

FEBRUARY 4-6

PROGRAM

2009
ONTARIO EDUCATION
RESEARCH
SYMPOSIUM

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

6:00 p.m. – **REGISTRATION**
9:00 p.m. *Courtyard Ballroom Foyer*

7:00 p.m. – **WELCOMING RECEPTION**
9:00 p.m. *Courtyard Ballroom*

Remarks by Ben Levin, Deputy Minister of Education, and Carol Campbell, Chief Research Officer

RESEARCH FAIR – INTRODUCTION

Researchers from across the province have been invited to present displays of their research or evaluation projects related to closing gaps in student achievement. The Research Fair, which will continue throughout the 2009 Ontario Education Research Symposium, will enable participants to share and discuss research and evaluation activities and make connections with others pursuing similar work.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5

All plenary sessions take place in the Courtyard Ballroom, with simultaneous translation available.

7:00 a.m. **REGISTRATION / CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**
Courtyard Ballroom Foyer

8:30 a.m. **INTRODUCTION**
David Fulford, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education

8:35 a.m. **OPENING REMARKS: SETTING THE CONTEXT**

- Hon. Kathleen Wynne, Minister of Education
- Ben Levin, Deputy Minister of Education
- Carol Campbell, Chief Research Officer
- Doris McWhorter and Mario Lajoie, Ontario Education Research Panel (OERP)

9:10 a.m. **PLENARY SESSION I**

1. CLOSING GAPS IN ACHIEVEMENT FOR ABORIGINAL STUDENTS

Moderator: Dominic Giroux, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education

Presentations including examples of collaborative applied research:

- *Overview – “Closing the Gap for Aboriginal Students”*
Emily Faries, Laurentian University
- *“NOEL (Northern Ontario Education Leaders) Oral Language Project”*
Jeannie McMaster, Kenora Education Centre
Larry Hope, Keewatin-Patricia District School Board
Jack McMaster, Rainy River District School Board
- *“Aboriginal Education in Ontario: The Power to Heal”*
John Hodson, Brock University

2. CLOSING GENDER GAPS IN STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Jim Hamilton, Chief Information Officer, Community Services Cluster

Presentations including examples of collaborative applied research:

- *Overview – “Boys’ Literacy Attainment: Research and Related Practice”*
David Booth, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education
- *“The Road Ahead: Boys’ Literacy Teacher Inquiry Project 2005-2008”*
Barbara Bodkin, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education
Grant Clatworthy, Halton District School Board
- *“Gender and Underachievement: A Question of Which Boys and Which Girls?”*
Wayne Martino, University of Western Ontario
Goli Rezai-Rashti, University of Western Ontario

10:40 a.m. **BREAK (participants move to workshops)**

11:00 a.m. **BREAKOUT SESSION ‘A’**

Participants break into workshops on one of the two themes from Session 1 for roundtable discussions. Input from the workshops will be synthesized, summarized and presented at the final plenary session on Friday afternoon.

12:00 p.m. **BREAK (participants return to plenary)**

12:15 p.m. **BUFFET LUNCH**

1:15 p.m. **UPDATE ON ONTARIO EDUCATION RESEARCH AND EVALUATION STRATEGY**
Carol Campbell, Chief Research Officer

1:45 p.m. **PLENARY SESSION II**

POVERTY AND EDUCATION: CLOSING GAPS IN STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Moderator: Barry Pervin, Assistant Deputy Minister (A), Ministry of Education

Presentations including examples of collaborative applied research:

- *Overview – “The Social Consequences of Economic Inequality for Canadian Children: A Review of the Canadian Literature”*
Charles Ungerleider, Canadian Council on Learning
- *“School and Community-Engaged Education in Lower-Income Neighbourhoods”*
Sarah Barrett, York University
Donna Ford, York University
- *“The Relationship Between Children’s Readiness-To-Learn at School and Early Risk Factors”*
Carrie Seward, Ministry of Children and Youth Services
Shelley Lothian, Region of Halton

2:35 p.m. **BREAK (participants move to workshops)**

2:50 p.m. **BREAKOUT SESSION ‘B’**

Participants break into workshops, assigned by geographical area, for roundtable discussions. Input from the workshops will be synthesized, summarized and presented at the final plenary session on Friday afternoon.

3:50 p.m. BREAK

4:00 p.m. **RESEARCH FAIR**

Research Fair continues before and after dinner.

6:00 p.m. DINNER

7:30 p.m. **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

"Raising and Levelling the Learning Bar in Ontario"

J. Douglas Willms, Professor and Director of the Canadian Research Institute for Social Policy (CRISP) at the University of New Brunswick

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6

8:00 a.m. **CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**

Courtyard Ballroom Foyer

8:15 a.m. **BREAKFAST MEETING HOSTED BY OERP AND AERO**

Carlton Room

For those who are interested, this informal breakfast meeting will elicit feedback on an Ontario Education Research Panel and Association of Educational Researchers of Ontario (AERO) proposal for a web based collaborative space to enable partners to share research reports and evaluations, identify and comment on priority topics, and create networks based on shared interests.

9:00 a.m. **DAY 2 INTRODUCTION: OUTLINE OF DAY'S ACTIVITIES**

David Fulford, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ontario Ministry of Education

9:05 a.m. **PLENARY SESSION III**

1. CLOSING GAPS IN STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT FOR ENGLISH/FRENCH-LANGUAGE LEARNERS

Moderator: Mary Jean Gallagher, Chief Executive Officer, Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat, Ministry of Education

Presentations including examples of collaborative applied research:

- *Overview – "Understanding the Academic Trajectories of ESL Students"*
Bruce Garnett, University of British Columbia
- *"Effective Strategies that are Conducive to the Development of Literacy and Self-Concept among Students at the Primary and Junior Level"*
(Presentation in French)
Yves Herry, University of Ottawa
Catherine Mougeot, University of Ottawa
Claire Maltais, University of Ottawa
- *"Story Writing in Monolingual and ESL Students with Different Reading Profiles"*
Esther Geva, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education

2. CLOSING GAPS IN ACHIEVEMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Moderator: Grant Clarke, Assistant Deputy Minister (A), Ministry of Education

Presentations including examples of collaborative applied research:

- *Overview – "Closing the Gaps for Students with Special Education Needs in Ontario: Research Trends and Capacity Building"*
Barry Finlay, Special Education Policy and Programs Branch, Ministry of Education
- *"Children's Mental Health and Student Achievement Gaps: Research and Knowledge Mobilization"*
Scott Davies, McMaster University
Kathy Short, Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board
- *"Ontario Psychological Association (OPA) Student Assessment Project: Kindergarten to Grade 4"*
Margaret Pepler, Ontario Psychological Association
Beverley Terrell-Deutsch, Ontario Psychological Association

10:35 a.m. **BREAK (participants move to workshops)**

10:50 a.m. **BREAKOUT SESSION 'C'**

Participants break into workshops on one of the two themes from Session 3 for roundtable discussions. Input from the workshops will be synthesized, summarized and presented at the final plenary session in the afternoon.

11:50 a.m. **BREAK (participants move to regional workshops)**

12:05 p.m. **REGIONAL DISCUSSIONS / WORKING LUNCH**

Participants break into groups assigned by geographical area, to discuss partnerships and collaboration moving forward.

Lunch buffet will be available at 12:00 p.m. Participants get lunch and move to workshops.

1:00 p.m. **BREAK (participants return to plenary)**

1:15 p.m. **PLENARY SESSION IV**

SUMMARY OF WORKSHOP DISCUSSIONS

Ontario Education Research Panel

1:30 p.m. **WRAP-UP AND CLOSING REMARKS**

Carol Campbell, Chief Research Officer