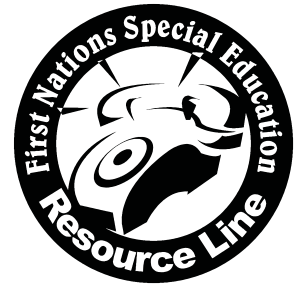


# First Nations Special Education CONNECTIONS



Newsletter of the First Nations Special Education Toll-free Resource Line

Vol. 9, No. 8 April 2009

## Do you work with First Nations students in British Columbia?

## Do you have special education questions?

If so, you are invited to contact the First Nations Special Education Resource Line! The Resource Line is a free service for BC educators and parents.

The Resource Line is designed to help you brainstorm approaches, guide you toward helpful resources, help you to understand assessment documents, and share the latest information on special education.

When you call, you will reach the Resource Line Coordinator, Holly Smith. Holly is available to answer your questions, Monday to Thursday, 12:30 to 4:30 during the school year

### Contact the Resource Line:

Toll-free 1-877-547-1919

[hollys@fnesc.ca](mailto:hollys@fnesc.ca)

*Connections* is the newsletter of the Resource Line. Back issues of *Connections* are available from

[www.fnsa.ca/resource-line.htm](http://www.fnsa.ca/resource-line.htm)

The Resource Line is a collaborative project of the First Nations Education Steering Committee and the First Nations Schools Association, made possible by financial assistance from the Department of Indian Affairs.



*I hope everyone has had an enjoyable March Break and returned energized for the final term of school. We have had some exciting changes in the FNESC/FNSA office, as you will read below.*

*In Connections, many of the resources we mention require Internet access, but if you need a print copy of an article or a website item, just give me a call.*

*Holly Smith,*

*Special Education Resource Line*

### A Letter of Introduction from Curtis Mallett, the New Director of Special Education

Hello. Tansi. My name is Curtis Mallett and I'm very pleased and excited to announce that I will be taking over from Kelly Kitchen as Director of Special Education. I'd like to express my sincere gratitude to the First Nations Education Steering Committee and the First Nations Schools Association for giving me the opportunity to join the management team.

As a member of the Fisher River Cree Nation Band from the Treaty 5 area in Manitoba I bring greetings to the Elders, the First Nations leadership, and to all the First Nations community members of this beautiful land. I eagerly look forward to meeting and working with you, to learning your customs and traditions, and to sharing some of the knowledge that I have gained during my career in inclusive and special education.

For the last nine years, I have been a Special Education Specialist at the Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre, providing professional development and consultation to First Nations schools in all the tribal regions of Manitoba. Prior to this, I was a classroom and special education teacher in the Winnipeg School Division for six years.

I would like to thank Kelly for her support and encouragement during this transition process, as well as acknowledge her ground-breaking work in making the Special Education Program here in BC one of the exemplary First Nations educational service delivery programs in all of Canada. I will do my utmost to continue to provide and coordinate this same level of service delivery and accessibility to which you have become accustomed.

In closing, I ask for your patience and understanding as I adjust to this important and challenging position, and as I learn from Kelly, Barb and the rest of the Special Education Team.

Thank you, Ekosani.

Curtis Mallett B.Ed PBCE M.Ed  
Director, Special Education, FNESC

## Farewell Kelly!

Kelly Kitchen has been a familiar and supportive voice on the other end of the phone helping First Nations schools, teachers, and administrators for the past eight years in special education.

Kelly's vision and commitment to First Nations schools has resulted in her innovative School Work Plan, her commitment to an intervention school based funding model for First Nations schools in BC and to cutting edge speech and language initiatives to improve services and education to students.

The Special Education Team wishes Kelly the very best as she travels forward on her journey. We will all miss her amazing energy, and dedication, and thank her from the bottom of our hearts for all the support she has given us and all that she has contributed to special education.



## Enlightening Reading

### Handbook of Language and Literacy Development: A Roadmap from 0 to 60 Months

Edited by Linda M. Phillips, PhD

[www.theroadmap.ca](http://www.theroadmap.ca)

The Roadmap is an excellent, evidence-based guide to children's developmental milestones for researchers, parents and caregivers. It addresses the topics of narrative, reading, speech-language, spelling, writing, hearing, social-emotional growth, vision, computer use, literature and numeracy.

The Roadmap explains how children's language and literacy skills evolve under the influence of many factors both within each child and within the environment.



**Language Development Questions?** Parents and teachers are very welcome to call Deanne on the Speech and Language Resource Line: 1-877-547-5926.

## Online Resources

### Ed Extras

[www.readingrockets.org/newsletters/extras](http://www.readingrockets.org/newsletters/extras)

READING rockets®

Ed Extras is a free monthly service offering parent-friendly articles about learning that you can include in your parent newsletters for preschool programs, elementary schools and PTAs. You can download the articles or have them delivered to your email account each month. The articles can be downloaded as a PDF and stapled to your newsletter or cut and pasted right into your own newsletter.

### Canadian Council on Learning

[www.ccl-cca.ca](http://www.ccl-cca.ca)

The Canadian Council on Learning (CCL) is an independent, non-profit corporation that promotes and supports research to improve all aspects of learning—across the country and across all walks of life. Funded by Human Resources and Social Development Canada, CCL was created in 2004 following a series of nationwide consultations on innovation. Canadians agreed that lifelong learning is essential to make Canada a world leader in innovation, skills and learning.

This website includes resources based on the following Knowledge Centres:

- Aboriginal learning

- Adult learning
- Early childhood learning
- Health and learning
- Work and learning

You can also sign up to receive their bi-weekly e-bulletin Learning Links.

## FNESC/FNSA Special Education Lending Library Spotlight

The FNESC/FNSA Special Education Lending Library has many valuable resources and it is available to FNSA member schools. Browse through the library's special education materials online by visiting the website <http://www.fnesc.org:88/>. Try entering "Special Education" as your search term. To request materials, contact Patti Yamamoto at the FNESC office at P: 1-877-422-3672, F: 604-925-6097 or email: [pattiy@fnesc.ca](mailto:pattiy@fnesc.ca).



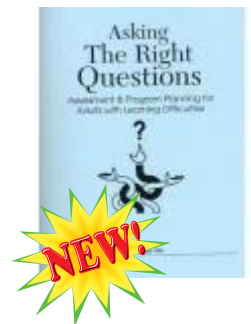
### The Canadian Adult Reading Assessment (CARA)

CARA provides placement and diagnostic information and identifies reading patterns, enabling you to choose effective teaching strategies. The Instructor's Manual and CD provide step-by-step instructions and interactive exercises on how to administer, score and interpret CARA. As well, this manual contains the word list, 49 graded passages for Grades 1 to 12, and comprehension questions. The passages have contemporary Canadian content with adult appeal. Be sure to request the companion student booklet along with the instructor's manual.

### Asking the Right Questions: Assessment and Program Planning for Adults with Learning Difficulties

Authors: Dr. Marilyn T. Samuels and Anna Kae McIvor-Todd

The Kit includes the manual and a DVD. The DVD illustrates the key concepts discussed in the manual and it includes dramatizations of the process of assessing adults with learning difficulties.



## Dates for your Calendar

Don't miss local special education related workshops and conferences! The **2008-2009 Special Professional Development issue of Connections** is available online at: [www.fnsa.ca/resource-line.htm](http://www.fnsa.ca/resource-line.htm).

### APRIL 2009

**April 3-5, Delta.** Basic Intensive Week Training in Glasser's Choice Theory and Lead Management. Learn how knowing internal motivation theory can take the stress out of any classroom, administrative, or personal problem and help you to be creatively part of the solution. Call Daphni at Educere 604-946-1967 or [djclifton@dccnet.com](mailto:djclifton@dccnet.com).

**April 16-18, Coquitlam.** Coquitlam Encompass Conference, 2009 Celebrating Social Justice to Creating Safe and Caring Schools and Communities. Keynote Speakers: Dr. Donna Beegle and Kathy Lynn. Featured Speakers: Dr. Kim Schonert-Reichl, Dr. Shelly Hymel, Dr. Lee Brown, David Bouchard, Ivan Coyote, and Katy Hutchinson, Eekwol. Registration information available February 2009. For further information contact Chris King at [pd43@bctf.ca](mailto:pd43@bctf.ca) or 604-936-9971.

**April 15, Victoria.** A Neurodevelopmental Perspective on Differences in Learning with Dr. Mel Levine. BRAIN FUNCTION IS KEY to learning, yet children who have problems learning are often labeled lazy (or worse). This workshop will focus on those brain processes and what can be done to improve outcomes. His handouts include a series of guidelines for those who work with children having difficulty in school. <http://www.jackhirose.com/brochures/BC-Levine-Victoria--2009.html>.

**April 18-19, Delta.** Basic Intensive Week Training in Glasser's Choice Theory and Lead Management. Learn how knowing internal motivation theory can take the stress out of any classroom, administrative, or personal problem and help you be part of the solution. Call Daphni at Educere 604-946-1967 or [djclifton@dccnet.com](mailto:djclifton@dccnet.com).

**April 24, Whistler.** Practical Strategies to Support Struggling Students in Reading and Math 4th Annual Mini-Conference. Understand your students better and learn sensible, easy-to-use strategies that can be implemented

in your classroom immediately! Spend the day with Mary Moody, Verna Duckworth, Liz Barrett or Greg Sharpe. Learn about ESL, math, and disorganized students in your classroom, and the learning styles of boys and girls. Enjoy beautiful Whistler Village during the Ski and Snowboard Festival. For details and online registration please visit [www.pita.ca](http://www.pita.ca). For information, contact Ray Myrtle [president@pita.ca](mailto:president@pita.ca).

**April 24-25, Vancouver.** First Nations Schools Association Annual Conference and AGM, Realizing the Potential of Each Student: Approaches that Work. Classroom-tested strategies and workshops spanning a wide variety of subjects and grade levels. Keynote address by David Rattray and featured workshop by Kagan Cooperative Learning. Visit [www.fnsa.ca](http://www.fnsa.ca) or call toll-free in BC 1-877-422-3672.

**April 30, Abbotsford.** PITA's Year of Professional Support Program for Early Career Teachers: Workshop, Evaluation & Celebration. Why prepare alone? Workshops to help you be more prepared and confident as you begin teaching. We provide practical strategies, 'ready to go' materials and web-based help. These workshops illustrate good teaching and strategies that are useful to all teachers. Sign up to receive more details by visiting [www.pita.ca](http://www.pita.ca) or contact Ray Myrtle [president@pita.ca](mailto:president@pita.ca)

## **MAY 2009**

**May 2, Vancouver.** Investigating Our Practices 2009 12th Annual Conference. Teachers from different educational contexts convene at the University of BC to share their investigations, understandings and questions. Deadline for proposals: March 6, 2009. Registration fee \$25 (\$15 for students.) Lunch and refreshments included. Scarfe Education Building 2125 Main Mall UBC. For more information, contact Judy Paley 604-822-2733 [judy.paley@ubc.ca](mailto:judy.paley@ubc.ca) or visit [eplt.educ.ubc.ca/workshops/](http://eplt.educ.ubc.ca/workshops/)

**May 3-6, Winnipeg.** DreamCatching 2009: Hands-on Workshops in Math and Science for Teachers of Aboriginal Students. Theme: Connecting the Dots: Building a Pathway to Career Awareness through Excellence in Math and Science held at the University of Manitoba. For more details, visit <http://dream-catching.com/2009/Site/DC2009.html>. Student rates available.

*Did you know that the Resource Line is available to parents? Consider sharing my phone number or email with families in your community. I can help parents work successfully with their children's school, develop parent advocacy skills, learn about community resources, and provide information on many other topics. This service is available to families of First Nations students in First Nations, school district and independent schools.*