



BC CEC Newsletter

BC Council for Exceptional Children
www.bccec.org

Newsletter March 2009

Volume 9, Issue 1

2008 Yes I Can! BC CEC Award Winners

Special Interest Articles:

- *Canadian/US
Committee*
- *Canadian
Caucus*
- *Canadian
Coffee
Party*

The Yes I Can! Awards recognizes the achievements of children and youth with exceptionalities and hard work to significantly overcome and rise above their challenges and be exemplary role models in their schools and community. Since the award's inception in 1982, over 30,000 students have been recognized the award and on November 1st, 2008, BC CEC had its 4th annual award dinner and celebration at the Holiday Inn (Broadway) to recognize eleven local winners.

The 2008 winners recognized were: Pamela Rae (Athletics), Jordan Rego (Technology), William Snelgrove (Academics), Courtney McKenzie (Independent Living Skills), Darren Soberano (Independent Living Skills), Sara La Belle (Athletics), Lorenzo Escalambre (Self-Advocacy), Brian Gutenberg (Arts), Tinny Joubble (Extra-Curricular), Casey Cochran (Athletics), and Angell Lu-Lubel (Extra-Curricular). Friends and family of these exceptional students attended to help celebrate with our award winners.

2009 CEC Convention in Seattle

The annual CEC convention is and hopes that you and CEC members from your unit will be able to join us in Seattle from April 1st – 4th. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend a convention that has a wealth of cutting-edge sessions including the following invitational sessions featuring Canadian speakers and reflecting a Canadian perspective:

Thursday, April 2 1:15-2:15 Meeting
**the Needs for Deaf Students with
Autism: Effective Classroom
Practices, Ontario.**

Thursday, April 2 2:30-3:30 British
**Columbia School Psychologists
Working in Collaboration with**

**Special Education Teachers - an
RTI Approach, British Columbia.**

Friday, April 3 9:45-11:45 **Diversity,
Equality & Inclusion: A Rights
Based Framework for Schooling –
The Road Ahead, New Brunswick.**

Canadian/ US Committee

With the dissolution of the Canadian CEC, the CEC Board of Directors voted unanimously to support a committee to address the needs of its Canadian members, Candace Borger has been appointed chair of the newly established Canadian/US Committee. She is pleased to introduce the committee to you and to provide you with a brief update in this newsletter regarding some of the committee's initiatives to date.

The approved motion by the CEC Board of Directors was to establish a seven (7) member Canadian/US Standing Committee to include three

(3) CEC members who reside in Canada; three (3) CEC members who reside in the United States; and the CEC Board of Directors Member-at-Large Canada. The committee was established and includes the following members:

Candace Borger, Manitoba
 Jamie Hopkins, Ohio
 Roberta Kaufman, South Dakota
 Brian Kelly, New Brunswick
 Margaret T. McLane, New York
 Jennifer Tong, British Columbia
 Cheryl D. Zinszer, Ontario

These committee members have been working hard to plan and provide value-added services to our Canadian members.

Canadian/ US Committee Update

Specifically the Canadian/US Standing Committee's mandate is to advise the Board of Directors on:

- (1) Communication, networking, and liaising;
- (2) Professional knowledge and skills; and
- (3) Advocacy.

The intent is to meet the needs and to provide value-added services to our Canadian members.

To date, the committee has been hard at work in a number of areas including but not limited to the following initiatives:

- Re-establishing a Canadian website with links to Provincial Ministries, Provincial CEC units and other sites relevant to those who work in the field of special education
- increasing Canadian content in Smart Brief
- establishing an ongoing database of potential Canadian leaders to be considered for CEC committees and other leadership opportunities

- reviewing the annual Call for Papers and encouraging Canadian submissions
- recruiting Canadian candidates for consideration as peer reviewers for TEACHING Exceptional Children and other journal publications
- establishing a process for the submission of practice briefs for consideration in TEACHING Exceptional Children
- pursuing the publication of a position paper on universal language
- developing a survey of provincial ministries and universities to obtain feedback on the use of the Special Education Standards-What Every Educator Should Know
- building/maintaining links with provincial ministry/directors of student services
- exploring the establishment of links with organizations including CAPSLE re: issues such as Canadian case law, human rights, duty to accommodate

CEC Adopts Policy on Safe Schools

CEC has ratified a policy on Safe and Positive Schools, which indicates student harassment is likely to be based on appearance and/or differences, students with disabilities may be victims of harassment, and schools should have policies prohibiting harassment and discrimination.

The full policy can be found at:

<http://www.cec.sped.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home&Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=10036>

A REMINDER

Canadian CEC may no longer exist but CEC hasn't forgotten about the importance of our Canadian members' needs. There is an opportunity to network with other Canadian members at the Canadian Caucus on Thursday, April 2nd and the CEC Convention. Hope to see you there!

Canadian Coffee Party

The Canadian/US Committee is pleased to invite you to the **Canadian Coffee Party**, brought back by popular demand! This event will be held on Friday, April 3 from 8:00-10:00 p.m. at the Sheraton, Seattle. This is a wonderful opportunity to network with CEC leaders, CEC members and other guests for some fun Canadian hospitality. Don't forget to bring your singing voices and join us by the piano with your coffee.

BC CEC Executive Board

President: Sharon Wyatt
 Past President: Bev McRae
 Treasurer: Jennifer Tong
 Secretary: Sheena Lewis
 Membership: Jan Palmer
 Newsletter Editors: Sharon Wyatt & Suretha Swart

Canadian CEC Caucus

The Canadian CEC Caucus is a network of educators interested in advancing the education of Canadian children with special learning needs and supporting the professional advancement of Canadian special education educators. The Canadian CEC Caucus serves as a forum for pre-service students, faculty, educators and administrators to exchange information, share concerns and make recommendations to CEC.

Cheryl Zinszer, long time CEC member from Ontario will be chairing this meeting. The meeting will be held on Thursday, April 2, 5:30-7:00, Sheraton Hotel, Ravenna Room, Seattle during the CEC Annual Convention and Expo. At this meeting, we will be discussing the agenda items for the Representative Assembly including CEC's international role. Jan Palmer and Sharon Wyatt, your BC CEC representatives, would like to hear your views on this topic so they can be your voice at the meeting.

Please come and express your opinions on this important topic.

We hope to see you there! If you cannot attend, feel free to email us about any issues that you would want the Canadian Caucus to be aware of or discuss. Please contact:

Chair: Cheryl Zinszer
johnzinszer@gmail.com
 BC Rep: Jan Palmer
janpalmer27@telus.net
 BC Rep: Sharon Wyatt
swyatt@vsb.bc.ca

This information has been posted on the CEC website as follows for your convenience:

<http://www.cec.sped.org/Content/NavigationMenu/AboutCEC/Communities/Caucuses/default.htm>

2009 Yes I Can! Awards Nomination Forms are On-line

The BC CEC is proud to sponsor the Yes I Can! Awards Program to acknowledge the achievements of children and youth with exceptionalities, to encourage children and youth with exceptionalities to seek their highest potential, and to increase public awareness of their abilities, aspirations, and personal qualities of disabled people. If you know a student you would like to recognize and want to

nominate, please fill out a nomination form, which can be found at www.bccec.org/awards.html Award winners will be announced in June 2009 and a celebration will be held in November 2009 at the Holiday Inn, Vancouver, BC.

Feedback to the Canadian/US Committee

BC Council for Exceptional Children

E-MAIL:

info@bccec.org

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.bccec.org

The newly formed Canadian /US Committee welcomes your feedback and will continue to provide updates on an ongoing basis. The committee hopes that you will contact them at any time regarding issues of relevance and concern in meeting the needs of Canadian members.

The members of the committee wishes you best wishes in your many endeavours on behalf of

the children and youth you serve and they look forward to hearing from you and seeing you in Seattle. Please send feedback or comments to:

Candace Borger, Chair, Manitoba

cborger@sjsd.net

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Upcoming Conferences

□ **2009 CEC Convention and Expo**

Seattle Convention Centre
April 1-4, 2009 (Seattle, WA)

○ www.cec.sped.org

□ **BC CEC Fall Conference**
Gifted/Learning Disabled

Dr. Mary Ruth Coleman,
Chapel Hill, North Carolina
September, 25, 2009, Vancouver, B
Venue to be announced

BC COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

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