada. We are very excited about this endeavour and look forward to sharing news as we move forward. Our first research project is underway and is given some more detail in the newsletter.

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The Centre for Inclusive Education takes National Focus

2011 was a big year for the Centre for Inclusive Education, taking on a National focus for research in the area of inclusive education and ultimately becoming the National headquarters for the Canadian Research Centre on Inclusive Education.

Over the course of the year, Centre for Inclusive Education Director Dr. Jacqueline Specht has dedicated a great amount of time and effort to establishing connections with a strong group of renowned researchers in inclusive education from universities across Canada. Formal partnership was acknow-



Canadian Research Centre for Inclusive Education Researchers and Team Members

ledged between researchers at the 2011 CSSE (Canadian Society for the Study of Education) in Fredericton, NB, forming a national research team that aims to provide the area of inclusive education with a much needed national voice.

The Centre will allow researchers from coast to coast to form collaborative partnerships with local schools and community groups in order to develop a Canadian understanding of inclusion. The Centre will allow researchers from coast to coast to form collaborative partnerships with local schools and community groups in order to develop a Canadian understanding of inclusion.

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Coaching to Inclusion Conference a great success!

The Centre for Inclusive Education partnered once again with Coaching to Inclusion Committee on October 28th, 2011 to hold the annual conference centered around inclusive education, with this year's focus of "Including all Learners".

Held at the Best Western Stoneridge Inn in London, ON, this past year's conference saw incredible participation from school boards and educational professionals from across Ontario.

The keynote presentation, "Inclusion with Integrity", given by Catherine Montreuil, Superintendent of Education of the Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board, examined how inclusive education practices enable student learning and achievement on

a daily basis. Cathy further highlighted some key issues around inclusivity in 21st century learning, accountability and equity of outcomes for students, research on inclusive practices, and important indicators of inclusive education for moving schools forward to support all students.

Apple Canada Inc. also provided an informative presentation on how Assistive Technology is being redefined for children with a wide variety of disabilities, and how various forms of these technologies can be used within the classroom to enhance learning.

Award recipients at this year's conference included Inclusive Education Champions from across Ontario.

"Champion of Inclusion" Award Winners 2011
Presented at the Coaching to Inclusion Conference October 28
Stoneridge Inn & Conference Centre, London Ontario



Cherilyn Trick, Avon Maitland DSB; Amy Kieffer, Bruce-Grey CDSB; Stephen MacNeil and Sue Stewart, Brant Haldimand Norfolk CDSB; Shawn Christensen, St. Clair CDSB; Joan Cooper, LDCSB; Suzanne Ryan, TVDSB; John Barry (Lifetime Achievement Award Winner) Amethyst Provincial School, with his two sons, Patrick and Mac. Kneeling in front: Lisa DeJong-Satchell, Huron-Perth CDSB; Jenn George, Waterloo CDSB.

Lobb Legacy Supports Mental Health Conference for Teacher Candidates at Western

On November 25, 2011, the Faculty of Education at the University of Western Ontario announced the generous bequest of \$470,000 by the late Walter Lobb, a former educator and graduate of Western's M.Ed. program. These funds have established the Walter M. Lobb Mental Health for Educators Program within the Centre for Inclusive Education.

Immediately following the announcement, all teacher candidates at the faculty attended a day-long conference titled "Taking Mental Health to School". Approximately 30 speakers from schools and mental health organizations conducted workshops for the students on a wide range of topics relevant to ensuring good mental health in the classroom.CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE.

RESEARCH AWARD CONGRATULATIONS!

Graduate Student Research Award Winners 2011

JESSICA JEAN CAMPBELL COULSON AWARD WINNER 2011:

Congratulations
Kerry Anderson!



Ms. Anderson is a part-time student in the Master of Education program in Policy Studies.

Her thesis proposal, for which she won the award, is titled *Students Living in Foster Care and the "Learning to 18 Initiative"*. That initiative requires students to remain in school until age 18. The goal of this research is to identify

factors that contribute to the successful graduation of secondary school students living in foster care, and also to reveal any gaps in the supports set up through the Learning to 18 initiative, specifically for students living in foster care.

CENTRE FOR INCLUSIVE EDUCATION RESEARCH AWARD WINNER 2011:

Congratulations
Matt White!



Matt is a student in the Master of Education program in Education Psychology and Special Education.

His thesis proposal examines "*School Re-entry Protocols for Children with Acquired Brain Injury*". Rehabilitation involves learning, and re-learning, and schools naturally play a critical role.

Matt's goal is to research and design a school re-entry protocol based on research exemplars and best practice, to help bridge the gap in the health care to education continuum that is needed for these students.



Centre goes National, Continued from pg. 1

By researching and disseminating findings both nationally and world-wide, the Canadian Research Centre on Inclusive Education team hopes to empower teachers and others with the knowledge they need to be effective with all students, including those with exceptional needs. Since 1985, the Centre for Inclusive Education (formally the Centre for Communicative and Cognitive Disabilities) based out of The University of Western Ontario in London, ON has been committed to improving educational opportunities for students with exceptionalities.

For more information about the Canadian Research Centre on Inclusive Education, including information about the Centre's activities and events, as well as biographies and research interests of the Canadian Research Centre on Inclusive Education team members, please visit www.inclusiveeducationresearch.ca

Western

Faculty of Education

Volume 4, Issue 1



The Centre for Inclusive Education & Canadian Research Centre on Inclusive Education

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The Centre for Inclusive Education & the Canadian Research Centre on Inclusive Education, located at the Faculty of Education at Western University in London, ON is committed to improve educational opportunities for students with exceptionalities. For more information, please visit:

[www.edu.uwo.ca/
inclusive_education/](http://www.edu.uwo.ca/inclusive_education/)

Interested in finding out more?

Join our mailing list!
We'll keep you up to date on the Centre's activities, research findings, and coming professional development events.

Author, Researcher Dr. Gordon Porter to Speak at Western Faculty of Education

The Centre for Inclusive Education will welcome Canadian researcher and author Dr. Gordon Porter to speak at the Faculty of Education at Western University. Sponsored by Community Living Ontario and The Centre for Inclusive Education, Dr. Porter's presentation, "Making Inclusion Work", will focus on his new book *Exploring Inclusive Educational Practices through Professional Inquiry*. Please join us on February 29th, 2012, from 2pm-5pm at Western's Faculty of Education for this exciting presentation! Light refreshments will be served. RSVP: ghowell@uwo.ca

Mental Health... Continued from pg. 2

Keynote speaker for the day was Dr. Ian Manion, executive director of the Ontario Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Mental Health. A former Western M.Ed. graduate himself, Dr. Manion is passionate about providing teachers with increased awareness and skills to deal with issues of mental health that they might encounter within themselves and in their classrooms.

A portion of the funds will also be used to endow an Ontario Graduate Scholarship for a graduate student working in the area of mental health for educators. The Centre for Inclusive Education is excited to help steer this important new program at the Faculty of Education!

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

February 29, 2012
"Making Inclusion Work"
By author Gordon Porter
2pm-5pm
Western University
Faculty of Education



April 13-17, 2012
American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting
Vancouver, British Columbia
www.aera.net/



May 10-12
Bridges to Learning
Mississauga, ON
<http://bridges-canada.com>



May 26-June 2, 2012
Canadian Society for the Study of Education
Waterloo, ON
www.csse-scee.ca/conference/



July 9-14, 2012
IASSID World Congress
International Association For the Study of Intellectual Disabilities
Halifax, Nova Scotia
<http://iassid.org>

