

Maximize 2020

Early Learning and Child Care Conference

April 3rd & 4th, 2020

Cambridge Red Deer Hotel & Conference Centre

3310-50 Ave

Red Deer, AB T4N 3X9

What Do You See...

A Flower or a Weed?

Join Us and 'Maximize Your Perspective'



Registration & Hotel Information

Fees:

Conference fee: \$285.00. Includes Friday evening banquet, and all meals, refreshments and workshops offered on Saturday.

Conference fee with Friday afternoon Leadership Session: \$360.00.

Leadership Session only: \$90.00.

Registration Policies & Practices

Payment **MUST** accompany your registration form. We do not maintain a waitlist. Registration without payment will not be processed. Registration fees are non-refundable. You may transfer your registration to another person on the condition there are no changes.

Hand written registration forms are difficult to read and therefore highly discouraged. **Please use adobe fill and print to complete your forms.**

Your session designations will be included on your receipt that will be sent to you via email. Session changes will not be made once the receipt is sent.

Registration closes March 13, 2020.

Hotel Room Bookings

The conference planning committee is pleased to offer delegates a discounted hotel room rate of \$130.00 (Friday night only) at the Cambridge Red Deer Hotel & Conference Centre. All hotel bookings must be arranged through the conference committee to receive the discounted price. Participants wanting to reserve a hotel room at the time of registration or until March 13th must complete and submit the **"Hotel Reservation Request Form."**

Instructions for completing the Registration Form and Hotel Reservation Request Form when room sharing with another conference participant.

- ◆ One participant checks off the "Hotel add on" on the Registration Form and adds the \$130.00 to the registration cost total.
- ◆ When completing the Hotel Reservation Request Form, one participant will be the "Primary Guest", preferably the same participant who added the hotel on the registration form, and the other will be the "Secondary Guest." Ensure the box is checked indicating the secondary guest is also a conference participant.
- ◆ It is hotel policy that you present a credit card at time of check-in. **Rooms are double occupancy only.**

Nutrition:

Please consult with the hotel at least 2 weeks in advance of the conference date if you have dietary restrictions or allergies. Hotel Catering Ph: 403-755-1150 ext 1171 ask for Déal.

Thank you for your interest in our conference. This event has been made possible through the volunteer efforts of owners and staff from the following programs:



Stella Robb



Reshann Butts



Erin Tibble, Yvonne Peebles, Aydee Valencia



Tammy Cole



Kim Lee

Conference Overview

FRIDAY, APRIL 3rd

- 12:00 PM** Leadership Session Registration
- 1:00 PM** Leadership Session
- 5:00 PM** General Conference Registration
- 6:30 PM** Welcome Reception & Banquet (cash bar)
- 7:45 PM** Awards of Excellence Presentations
- 8:00 PM** Opening Keynote by Patti McDougall
A Piece of the Story

50/50 Sales throughout the evening with draw to immediately follow the keynote

SATURDAY, APRIL 4th

- 7:30 AM** Conference Registration & Breakfast
Tradeshow opens for the day
- 8:45 AM** Morning Keynote by Dr. Jody Carrington
Relationships: From Babies to Marriage to Death...Oh My!
- 10:30 AM** Morning Sessions
- 12:00 PM** Lunch & 50/50 draw
- 1:15 PM** Afternoon Keynote by Tina Varughese
50 Shades of Beige: Communicate With the Cross-Cultural Advantage
- 2:30 PM** Afternoon Sessions
- 4:15 PM** Grand Prize Draw

Welcome Reception

The welcome reception will feature a full buffet dinner and cash bar (ATM available in the hotel). Dinner will be followed by a few door prize draws and an engaging keynote presentation where participants will discover how each of us is a piece in a child's story.

Tradeshow

Be sure to stop by the tradeshow to visit with the vendors and perhaps treat yourself. The vendors will be featuring a variety of items related to work/business, toys and of course self care items such as clothing, bath and body, jewelry, etc.

Certificates

A certificate of attendance will be enclosed in your registration package you will receive at the conference. Please print your payment receipt that is emailed to you as a confirmation of session registration to accompany your certificate.

50/50 Draw Partnership

We are happy to announce we have partnered once again with the Central Alberta Child Advocacy Centre for the facilitation of the 50/50 draw. The CACAC supports children and families impacted by abuse in Red Deer and Central Alberta.

All proceeds will go to support the centre.



**Central Alberta
Child Advocacy Centre**

Keynotes & Presenters

FRIDAY EVENING

Patti McDougall—

ECE Instructor, Preschool Teacher

Patti McDougall has been in the education/educator field for over 25 years in a variety of settings including teaching in an Indigenous school in Fort St. James, managing child care centers in Winnipeg, and now operating her own preschool in Dawson Creek, BC. For the past two years Patti has also take on the role of ECE Instructor for Northern Lights College.

Although the settings she has worked in over the years have taught her many strategies for working with diverse children, her two boys with diverse needs have taught her the most.

Keynote: A Piece of the Story

This engaging keynote will help us see how we are all a piece of a child's story. What type of character do you want to be? Important non-the-less but not really necessary or you want a more impressive role?



SATURDAY MORNING

Dr. Jody Carrington—

Ph. D, Bestselling Canadian author of “Kids These Days: A Game Plan for (Re)Connecting With Those We Teach, Lead, and Love”

Keynote: Relationships: From Babies to Marriage to Death...Oh My!



Over the past 15 years, Dr. Jody Carrington has assessed, treated, educated and empowered some of our most vulnerable and precious souls on the planet. She is a child psychologist by trade, but Jody rarely treats kids. The answer lies, she believes, in the people who hold them. Especially when kids have experienced trauma, that's when they need big people the most. Some of her favourites include educators, parents, first responders, and foster parents. Jody has shifted the way they think and feel about the holy work that they do.

Before Jody started her own practice and speaking across the country, she worked at the Alberta Children's Hospital on the inpatient and day treatment units where she held families with some of the difficult stories. They taught her the most important lesson: we are wired to do hard things. We can handle those hard things so much easier when we remember this: we are wired for connection.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

Tina Varughese

Named one of Canada's 10 Notable Speakers by Ignite Magazine, audiences describe Tina as 'dynamic, highly energetic, relevant and hilarious'. She consistently rates as the 'the best speaker of the conference'. Her interactive approach is insightful yet practical and her delivery is highly entertaining. She breaks down barriers to create a comfortable, inclusive and fun space leaving attendees inspired to think, behave, act or communicate with intention.

Tina is an Indo-Canadian daughter of first generation East Indian parents, which allows her to find 'the best of both worlds' and shed light, knowledge and most importantly universal humour into the intercultural workplace. She draws from her experiences as an entrepreneur, mother, daughter, wife, sister and friend when delivering keynotes on work-life balance and diversity and inclusion-topics which resonate with her both professionally and personally.

Keynote: 50 Shades of Beige: Communicate With the Cross-Cultural Advantage



Everybody can benefit from communicating more effectively, however, when 20% of Canada's population is foreign-born (and much higher in urban centres), communicating with the cross-cultural advantage is arguably one of the most important types of communication to understand and benefit from in the 21st century.

Workshop Sessions & Presenters

FRIDAY AFTERNOON LEADERSHIP SESSION 1:00—4:00 PM

Leading: Improving the Workplace Through Mentorship with Dr. Laura Doan

As a leader, you have the opportunity to make such a difference in the lives of beginning early childhood educators, including all of your staff. How can you move beyond managing to leading? How can you develop a culture of learning and respect within the workplace? What aspects of mentoring are important to ensure a successful experience for both mentors and mentees? In this interactive workshop you will hear about specific strategies for supporting early childhood educators.

About the Facilitator:

Dr. Laura Doan is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Education and Social Work at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops, BC, where she teaches in the Early Childhood Education Program. Laura is currently involved in a province-wide peer mentoring project for early childhood educators.



SATURDAY MORNING 10:30 AM—12:00 PM

A1 TINKER TRAYS AND TIN CAN COLLECTIONS—Melissa Johnson (Smelly Melly)

It is time to take the creativity of loose parts to another level of exploration. In this thought provoking session participants will discover multiple ideas for the display of loose part collections. With a big focus on co-learning, Smelly Melly will guide participants through the creation of their own Tinker Tray or Tin Can Collection to add to their early learning environment. This session is offsite at Kerry Wood Nature Centre. Bus service will be available for participants.

A2 EVERY CHILD HAS A STORY—Patti McDougall

In this session Patti will share how she and her family have navigated the world from birth to present day. Through their struggles and successes participants will learn what to do (and what not to do) when working with children with challenging behaviours. Patti's stories remind all of us that every child comes to us with a story of their own, and it is our job to take the time to get to know their story and how we can best meet their needs.

A3 BEHAVIOURAL OUTCOMES OF GROWING UP IN VIOLENT HOMES—Keir Kutney

This session will look at how children are affected by violence and the common behaviours that result from violence as young as in-utero to adulthood.

SATURDAY MORNING CON'T

A4 STORY IN MY POCKET: The Value of Oral Storytelling—Mary Ann Lippiatt

This interactive session of multicultural oral storytelling will include family friendly, easy-to-tell story variations, story extensions, visual examples and participatory demonstrations. The stories within and around your are your greatest resources. Come to participate in the value of oral storytelling—leave inspired to tell!

A5 HOW TO COMMUNICATE WITH EASE— Justin Flunder

Effective communication is about more than just exchanging information. It's about understanding the emotion and intentions behind the information. Truly great communicators inspire purposeful action in others. In this hands on and interactive session you will learn how to identify with people and relate to others in a way that increases your influence with them and how to communicate in a way that connects with others.

A6 MEDICINE WHEEL TEACHINGS ARE A BEAUTIFUL THING! - Theresa "Corky" Larsen Jonasson

The medicine wheel is a beautiful tool to understanding how we and the ones we work and live with move through life.

Workshop Sessions

Workshop Presenters

SATURDAY AFTERNOON 2:30—4:00 PM

B1 CRAFT-IVITY— Melissa Johnson (Smelly Melly)

The release of energy through activity combined with the expression of creative art is the perfect combination for the growth of self confidence and self awareness in children. This energy packed session will guide early learning educators through the concept of Craft-ivity, while building the confidence to create opportunities that will positively impact each child's internal theme song.

B2 ACTIVITY PROGRAMMING—Keir Kutney

This session will focus on how to change behaviours through activities. Participants will explore the purpose of activities as skill builders, how to assess a child through activities, and how to set up activities to ensure success.

B3 WE HAVE TO TALK: How to Have Difficult Conversations—Justin Flunder

Most everyone dreads the difficult, challenging conversation. This includes conversations in which we have to deliver unpleasant news, discuss a delicate subject, or talk about something that needs to change or has gone wrong. Yet avoiding difficult conversations or mishandling them can result in many negative consequences. This session is designed to help participants approach difficult conversations with confidence, and manage them skillfully so that feelings are spared and the 'best interests' are kept front and centre.

B4 RISKY PLAY—Ashley Thomas

Risky play is essential for children to learn to negotiate their decisions and actions while at play. Risky play has a positive effect on children's mental health, gross motor development, and helps children learn how to process emotion through challenge. In this session participants will learn how to provide a safe space for children to take risks and how they can help children to foresee potential hazards. When children are allowed to assess and overcome obstacles and experience pride in their accomplishments they are less likely to "act out" as they learn to navigate the environment. Participants should come prepared to participate.

B5 THRIVING THROUGH ADVERSITY—Tyler Pelke

This session explores the following 4 points related to being proactive in our approach to facing challenges and adversity in every day life: social supports and mental toughness; defining your purpose; control and perspective; and helping others. The material presented is built on the notion that resilience can and should be developed in all of us and that there is much we can learn from the segment of the population of responders who have been able to adapt in a positive manner to their stressors.

Melissa Johnson is a passionate and energetic Early Learning Consultant with endless ideas to share with the elcc community. Melissa's experience and exposure to a multitude of early learning and child care settings with many dynamics make her a unique and approachable presenter.

Keir Kutney has 30 years experience working with youth who have severe behavioural issues in the residential, treatment, educational, and community settings. Keir has a keen interest in supporting families with children who have Autism or FASD and has impacted the lives of hundreds of kids over the years. Keir is recognized across Alberta for his understanding of kids' behaviours and his ability to provide concrete strategies to better youth with complex needs.

Justin Flunder is a leadership & communication coach and consultant. He works with organizational leaders to build healthy teams. Justin is passionate about helping everyday leaders become the best version of themselves.

Mary Ann Lippiatt is an Early Years Educator and Elementary Special Needs Education Asst. who has toured professionally for 25+ years providing oral storytelling performances and workshops for intergenerational audiences from day cares to long-term care homes.

Ashley Thomas is the owner of Sportball Central AB.

Tyler Pelke has an unwavering passion to see people and organizations pursue their full potential. Tyler is highly experienced in crisis leadership and emergency management leading high performing teams in dynamic high-stress environments. Tyler strives to inspire those around him to turn negative to positives through making everyday count and capitalizing on the opportunities that arise from life.

Theresa "Corky" Larsen Jonasson is a respected Elder and published author who strives to be a "bridge" between the indigenous and non-indigenous communities. She is passionate about Social Justice, Reconciliation, our youth, honouring diversity and traditional teachings.