



Newsletter

Summer 2013 OMEP-Canada Vol. 42 No 2

OMEP-Canada

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From our President

Dear OMEP-Canada members,

I am happy to begin this column by letting you know that the toy library in Opitciwan will become a reality during this coming summer. The grant proposal submitted to CTRQ has indeed been obtained by the Atikamekw Council, our partner in this First Nation community, which opens the door to our own commitment. Consequently, I urge you to respond to our call for support to actualize this project much needed by children and youngsters from this community (see below in this Newsletter).

A column by Rolande Filion highlights below a recent UNICEF report on the situation of children in industrialised countries, where once again, Canada makes a bad impression. In 2009 UNICEF Canada had published a supplement to the UNICEF report on first nations children's health. The results were a serious cause for concern, and since then nothing shows that the situation became better. Furthermore, there is reason to think that the first nation children are in similar condition on other indicators of well-being. These are all incentives for our commitment at Opitciwan and to ask for your support.

Following with good news, I am very happy to announce that two of the positions that were not filled during the last November's elections have now been filled. Liliana Sulikowska-Klebec, from Kindersley, Saskatchewan, and Lise Francoeur, from Sherbrooke, Quebec have been named Prairies representative and president of the membership committee, respectively, at the last Board meeting held on April 30. By the way, during this Board meeting we had the opportunity to reach by Skype some far away members who were unable to join us in Quebec City. Despite its limits, the experience was nevertheless an opportunity for participation, which prompts to repeat it.

During the meeting of April 30, we also addressed the issue of our website. Our

financial situation does not allow us to redo it completely to have the direct access needed to update it regularly. But, in the meanwhile, our Board officer Jean-Yves Lévesque has worked on an update of the current website. You should see the results shortly.

Spring and summer are always a busy period for OMEP in order to prepare and hold its annual World Assembly (W.A.), together with a Seminar, Conference or Congress. This year's W.A. will be very important since two main positions in the World Executive Committee will go under election: president and treasurer. Christiane Bourdages-Simpson will be OMEP-Canada's official delegate, and Hélène Larouche will act as an observer. However, every member is allowed to participate as observer. If you intend to travel to Shanghai, please let me know so I can make sure you will be expected there.

OMEP-Canada has also started preparing for fall by planning to be present at various events, including the next AÉPQ conference in November.

Meanwhile, I wish you a very nice summer to rest and re-energize!

Madeleine Baillargeon

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OMEP newsletter takes an ecological and technological turn

We received several good reviews after sending out electronically the last newsletter. We are very pleased of your reaction and it makes us follow up on this way of doing things. This new method, besides being ecological, is following the road that OMEP-Canada wants to take, because we believe that it fits better the current way of searching for information.

Continuing in this spirit, here is an example of a summary of a new UNICEF report about which you can find more information and video images at the web site cited in the text.

We would like to inform you about the new UNICEF report published on April 10, 2013, which shows that "the well-being of Canadian children, compared with other industrialized countries, ranks in the lower half".

"This report charts the well-being of children living in the richest countries in the world according to five dimensions. Canada ranked 17 of the 29 countries assessed for the overall well-being, but ranked 11 for housing and environment, 14 for education, 15 for material well-being, 16 for behaviours and risks, and 27 for health and safety. Also, Canada did not improve its ranking in child well-being in over a decade".

For more information, please go to the UNICEF Canada web site to read more about Canada or click directly on www.unicef.ca/bi11. Moreover, do not hesitate to watch the short video made by the UNESCO Statistics, which you can find on the home page under the title: *Watch the Girl Rising*: <http://10x10act.org/>

We would like to remind you that you can share your information on early childhood education and send your comments on news from here or over the world. For personal or professional interest towards children, send your texts and photos to Denise Doyon and OMEP-Canada to the address found at the end of the newsletter.

Rolande Filion
Vice-president of OMEP-Canada

Future toy library at Opitciwan – call for all

OMEP-Canada has recently established a new partnership with the Attikamekw Council at Opitciwan to create a new toy library in this first nation community of Quebec.

In fact, Rolande Filion will go to Opitciwan next August to train and accompany the people in charge of this service offered to children, youth and the entire first nation community.

We are now organizing a fundraising campaign and toy material collection and we ask for your support. If your end of year inventory shows a few toys or games left or if you want to show your financial generosity, here is how to proceed. Send your donations in toys and games to our vice-president and specialist in toys and toy library Rolande Filion in Quebec, by contacting her at rolandefilion@gmail.com

The financial donations may be sent by check, with a note "for the toy library at Opitciwan" and posted to our treasurer Paulette Gauthier, 1652 Jacques-Bureau, Québec, Qué. G2G 2C5. Thank you for supporting our action and for contributing to the development of children, youth and an entire community by providing a safe and stimulating playing environment.

Madeleine Baillargeon
President of OMEP-Canada



News...

... from Ontario

Simcoe County Preschool Speech and Language program reports that research has shown that internationally adopted children under the age of four lose their ability to speak their native tongue in just 6-12 weeks and lose their ability to comprehend their native tongue in a mere 16 to 22 weeks. (On the Same Page with Speech and Language, Volume 1, Issue 1, May 2009). Speech and language milestones in 15 different languages can be downloaded at: www.children.gov.on.ca

Dad Central/Papa Centrale: The Canadian Father Involvement Network have been networking across Canada to build a stronger national presence for Father Involvement and are looking for representation from Quebec and the Maritimes. Contact person:

brian@dadcentral.ca .

Robin Milani,
Ontario representative

...from our members

HONOURS

Lise Allard (Quebec) founded *Les Aidants scolaires* (*School helpers*) program to "support the staff of each participating school by offering a flexible and permanent volunteers facility". She had this idea when her school direction was celebrating four retiring colleagues outstanding for their dynamism and competence. She writes "I then became aware of the invaluable loss of experience and expertise end of such careers represented for a school team." After six years of existence, 12 schools registered in the Aidants scolaires program, and 205 volunteers, both from the school and social fields, provided 22,240 "half hours" of voluntary work.

Lise presented her initiative at many different occasions, including to OMEP members during the World Congress held in Gothenburg, Sweden, in 2010. For more information (in French), visit www.aidantsscolaires.com

Alan Pence (British Columbia) is the founder director of the *Early Childhood Development Virtual University* of the School of Child and Youth Care, University of Victoria. Alan became very well known in the field of early childhood throughout a long and fruitful career started as ECE teacher and continued as trainer and researcher. From 1989 on, requests for early childhood staff training from First Nations far from big city centres were the incentive for his hard work to develop a training format largely using communication technologies in order to reduce travelling. The success of these first experiences led Alan to collaborate with UNICEF, and develop a series of international training Seminars focussing on the development of community competences in order to promote and create community and culturally

appropriate early childhood development and care programs. Grants from the World Bank and the Norwegian government helped link the Seminars structure via a web-based learning platform to create the Early Childhood Development Virtual University graduate program. Competent early childhood leaders were trained through this program in various countries in the Middle-East and Africa, since 2001. For more information, visit www.ecdву.org

Martine Lacasse (Quebec), from the Gabrielle-Roy Library in Quebec City, is in charge of the *Des racines et des mots* (*Roots and words*) initiative, a series of six workshops for mothers, immigrant and Quebecers, with their 0 to 5 years old children. In 2012-2013, these participants were invited to join this new program dedicated to support mothers in their children's emergent reading through stories, songs, nursery rhymes, creating an alphabet primer, and games. In a relaxed atmosphere, the participants could discuss, share and create relationships during the workshops. *Des racines et des mots* is co-sponsored by Institut canadien, Centre multi-ethnique and Regroupement Commun'action 0-5 ans Saint-Sauveur - Saint-Roch all from Quebec City.

Note that the Gabrielle-Roy Library has a long time partnership with OMEP-Canada, for instance in the *Books are also vitamins* workshops, and the exhibition on the book *Voyage au pays des mots cadeaux* held in the Library during the Quebec City World Seminar in 2008.

For more information (in French), visit www.centremultiethnique.com/Des_racines_et_des_mots.html

At the age of 98, Mary J. Wright is probably the oldest and most faithful OMEP-Canada member. Her resume shows many "firsts", including first woman director of the Canadian Psychology Association and director of an important department of psychology, but above all she was the first director of the laboratory school she finally achieved to found in 1973 at the University of Western Ontario where most of her career in psychology and education took place. This school is always in operation proudly named after its founder, Dr. Mary J. Wright University Laboratory School.

OMEP-Canada proposed this pioneer in early childhood education as OMEP honorary member to the coming OMEP World Assembly.

Madeleine Baillargeon
President of OMEP-Canada

(I apologise for this non-revised personal English translation- MB)

...from OMEP-Canada at UNESCO Institute for Statistics

Currently, 66 million girls worldwide are not in school. While educating a girl can break the cycle of poverty in just one generation, she still faces more barriers to gaining access to school than boys.

This type of data is produced by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS), which may be one of the best-kept secrets in Montreal. Based in the city since 2001, the Institute is the leading source of data used to monitor progress towards international education goals. The UIS is the only statistic agency to deliver internationally comparable statistics for over 200 countries and territories at all stages of development.

I had the opportunity to visit the UIS when I attended a private screening of the film *Girl Rising* as OMEP-Canada representative. The UIS participated in this movie production, giving scientific advice and sharing data.

The UIS publishes a broad range of publications. The majority of publications focus on education issues, reflecting the extent of related statistics and indicators in the UIS database. All major titles are published in either English or French or both. The World Atlas of Gender Equality in Education presents the latest data from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics on trends in educational access and progression, from pre-primary through tertiary levels. It draws a worrying picture of gender equality. Information: www.uis.unesco.org

Ginette Beauséjour
Québec Representative

Events

May, 24-25, 2013, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Association for Early Childhood Educators Ontario Conference, "Moving Toward Professional Recognition"
For educators staying current in their practise, meeting ethical and professional standards, providing quality programming and working towards a stronger profession and professional identity.

Information : www.aeceo.ca info@aeceo.ca
1-866-932-3236

June, 3, 2013, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Telling tales out of school
People for Education's Annual Gala Benefit

June, 9, 2013, San Francisco, USA

NAEYC's National Institute for Early Childhood Professional Development

July 9-13, 2013, Shanghai, China

65th OMEP World Assembly and Congress under the theme *Enhancing the Development of Early Childhood Education: Opportunities and Quality*.
Information : <http://omep2013.age06.com>

July, 12, 2013, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Tenth annual summer institute on early childhood development: Putting families first in early childhood education

July, 22-26, 2013, Barrie, Ontario, Canada

Rainbows Canada Registered Director Training

Information : Nancy Newton nancy@rainbows.ca

For those interested in bringing a peer support program to ages 3 years to adulthood who are grieving a loss in their lives due to death, separation, divorce and other painful transitions. The elementary school level is available in French.

October 16-18, 2013, Granby, Québec, Canada

Passe partout Symposium

November 15-16, 2013, Lévis, Quebec, Canada

Conference of the Association d'éducation préscolaire du Québec (AÉPQ) under the theme "En équilibre".
Information: www.aepq.ca/

November 20-23, 2013, Washington, D.C., USA

NAEYC's 2013 Annual Conference & Expo
Registration and housing will open July 1, 2013.
Information: www.naeyc.org/conference

January, 30, 2014, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

The Early Years Conference 2014 Shaping Childhood: Factors that Matter

From our bookshelf

Pharand, Johanne and Doucet, Manon (dir.) (2013). *En éducation, quand les émotions s'en mêlent! Enseignement, apprentissage et accompagnement (When emotions get mixed-up in education. Teaching, training and accompanying.*

In this environment, the emotions in education are approached according to two axes: 1) emotions, teaching and training and 2) emotions and accompanying.

Revue préscolaire, Vol. 51, no 1 /hiver 2013 (Preschool magazine, vol. 51, no. 1/winter 2013)

This issue, besides the word from the president, a few articles and the regular news of Recit, Imagilivre and others, contains a file that recalls important points of the last congress of AEPQ, which was held in Nicolet this past November, under the theme "Leave a mark".

Revue préscolaire, Vol. 51, no 2 /printemps 2013, (Preschool magazine, vol. 51, no. 2/spring 2013)

In this issue, among others, we can read an article by Monick Lebrun-Niesing and Krasimira Marinova on "Le jeu caché, une stratégie au préscolaire?" (The hidden game - a preschool strategy") and one by Johanne April, Anik Charron and Catherine Lanaris on "Le développement psychomoteur au cœur de la réussite éducative" ("Psychomotor development at the core of educational success"), a report on "Les passages scolaires importants pour les enfants de 5 à 7 ans" ("Important school stages for children aged 5 to 7 years").

Tandem, Vol. 9, no 1, May 2013

Electronic bulletin of JEFAR (Centre de recherche sur l'adaptation des jeunes et des familles à risque/Research Center on adaptation of youth and families at risk). You can access the article by going to JEFAR's webpage.

This issue informs us of the creation of a new chairmanship for the prevention of abuse held by Marie-Hélène Gagné. She managed an article with Sylvie Drapeau and Marie-Christine Saint-Jacques published in PUL with the title "Les enfants maltraités, de l'affliction à l'espoir" ("Abused children, from pain to hope").

Bredenkamp, S. (2013). *Effective Practices in Early Childhood education: Building a Foundation*. Don Mills, Ontario: Pearson Higher Education.

To read a summary of the book go to: <http://crifpe.ca/publications/view/12445>

The ATFC Bulletin, March 2013 number 26

This issue of the Association des Théâtres Francophones du Canada Bulletin contains an article on the Franco-Canadian exchanges for the initiations of theatre for early childhood and training at the "Petits Bonheurs" in Montreal this summer.

Information:

The web site of ATFC and that of the Petits Bonheurs.

Quality matters in early childhood and care: Sweden 2013. Document of OCDE.

This is a reference guide for "whoever has a role to play in the improvement of the quality of education of early childhood in Sweden. We study in particular why development programs and training standards are important in child development".

Friendly, Martha and Beach, Jane (2013). *The state of early childhood education and care in Canada 2010: trends and analyses*

To access this document go to the web site of Childcare Resource and Research Unit.

Yes, we still care!

This is a report on facts resulting from a survey on educational kindergartens and CPE in Canada in 2012 and is relative to the characteristics of the workforce.

To access this document go to the web site of the Ressources humaines des services de garde à l'enfance.

OMEP-Canada's Newsletter is published in January, June and October. **We expect your news by Mid-September for the next issue.** Please send them preferably by e-mail to:

[Denise Doyon@uqac.ca](mailto:Denise.Doyon@uqac.ca) and in c.c. to omep-canada@videotron.ca

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Denise Doyon, chair of the Newsletter Committee.

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