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BCEdAccess

Spring 2019 Advocacy Conference

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# Equitable Access to Education



Civic Hotel in Surrey  
March 29 & 30, 2019

## General Information

### Description, Objectives

Parents are their child's best advocate, until their child is ready to be their own advocate - and parents can teach them the skills they need to get there! Our conference provides practical tools and information for families and those who work with children with disabilities, and complex learners, that they can take away and put to use!

This year will be a full 2 day conference, with an evening reception on the Friday night. This has been a 1 day event for the past 3 years, so we're pretty excited about the expansion!

Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup> features a 40 minute talk and Q&A session on using evidence to advocate for students and for public education, with keynote and powerful advocate for public education, Annie Kidder of People for Education in Ontario. We will have 3 workshop session times through

### Who Should Attend?

This conference will unite 150 parents, guardians, self-advocates, education professionals and other allies of students with disabilities, and complex learners, from around BC, convening for a yearly conference of learning, networking, advocacy and human rights training, and more.

AdvoCon2019 is designed for parents and guardians of students with disabilities, and also includes highly relevant content for attendees who are education professionals, politicians, self-advocates and allies, and we encourage

the day, with 3 amazing choices during each session, and the daytime event ends at 3 pm so you can take a break before the evening event...

The second annual **Struck By Inclusion!** Held Friday night, this reception event features 9 speakers who will deliver a quick and inspiring presentation on inclusion. There will be appies and beverages, and a Q&A with our speakers - self-advocates, parents and other professionals who have something to say about equitable access to education.

Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup> will feature a full room, whole morning workshop with our keynote **Shelley Moore**, well-known inclusion teacher, researcher and storyteller. The afternoon will have 2 workshop sessions with 3 choices in each, and a student self-advocate panel that was one of the most well loved events of last year!

you to come if you want to learn more from and about these students and their needs and experiences.

Presenters give a lot of practical information, and this year we will be providing certificates for each workshop to attendees so that it may be used for Continuing Professional Development credits, reimbursement, etc.

This year's theme is *Equitable Access to Education*, and that requires the understanding and participation of everyone - government, teachers, EAs, parents/guardians, students, etc.

### Registration, Certificates

There are 2 ticketing options:

- 1 ticket for a 3 conference events (Friday conference day, Friday evening Struck By Inclusion!, and Saturday conference day)

OR

- Individual tickets for each of the 3 events:
  1. Friday conference day;
  2. Friday evening Struck By Inclusion!; and
  3. Saturday conference day

Register online at Eventbrite: <https://bit.ly/2CSjsli>

### Location, Accessibility

The Civic Hotel, 13475 Central Avenue, Surrey, BC

We are pleased to offer a group rate of \$170 + taxes (single or double occupancy) for conference attendees. To reserve a room, please book at [www.civichotel.ca](http://www.civichotel.ca)

There's plenty of accessible underground parking at the Civic Hotel, and the Surrey Central SkyTrain station is steps away. See the hotel link for directions: <https://civichotel.ca/directions/>

The conference is being held on the second floor of the Civic Hotel, which has an accessible entrance and elevators that are sufficiently wide for wheelchairs and motorized scooters. There is also accessible underground parking with an elevator that brings you up to the hotel. There are no steps to access any conference spaces.

### Program at a Glance

#### Friday, March 29

Registration 8:00 - 8:30 AM

Welcome 8:30 - 9:00 AM

Keynote: Annie Kidder 9:00 - 9:40 AM

Talk: Michaela Evans 9:40 - 10:00 AM

Movement break 10:00 - 10:15 AM

Minister of Education 10:15 - 10:35 AM

Coffee break 10:35 - 10:50 AM

Concurrent Workshop 1 10:50 - 11:55 AM

Concurrent Workshop 2 11:55 - 1:00 PM

Lunch break 1:00 - 1:45 PM

Concurrent Workshop 3 1:45 - 2:50 PM

Coffee break 2:50 - 3:05 PM

Closing Remarks 3:05 - 3:15 PM

Break until 6:30 PM

Struck by Inclusion! 6:30 - 8:30 PM  
Reception and lightning talks  
plus a Q&A

#### Saturday, March 30

Registration 8:00 - 8:30 AM

Welcome 8:30 - 8:50 AM

Keynote & Workshop 4: Shelley Moore  
8:50 - 10:25 AM

Coffee break 10:25 - 10:40 AM

Keynote & Workshop 4: Shelley Moore cont.  
10:40 - 11:50 AM

Lunch break 11:50 - 12:35 PM

Concurrent Workshop 5 12:35 - 1:40 PM

Concurrent Workshop 6 1:40 - 2:45 PM

Coffee break 2:45 - 3:00 PM

Door prizes 3:00 - 3:10 PM

Student Self-Advocate Panel 3:10 - 4:40 PM

Speakers will use microphones, and presenters have been asked to ensure that any videos are captioned.

Unfortunately we will not be able to provide any meals for specific allergies or sensitivities; we will be discussing avoiding nuts and providing gluten free and vegetarian options with the caterers and will update that information here.

There will be service dogs present.

If you have any individual needs that you do not see addressed here, please let us know asap so that we can provide appropriate accommodations.

8:00 AM Registration open

8:30 - 9:00 AM Welcome, Acknowledgment & Opening Remarks  
*Heidi Smit-Vinois, Tracy Humphreys, Nicole Kaler, Chantelle Morvay-Adams*

9:00 - 9:40 AM Keynote

**USING EVIDENCE TO ADVOCATE FOR STUDENTS AND FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION**



**You will learn:**

- What good evidence looks like and how to use it
- The difference between advocating for your own child and advocating for system change
- How we can engage audiences outside education in this cause

*Annie Kidder, Executive Director, People for Education*

Annie Kidder is the Executive Director and a founder of People for Education, an independent, non-partisan, charitable organization working to support and advance public education through research, policy, and public engagement. People for Education leads dialogue about the purpose, value and future of public education; builds links among key constituencies both inside and outside the education sector; and provides evidence to advance public education's promise, and to ensure that all young people have an equitable chance for long-term success.

9:40 - 10:00 AM Talk

**ON BARRIERS**



Examples of self-advocacy in secondary and post-secondary spaces, and the number of unseen obstacles disabled people face in accessing education.

*Micaela Evans, Spinal Cord Injury BC*

Micaela is a disabled woman with Spinal Muscular Atrophy in her mid-twenties, who has spent her life advocating for herself in order to move across the province for University. She is passionate about intersectional feminist activism, specifically around issues of disability justice, mental health and sexual health.

10:00 - 10:15 AM Movement break

10:15 - 10:35 AM

**EQUITABLE EDUCATION**



*Honourable Rob Fleming, Minister of Education*

10:35 - 10:50 AM Coffee break

*"I am so grateful to this group for giving me the baseline info I needed to successfully get my child into school, and to know her rights. What a resource."*

10:50 - 11:55 AM Concurrent Workshop 1

**HUMAN RIGHTS IN BC AND DISCRIMINATION IN EDUCATION**



1A

**You will learn:**

- The definition of discrimination under the BC Human Rights Code
- The duties service providers have to accommodate disabilities and other characteristics protected under the BC Human Rights Code
- The process and procedure of filing a human rights complaint with the BC Human Rights Tribunal

*Isaac Won and Aleem Bharmal, Community Legal Assistance Society (CLAS)*

Aleem is the Executive Director and a human rights lawyer at CLAS. He is currently Co-Chair of the Canadian Bar Association, BC Branch ("CBABC") Human Rights and Social Justice Sections, on the Executive of the Administrative Law Section, a member of the Government Relations Committee, and a volunteer mentor at the Allard School of Law, UBC.

Isaac Won is a lawyer in the Human Rights Clinic. During law school, he volunteered extensively with the Law Students Legal Advice Program. Isaac completed his articles with CLAS in May 2018 and worked briefly with the Mental Health Law Program before joining the Human Rights Clinic.

**WHAT IS THE DSM-5 AND WHAT SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT CHILDHOOD DISORDERS?**



1B

**You will:**

- Gain a better understanding of what the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 5th edition (DSM-5) is
- Learn about the risks and symptoms of certain childhood disorders
- Learn new ways of managing symptoms by gaining a better understanding of evidence based treatment options



*Theresa Grech, Counsellor and Educator, TMG Consulting Inc.*

Theresa works with neurodiverse individuals, caregivers and families in the capacity of counsellor, behavioural therapist, and educator. She has a private counselling practice, TMG Consulting, has a Master's in Counselling, is a Certified Psychiatric Rehabilitation Practitioner, and is registered with the Canadian Counselling Psychotherapy Association.

**AVENUES OF ADVOCACY**

**You will learn:**

- Who is Inclusion BC, and what we do to advocate for inclusive education in BC public schools
- The avenue of individual advocacy – supports to families, our approach to advocacy, and steps for effective advocacy
- The avenue of systems advocacy and the multiple forums and ways in which Inclusion BC participates and acts as a convener for partners to have a conversation, and have an impact that transforms into meaningful actions, that advance inclusive education in the province



1C



*Erika Cedillo and Karen De Long, Inclusion BC*

Karen is Inclusion BC's Director of Inclusive Education and has worked in community living for over 20 years. Her son Angelo and daughter, Danielle have been and continue to be her work's inspiration.

Erika Cedillo is a Community Inclusion Advocate and recently completed her PhD in Law at UBC. In her journey to find supports for her daughter, Erika has become a strong and effective advocate while navigating the medical, educational, and social systems.



11:55 - 1:00 PM Concurrent Workshop 2

**PARENT PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIPS**



2A

You will learn:

- The principle of parent professional relationships, what won't work, barriers, assumptions
- Converting conflict into a positive
- Making connections and seeking understanding

Wendi Mackintosh and Mandy Young, Family Support Institute

The purpose of the Family Support Institute is to strengthen, connect and build communities and resources with families of people with disabilities in BC. Directed by families, they provide information, training and province-wide networking to assist families and communities to build upon and share their strengths.

**INQUIRY-BASED LEARNING AS INCLUSION (MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL)**



2C

You will learn:

- What inquiry-based learning really is
- What are the elements of inquiry-based learning
- Resources available to support schools exploring inquiry

Jeff Hopkins, Founder/Principal, PSII

As an educator for 23 years, Jeff has been a teacher, counsellor, principal, and school district superintendent. He was BC's first Safe Schools Coordinator, working to address issues of intimidation, harassment, anxiety, and suicide through programs promoting equitable, engaging, and welcoming school environments. He founded the Pacific School of Innovation and Inquiry in 2013, an independent high school in Victoria that helps its learners transcend traditional high school subject silos through an interdisciplinary, inquiry-based approach.

**THE KWANTLEN 7 LAWS AND OUR EVERYDAY STRUGGLE TO FIND BALANCE AND FOCUS**



2B

In the largest middle school in the province of British Columbia, by working together through goals through the həŋqəmiñəŋ language, finding one heart and one mind. Connecting community, the outdoors, oral traditions and finding our allies and advocates. Students strive to find moments of silence during their week with over 1,200 people in the building on a daily basis, with the understanding that Aboriginal teachings outdoors in a circle by the water and the trees is just as valuable and equal from the books or technology that helps shapes their lives.

Luke Dandurand / wiyé.nox, Kwantlen First Nation, Aboriginal support worker

Wiyé.nox - the man of sound. A name earned and gifted from the Elders of Kwantlen First Nation and his hereditary chief Marilyn Gabriel, for his extensive background in music and capabilities of public speaking. Part of Luke's goal and what he currently does for work full time is let people know about the success, pride and passion of my Kwantlen family and what has been accomplished through our community.

1:00 - 1:45 PM Lunch break

1:45 - 2:50 PM Concurrent Workshop 3

**ADVOCACY IN ACTION - USING YOUR PARENT VOICE**



3A



You will learn:

- An understanding of the processes within the school district
- An understanding of parent/guardian rights
- An understanding of your responsibilities as a parent and the responsibilities of those who interact with your child

Andrea Sinclair and John Gaipman, BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (BCCPAC)

Andrea is currently the President of BCCPAC. She believes strongly that our children's success is rooted within their education; it's through working together and leveraging our collective strengths that we can effect positive change. Andrea's goal is to continue to advocate for strategic, long-term change within the public education system for the benefit of all parents.

John Gaipman is CEO of BCCPAC and has been involved with public education for over 35 years, 14 of those as a Superintendent of Schools. John is married with two daughters and three grandchildren. It is his hope, through his vast experience in public education, that he can continue to support and empower parents for the success of each learner.

**TRAUMA AND FOLKS WITH DIVERSE ABILITIES - A PRIMER**



3B

You will learn:

- Prevalence of traumatic experiences in this community
- Symptoms of traumatic stress
- Basic responses to traumatic stress

Margaret Neill Jones, SHADE Consulting and Counselling

Margaret worked in the public school system for 15 years teaching students with diverse abilities from Kindergarten to Grade 12. For 11 years Margaret has provided sexual health education and trauma informed counselling to children and adults with IDD, their families, caregivers, para-professionals and professionals working in the field. She has learned her best lessons from her sister Susan who lives with Rubinstein Taybi Syndrome..

**WORKING THROUGH THE TRAUMA OF ADVOCACY**



3C

You will learn:

- The self-awareness and skills to avoid burnout
- Removing barriers that drain your courage to speak up
- How to find and value your voice

Ted Leavitt, Connectivity Counselling

Ted Leavitt is a registered clinical counsellor in private practice in Abbotsford, BC and currently the program manager of Langley Youth and Family Services. Since 2006, he has worked with and specialized in impulse control difficulties including ADHD, addictive behavior, aggression, self-harm, and attachment trauma.

2:50 - 3:05 PM	Coffee break
3:05 - 3:15 PM	Closing Remarks & door prizes
3:15 - 6:30 PM	Break
6:30 - 8:30 PM	

**STRUCK BY INCLUSION!**

Reception and lightning talks plus a Q&A

*"Incredible learning opportunity."*

8:00 AM	Registration open
8:30 - 8:40 AM	Welcome, Acknowledgment & Opening Remarks <i>Heidi Smit-Vinois</i>
8:40 - 8:50 AM	Introduction of Board of Directors <i>Tracy Humphreys Nicole Kaler Chantelle Morvay-Adams</i>

8:50 - 11:50 AM **Keynote Workshop**  
(Note: there will be a 15 minute coffee break midway through)

**INCLUSIVE EDUCATION: WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHY?!**



- We will learn
- What inclusion is and is not
  - How inclusion is connected to equity
  - How disability is connected to diversity

This session will deconstruct what inclusive education means in today's classrooms and communities. We will also discuss common misunderstandings and myths and leave with ideas and possibilities of inclusive learning communities and all who benefit.

*Shelley Moore, PhD Student and Inclusion Consultant*  
Originally from Edmonton, and now based in Vancouver, British Columbia, Shelley Moore is a highly sought after teacher, researcher, speaker and storyteller and has worked with school districts and community organizations throughout both Canada and the United States. Her first book entitled, "One Without the Other" was released in July 2016 to follow up her TEDx talk hosted in Langley in January 2016. Shelley completed an undergraduate degree in Special Education at the University of Alberta, her masters at Simon Fraser University, and is currently a PhD candidate at the University of British Columbia.

11:50 - 12:35PM **Lunch break**

*"It was hard to choose which sessions to attend! Usually conferences have a lot of conceptual stuff, and a few practical workshops here and there. This felt like everything was practical and useful for advocates, which is something I hope continues."*



**MENTAL WELLNESS IN SCHOOLS**

12:35 - 1:40 PM **Concurrent Workshop 5**

**NAVIGATING AND MEDIATING SETTLER COLONIAL INTERSECTIONAL DISCRIMINATION AS A PARENT OF A CHILD IN PUBLIC EDUCATION**



This presentation begins with disrupting the naturalization of the Canadian education, reframing it as a colonial project through which employees, children, and parents are institutionalized towards education that reproduces hierarchies of relationships and knowledge dissemination that maintains these hierarchies upon which colonial society and it's contemporary formations are regenerated. Lived experiences that her child has experienced and navigated and which form the impetus of this analysis are shared with her permission. Linkages to the lived experiences that others experience within this reality will be made and opportunities to build strategies of transformation will be generated in open discussion.

**waaseyaa'sin Christine Sy**

waaseyaa'sin Christine Sy is makwa doodem (bear clan) from Anishinaabe territory (Great Lakes region). She is an Assistant Professor in Gender Studies at University of Victoria teaching at the intersections of indigeneity, gender, and (de)colonization. Her research signifies Indigenous womxn's relationship with the natural world within a global, settler colonial context doing so as a cultural memory, economic sovereignty project, and resurgence project.



5B

- You will learn:
- Scaffolded steps to have students connect with school
  - Visuals for empathy for how students "feel"
  - Self regulation strategies for all

*Ian Landy, Principal, Edgehill Elementary (SD47)*

Ian is a Principal in Powell River and is supported by his wife and 3 children as he explores education topics around technology, mental wellness and personalized learning. He has been a strong advocate for project based learning, and Self Organized Learning Environments. He has also worked with a number of anxious learners (including his son) and in encouraging schools that work with those struggling with Generalized Anxiety.

**IEPS - WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**



5C

- You will learn:
- The IEP Planning Cycle
  - The importance of language
  - Advocacy and IEPs

**Suzanne Perreault**

Suzanne is a mother of 3 and a Langley School District Trustee. She has been Administrator of a Private Vocational School, an SEA, a TEDx speaker, and DPAC President. She currently works a Youth & Woman's Counsellor, is a public speaker, and a nominee for several service awards. Suzanne's primary focus is the success of the student by virtue of bridging educators and parents.



1:40 - 2:45 PM Concurrent Workshop 6

**MEANINGFUL INCLUSION OF STUDENT VOICE: A TEACHER'S LEARNING**



You will learn:

- Ways for parents advocate for their children to teachers.
- Encouragement to teachers to build spaces for all learners
- A celebration of student voice
- Dismantling ableist thinking and practices in the classroom/school

*Annie OHana, Indigenous Dept Head, MustangJustice*

Annie received the Prime Minister's Excellence in Teaching Award and founded a Social Justice service oriented youth leadership program called MustangJustice. She has a Masters in Equity Studies and a background in Criminology and Political Science. She is a proud teacher and Indigenous Department Head (and Aboriginal Teacher Advocate) and a social studies curriculum specialist. Annie practices what she preaches in the streets and does work as a community organizer, activist, and advocate.

**Thank you to our sponsors:**



**WHEN EVERYTHING GOES WRONG; SAFETY PLANNING FOR ALL**

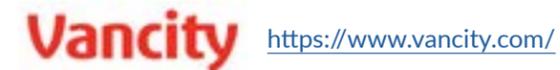


You will learn:

- Understanding the need to experience 'felt' safety for all
- How to acknowledge the emotion without condoning the behaviour
- Strategies to keep everyone physically safe

*Elizabeth McWilliams Hewitt, Behaviour Consultant and Educator*

Elizabeth is a Behaviour Consultant with over 20 years in the field. She works to support families and care teams, caring for or working with children and youth with a variety of diagnoses. In addition to her private practice, Elizabeth teaches at UFV in the Child, Youth and Family Studies Department. Co-writing an FASD online education course and presenting at conferences like the European International FASD Conference, have served as rewarding experiences allowing Elizabeth to share her passion and knowledge.



**HAPPY MORNINGS**



You will learn:

- The impact that the first words and actions have on the rest of the day for the whole family
- The importance of our own emotional regulation as parents for effective advocacy
- To develop your own plan to self-regulate in the mornings and your own "keep your cool" strategies

*Erika and Pepe Duarte*

Erika is an advocate and researcher, with a PhD in Law from UBC.

Pepe is an organizational psychologist, coach, and career developer.

Erika and Pepe have two life coaches at home who continuously show them the pleasures and adventures of being parents. One of their kids has extra needs and, in their journey to find support for their family, they have made their mission of enjoying it. They recognize the importance of having company along the path and of taking in the life-lessons, give themselves the time to process them, and continue just one day at a time.

2:45 - 3:00 PM Coffee break

3:00 - 3:10 PM Door prizes



3:10 - 4:40 PM Panel

**LIFE ALL OVER THE SPECTRUM**



You will learn:

- Lived experiences of youth with neuro-diversity
- What is important or what might work for youth
- Challenging and changing myths of disability
- Decreasing isolation and building a sense of hope

*Elizabeth McWilliams Hewitt and student panel of self-advocates*

A panel of youth self-advocates will share their experiences of living with a diagnosis. The panel is moderated with guiding questions but is essentially unscripted, allowing for a true sense of the individual and their story. An interactive panel, questions from the audience are encouraged!

4:40 - 5:00 PM Good bye and thank you

*"The final panel was amazing."*

Thank you for attending



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