

# BC CEC Fall Newsletter

British Columbia Council  
for Exceptional Children

BC CEC Fall Newsletter  
2006

## President's Message

By: Junie Brayley

On behalf of the BC CEC executive, I want to extend best wishes for the 2006-2007 school year to all BC CEC members. As well, I would like to offer a very special welcome to our new members.

Every September we, as educators, look at the year ahead with a mixture of excitement and trepidation as we prepare for the joys and challenges of the year ahead. Part of this planning process involves trying to find opportunities to broaden our knowledge and expand our repertoire of strategies and interventions. BC CEC is pleased to be able to offer such opportunities through conferences and workshops. The first of these will be on October 14<sup>th</sup>, when BC CEC will host a conference on sensory integration with Diana Henry OT as presenter. This will be a wonderful occasion to learn more about sensory processing difficulties as well as to acquire the assessment tools and intervention strategies needed to address these challenges. As your professional membership organization it is our aim to continue to offer such Pro-D opportunities throughout the year.

In addition to providing professional development opportunities, BC CEC also supports and recognizes students with exceptionalities. This year we will again host the Yes I Can! awards. As always, we received many nominations and the winners of this year's Yes I Can! awards will be celebrated at the October 14<sup>th</sup> conference, where these exceptional young people will be honoured in the presence of their family and friends.

Membership in BC CEC has been increasing steadily. There has been notable growth in the number of student members resulting in the reinstatement of our student chapter. At present, we have 22 student members with new students joining on an on-going basis.

In closing, I wish all of you a successful school year and look forward to seeing you at the BC CEC conference and Yes I Can! award celebration on October 14.

## BC CEC Executive Board

President: Junie Brayley

Past President: Dean Irvine

Treasurer: Jennifer Tong

Membership: Bev McRae

Student President Elect: Brenda Fossett

Student President Outgoing: Erika Forster

Newsletter Editors:

Sharon Wyatt / Suretha Swart

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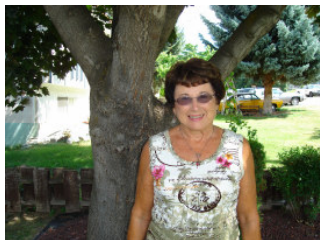
Junie Brayley:  
BC CEC President

## Lady on a Mission: Pat Lainsbury

BC-CEC

LADY ON A MISSION: By Marilyn Hoggs

*“She always tried to capture the essence of the child...”*



Lady on a mission:  
Pat Lainsbury

Pat Lainsbury is a recently retired school district psychologist from Kamloops. She is a 25 year member of CEC and has led the Kamloops, B.C chapter for 18 of those years. She has been a school counselor, a P.E. teacher, an English teacher, a college lecturer and a district counselor. She has always been a lady on a mission to deliver the best possible educational opportunities for students with special needs. When Pat retired she was doing what she loved best, assessing K – 12 students and working with the school team to determine the best educational program.

In her thirty-five year career, Pat has seen many changes in the field of special education. When integration of special needs students began in the 1980's, she was responsible for all of the students with special needs in her zone. When there were cutbacks in the late 1980's in her school district, she found herself responsible for one half of the district (total student population of 17,000). At one point that year she became responsible for the entire district for four months! Pat did not miss a beat in those times of unrest and remained focused on the needs of the students. The greatest reward of her career was being able to work with students K – 12. This allowed Pat to see the same students three or four times over their school career for assessment. She always tried to capture the “essence of the child” in her assessment reports and in her programming suggestions. She took great delight in being able to see the results of the home and school working together so that the student could overcome difficulties and be successful.

Pat feels that societal and family pressures have taken their toll on children in the year 2006. “Before I retired I was seeing children from very poor, dysfunctional families as well as children from affluent, dysfunctional families. In the latter group, the children were living a ‘fast lifestyle’ – not sleeping enough, over programmed with a lack of play time to stimulate the imagination. Computer use was hindering visualization abilities and reducing social interactions.” In addition to the changes that Pat has seen in the structure of the family, she has also seen a change in the teacher training programs. Pat's current interest is in evidenced based instruction and as such she sees now, more than ever, the need for aspiring teachers to have explicit instruction in the teaching of reading and math. As she says, “they need to know what programs are really effective and how to teach the students so that they learn.”

Pat's mission to deliver the best possible educational opportunities for students with special needs has resulted in the Kamloops Chapter of CEC taking a leading role in professional development. Under Pat's leadership the chapter has sponsored two conferences with Anita Archer, two sessions with Ron Morrish, bi-monthly professional development dinner meetings and a technology project that sees students with written output problems being able to access a word processor for free. Pat Lainsbury may have retired from her employment with school district #73 and she may have more time to golf and travel, but her heart is still with CEC and the students with special needs. Pat will never retire from that!

## BC CEC Fall Conference: Saturday, October 14, 2006

### Sensory Assessment Tools for All including the Sensory Processing Measure (SPM)

**Presenter: Diana Henry, MS, OTR/L CWT**

Venue: Plaza 500 Hotel  
500 W. 12th Avenue, Vancouver, BC  
(Cambie & 12th)



**Diana Henry, MS, OTR/L CWT,**

**Upcoming Winter Conference:** February 2, 2007

## Yes I Can! Awards Celebration: Saturday, October 14, 2006

The BC CEC is proud to sponsor the Yes I Can! Awards Program to acknowledge the achievements of children and youth with disabilities, to encourage children and youth with disabilities to seek their highest potential, and to increase public awareness of the abilities, aspirations, and personal qualities of disabled people.

We will be honouring these students at a Yes I Can! Celebration and dinner following the conference. To reserve your tickets, contact Junie Brayley at [junie\\_brayley@yorkhouse.ca](mailto:junie_brayley@yorkhouse.ca)

*Come and share in the celebration of our BC Yes I can! Awards Winners*

### UBC CEC Student Chapter

**By: Erika Forster, BC CEC Student President**

Why get involved as a student member? Check out the following websites

<http://www.cec.sped.org/Content/NavigationMenu/AboutCEC/Communities/Students/StudentCommittee/default.htm> for information re the student standing committee of the CEC

<http://www.cec.sped.org/Content/NavigationMenu/Membership/JoinCEC/> for member benefits

[http://www.cec.sped.org/Content/NavigationMenu/AboutCEC/Communities/Students/STUDENT\\_AWARDS\\_AND\\_SCHOLARSHIPS.htm](http://www.cec.sped.org/Content/NavigationMenu/AboutCEC/Communities/Students/STUDENT_AWARDS_AND_SCHOLARSHIPS.htm) for scholarships and awards information



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**British Columbia Council for  
Exceptional Children**

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The Council for Exceptional Children website  
@www.cec.sped.org

### **DID YOU KNOW...?**

There are approximately 8,000 students involved in the CEC! We have more than 200 student chapters in the United States and Canada!

### **BC Student Wins National Award! By: Jennifer Tong**

Congratulations to Ann Ness, winner of the Canadian CEC Transition Award!

Ann Ness from Kamloops, BC was selected as the recipient of the 2006 Canadian CEC Transition Award. Her yearbook advisor writes, "Ann is inspirational. Ann's story of overcoming cancer is awe-inspiring but, in many ways, pales in comparison to her determination to make a difference in the lives of others while demanding excellence from herself."

Ann is a remarkable young lady who is not afraid to take on new challenges or extra work and has been actively involved both at school and in her community. At school, Ann regularly competed in math contests and participated in the district Science Fair. She was involved in peer counseling, a healthy snacks program, and continued to explore new activities by learning to play badminton and dedicating hours to help publish an award winning yearbook. In her second year working on the yearbook, Ann moved into the role of yearbook editor, teaching other students the ropes of her newfound skills. In addition, she was involved with the Destination Imagination and Model U.N. teams, participated in a French immersion program in Quebec and the Encounters Canada program in Ottawa. Outside of school, Ann has volunteered at an extended health facility where she found intrinsic reward in bringing hope and happiness to the lives of the residents.

Ann's pursuit of high academic goals was unflinching. Despite the interruption in her academic career to receive treatment for cancer, Ann graduated from Brocklehurst Secondary in June with her peers. She will be attending Thompson Rivers University in the fall and working towards her Bachelors of Science. Her future plans involve medical school or medical research. She truly is an inspiration and an encouraging testimonial for others facing similar challenges!

## **BRITISH COLUMBIA CEC**

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