

The Early Development Imperative

A Pan-Canadian Conference on Population
Level Measurement of Children's Development

NOV 16 – 18 2009 | Delta Winnipeg Hotel



CONFERENCE AT-A-GLANCE

Day 1 – Monday, November 17th

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. | **PRE-CONFERENCE SESSIONS**

1. The Nuts and Bolts – Implementation of the EDI
2. EDI In Manitoba – Promoting best outcomes for Manitoba's children through evidence-based decision making
3. So What? – Making Sense of EDI Results
4. The Australian Story

5 p.m. | **REGISTRATION & OPENING RECEPTION** (provided)
Featuring the diverse cultures of Manitoba.

7 p.m. | **OPENING PLENARY: A Celebration of Dan Offord and the Early Development Instrument**
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Fraser Mustard

Day 2 – Tuesday, November 17th

8 a.m. | **BREAKFAST** (provided)

8:45 a.m. | **WELCOME** – Traditional Opening and Prayer

9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. | **PLENARY SESSION: The State of Children's Development in Canada**
Keynote: Dr. Clyde Hertzman

11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | **CONCURRENT SESSION 1**

- 1A – Understanding Children's Development in Aboriginal Communities
- 1B – Community Resilience
- 1C – UEY: 10 Years of Learning
- 1D – Children with Special Needs and Risk Factors Related to Children's Outcomes
- 1E – Tools for EDI Knowledge Translation

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. | **LUNCH** (provided)

1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m. | **PLENARY PANEL 1: Monitoring Development as Children Grow**
Facilitator: Pippa Rowcliffe

3 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. | **CONCURRENT SESSION 2**

- 2A – EDI's Importance to the School System
- 2B – The Relationship Between Children's Development and Socioeconomics
- 2C – EDI in Francophone Communities
- 2D – Working in Rural Communities with Population Level Data
- 2E – Understanding Children's Development in Aboriginal Communities

Day 3 – Wednesday, November 18th

8 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. | **BREAKFAST** (provided)

9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. | **PLENARY SESSION: The Impact and Reach of EDI in Canada and Around the World**
Keynotes: Dr. Magdalena Janus & Sally Brinkman

11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | **CONCURRENT SESSION 3**

- 3A – Children's Development in Multi-Lingual Communities
- 3B – Community Innovations
- 3C – Children's Developmental Trajectories
- 3D – Tools for EDI Knowledge Translation (repeat of *Session 1E*)
- 3E – EDI's Importance to the School System (repeat of *Session 2A*)

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. | **LUNCH** (provided)

1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. | **PLENARY PANEL 2: A Platform for Action**
Facilitator: Dr. David Butler Jones

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DETAILS OF SESSIONS

Day 1 – Monday, November 16th, 2009

PRE-CONFERENCE SESSIONS

Sponsored by Healthy Child Manitoba

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

PRE-CONFERENCE SESSION 1: The Nuts and Bolts – Implementation of the EDI

Facilitator: Ashley Gaskin, Offord Centre for Child Studies (Ontario)

This full day session will be of interest to those individuals and organizations who are leading the implementation of the Early Development Instrument in their jurisdiction, whether you are just getting started or have been involved with EDI implementation for many years. The session will cover all aspects of EDI implementation: engaging schools; privacy and ethics; electronic EDI; parental consents; teacher training; data analysis, interpretation and reporting the results. There will be lots of opportunity for the sharing of strategies and resources across jurisdictions.

9 a.m. to noon

PRE-CONFERENCE SESSION 2: EDI In Manitoba – Promoting best outcomes for Manitoba's children through evidence-based decision making

Facilitator: Terra Johnston, Healthy Child Manitoba

With special presentations by Drs. Rob Santos and Mariette Chartier (Healthy Child Manitoba Office), and Dr. Marni Brownell (Manitoba Centre for Health Policy), this session illustrates the key role that the EDI serves in evaluating, monitoring and steering the Provincial Healthy Child Manitoba Strategy. This session will be of special interest to those representing Manitoba's parent child coalitions, school divisions, child care community and government partners.

Noon to 1 p.m.

LUNCH (provided)

1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

PRE-CONFERENCE SESSION 3: So What? – Making Sense of EDI Results

Facilitator: Joanne Schroeder, Council for Early Child Development and the Human Early Learning Partnership (British Columbia)

This session will focus on providing tools and strategies for the dissemination and use of EDI results. How do you interpret the results to provide meaning for communities and policy makers? What does it mean to be vulnerable? What can communities do to take action to reduce vulnerability? What are some effective program responses? Participants are encouraged to bring their own examples of successes and challenges in having EDI take root in your community.

1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

PRE-CONFERENCE SESSION 4: The Australian Story

Facilitator: Sally Brinkman, Telethon Institute for Child Health Research (Australia)

This session will tell the story of the development of the Australian EDI from its beginnings to its widespread application in every community in the country. Content will include consideration of its use in Indigenous and language-other-than-English populations. There will be discussion of the parallels and differences between the learnings in Australia and Canada and consideration of how we can continue to share our experiences.

5 p.m.

REGISTRATION & OPENING RECEPTION (provided)

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Following registration delegates can network with others while enjoying the food and entertainment of the diverse cultures of Manitoba.

7 p.m.

OPENING PLENARY: A Celebration of Dan Offord and the Early Development Instrument

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Fraser Mustard, Council for Early Child Development

The Early Development Instrument was developed by the late Dr. Dan Offord ten years ago. This session will honor the leadership of Dr. Offord and reflect on the history of the instrument and its impact throughout Canada and the world. Dr. Mustard will share his reflections on these years and how the EDI has been critical to advancing the Early Years agenda in Canada.

Day 2 – Tuesday, November 17th

8 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.

BREAKFAST (provided)

8:45 a.m.

WELCOME – Traditional Opening and Prayer

9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

PLENARY SESSION: The State of Children's Development in Canada

Keynote: Dr. Clyde Hertzman, Council for Early Child Development and the Human Early Learning Partnership (British Columbia)

This session will introduce the initial findings of the pan-Canadian EDI project. The project has been working with a range of provinces to compile and undertake a common analysis of EDI results across the country. Dr. Hertzman will speak to these results. He will highlight what is being learned about the trends in children's development in Canada and discuss the implications for communities, researchers and government.

11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

The concurrent sessions will look at population level measurement across a number of theme areas. In each session there will be two key presenters who will reflect their experiences and knowledge. Additionally, poster presentations relevant to the theme will be highlighted for dialogue and discussion.

CONCURRENT SESSION 1:

1A – Understanding Children's Development in Aboriginal Communities

Presenters:

- Michele Sam, Human Early Learning Partnership (British Columbia)
- Dr. Nazeem Muhajarine, Community Health and Epidemiology, University of Saskatchewan

Understanding the relevance of the population level measurement in Aboriginal communities requires understanding the environments and context within which Aboriginal children live. The presenters will bring experiences from B.C. and Saskatchewan in working with Aboriginal communities and organizations to build partnerships and best support children and families.

1B – Community Resilience

Presenters:

- Paul Johnson, Wesley Urban Ministries (Hamilton, Ontario)

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What are the local factors that contribute to community resilience? Why do some communities seem to be “trumping” their socio-economic conditions and creating environments that successfully support children’s development? The presenters will bring stories of how they are making a difference to children’s development in their community.

1C – UEY: 10 Years of Learning

Presenters:

- Sarah Henry, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (Prince Edward Island)
- Ales Morga, South Eastman Health (Manitoba)

Understanding the Early Years, a federally sponsored initiative, has compiled ten years of learning in how communities can use data to understand and then plan for the needs of their children. Presenters will speak to the UEY initiative in their communities and how it has been linked to the country wide learning.

1D – Children with Special Needs and Risk Factors Related to Children’s Outcomes

Presenters:

- Dr. Magdalena Janus, Offord Centre for Child Studies (Ontario)
- Dr. Mariette Chartier, Healthy Child Manitoba

This session will provide two distinct presentations illustrating how vulnerability in special needs children and family and child risk factors can be understood. The EDI allows for children with special needs to be identified and for analyses to be done on the developmental outcomes of this group. What are we learning about the differences and similarities in the development of children with special needs? In Manitoba, the Families First Screening Project identifies the prevalence of risk factors for children’s development across the province.

1E – Tools for EDI Knowledge Translation

Presenters:

- Jennifer Harvey, Human Early Learning Partnership (British Columbia)/Rob Raos, Offord Centre for Child Studies (Ontario)
- Shelley Lothian, Regional Municipality of Halton (Ontario)

Much of the impact of the EDI in Canada has been due to the effective translation of the results to communities and policy makers. This session will focus on two key mechanisms for knowledge translation: mapping and effective report writing that successfully combines the EDI with other indicators to build relevance and understanding.

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

LUNCH (provided)

1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.

PLENARY PANELS

The plenary panels will bring together three presenters speaking to related topics. Following the presentations there will be facilitated dialogue and questions.

PLENARY PANEL 1: Monitoring Development as Children Grow

Facilitator: Pippa Rowcliffe, Council for Early Child Development

Panelists:

- Dr. Kimberly Schonert-Reichl, University of British Columbia
- Dr. Jean Clinton, McMaster University (Ontario)
- Lynell Anderson, Human Early Learning Partnership (British Columbia)

The pan-Canadian EDI platform monitors the population of Canadian children in kindergarten. This panel session will provide information on work being done to develop systems of monitoring at 18 months and in middle childhood along with an overview of how public investment to early childhood, care and education can be measured. Taken together these

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components will contribute to the development of “the world’s best” system of monitoring children’s development in Canada.

3 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

CONCURRENT SESSION 2

2A – EDI’s Importance to the School System

Presenters:

- Jim Grieve, Peel District School Board (Ontario)
- Carolyn Duhamel, Manitoba School Boards Association

The EDI assists communities in planning and building resources for children in their earliest years. The school system is a critical partner in the use of the results. Presenters in this session will address how the EDI can be used by the school system to plan for early years programs, ease the transition between early childhood and the K to 12 education system and look forward to best support children’s learning.

2B – The Relationship Between Children’s Development and Socioeconomics

Presenters:

- Dr. Paul Kershaw, Human Early Learning Partnership (British Columbia)
- Sally Brinkman, Telethon Institute for Child Health Research (Australia)

Much is known about the impact of socio-economics on children’s healthy development. This session will drill down in to the relationship between SES and EDI results drawing on research from Canada and Australia. What are the most predictive SES factors for children’s vulnerability and how can our understanding of this relationship contribute to communities’ and policy makers’ actions to support children?

2C – EDI in Francophone Communities

Presenters:

- Sylvie Lavoie, Direction de santé publique de l’Agence de la santé et des services sociaux de Montréal (Quebec)
- Dr. Rose-Marie Duguay, Faculté des sciences de l’éducation, Université de Moncton (New Brunswick)

This session will provide examples of how the EDI has been used in both majority and minority Francophone communities. Content will cover each step of the EDI process from implementation to community action. This session will be presented in French.

2D – Working in Rural Communities with Population Level Data

Geography and small populations pose unique challenges to rural and remote communities in their efforts to undertake meaningful analysis and planning for their children. Understanding rural communities is often directly related to the size, socioeconomic health of the community and the proximity to the nearest urban centre. This session will bring together community coordinators from a number of rural communities across the country to tell their stories and share ideas for mitigating challenges and maximizing the rural advantage.

2E – Understanding Children’s Development in Aboriginal Communities

See Session 1A.

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8 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.

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BREAKFAST (provided)

9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

PLENARY SESSION: The Impact and Reach of EDI in Canada and Around the World

Keynotes:

- Dr. Magdalena Janus, Offord Centre for Child Studies (Ontario)
- Sally Brinkman, Telethon Institute for Child Health Research (Australia)

Since its development, the EDI has been successfully used or adapted for use across Canada and in many countries around the world. International collaborations and implementations include regions in the United States, Chile, Egypt, Jamaica, Kosovo, Moldova and Mexico. Australia has adapted the EDI to fit their context, renaming it the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) and has just completed their first nation-wide roll out. Using the EDI outside of Canada enriches the instrument, bringing it one step closer to being a global measure of early child development. This session will share many of the cross-cultural findings and comparisons.

11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

CONCURRENT SESSION 3

3A – Children's Development in Multi-Lingual Communities

Presenters:

- Maria Yau, Toronto and District School Board (Ontario)
- Dr. Constance Milbraith, Human Early Learning Partnership (British Columbia)

Many Canadian cities are becoming increasingly culturally diverse and multi-lingual. The demographic trend is towards an increasing population of immigrant and refugee families and children. Responding proactively to the needs of children for whom English is not their first language is essential to building an effective system for young children in Canada. This session will provide information on what we are learning about children's development in multi-lingual communities and how this information can be made relevant for all.

3B – Community Innovations

Presenters:

- Anne Cooper, Revelstoke School District (British Columbia)
- Marsh Cann, Ontario Early Years, Simcoe County

"It takes a community to raise a child." This session will provide examples of communities who are thinking outside the box to make a difference for their children and families. Participants will be encouraged to bring examples of innovation from their locales.

3C – Children's Developmental Trajectories

Presenters:

- Dr. Lori Irwin, Human Early Learning Partnership (British Columbia)
- Dr. Marni Brownell, Manitoba Centre for Health Policy

The EDI can be effectively linked to other data, at the level of the group, to gain a better understanding of children's developmental trajectories from birth to high school graduation. This session will provide information on work being done in British Columbia and Manitoba linking to health and education records.

3D – Tools for EDI Knowledge Translation (repeat)

See Session 1E.

3E – EDI's Importance to the School System (repeat)

See Session 2A.

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12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

LUNCH (provided)

1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

PLENARY PANEL 2: A Platform for Action

Facilitator: Dr. David Butler Jones, Public Health Agency of Canada

Panelists:

- Dr. Robin Williams, Council for Early Child Development and Niagara Region Public Health (Ontario)
- Dr. Paul Kershaw, Human Early Learning Partnership (British Columbia)
- Dr. Rob Santos, Healthy Child Manitoba

The closing session of the conference, facilitated by Dr. David Butler-Jones, Canada's Chief Public Health Officer, will provide a call to action for all participants. What is needed to build on what we know and create an effective system for young children in Canada which integrates a comprehensive system of monitoring and evaluation? Be prepared to leave filled with inspiration and ideas.