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National Montessori Education Conference

BRINGING CANADIAN EDUCATORS TOGETHER

Centennial College Event Centre, Toronto, Ontario

Friday, November 4th, 2022

ABSTRACT: MONTESSORI AROUND THE WORLD

Mira Debs

Montessori education was a global movement almost from its inception, and today

Montessori schools are open in 148 countries around the world. Mira Debs shares research findings on the history of global Montessori and her research team's global Montessori census to explain what factors have sustained Montessori around the world for over a century, what factors have limited its growth, and how these insights can support Montessori movement in Canada.



Mira Debs is the Executive Director of Yale's Education Studies Program and a lecturer in Sociology. Her research and teaching interests include urban education policy, families and schools, progressive schooling and comparative international education. She is the author of *Diverse Families, Desirable Schools: Public Montessori in the Era of School Choice* (Harvard Education Press, 2019) and co-editor of *The Handbook of Montessori Education* (Bloomsbury, 2023). She is a founding board member of Elm City Montessori School, a public Montessori school in New Haven, Connecticut.

Friday, November 4th, 2022

MONTESSORI IN CANADA: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

Margaret Whitley

Despite over 35 years of Montessori advocacy, a broad look at the history of Montessori in Canada revealed to Margaret Whitley that if we want more children in Canada to benefit from Montessori, we need to focus on our commonality. Like our regionalism of education in Canada, the history and growth of Montessori are disparate. Few seem to know what is happening in other jurisdictions. Still, there is power in the collective understanding of what Montessori looks like for others and celebrating where it has been successful and why. *Montessori in Canada: Past, Present and Future*, is a snapshot of Montessori's rise and fall in different regions and an appeal to become more aware of the common challenges and learn from each other's successes about communicating the benefits of Montessori with the outcome of greater accessibility for all.

Margaret Whitley is an AMI elementary trained Montessori educator and leader. She taught all elementary levels, established the first Montessori middle school in Canada in 1988 and is the former head of Montessori Academy of London (MA). Presently she is an international elementary teacher trainer and speaker with dreams of returning to write about her Montessori journey. She is the author of the "Montessori in Canada" portion of the upcoming Bloomsbury Handbook of Montessori Education.



Venue: Centennial College Event Centre

**Centennial College Progress Campus - 8th floor R block, 937 Progress Avenue,
Toronto, ON M1G 2T8**

**Hotel: Best Western Plus Executive Inn, 38 Estate Drive
Toronto East (Scarborough) ON M1H 2Z1**

**Telephone: 416-430-0444 or 1-877-430-0444 (toll free)
\$ 169.00/ per night per room + taxes**

Mention that it is for the Canadian Council of Montessori Administrators, to receive the special rate.



THE CANADIAN COUNCIL
OF MONTESSORI ADMINISTRATORS
LE CONSEIL CANADIEN DES ADMINISTRATEURS
DES ÉCOLES MONTESSORI

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CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS & INFORMATION

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Friday, November 4th, 2022

EXPLORING THE POWER & POTENTIAL OF INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS

Isaac Murdoch & Jodie Williams

During our time together we will discuss how the education system that was once used as a weapon against Indigenous Peoples, including their knowledge systems, can now be used to challenge the beliefs and values generated through consumerism, industry and colonialism. We will explain the connections between colonialism and the climate crisis and how we can all collectively create positive change for the future. We will also showcase several resources designed to support teachers with the implementation of Indigenous Peoples' histories, perspectives and contributions within the Ontario curriculum.

Jodie Williams currently works as the Academic Coordinator for Indigenous Education with the Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board and is the Co-Chair for the First

Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Association of Ontario. She is also the lead on a provincial Community of Practice for Indigenous Knowledge and Mathematics which involves a collaboration with NASA, Maori educators from New Zealand, the Navajo Nation in the United States, as well as the Anishinaabek, Cree and Kanyen'kaha:ka (Mohawk). Jodie is also a course developer and instructor of Additional Qualification courses and has developed numerous resources in the area of Indigenous Education.

Together she and her husband have 5 daughters and one granddaughter.



Isaac Murdoch, whose Ojibway name is Manzinapkinegego'anaabe / Bombgiizhik is from the fish clan and is from Serpent River First Nation. Isaac grew up in the traditional setting of hunting, fishing and trapping. Many of these years were spent learning from Elders in the northern regions of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. He has committed his life to the preservation of Anishinaabe cultural practices and language revitalization.

Friday, November 4th, 2022

TESSA LOCKHEAD ON THE MONTESSORI MOVEMENT IN NUNAVUT

Building on the previous workshop, we will explore practical ways in which educators can incorporate Indigenous studies in our Montessori classrooms. Specifically, the Pirurvik School in Nunavut will share the work they have been doing with joining Montessori and Inuit teachings. Also, they will share their journey in receiving the Governor General's Award and the process in procuring grant money to continue their amazing work. Educators will leave the conference with ideas they can implement in their classrooms and across their school on Monday morning!



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Saturday, November 5th, 2022

CLASS ACTION - THE FOUNDING OF THE FIRST MONTESSORI SCHOOL IN CANADA BY ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL

Beth Mackay

Workshop: Beth Mackay recently published a book entitled, "Class Action - The Founding of the First Montessori school in Canada by Alexander Graham Bell." Beth's presentation will explore the courage, tenacity and intelligence of Italy's first female doctor, Dr. Maria Montessori, who gave us insight into a different perception of children and their innate potential. The talk will parallel her life with another famous inventor, Alexander Graham Bell, who was instrumental in establishing the very first Montessori class in Canada.

Beth Mackay has been involved in Montessori Education for over 50 years. She took her 3-6 AMI training in London, England and the 6-12 training in Bergamo, Italy. Beth taught at Ottawa Montessori School for 48 years. She started the first Elementary Montessori class in Ottawa at OMS and she also started the first OMS art classroom, creating a wonderfully diverse environment where children can express themselves artistically. She has also served as Vice-President of the Canadian Association of Montessori Teachers and was one of the founding members and one time President of the Montessori Society of Canada. In addition to these accomplishments, Beth was honoured with the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal for Service in Education. Beth's newest project is a self-published book, "Class Action - The Founding of the First Montessori school in Canada by Alexander Graham Bell."

Saturday, November 5th, 2022

MONTESSORI ACROSS CANADA ROUND TABLE

During this round table presentation, schools from across Canada will share their experiences and give us an update on Montessori within their Province or Territory. We will be celebrating the successes of our Canadian Montessori Schools and their contributes to the greater educational landscape.

Registration is taking place on Eventbrite
[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER TODAY!](#)



COST

November 4 & 5 - In-Person Attendees:

Members - \$325 per person; Non-members - \$350 per person

November 4 - In-Person Attendees:

Members - \$250 per person; Non-Members - \$275 per person

November 4 - Virtual Attendees - \$150 per person

November 4 - Dinner: \$45 per person

November 5 - In-Person Attendees - \$100 per person

November 5 - Virtual Attendees - \$60 per person



LOCATION

Centennial College Event Centre
Centennial College Progress Campus
Address: 937 Progress Ave
Toronto, ON, Canada
M1G 3T8
8th Floor- R-Block

PARKING

- Parking is available in Lots 2 and 3, Located on the North and Northeast side of R-Block
- Obtain a ticket from the machine to open the parking gate
- Upon exit, your entry ticket will be required to re-insert in the machine at which point payment is required. Events with hosted parking will be provided with a secondary exit ticket to exit at no charge.



EVENT CENTRE ENTRANCE

- The Centennial College Event Centre entrance is located on the South-East corner of R-Block, the first building on your left when driving onto the campus.
- The Event Centre doors, pictured on the right, are facing South.
- Guests are not able to enter the Event Centre on the north side of the building