

# Children Matter Symposium

## PROGRAM

### Saturday October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007



Presented by Mount Royal College  
4825 Mount Royal Gate SW  
Calgary, AB T3E 6K6



in affiliation with  
***Halfway There: A Canada Fit for Children  
in A World Fit for Children (UNICEF Canada)***

## Keynote Addresses

### **Landon Pearson of Ottawa, ON – Carleton University**

The Honourable Senator Pearson is currently the director of the Landon Pearson Resource Centre for the Study of Childhood and Children's Rights at Carleton University, after a lifetime of social action with and on behalf of children and eleven years as the "Children's Senator" in the Senate of Canada. She coordinated Canadian participation at the UN 2002 Special Session on children and subsequently led the development of *A Canada Fit for Children...Canada's action plan in response to A World Fit for Children*, which was adopted by the Canadian government in 2004.

#### **Presentation: *Understanding and Promoting the Civil and Political Rights of Children***

**Description:** Civil and political rights are the least understood of children's rights and therefore the least promoted by those in a position to do so. This presentation will explore issues related to Articles 12 – 17 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and what children have to say about them.

### **Sandra Griffin of Prince George, BC – University of Northern British Columbia;**

#### **National Collaborating Centre on Aboriginal Health – BC Initiatives**

Sandra Griffin is nationally known for her advocacy of quality child care and child rights as former executive director of the Canadian Child Care Federation as well as Chief of Staff for the former Minister of Social Development Canada, the Honourable Ken Dryden. She is the recipient of the Queen's Jubilee medal and a Canada Volunteer Award in recognition of her efforts to promote the rights of all children and her commitment to 'leave no child behind.'

#### **Presentation: *A Canada Fit for Children in A World Fit for Children***

**Description:** "... because a world fit for us is a world fit for everyone" Youth Delegate, UN Special Session on Children, 2002. This presentation will provide an overview of *A Canada Fit for Children* and *A World Fit for Children*, and subsequently express why we all need to breath life into this global commitment because if not each one of us – then who?

### **Margo Greenwood of Prince George, BC – University of Northern British Columbia;**

#### **National Collaborating Centre on Aboriginal Health (NCCAHA) – BC Initiatives**

Margo Greenwood is the Scientific Director of the NCCAHA and Site Director of the Centre of Excellence for Children and Adolescents with Special Needs, the UNBC Task Force on Substance Abuse. She is a member of the Sub Group on Indigenous Children and Youth (ISG), which supports the development of a General Comment on the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child. Through an international posting, Margo Greenwood was selected as the expert writer for the Indigenous Child Rights General Comment.

#### **Presentation: *Indigenous Child Rights General Comment***

**Description:** This presentation will provide an overview of the Indigenous Child Rights General Comment, which is intended to support state parties in ensuring Indigenous children enjoy all the rights set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

## Symposium Presentations

### October 20<sup>th</sup> – Morning Sessions

#### Session A – Children’s Rights in Practice

This workshop focuses on best practices by introducing the CCCF publication *Children’s Rights in Practice Learning Kit*. Early child care practitioners and others will learn about children’s human rights as well as innovative ways to put into practice the spirit of the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child*.

**Sandra Griffin** is nationally known for her advocacy of quality child care and child rights as former executive director of the Canadian Child Care Federation as well as Chief of Staff for the former Minister of Social Development Canada, the Honourable Ken Dryden. She is the recipient of the Queen’s Jubilee medal and a Canada Volunteer Award in recognition of her efforts to promote the rights of all children and her commitment to 'leave no child behind.'

**Ellen Murray** is a full-time faculty member of the Dept of Child and Youth Studies at Mount Royal College, and remains active in curriculum research and development on children’s rights issues. Her published work includes the innovative learning materials for child care practitioners entitled *Children’s Rights in Practice*.

**Deepa Paul** is currently the Work Experience Coordinator for students of the Bachelor of Applied Child Studies degree. As a graduate of the Child Studies degree herself, she has had many opportunities to advocate for children's rights by serving on committees such as the Child Studies Advisory Committee and MRC’s annual National Child Day Celebration.

**Linda Sutherby** brings extensive experience working with children and families as she has been involved in the field of early learning and child care for over 25 years. She is involved with many community initiatives and is a member of many organizations and associations focused on children and families. Linda is a full time faculty member of the Department of Child and Youth Studies at Mount Royal College.

#### Session B - The Gift of Creating a Child’s Frame of Reference

This presentation will explore the important role parents (and legal guardians where designated) play in shaping their child’s frame of reference. Issues related to parental awareness, and how it impacts a child’s psychosocial functioning, mental health, and overall behaviour will be explored.

**Michael Watts** currently serves as a Medical Social Worker at the Alberta Children’s Hospital’s Diabetes and Endocrine clinics, and he teaches part time in the faculty of Child and Youth Studies at Mount Royal College. His expertise includes group work, working with at risk adolescents, family work and mental health.

#### Session C – The Cycle of Violence: How Children are Affected by Domestic Abuse

When children witness domestic violence in the home, it creates an atmosphere of fear and extreme stress that has serious impacts on their social, emotional, physical and cognitive development. We all bear a responsibility towards ending the cycle of violence and ensuring that children live in a safe and secure environment that will lead to optimal growth and development. This presentation will outline the effects of domestic violence on children as well as strategies to help children heal from such exposure.

**Allan Rosales** is a published clinical counsellor who worked in the areas of crisis, assessment, trauma, and domestic violence. After earning an MA in Art Therapy, Allan worked at the Montreal Children’s Hospital on the Emergency Follow-Up Team with suicidal youth having co-morbid psychiatric disorders. He is currently employed with the YWCA of Calgary Child and Family Services as a Children’s Trauma Counsellor, where he works with children who have experienced domestic violence, neglect, and abuse. Allan uses an integrated therapeutic approach where he incorporates his training in trauma, play therapy, creative arts therapies, and Brain Gym into his practice with clients.

#### Session D - Professional Associations and Early Childhood Educators, Children and Families

Come to this presentation to examine the impact of professional associations for E.C.E’s, children and families with a focus on advocacy, quality, unity and responsibilities of E.C.E’s as professionals.

**Susan Garrow** has extensive experience working with early childhood educators, young children and families in Calgary, and is currently a daycare mentor in a community based project.

## **Session E - Ordinary Educators: Extraordinary Impact**

This session will empower participants to integrate the tenets of the United Nations Rights of the Child in their daily programming with children. Through the presentation of online curriculum resources, age appropriate books and multi-media, this session will provide participants with the tools to design their own resources to inspire the children and youth in their care.

**Pam Clark** is a Calgary educator who has taught preschoolers to adults. She has received recognition from the UN Association of Canada for her work with Safe and Caring Schools in Alberta.

## **Session F - SOS – The Stepping Out on Saturday (SOS) respite program for families living with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD)**

The Stepping Out on Saturdays (SOS) program is a day camp geared toward providing caregivers with a safe and caring respite experience paired with therapeutic intervention. The program relies on best practices for intervention to support children between the ages of 3 and 14. The session focuses on both program setup and specific strategies used.

**Jacqui Deib** has worked with Renfrew Educational Services for 15 years and is an FASD Behavioural Consultant and Program Coordinator for this unique program.

**Susan Hendrickson** is a Psychology Assistant and is currently working on her Masters in Psychology. Susan is one of the Program Facilitators for the respite program.

## **Session G – The Right to Play – The Forgotten Freedom**

The time and space for uninterrupted, spontaneous free play in early childhood programs is increasingly rare. Once the centrepiece of good early childhood practice, open ended play experiences are being replaced by more structured early learning experiences. Children no longer control and direct their own play. I am questioning whether or not some of our approaches to 'learning through play' are infringing on children's right to play. In this session we will explore the meaning and significance of the right to play and the role of early childhood professionals in ensuring that all children have the right to play.

**Jane Hewes** is a long time advocate of children's play. She is Chair of the Early Childhood Development Program at Grant MacEwan College and serves on the board of the International Play Association Canada. She recently authored *Let the Children Play: Nature's Answer to Early Learning* for the Canadian Council of Learning, and *Play and Early Learning: A Call for Dialogue* (PlayRights Magazine 1/07).

## **October 20<sup>th</sup> – Afternoon Sessions**

### **Session A - Creating a Culture of Caring**

When we create a culture of caring; we can create a culture which is free from violence and bullying. This presentation will address the topic of bullying prevention through the implementation of activities, crafts, stories and discussions surrounding such topics as tolerance, self-esteem, healthy relationships and honesty.

**Erin Crosby** has been working with the BRAVE Project for the past two years; researching, developing and implementing effective bullying prevention activities for the before and after school care community.

**Jackie White** has been the Project Manager for the BRAVE project as well as the Family Resource Facilitation Project for over a year. Jackie enjoys her role in overseeing the project's activities and connecting with the community.

### **Session B - KIDStart**

Engaging Children in Recreation and Sport using a Community-Based Model

As our communities grow, access to positive and affordable recreational and sport opportunities for families are declining. Using the community-based program KIDStart as an example, this presentation will outline the challenges, solutions, and successes involved in engaging children – and entire communities – in recreation and sport.

**Glenn Thorpe** is a graduate of the Bachelor of Applied Child Studies Degree program at Mount Royal College and has been involved in community-based sport and recreation for many years throughout Calgary.

## **Session C - Squeaking the Wheel: An Understanding to Advocacy**

This workshop focuses on understanding advocacy and the barriers professional, families, youth and children experience. With the assistance of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, practitioners and others will learn about minimizing these barriers.

**Annika Johansson-Paquette** is a part-time Social/Outreach Worker for the Federal Canadian Prenatal Nutritional Program servicing high-risk families in the rural southern communities of Alberta. She is also a former In-home Support Worker for an early intervention and prevention program called Wild Rose Community Connection.

**Shanna Scheps** has experience working with at-risk children, youth and their families through Aspen Family & Community Network Society as a Youth Development Worker.

## **Session D - A positive, asset-building approach to child abuse prevention: The Alberta Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention Campaign**

Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS) is the term used to describe the injuries resulting from the rough shaking of an infant or young child, with or without impact on a hard surface. SBS accounts for the most devastating cases of child abuse and is the most common cause of death among abused children. SBS can be prevented. This presentation will explain SBS, the risk factors for shaking, and the development of a population health approach for the prevention of SBS in Alberta. Emphasis will be placed on the role of caregivers in preventing this form of child maltreatment.

**Madelyne Curtis** is the Child & Youth Injury Prevention Coordinator for Injury Prevention and Control Services, Calgary Health Region, and the current Chair of the Calgary Injury Prevention Coalition (CIPC) Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS) Prevention Committee. She coordinates SBS prevention initiatives in the Calgary area and is an active member of the provincial SBS prevention network. Madelyne has a MSC in Health Promotion from the University of Alberta.

## **Session E – Risk Is Not Destiny**

Risk factors for vulnerable children can be reduced when there is quality child care. This workshop will assist participants to:

- Identify quality child care programs
- Become aware of regional Early Childhood Development resources
- Support families in linking with community resources

**Vera Blower** is the Family Child Care and ECD Specialist with Calgary and Area Child and Family Services Authority. Ms. Blower has over 30 years experience in the field including child care, special needs, teaching ECD to a group of Inuit women on Baffin Island, policy work on the Ontario Early Years Centres and most recently on the new Child Care Licensing Act.

**Marg Cutler**, MSW, RSW, is a social worker with over 25 years experience working with children with special needs and their families. Currently Marg is an Early Learning and Child Care Specialist with Calgary and Area Child and Family Services Authority. Marg is active in a wide range of collaborative community initiatives designed to promote quality child care. She has taught several courses at Mount Royal College and has developed and facilitated many workshops for parents and professionals alike.

**Amy Loader** has been in the field of Early Learning and Child Care for over 25 years. Amy's background combines both social work and early childhood education. She was a Child Care Licensing Specialist for over 18 years with Calgary and Area Child and Family Services and recently moved to a Team Leader position with Child Care Subsidy/Child and Youth Support Programs. She has been a contributing member on many steering committees related to Quality Child Care and has prepared and delivered presentations to the public and the child care community on a variety of child care issues and licensing topics throughout her career.

## **Session F - While They Were Out - Making Over Children's Play Spaces**

The role of the Early Child Care Professional is to ensure that the programs interest centres are maintained and enhance the children's play experiences. In this workshop you will learn how to take out of the box, innovative and inexpensive ideas to organize, beautify and re-create child focused play and learning environments.

**Karen Stewart & Bonnie Sturm** are both Early Childhood Educators who have a total of 40 years experience in many aspects of the child care field ranging from direct childcare, administrative management, consultation and support to programs.

## Children Matter Symposium Schedule: Saturday, October 20, 2007

<b>8:00 – 8:45</b>	<b>Registration – Displays will be open Coffee will be available</b>						
<b>8:45 – 9:00</b>	<b>Welcome / Introductions</b>						
<b>9:00 – 10:15</b>	<b>Keynotes: Sandra Griffin and Landon Pearson</b>						
<b>10:15 – 10:30</b>	<b>Coffee break - Displays</b>						
<b>AM Session 10:30-11:45</b>	<b>A</b> Children's Rights in Practice  <i>Griffin, Murray, Sutherby, Paul</i>	<b>B</b> The Gift of Creating a Child's Frame of Reference  <i>Watts</i>	<b>C</b> The Cycle of Violence  <i>Rosales</i>	<b>D</b> Professional Assoc and ECEs, Children and families  <i>Garrow</i>	<b>E</b> Ordinary Educators – Extraordinary Impact  <i>Clark</i>	<b>F</b> SOS – Stepping Out on Sat. Respite Program  <i>Deib, Hendrickson</i>	<b>G</b> Right to Play – Forgotten Freedom  <i>Hewes</i>
<b>11:45 – 12:45</b>	<b>Lunch</b>						
<b>12:45 – 1:30</b>	<b>Keynote: Margo Greenwood</b>						
<b>PM Session 1:30 – 2:45</b>	<b>A</b> Creating a Culture of Caring  <i>Crosby, White</i>	<b>B</b> KIDSStart  <i>Thorpe</i>	<b>C</b> Squeaking the Wheel  <i>Johansson-Paquette, Scheps</i>	<b>D</b> Shaken Baby Syndrome  <i>Curtis</i>	<b>E</b> Risk is Not Destiny  <i>Cutler, Blower, Loader</i>	<b>F</b> While They Were Out – Making Over Children's Places  <i>Stewart, Sturm</i>	
<b>2:45 – 3:00</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>						
<b>3:00 – 4:00</b>	<b>Plenary Session: Keynotes and Participants</b>  The final portion of this symposium will be a plenary session to identify next steps to further the goals and principles in <i>A Canada Fit for Children</i> where all children matter.						

*Friday, October 19, 2007 – session devoted to post-secondary student learning only*