



Manitoba Child Care Association
Presents

PASSPORT TO EXCELLENCE

46th Early Learning and Child
Care Conference
May 23 - 24, 2024



VICTORIA INN HOTEL AND CONVENTION CENTRE
WINNIPEG

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Design & Layout: On Parr Graphics

Please keep in mind:

- When you register for conference (online or paper) you will receive an emailed confirmation with your workshop selections.
- If you are mailing in your registration please check our website to see if there are any workshops that are full. Please ensure you have made a 2nd & 3rd choice if registering by mail.
- Need a vegetarian, vegan or gluten free meal, don't forget to check off the box on the registration form (paper and online) and then check your confirmation to ensure it states you have ordered a special meal. We cannot accommodate vegetarian/vegan/gluten free requests at the conference, you must pre-order.
- If you are going to submit a travel subsidy request please read the information on page 26 prior to driving to the conference.
- Lunch is the only meal provided. AM and PM refreshments are provided.

50/50 Draw

Here's your chance to walk away with a cash prize.



Tickets are 10 for \$5.00 and can be purchased from a conference committee member or in the ballroom foyer. The winner keeps 50% of what is collected and MCCA keeps the other 50% to use towards the purchase of a new smart board.

The draw will take place at 3:00 pm each day in the Centennial Ballroom.

The conference is being held at the Victoria Inn and Convention Centre, 1808 Wellington Avenue

PASSPORT TO EXCELLENCE

I am pleased to once again invite and welcome you to attend the Manitoba Child Care Association's 46th annual early childhood and education conference, **PASSPORT TO EXCELLENCE**. Conference is one of my favourite times of the year, and this year is no different. This is an exciting time to be in early learning and child care in Manitoba. As the Canadian government aims to build a cross-country child care system, we have seen expansion and funding changes like never before. One of the core pillars of the Canadian system remains quality. Manitoba has always been proud to offer some of the highest quality child care in Canada and we continue to strive to retain that reputation. This year, our Conference Committee is offering learning opportunities to help you grow your skills, strengthen your commitment and strive for excellence. We are offering you a chance to join us on a journey to offer high quality early learning and care and to help you to excel in your important work. As you read through the many choices of workshops over the 2-day conference, look for the sessions that will help you reach for excellence in your work and excite you about early learning and child care.



As always, the volunteer Conference Committee and amazing MCCA staff work hard planning and preparing for this excellent event. We will have our Attendee Hub conference app again this year to guide you through a personalized event. We are excited to host a Networking Evening where you will hear the story of one of MCCA's volunteers and learn more about the committees and groups of MCCA. On the Friday night of conference, we will honour those colleagues who are award recipients at our Awards Banquet. We will bring back the ever-popular 50/50 draw for each day and will offer both on and off-site sessions to suit the workshop topics. I can't wait to see you there!

On behalf of the Conference Committee and all of our delegates, I wish congratulations and thanks to MCCA as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the organization! We are so lucky to have such a strong organization leading the way for excellence and quality in early learning and child care in Canada.

Marilyn Valgardson
Conference Committee Chair

The 2024 Conference Committee:

Committee Members: Nola Adair, Sheila Argue, Danielle Bedard, Allison Boxshall, Tracy Bijl, Melanie Glaser, Lanny McDonald, Shawna McKenzie, Sara MacPherson, Brenda McCarthy, Lorraine Milan, Melodie Meakin, Diana Metrik, Aricelle Taylor, and Marilyn Valgardson

Staff: Karen Kowalski, Assistant Executive Director

MCCA is proud to be saving some trees by using a conference app that has all the information regarding conference. You can download the app to your smart phone (iPhone/Android) iPad and tablet.

The app will be available to conference delegates in May.

- Step 1: Download the Attendee Hub
- Step 2: Search MCCA
- Step 3: Select the conference: Passport to Excellence
- Step 4: Make a profile
- Step 5: Add in your workshop choices to the schedule

Please note we recommend that you allow push notifications so that you are getting the latest information about the conference.



What should I bring to the conference?



A pen - to write with, unfortunately we don't have a supply of pens to hand out.



Paper - to write on, a small notebook works best.



A sweater - the workshop rooms can be cool especially first thing in the morning but once 64 people are in there, it can get quite warm. Layers of clothing work best.



Labels with your name on them - this will make it much easier to purchase your 50/50 tickets.



Cash - to purchase 50/50 tickets. You can also use debit or credit.



And lastly, bring your enthusiasm, energy, and your eagerness to learn and network!

Important Information for Conference 2024

We are so excited that the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Learning is allowing facilities to close for a day of conference without loss of revenue and without having to open on an alternate holiday day. The MCCA conference is a perfect opportunity to have your whole team attend. So many workshops to all participate in and then share the knowledge at a future staff meeting. If you are a family child care provider this is a perfect opportunity to get a chance to network with other family child care providers.

Our mobile conference app (Attendee Hub) will launch in May and because we have moved to CVENT, each registered delegate will get an prompt to download the app. Attendee Hub is a CVENT product so they work together, this should make for a seamless experience. It will be very important to ensure the delegate's cell phone number is included on the registration.

We are happy to announce that there is no increase in conference fees this year and we have increased the amount for hotel accommodations (travel subsidy) from \$35.00 to \$50.00 per person, maximum is \$100.00 per room.

When you register online you will receive an email confirmation of what you or your staff are registered for. It is really important to look over each confirmation to ensure the information is correct, especially if the person requires a special (vegetarian, vegan or gluten free) meal.

Registration opens up at 7:30 am and Opening Remarks begin at 8:30, please arrive early to registration so that you are seated in the Centennial ballroom by 8:30 am.

Special Meals



The MCCA Conference offers delegates the option of requesting a gluten free meal, vegan or a vegetarian meal for lunch. These meals must be requested at the time of registering. Please ensure that you check off the box for yourself or for your staff to ensure that they will have the special meal that they requested. We cannot accept requests at the conference for speciality meals.



Selecting A Workshop

You are looking at the conference brochure and deciding what workshops to sign up for. What factors help you to decide what workshops to take? Do you have a goal to work on, are you looking for new ideas on a specific topic, are you trying to to gain new learning and skills?

The workshops have an icon that will let you know what type of presentation the workshop is, is it hands on, seminar or lecture.

The next icon you will see, will let you know who the workshop is geared to in terms of what age groups the ECE works with.

The last set of icons will tell you (if applicable) if the workshop is geared to a frontline person or a manager/leader.

It is important to pay attention to these icons because if you work with infants, going to workshop that is geared for those who work with school age children will be disappointing. Don't just select a workshop based on the title, read the workshop description and note the session icons.

Sessions Legend

Type of Presentation:



Hands On



Seminar
(some participation)



Lecture

Geared for adults who work with:



All Ages



Infant/Toddler



Preschool



School Age

Geared for adults who are:



Everyone



Novice
Frontline



Intermediate
Frontline



Managers/Leaders



The school bus means that you will be taken offsite for your workshop and travelling by bus.



The clock means that there is something to note regarding the workshop time.



David A. Robertson

THURSDAY KEYNOTE - 9:00 am - 10:00 am

How do we Move from Cultural Appropriation to Cultural Appreciation?

The lines are delicate, and can be confusing. The refrain in defence of appropriation has often been about honouring Indigenous people, but does it? In this address, the definition of cultural appropriation will be outlined, examples will be provided, and a discussion will be had on how we move from cultural appropriation, which can be damaging to Indigenous people and communities, to appreciation, which empowers and educates.

Thursday AM (TAM) workshops: 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

TAM-01 Best Choices: Ethics Part IV



In Manitoba and Canada, those who work in early learning and child care environments have a Code of Ethics to guide our standards of practice. Using this code is a professional obligation.

This four-part series occurs in a specific order, with each workshop a pre-requisite for the following session. The series helps us to use this code in our daily practice and continues to receive rave reviews. Here's your chance to join us in some serious fun!

This capstone workshop will help you to make a commitment of ethical practice in your daily work and enhance your awareness of your own values, beliefs and assumptions. You will also understand why, when faced with an ethical dilemma, it is difficult to follow through with your best choice. In this session, come with examples of ethical dilemmas that you have faced since you completed part three, and how you used the framework for ethical decision making to help you to make the best choice for that situation, at that time, with the information that you had on hand. Reflection is a big part of part IV!

***Please note you must have completed Ethics Part III at least 4 months (prior to February 23rd). Please bring your ethics certificate and your handouts from the previous workshops with you.**

***You will not be able to attend the full Keynote.**

Presenters: Sharon Balasko & Keri Waterman

Thursday AM (TAM) workshops: 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

TAM-02 How Children's Need for Curiosity is Intertwined with Program Philosophies and Reflective Practice



Come explore the intricate dance between children's innate curiosity and program philosophies. Through a variety of experiences, participants will examine the symbiotic relationship between fostering curiosity and developing thoughtful program philosophies. Discover how reflective practices serve as a compass, guiding educators in creating dynamic environments that not only nurture a child's inherent sense of curiosity and wonderment but also align with the overarching program philosophies and practices, principles and beliefs of programs and children's curiosity and sense of wonderment.

Presenter: Dr. Beverlie Dietze

TAM-03 School Aged Philanthropy



This workshop will explore how to get youth engaged and involved, provide meaningful/insightful context regarding those living in impoverished conditions. We will also discuss the positive effects of philanthropy and spreading lateral love and coming up with various methods of support for the community. It will also included the benefits of volunteerism and helping others.

Presenter: Daniel Hidalgo

TAM-04 Reconciliation: What is it, What it Entails, and What we Ought to do



Over the last 15 years, David has been doing the work of reconciliation, before reconciliation was a word that was widely being used. In that time, he has come to an understanding of the term, both its drawbacks and its benefits. As well, he has learned how broad the scope of reconciliation is, and on the path of healing, what role everybody has, or can play.

Presenter: David Robertson

TAM-05 The Impact of Transformative Professional Learning



Over the last three years, the Association of Early Childhood Educators Ontario (AECEO) has been working on a project to build leadership and learning communities that aim to connect, support, and empower Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) across the province of Ontario. Through providing educator-focused workshop style learning experiences, a conference created by ECEs for ECEs, and supporting both local and relational community groups of early years professionals, we will share the immense impact of planning, presenting, and participating in transformative professional learning on educators' sense of belonging, well-being, professionalism, leadership capacity, and pedagogy and practice with children and families.

This session will consist of small group discussions and offer various opportunities for participants to share insights and experiences.

To prepare for this session, participants are invited to reflect on:

What do YOU want to be celebrated for in your work?

What is your ECE super power?

Have you ever considered what sharing your superpower with other ECEs could look like?

Presenter: Amber Straker

TAM-06 More Than Words: Teaching Non-Verbal Language Skills for Social, Emotional, and Cognitive Success



As educators become aware of the significance of non-verbal communication in effective peer relationships between young children, they will be able to observe and assess children who currently have the skills as well as children who need help in learning and displaying the skills. As children are able to interact with each other in the context of non-verbal communication, their social effectiveness will increase.

Participants will be able to:

1. Explain the ways infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and school-age children can communicate non-verbally with each other.
2. Demonstrate a variety of ways that children can be instructed in using and decoding non-verbal cues and signals.
3. Create a system of supporting non-verbal communication in their early childhood program.

Presenter: Frances Carlson

TAM-07 Designing Inspiring Environments: 7 Principles of Design



The early childhood environment is an essential component for maximizing learning experiences for young children. This presentation introduces 7 Principles of Design based on Duncan's book. It invites early childhood educators to enhance children's educational environment in a beautiful way by emphasizing aesthetic qualities that are often overlooked in early childhood classrooms, such as nature, color, furnishings, textures, displays, lighting, and focal points. Participants will walk away with easy-to-implement ideas and walk them through the process of transforming a classroom into a creative, beautiful learning space that provides children with an intriguing environment where they can learn and grow.

Presenter: Dr. Sandra Duncan

Thursday PM (TPM) workshops: 1:15 pm – 4:15 pm

TPM-01 Best Choices: Ethics Part I



In Manitoba and Canada, those who work in early learning and child care environments have a Code of Ethics to guide our standards of practice. Using this code is a professional obligation. This four-part series occurs in a specific order, with each workshop a pre-requisite for the following session. The series helps us to use this code in our daily practice and continues to receive rave reviews. Here's your chance to join us in some serious fun!

This is the first workshop in the MCCA's ethical journey series. In Part I, you will learn about beliefs, values, and ethics and the relationship between them. You will learn to identify your own beliefs, values, and ethics and understand how they impact your actions. You will also learn to understand others' beliefs, values, and ethics.

MCCA provides participants with a certificate which tracks your journey through all four parts. This workshop is the pre-requisite for the other three parts of the ethical journey.

***Please note the time this workshop begins.**

Presenters: Shannon Curtaz & Keri Waterman

Thursday PM (TPM) workshops: 1:45 pm – 4:15 pm

TPM-02 The Playful Palette: Nurturing Imagination through Blocks, Art, and Dramatic Expression



The block corner... the art centre ... and the dramatic centre – but wait, what happens when we combine these areas? Come embark on a journey to explore the vibrant intersection of how blocks, art, and dramatic play converge and examine how combining these mediums unlock a full spectrum of new, innovative play options, exploration, and discoveries in children's play and learning.

Presenter: Dr. Beverlie Dietze

TPM-03 Empowering Families: Understanding and Managing Incontinence in School Age Children



Incontinence impacts 1 in 10 school aged children and 2 in 100 teenagers. It has been shown to have a negative impact on learning, social engagement, emotional development and self-esteem. Unfortunately, it often remains under-addressed with many caregivers assuming that the child will 'grow out' of the problem. While this may be true, only 15% of incontinent children will become continent after one year without intervention, and pediatric incontinence increases their risk of developing bladder or bowel control challenges in their adult years. This lecture aims to bridge the knowledge gap among parents and child care professionals, empowering them to provide crucial support to children struggling with incontinence.

Topics to be covered:

- Understanding Childhood Incontinence
- Impact on a Child's Well-Being
- Signs and Symptoms
- Causes of Childhood Incontinence
- Empowering Parents and Caregivers
- Treatment and Management Options
- Creating Inclusive and Supportive School Environments
- Resources and Referrals

The lecture will be conducted through a combination of presentations, case studies, interactive discussions, and Q&A sessions. Real-life scenarios and practical advice will be shared to facilitate better understanding and application of the content.

Presenter: Alison Gordon

TPM-04 How Do You Lead: From the Front, the Side, or From Behind?



There are three common leadership styles and each has advantages. Learn which one you exhibit most, and how each style is best utilized under what type of circumstances.

Presenter: Frances Carlson

TPM-05 Mapping an Educator's Career Journey – A Global Research Collaboration



Recruiting and retaining staff is a challenge facing early childhood operators around the world. At the World Forum of Early Childhood Education in 2022, a group of multi-site organizations from different countries used customer journey mapping techniques to map an educator career pathway.

This map allows ECE leaders to easily visualize and observe educators' experience from educators' perspective on their career journey from awareness of the profession through five stages to leadership and advocacy. Across the different stages, the map highlights educators' experience, activities, touchpoints, leadership involvement and opportunities.

The work was complemented by a survey which provided insights from an additional 20 multi-site organizations from the UK, US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Malaysia. This presentation will share the 'Educator Journey Map' as well as insights about research and initiatives multi-sites ECE organizations are utilizing to support the journey of their educators. Participants will gain resources and ideas that will be useful in helping enhance their employee experience - strengthening recruitment and retention.

Presenter: Peter Dixon

TPM-06 Lateral Empathy and Community Engagement



This workshop will include a discussion on the importance and effectiveness of mentorship, lateral empathy, and community engagement with school age children. The value of investing in those with a variety of lived life experiences within various systems (justice, child welfare, poverty etc). Discussions on how our circumstances don't dictate our outcomes but help shape us into who we are meant to be.

Presenter: Daniel Hidalgo

TPM-07 Activating Play and Learning Outdoors with The Green Guide



The Green Guide is a passion project of Little Bluestem Landscape Architecture (LBLA). Through this initiative, we want to offer land-based design services and environmental learning opportunities. We address the significant changes in Manitoba's climate and terrain through a year-round emphasis on nature programming.

Land-based education can create a safe and inclusive space for learning for indigenous and non-indigenous students in the class. Indigenous practices have always had a strong emphasis on the mutually beneficial relationship between humans and nature. Integrating Indigenous history, teaching, and practices demonstrates the intent of reconciliation and acknowledgment within the classroom. Encouraging a diversity of worldviews helps to create an inclusive landscape for all students.

This workshop will discuss lesson plans and activities that can be included within the curriculum to incorporate land-based learning. It will provide training to educators on how they can facilitate a safe space for students from all backgrounds to speak up, ask questions and be part of powerful conversations. We will encourage educators to work together in developing new views for students about their surroundings, and find ways that they can make small changes for outdoor learning and exploration. From school yard assessments, to learning what types of plants and animals are in the environment, students can learn how to be more respectful, understanding and inquisitive.

Presenter: Darcy Granove

TFD-01 Teams That Really Work



Are your teams struggling? Your ability to properly identify the Difficulty Indicators and being able to navigate the 10 Elements of Group Dynamics in your workplace will get you going in the right direction. As well, it has a direct impact on your ability to succeed as a leader.

We will explore:

- The Difficulty Indicators
- Five Process Elements to Great Teams
- Five Task Elements to Great Teams
- Your Team Culture
- Problem Solving Technics
- Strategies for Creating Great Teams

Presenter: Rolande Kirouac

TFD-02 Healing Our Workforce



It has often been said that parenting is akin to standing naked in front of a mirror, where all our focus is on our flaws. The same can be said of working in child care. We are constantly triggered and if we don't understand what is happening, then we cannot properly be in charge of a response. In lieu of a response, we react, and the reaction is often self-protective.

This full day workshop, suitable for directors and front-line staff, will take us through typical situations that come up that cause triggering, what that triggering can look like, and what one can do for oneself, but also what colleagues and managers can do for the person who is triggered. We will look at naming to avoid shaming, how to get through a difficult moment rather than try to avoid the difficulties, and if what is required is more therapeutic support, how to prepare to engage in that successfully.

Presenter: Joanne Brown

MCCA's Annual General Meeting

Thursday, May 23, 2024

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Registration begins at 4:30 pm

Location: Embassy A & B

Attend our Annual General Meeting!

Elect the new Board of Directors!

Hear more about MCCA's plans for 2024/2025!

Refreshments will be provided.

Please pre-register using page 29



10:15 am - 4:15 pm

When registering for these workshops please keep the following in mind:

- Buses will leave by the Wellington doors.
- If you miss your bus, attending another workshop at the Victoria Inn is not an option.
- You will leave immediately after the keynote address.
- Lunch is included with all field trips, please indicate if you require a vegetarian, vegan or gluten free meal.
- Delegates cannot drive their own vehicles to the offsite workshops.
- Space is limited on all off site workshops and MCCA reserves the right to limit the amount of registrants from one centre/organization.
- Delegates will be picked up at approximately 3:45 pm at their location and brought back to the Victoria Inn for 4:15 pm.

THO-01 Canadian Human Rights Museum & Winnipeg Art Gallery



CHRM – 10:30 am – 12:00 noon

This tour will take you on a human rights journey and allow you to discover the museum’s inspiring and diverse content. You will be able to explore all our 11 galleries and connect with compelling human rights stories along the way. “Take a unique journey through a selection of galleries and exhibits that connect you with compelling human right stories from across Canada and around the world. On this tour, you will learn what the Museum is all about. Your knowledgeable guide will invite thought and discussion as you wind your way through stunning architecture and interactive exhibits.”

Winnipeg Art Gallery – 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

At the WAG you will have a tour of WAG-Qaumajuq’s Visible Vault as well as the new exhibition, *Towards Home*. *Towards Home* is an Indigenous-led exhibition and publication project that explores how Inuit, Sámi, and other communities across the Circumpolar Arctic are creating self-determined spaces. Co-curated by Inuit, Sámi, and settler curators Joar Nango, Taqralik Partridge, Jocelyn Piirainen, and Rafico Ruiz, *Towards Home* examines issues of sovereignty and celebrates practices of designing and building on the land.

The tour will have some stories and hands-on interactive materials that would add to the engagement of the artworks for children of an early age. During the tour, we will highlight visual learning strategies that can be used with children to help them be able to “read” art. Following the tour, the participants will experience a hands-on art making activity that relates to the artwork visited in *Towards Home*, the art activity is intended to be one that can then be offered to children. Participants will create a sculptural artwork inspired by the architectural artworks in the exhibition using sustainable materials such as cardboard and found objects.

THO-02 Let’s Play Outside! Embracing Forest & Nature School Practices in Your Own Backyard.



This full day outdoor workshop will take place at Kildonan Park.

Forest & Nature programs are for children of ALL ages and can take place in any outdoor space we have available to us. We will explore the definition, the pillars, and the principles of forest and nature programs and how they can fit into the spaces we have. We will delve into the importance of loose parts and risky play in children’s growth and development in all developmental areas. We will test our own comfort levels and explore how they impact children’s experiences. There will be lots of opportunities for hands-on exploration of tools and how to use them with children. We will also have many activities for you to try out and take back to your program to help you start getting your children outside in all weather!

Presenter: Cindy Curry

CREATING CONNECTIONS: A NETWORKING EVENING

Thursday, May 23, 2024

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Room: Wellington A & B

networking
noun

1. the action or process of interacting with others to exchange information and develop professional or social contacts.

The 2024 Conference Committee is delighted to announce that we will hold our 2nd Networking Evening at the MCCA conference. Come and join us and hear Lynda Raible, MCCA's President talk about her experience about her volunteer experience and the importance of networking. After listening to Lynda, participants will have time to walk around the room and talk to the different networking groups and MCCA committees. Have you wondered what the School Age Committee is about, do you want to learn more about the Supervisor Support Group, and how to join these different groups? Maybe you want to discuss the work you do with like minded early childhood educators.

We are just confirming all of the groups who will be in attendance but check our website in March for the full list.

You must pre-register for this evening and it is free to MCCA members and you don't have to be registered for the conference to attend the evening. Not a member, but want to attend, not a problem you can attend for a nominal fee of \$10.00.

Registration will begin at 6:00 pm, speaker at 6:30 for 45 minutes and then attendees will have time to network with the different groups. Light refreshments will be served.

We hope to see you there!





Dr. Beverlie Dietze

FRIDAY KEYNOTE - 9:00 am - 10:00 am

Unlocking the Spark: Igniting Children’s Curiosity in Play and Learning

We delve into the transformative power of curiosity and its pivotal role in a child’s play and learning journey. Through engaging stories, interactive demonstrations, and actionable strategies, participants will explore ways to create environments that nurture and amplifies children’s natural curiosity. By harnessing the power of inquiry-based learning, personalized approaches, and interdisciplinary exploration, we empower children to engage in play, become critical thinkers, and innovative problem solvers. Unlocking the Spark can be a captivating journey for adults and children, which paves the way for Igniting their Curiosity in Play and Learning.

Friday AM (FAM) workshops: 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

FAM-01 Best Choices: Ethics Part II



In Manitoba and Canada, those who work in early learning and child care environments have a Code of Ethics to guide our standards of practice. Using this code is a professional obligation. This four-part series occurs in a specific order, with each workshop a pre-requisite for the following session. The series helps us to use this code in our daily practice and continues to receive rave reviews. Here’s your chance to join us in some serious fun!

In this second session in your ethical journey, you will be introduced to the MCCA Code of Ethics and understand its benefits. You will also begin to learn the process of ethical decision making. In this session you will receive your personal copy of the Code of Ethics and a handy wallet size card with the principles to keep at your fingertips.

***Please note the time this workshop begins.**

Presenters: Mariella Carr & Shannon Curtaz

Friday AM (FAM) workshops: 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

FAM-02 Supporting and Promoting Outdoor Play



All children thrive when they are able to play outdoors! Through sharpening our observation skills, we will explore and connect all types of play that happen outdoors to all the developmental domains and curriculum areas. With this knowledge, we will be able to identify all the benefits of children being outside and be able to advocate and share this knowledge with others.

Presenter: Cindy Curry

FAM-03 The Power of Peace: Using the Environment to Promote Language & Literacy, Relationships and Representation



As ECEs, we recognize that the environment is a part of a play-based curriculum and has an impact on our practice. But this isn’t about just about addressing challenging behaviour or keeping children engaged. It’s about harnessing the power of the Environment as Third Teacher to inform and shape children’s learning, to promote communication and relationships, and even to affect children’s mood and behaviour! When educators reflect on their surroundings and consider how this environment impacts everyone who ‘lives’ and works in the space, we can harness this information to foster children’s learning and positive relationships.

Through the lens of an outdoor play research project and a project used to promote language and literacy, participants will be offered simple ways to design a warm and welcoming environment for learning (indoors and out), to create an environment that builds positive relationships through representation, and to use children’s interests to create an environment where children feel accepted, connected, and recognized.

Presenters: Dr. Kelly Andrushko & Zen Rio Quinsaot

FAM-04 Nuton's Recipe for Food and Nutrition Education: Four Ingredients to Make a Difference



The messages we receive about food, bodies, and movement are often control-and restriction-based, which can hinder kids' natural curiosity around food. This can be a recipe for disaster! Join Amanda in this interactive workshop and stir up a fresh perspective on food, eating, and body image that will help you create positive food and eating environments in your child care facilities.

What You'll Learn:

Learn Nūton's recipe for impactful food exploration. Attendees receive a free educator toolkit with reflective activities and resources for:

1. Body Inclusivity
2. Food Stories
3. Eating Competence
4. Food Literacy

Why Join Us?

An authentic appreciation of, and curiosity about, the world and food comes naturally to children. Let's explore ways to support them in enjoying a variety of foods and building healthy relationships with food, their bodies, and movement. Don't miss this chance to revolutionize the way we approach food and nutrition education!

Presenter: Amanda Hamel

FAM-05 Our Animal Young: Socializing Our Animal Young for Success in a Human World



This session will help you understand that some behaviours young children have are animal behaviours that ALL animal young demonstrate:

- The need for physical contact
- Rough and tumble play
- Non-verbal communication
- Nipping/mouthing

Participants will learn:

1. Why these often troublesome behaviours are important to overall development
2. How to socialize these behaviours for success in a human world

Presenter: Frances Carlson

FAM-06 A High Image of Child and It's Impact on Workplace Culture



In this presentation Pat will explore how your image of children impacts your daily experiences in cultivating a positive classroom community. Having a high image of children allows you to say "yes" more and gives you permission to think deeply about your work with children. Making connections, and strengthening relationships provides you with purpose. Have you lost some of your passion? Are you just as excited to come to work each day as you were as a new graduate? In Pat's presentation She will discuss how the Reggio Emilia Approach is foundational in creating a culture of little turnover and inspiration within our practice.

Presenter: Pat Furman

FAM-07 The Honeycomb Hypothesis - Unlocking How Young Children Learn Through Nature



Have you ever observed honey bees flitting around and nosing up to sweet smelling flowers? Pause to observe them and you may notice just how these little wonders of nature are busily gathering pollen to carry back to their hives. This repeated gathering, collecting, taking, and placing the pollen in the hive is innate and instinctive. Honey bees happily buzz back and forth, back and forth, and repeat the process so quickly you may grow dizzy as you observe. The same is true for very young children. The only difference is wee ones are collecting bits and pieces of data from the environments to give to their honeycomb brains.

This presentation uses the analogy of a honey bee to help you understand how children learn and offers plenty of hands-on experiences with nature for infants, toddlers, and two-year-old children. Use the rich hands-on experiences and ideas in this presentation for fostering young children's true understanding of their worlds through open-ended nature exploration. And, watch the young honey bees in your classroom fly to new and inspiring heights.

Presenter: Dr. Sandra Duncan

FAM-08 Curiosity Driven Spaces – With a Reggio Inspired View



Discover a transformative workshop that seamlessly blends the principles of the Reggio Emilia Approach with a reflective 6 C's framework, guiding you towards curating a curiosity-driven space that resonates with your unique vision. In this dynamic session, you will learn to harness the environment as the Third Teacher, allowing your space to reflect the images of the child, educator, and family.

Throughout the workshop, we will delve into the crucial role of the learning environment, emphasizing four essential considerations before implementing enhancements. Gain the skills to curate a sensory-rich learning space that caters to sensory sensitivities, creating an engaging and inclusive atmosphere for all learners.

Educators will leave this workshop with a clear vision for their environments, ready to put the 6 C's framework into action. You'll be inspired with hands-on play experiences that can be easily implemented into your settings right away, ensuring that you are well-equipped to create a stimulating and inviting learning space that nurtures the innate curiosity and creativity of your young learners.

Presenter: Veronica Green

FAM-09 Putting Theory To Practice: Ensuring Safer Spaces for 2SLGBTQ+ Children and Families in Child Care Settings



Following a brief overview of the differences between sex assigned at birth, gender identity, gender expression, attraction, and culture, we will explore how to put these theories into practice by looking at real world examples. It's one thing to talk about ensuring child care settings are a safer space for all, but how do we work to make sure this is true? By exploring different situations together, we will develop a toolkit of language and responses to prepare you for when this comes up with children in your care. Participants are encouraged to bring their own examples to the workshop so we can work through the most helpful and relevant responses possible.

Presenter: Dene Guillas

Friday PM (FPM) workshops: 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm

FPM-01 Beyond Part IV: Continuing the Ethical Journey



You've finished the "Best Choice" ethics workshop series. You've been practicing the decision-making model. You've worked on getting "unstuck". Basics all covered – and you've got 'em! Now what? Do you feel like an expert? Hardly; that's not possible, 'cuz it's your on-going personal journey...never ending. As we are students in life, so are we always learning and traveling the road of ethics. So... you're thinking...what's next? Come and delve into what Beyond Part IV with some of the MCCA ethics committee members. As with all ethics workshops, this will be an interactive exploration. Be prepared prepared to fire up the ol' heart and mind and chat up a storm.

***Please note the time this workshop begins. You must have completed all 4 parts to attend.**

Presenters: Mariella Carr, Shannon Curtaz & Sina Romsa

Friday PM (FPM) workshops: 1:45 pm – 4:15 pm

FPM-02 Playing in Puddles: Imagine the Possibilities



In this session, participants will explore the extraordinary potential that simple puddles hold for children making connections to math, science, and language, all through play, experimentation, and exploration. Come uncover the magic that puddles bring to fostering a sense of joy, curiosity, resilience, and new discoveries – all because of a puddle.

Presenter: Dr. Beverlie Dietze

FPM-03 Making Sense of the World: Engaging Infants Through Sensory Play



Infants and young toddlers learn about their world through their senses. In this cooperative workshop we will explore the theory and practice of providing sensory opportunities to the under-two crowd. Come prepared to brainstorm and discuss the things you've tried, the things you'd like to try, the things you'll never try, and why? With an understanding of why sensory play is important for all aspects of development and lots of fresh ideas, you will leave with renewed enthusiasm and plenty of strategies that you can implement in your program right away!

Presenter: Ruth Lysecki

FPM-04 Exploring Emergent Curriculum: What is the Power of this Approach?



Observing is the basis of curriculum planning. When we bring excitement and enthusiasm to co-learn, explore and share knowledge with children, curriculum feels inspired. Observing and documenting stories can help uncover and create meaning. We will consider aspects of documentation and explore helpful steps you can take to make learning visible and curriculum planning engaging.

Presenter: Sue Narozniak

FPM-05 Smile Laugh Play



This session is an opportunity for you to explore innovative strategies to bring back the "HA!" in your life.

On the menu:

- Interactive games
- Smile exercises and
- An opportunity to experience Laughter Yoga.

Why? Because it's good for us!

Rolande Kirouac is an experienced Story Teller, Certified Laughter Yoga Teacher and Workshop Facilitator who has worked with the best workshop participants EVER! Her goal is to change the world; one laugh at a time!

Presenter: Rolande Kirouac

FPM-06 Big Body Play for All: The Children Who Struggle with It, and How to Support Them



All children need to play roughly with their bodies, but not all children are able or allowed to. Come learn how to offer and support **Big Body Play** with children with physical disabilities, children with sensory integration issues, children with poor social skills, and girls.

Participants will learn:

- 1) several easy-to-implement techniques and ideas to help ensure that all children have access to **Big Body Play** and the developmental value it offers.
- 2) Become aware of and practice big body play adaptations suitable for children with physical disabilities and sensory integration issues.

Presenter: Frances Carlson

FPM-07 Being a Leader Versus Being a Boss



Be authentic! Use situational leadership. Great leaders are emotionally intelligent. Empathy is the only skill leaders need. Set solid boundaries. Be the kind of boss who is kind.... These days there is a seemingly unlimited array of advice on leadership. And in an everchanging world full of "influencers" directing decision-making, where artificial intelligence and fake news are driving how we think, where people are buying credibility, and where personality and politics sometimes mean more than competence when it comes to promotions, it can be very difficult to know what real leadership is. But, never before has the ability to lead been more important. Sure, being a boss might get the job done short term, but the research shows that bossing isn't the same as leading- and its leadership that builds trust, fosters engagement, drives performance and supports retention.

Presenter: Dr. Lewena Bayer

FPM-08 Open a Book, Open the World



This hands-on workshop is focused on sharing early literacy resources that promote diversity including race, belief systems, gender, culture, family structures and abilities.

Content includes:

- Reviewing the importance of being intentional with the types of early literacy information, tools and strategies we incorporate both into our early learning environments as well as our programming
- Exploring concepts to strengthen, support and enhance the fundamentals of literacy while celebrating diverse communities
- Sharing a variety of children's books and related hands-on literacy extension activities that can be integrated into our current environments. These resources will be primarily geared to children ages 2-6 years of age.

Presenters: Nancy Tovell & Teri Skakum

FPM-09 Embracing a Forest & Nature Practice Without a Forest



Forest and Nature-based programs are more about our practice and values than it is about the actual space we are in. Forest & Nature programs for children of ALL ages can take place in any space we have available to us. We will explore the definition, the pillars and the principles of forest and nature programs and how they can fit into the spaces we have. We will delve into the importance of loose parts and risky play in children's growth and development in all developmental areas. We will test our own comfort zones and explore how they impact children's experiences. We will also explore a variety of tools and how to use them with children

Presenter: Cindy Curry

FFD-01 Relate Program Communication Strategies for ECEs (related to Autism)



Participants will learn how to effectively guide social communication during practical everyday tasks or planned activities. This workshop will be supplemented with discussion, video review, demonstration, and hands on practice of these strategies for supporting children who are non-speaking, echolalic, or speaking in phrases.

Participants will learn:

1. How our brain works to support regulation of attention, senses, emotions, language, and cognition as it relates to social communication. Participants will learn how Autism can be defined from a neurodiversity-affirming lens and how other brain differences or traits may overlap.
2. How co-regulation is the basis for all interactions. We will review how to engineer and scaffold 'do-together' activities with children to improve social learning behaviour through attachment/shared attention and action coordination to provide learning opportunities in the child's learning 'zone'.
3. How to use a declarative communication style supporting the foundations of reciprocal communication. Participants will learn the importance of using verbal language and body language during activities and how to smoothly transition between tasks.
4. How to find stability amidst change in joyful, relationship building, and emotionally regulating 'do-together' activities. We will practice applying variations to these positive shared experiences promoting flexible thinking and attention maintenance.

Presenter: Kally-Anna Clinton

FFD-02 Embracing Neurodiversity



In this workshop we will start with an introduction to neurodiversity in our community (ADHD, Autism, FASD, and CPTSD). We will discuss complex brains and behaviour: What it looks like, feels like, and what to do about it. And finally, we will explore how to increase connection and calm, and co-creating safe spaces with children, while navigating system that supports them.

Presenter: Angela Taylor

FFD-03 Thriving People – Flourishing Teams



Working in a caring profession can be both rewarding and energizing. It can also mean you experience times of feeling challenged from daily interactions and supporting others while trying to prevent your own burnout. Add to this, a pandemic and lots of change and employees are eager to thrive and get along.

In this 2-part, full day session, we'll explore a toolkit of actions for individuals and teams to find stability after uncertainty. We will cover strategies for recovering from challenging days in your program, navigating difficult interactions to resetting and recharging for individual and collective well-being. This is a great session for those that want to learn small habits that not only protect our mental health but have immediate positive impacts on our energy, productivity and joy.

From this interactive and dynamic half-day, participants will learn:

Part 1

- The impact of the pandemic on mental health and well-being (you are not alone)
- Signs and symptoms of burnout (if this, then what?)
- How to close the stress loop with small daily habits that don't add to your "to-do" list
- Tools to address worry that comes with uncertainty (so that you can get a better night's sleep)
- The shift from work-life balance to work-life boundaries because there's always more work
- The role of compassion in daily recovery to reset and thrive the next day

Part 2

- Psychological Health & Safety in the Workplace – what it is and how you are already practicing it
- Top psychosocial factors for pandemic recovery, change & beyond (because we all want to thrive)
- How to integrate these factors into daily interactions for your own well-being, burnout prevention and overall team resilience
- How you can mentor resilience to each other while protecting your own mental health so that you can collectively flourish into the future

Presenter: Shannon Gander

Friday Full Day Offsite Workshops



Friday, May 24

10:15 am - 4:15 pm

When registering for these workshops please keep the following in mind:

- Buses will leave by the Wellington doors.
- If you miss your bus you must find your own transportation to the field trip location, attending another workshop at the Victoria Inn is not an option.
- You will leave immediately after the keynote address
- Lunch is included with all field trips, please indicate if you require a vegetarian, vegan or gluten free meal.
- Delegates cannot drive their own vehicles to the offsite workshops.
- Space is limited on all off site workshops and MCCA reserves the right to limit the amount of registrants from one centre/organization.
- Delegates will be picked up at approximately 3:45 pm at their location and brought back to the Victoria Inn for 4:15 pm.

FRO-01 Getting Down and Dirty with the Outdoors



Participate in a variety of hands-on activities that will inspire your work by giving you direct experience with some Forest School-style activities.

This play-based workshop will have you using only natural and found materials to learn how to reduce your impact on the environment, immerse yourself in nature and have the most fun possible!

Dress for the weather, bring a notebook for your ideas and reflections and your sense of adventure!

Presenter: Leah Smith

FRO-02 Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame and Fit Kids Healthy Kids Workshop



Tour the Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame Gallery – 10:45 am – 12:00 pm

The Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame is located at 145 Pacific Avenue inside the Sport Manitoba facility. It is a 3,000 square foot facility dedicated to celebrating the rich sports history in Manitoba.

Delegates will have the opportunity to tour the history of sport in Manitoba through our decade galleries. These galleries include a variety of equipment, medals and other memorabilia from across our athletic heritage.

This tour will be guided by Sport Heritage Specialist Jon Waldman and will include some points of interest across amateur and professional sports, including hockey, football, running and others.

Fit Kids Healthy Kids Training session 1:30-3:30 pm

Fit Kids Healthy Kids will be teaching your delegates about Physical Literacy, fundamental movement skills, basic building blocks, importance of physical literacy, and Facilitation tips and tricks in a gym setting and how to incorporate our games/activities into their program. We will provide an overview of our resources that will help the delegates with building the children's physical literacy that attend their locations. Also, be ready to move and be active, you will be playing and facilitating our most popular games in our program that we see children's physical literacy improve. Please bring comfortable clothing and footwear to wear on the courts. No outdoor shoes will be allowed.

Physical literacy is the motivation, confidence, physical competence, knowledge, and understanding to value and take responsibility for engagement in physical activities for life.

Awards Banquet

Friday, May 24, 2024 • 6:15 pm – 9:30 pm

Leader of the Year Award

Exceptional Early Childhood Educator Award

Exceptional Family Child Care Provider Award

Volunteer of the Year Award

Dr. Gretta Brown Scholarship Awards



MCCA Student Scholarship Award

Educaring Award

5+ Year Career Milestones

Come join us to honour and celebrate with the MCCA award recipients. In past years we have had a dinner as part of the evening but in hopes to make it more affordable and have more people attend the event we are moving to cocktails and hors d'oeuvres instead of a dinner and tickets are only \$45.00. Everyone is welcome to join us, so bring along your family and friends.

The evening will include a cash bar, hors d'oeuvres, award and career milestone presentations and a silent auction with an abundance of wonderful prizes to win. You must purchase a ticket in advance, see page 29 of the brochure or you can register online and pay with a credit card on our website.

Deadline for ticket purchases is May 10, 2024. Tickets will be mailed out the week prior to the banquet.



Benefits of Attending Conference:

- ✓ Opportunity of attending some awesome workshops
- ✓ Listen to our dynamic speakers share their expertise and insights
- ✓ Networking with peers from all over the province
- ✓ Make some new friends
- ✓ Hearing a variety of perspectives
- ✓ Fulfilling your professional development hours
- ✓ Connecting with old colleagues and coworkers
- ✓ Visting tradeshow vendors that are beneficial to your program
- ✓ Chance to walk away with some cash from the 50/50 draw
- ✓ Opportunity to celebrate colleagues at the awards banquet
- ✓ Make new connections at the networking evening
- ✓ Attend the MCCA AGM and find out what your association has been up to



If you are registering for **Best Choices: Ethics Part II or III**, don't forget to bring your certificate you were given at Part I.

Dr. Kelly Andrushko is an Instructor in the ECE Workplace Program at Red River College Polytech. She is also an ECE III and spends time learning about children's health, body image, eating attitudes and behaviours, physical activity, and gender. She loves to play with her food, read a book in a tree, and roughhouse with her niece and nephews. She has also been known to carry 3 or 4 children on her back while playing 'horsie'.

Sharon Balasko has been in the field for over 30 years. She began her career in infant care in the Child Development Centre at the University of Manitoba. She has worked as an instructor, curriculum developer and consultant working with the University of Manitoba, University of Winnipeg, and Red River College Polytech. She has been an Ethics Guide and a part of the Ethics Committee since 2002.

Dr. Lewena Bayer "Civility is its own reward", this is the mantra that motivates entrepreneur, best-selling author, peace advocate, mentor and CEO, Dr. Lewena Bayer to get out of bed every morning. For the past 26 years Lew has been internationally recognized as the leading expert on civility at work. She leads the Civility Experts Inc. team of 500+ affiliates across 48 countries, travels and teaches civility, and strives to practice what she preaches.

Joanne Brown is the coordinator of CARE (Childcare Attachment and Relational Education) Program at New Directions, a clinical social worker for over 35 years, and a mom and grandma. Joanne has co-chaired the Attachment Network of Manitoba (www.attachmentnetwork.ca) for over 20 years and has trained with some of North America's most esteemed professionals in attachment.

Frances Carlson worked as an early childhood program administrator for twenty+ years for a variety of child care programs in the US and abroad: the Department of the Army, Internal Revenue Service, Wachovia Bank, Sheltering Arms, Turner Broadcasting Systems (via Bright Horizons Family Solutions), and the Technical College System of Georgia/Chattahoochee Technical College. In 2002, she began a career in higher ed. Carlson recently retired from her position as Associate Dean of Professional Services & Design at Chattahoochee Technical College in metro Atlanta (Georgia). Prior to that position, Carlson taught Early Childhood Education to associate degree-seeking students. She has authored two books: *Essential Touch* (NAEYC, 2006) and *Big Body Play* (NAEYC, 2011) as well as numerous articles in a variety of ECE publications. She is currently authoring a book, *More Than Words* on non-verbal language development in young children. She serves as a co-facilitator for the Men in Education Network (M.E.N.) Interest Forum for the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Mariëlla Carr is the Executive Director at Prairie Children's Centre Inc. She started in the child care field in 1990 and has loved all of her different roles over the years. Mariëlla has been an Ethics Guide since 2008 and is on MCCA's Board of Directors, Ethics Committee and the Public Policy and Professionalism Committees. She is passionate about reconnecting children with nature and inclusive practice.

Kally-Anna Clinton is a registered Speech-Language Pathologist and Relationship Development Intervention® Consultant for the Relate Program in Neurodevelopmental Services at Rehabilitation Centre for Children (RCC). She is trained to assess, provide supports & strategies, and present workshops. Throughout the year she works directly with families enrolled in the Relate Program and presents workshops to the public, for caregivers and/or professionals. Kally-Anna also maintains a role on the Child Development Clinic Autism diagnostic team at RCC. The Relate Program provides education and consultation to caregivers supporting Autistic children or other neurodevelopmental differences, who are seeking support related to relationships, social communication development, and behaviour. We discuss brain differences and build on the child's strengths. We are here to help caregivers who are finding it hard to connect with their child using a developmentally appropriate, trauma-informed and attachment-based approach. Caregivers learn how to adjust everyday interactions to support social learning development together.

Cindy Curry is an ECE III, CAE, Forest & Nature School Practitioner, she has been in the field of Early Childhood Education for over 34 years. She has worked the front lines and been a director in various child care programs and operated a group family child care program with a large focus on outdoors and nature play. Currently, she operates Growing Wild (a forest and nature program), instructs part-time at Red River College, Portage la Prairie Campus, facilitates various workshops, and is an active advocate for children being outside and connecting with nature. Cindy believes we never stop learning and loves inspiring others who work with children to want to do the best they can.

Shannon Curtaz is the Executive Director of Horizons Children's Centre. She has been working in the field of Early Childhood Education since 1997 as a front line ECE, a Supervisor and a Director. She believes that the relationships we form with all of the people who come in and out of our lives, both personal and professional, shape the person that we ultimately become and that therefore growth and learning is never ending.

Dr. Beverlie Dietze is an educator, researcher, and an individual who is passionate about co-learning and investigating with educators on ways to create spaces and places that trigger children's curiosity,

discoveries, and a sense of wonderment. She is the Editor-in-Chief and Publisher of the Canadian Play Outdoors: Exploring Outdoor Experiences in the Early Years magazine. Beverlie has authored 10 textbooks on various early childhood education topics and has several peer-reviewed articles. She is a graduate of the University of New Brunswick, St. Francis Xavier University, and the University of Toronto.

Peter Dixon has over 20 years experience working with social enterprise and purpose-led organizations, across a variety of sectors in Australia, New Zealand and Canada. Over the last 10 years he has worked across aspects of early childhood including professional development, researching the ECE profession globally, working with children who have additional needs and designing technologies in pursuit of meaningful impact. Co-Founder of Storypark, Peter has presented at conferences in China, Australia, Canada, US, New Zealand and France, and is a devoted dad, part-time scuba diver and avid water skier.

Dr. Sandra Duncan With over 45 years of experience and a doctorate in education, Dr. Sandra Duncan has a wide and varied background in early childhood education. She has extensive experience working with young children, teachers and parents; teaching at the university level; designing her own furniture collection; writing professional development programs for practitioners; and authoring myriad publications on environmental design such as Inspiring Spaces, Rethinking the Classroom Landscape, and Through a Child's Eyes. Dr. Duncan's work redefine show we think about spaces for young children – spaces that inspire wonder, curiosity and joy.

Pat Furman earned her master's degree in Innovation in Early Childhood Education in 2022. She has been Executive Director of Inspired by Wonder, two child care programs in Winnipeg, Canada since inception in 2004. She was a recipient of the 2016-2017 Prime Ministers Award for Excellence in Early Childhood Education, as well as a recipient of the Winnipeg Centre MP 150th Anniversary Medal for Volunteerism, and the 2020 recipient of the Manitoba Child Care Association, Leader of the Year Award. She has worked in the early childhood field for over 20 years. Pat is also the co-chair of the Manitoba Reggio Inspired Coalition of Educators (Manitoba Reggio) and is a member at large on the Vanier Institute of the family, a national organization. Recently she joined the children's rights working group with the World Forum Foundation.

Shannon Gander is a Mental Health and Resiliency Strategist. She is a skilled consultant, trainer, counselor and mediator who has been involved in workplace interventions since the mid 90's. Shannon runs Life Work Wellness, a company that empowers individuals and organizations with skills for resiliency and mental health protection. She also has a passion for helping

people at all organizational levels see their role in everyday actions that foster respectful workplace culture. Shannon's dynamic background in conflict mediation and counselling help her to bring human behaviour topics to life in a way that is authentic and engaging, teaching participants skills to apply right away and into the future in all areas of life.

Alison Gordon began her journey when she earned her master's degree in physiotherapy from the University of Manitoba in 2014. In 2018, she achieved a Graduate Certificate in Physiotherapy (Pelvic Floor Physiotherapy) from the University of Melbourne, solidifying her expertise in this crucial area of healthcare. Additionally, Alison holds an advanced certificate in Continence Paediatrics, developed by the International Children's Continence Society (ICCS) and have completed several other continuing education courses in the field. Beyond her clinical practice, she actively contributes to the physiotherapy community as the Chair of the Women's Health Division of the Canadian Physiotherapy Association. In this role, she advocates tirelessly for improved access to women's health and pelvic health physiotherapy at a federal level, reflecting my unwavering dedication to advancing this essential field, and working towards improving access.

Darcy Granove is founder of Little Bluestem Landscape Architecture, is a master at creating vibrant school landscapes. With over 14 years of experience in Landscape Architecture, Design, and Physical Enhancement, Darcy crafts outdoor spaces that blend education and play seamlessly. Her portfolio brims with dynamic playgrounds and inspiring outdoor classrooms, reflecting her passion for enriching young minds through thoughtful design. From Park Design to Green Roof Innovation, Darcy's touch sparks imagination and fosters a love for learning in every corner.

Veronica Green is an Early Childhood Education Consultant & Mentor who has been inspiring and supporting her fellow educators for the last 10 years. Utilizing her Bachelor's in Physical Education and Early Childhood Diploma, Veronica has used her experience and expertise in a variety of early learning programs from large centres to her own accredited day home; as well as within her 10 years of leadership roles. She is the founder of Cultivating Confidence - Early Years Consultancy and curates engaging online and live learning experiences for educators to infuse the magic of loose parts play, sensory processing, reggio inspired practice to support educators in their roles and continue to impact children's development. Her goal is to reinvent the village and cultivate a community of educators, children and their families that is strength-based, relationship focused and ignites creativity through play for all.

Dene Guillas (he/they) is a proud Two-Spirit, transgender, pansexual man and father. He grew up in various types of child care facilities and was briefly in the CFS system when he was younger. He also gained lived experience and knowledge in sports, education, CFS, family planning, parenting, adoption, child care, industrial trades, transgender healthcare, etc. He has been lucky enough to be involved in the training and education field for almost 20 years and is raising an amazing child of his own, which has all helped him come to terms with how important living as your true self and having unconditional support and guidance is for children growing up.

Amanda Hamel is a life-long learner and registered dietitian. She currently works as a nutrition educator with Nüton, a team of registered dietitians who provide training and nutrition programs to Manitoba educators so they can help kids feel comfortable around food and eating. She aims to inspire educators to have a positive impact on kids' food journeys using experience-based learning by discovering and exploring a variety of foods.

Daniel Hidalgo is the founder of CommUNITY204 INC which is a grassroots organization whose purpose is grounded in helping the marginalized community and others in need in a variety of capacities with the support of individuals with lived life experience within the child welfare system. Daniel is also the Co-Founder of SABE Peace Walkers which is a relationship-based de-escalation team who aims to support the marginalized community through engagement and honesty while utilizing a harm reduction and cultural approach. He maintains full time employment as an action therapist providing community connection, mentorship, wellness and guidance to our youth at-risk. Daniel was fortunate enough to be the recipient of the CBC future 40 under 40 award in Community Activism/volunteerism, 2022 Lieutenant Governors Community Leadership Award and the 2022 Queen Platinum Jubilee Award. He also sits on the board of directors for The Manitoba Harm Reduction Network as the Vice President.

Rolande Kirouac is president and founder of Spadrole Training and Development: a business dedicated to getting breakthrough results for individuals, companies and associations. Spadrole Training and Development offers a variety of advisory support services, in English or French, to help our clients meet and exceed their goals. Our office is situated in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. We work best with people who are interested in setting great foundations and improving performance.

Ruth Lysecki (she/her) is an ECE III from Winnipeg with a masters degree in Early Childhood Education and over 20 years experience. She has a background in Montessori and is inspired by the RIE philosophy,

both of which influence her daily practice. She can't seem to tear herself away from working on the floor at Assiniboine Children's Centre with her little pals ranging from 8-24 months. She is inspired by them every day.

Sue Narozniak is a former Instructor and Academic Coordinator for the Early Childhood Education Program at Red River College Polytechnic and a founding member of the Manitoba Reggio Inspired Coalition of Educators (serving for 10 years as Chair and Co-Chair). Sue was the first Manitoban to study at the Loris Malaguzzi Centre in Reggio Emilia, Italy and has been deeply involved in supporting Professional Development of emergent curriculum and Reggio-inspired work within Manitoba. Sue is a popular ELCC presenter and can often be found working on various yoga and Pilates challenges or being walked by the family dog along with her husband and daughter.

Zen Rio Quinsa is a graduate of the Early Childhood Education (Workplace Program) at Red River Polytechnic. Currently, she is an ECE II at Fort Rouge Co-op Day Nursery. She has a passion for creating educational activities that nurture the natural curiosity of children of different ages. She is fond of doing S.T.E.A.M. programming that incorporates an anti-bias cultural component. She loves hiking, photography, arts, design, and architecture. She also dreams of becoming a children's book author someday.

David A. Robertson is a two-time winner of the Governor General's Literary Award, has won the TD Canadian Children's Literature Award, as well as the Writer's Union of Canada Freedom to Read award. He has received several other accolades for his work as a writer for children and adults, podcaster, public speaker, and social advocate. He was honoured with a Doctor of Letters by the University of Manitoba for outstanding contributions in the arts and distinguished achievements in 2023. He is a member of Norway House Cree Nation and lives in Winnipeg.

Sina Romsa served in a range of positions in ECE, community services and on the MCCA and the CCCF boards. One of the MCCA Ethics Committee founders and past chair, her passion for diversity, ethics, and the "road less travelled" continues.

Teri Skakum is a Program Trainer at Bookmates Inc. Teri has spent over 25 years developing and delivering programming for children and families. For the past twelve years her work has focused on community programs and promoting positive experiences for skill development through literacy, numeracy, physical activity, outdoor play, social interaction and more for families with children under 6 years of age. She graduated from the University of Winnipeg with a Bachelor of Education, majoring in English with a focus on Children's Literature.

Leah Smith, after completing her Forest School Practitioner course at FortWhyte in 2016, Leah has brought her passion for nature-based learning everywhere she goes. With nearly 20 years of experience and an honours diploma in Early Childhood Education, Leah has found inspiration in many settings of early learning. From large centres, to Montessori schools, to private multi-family care, to her own entrepreneurial Forest School sessions along the riverbanks of Winnipeg, her commitment to outdoor child-led curriculum runs deep. Leading workshops on risky play and the forest school ethos for independent child care centres and professional development conferences has also been a big part of her career in recent years. Leah is a mother of two young teens who love exploring new and familiar places in nature, in their neighbourhood, along with a few annual road trips.

Amber Straker is a Registered Early Childhood Educator and the Project Coordinator of the Building Leadership and Learning Communities project at the Association of Early Childhood Educators Ontario. In her work, Amber focuses on supporting those in the early childhood sector to come together in community, to recognize the power of leading with care, and to work together to strengthen our collective voice and change the status quo in our field. She believes that anything for educators should be led by educators, and plans to continue contributing to the field in her unique position within the association.

Angela Taylor is a neurodivergent former youth in care labeled with complex needs, a caregiver to neurodivergent children, and service provider for over 24 years. She has her PBDE in education, a Masters in Disability Studies and PhD candidate in Education, studying the most effective supports for the neurodivergent.

Nancy Tovell is a Program Coordinator at Bookmates Inc. Nancy has a wide range of experience in facilitating workshops with a focus on sharing early literacy strategies, tools and resources to support those working with families and young children. She graduated from the University of Manitoba with a Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) degree and spent several years travelling five continents and collecting a million special memories. Prior to joining Bookmates, she was a contractor for a division of Scholastic Canada called "Books On Tour" and subsequently founded "The Book Girl", a company providing books to schools and child care centres in Winnipeg.

Keri Waterman has over 30 years experience within the child care community, working with children of all ages, from front line to finance and administration including four years at the University of Manitoba as practicum supervisor. An Ethics Guide since 2002, she enjoys guiding people along their own ethical journeys.



Travel & Accommodation Subsidy

- **To qualify for subsidy you must be a personal member of MCCA as of January 1, 2024.**
- Travel and accommodation subsidies are available to all MANITOBA MCCA members and will be reimbursed as funds allow.
- Travel Subsidy Forms are available on our website (May) and will be available at the MCCA Registration table.
- Subsidy requests must be received at MCCA no later than **June 7, 2024**. ALL receipts MUST be included with the Subsidy Application.
- Reimbursement cheques will be made payable to the name indicated on the form and will be sent out by the end of June.
- Accommodation subsidy will be calculated at \$50.00 per person per night to a maximum of \$100.00 per room, limited to Wednesday & Thursday night(s). Please attach hotel receipts.
- **Gas receipts: Please fill your tank up prior to driving to the conference and then again upon your arrival at home. Submit all receipts along with the subsidy form and we will reimburse the difference.**

Conference Accommodation

- Our conference site is the Victoria Inn Hotel and Convention Centre, 1808 Wellington Avenue, located near the Winnipeg Airport and is easily accessible via Winnipeg Transit.
- For direct reservations call 204-786-4801.
- Room rates are \$136.00 single/double per night. There is an additional cost of \$10.00 per person, per night for a triple/quad. When booking please quote Group Block **#283571** and indicate that you are a delegate of the MCCA Conference. This will get you the conference rate.
- **Please note:** The hotel is smoke free, including the rooms.

Questions About Conference

If you have a question regarding:

- Online registration
- MCCA membership
- Making a substitution
- Registration process
- Forms
- Bulk buys

Call or email Dianne at 204-336-5065 or toll free 1-888-323-4676 ext. 227, djones@mccahouse.org.

If you have a question regarding:

- Tradeshow

Call or email Kayla at 204-336-5061 or toll free 1-888-323-4676 ext. 223, kmauricio@mccahouse.org.

You can also contact Karen Kowalski for any conference related question. She can be reached at 204-336-5062 or toll free 1-888-323-4676 ext. 224 or kkowalski@mccahouse.org.

Information is also available on our website www.mccahouse.org.

To cancel a registration by the deadline, please email Karen Kowalski. Cancellation requests must be submitted in writing.

Registration Deadlines

March 14, 2024 Early Bird Registration

Registrations received prior to March 14, 2024 will be entered in a draw for a complimentary full conference package for 2025.

Regular Registrations

Regular registrations will be accepted up to and including May 6, 2024 by mail, online or walk-in.

May 6, 2024 Registration Deadline

Registrations WILL NOT be accepted after 4:00 pm, May 6, 2024.

May 10, 2024 Banquet Ticket Purchase Deadline

Last day to purchase Awards Banquet tickets.

May 16, 2024 Substitutions

Substitutions accepted until May 16, 2024.

Registration Policies



Photo Release Policy: By virtue of your attendance, you agree to usage of your likeness in still and video photography without compensation or notification. MCCA reserves the right to include your photo in Child Care Bridges, MCCA's website, Facebook, Instagram or any other MCCA publication/social media platform.

Registration Policies

- Registrants **MUST** be personal members of MCCA to qualify for the member rate.
- MCCA Centre Membership allows one board member to attend on the Centre Membership; this membership is **not** transferable to any of the centre staff.
- Organizations that have an MCCA Associate Membership can send one person at the member rate.
- Bulk Package pricing is available to MCCA members only!
Centres may register MCCA Individual members in multiples of four, employed by the same centre on one conference package. A separate registration form (page 29) for each individual is required and they do not need to be attending the same day.
- We do not accept faxed registrations, registrations by phone, or registrations at the conference.
- Post dated cheques are not accepted and all NSF cheques will be charged a \$25.00 fee.

- Invoices can be issued to sponsoring organizations (government/agencies). The registrations must be accompanied by a Purchase Order indicating the name, address, postal code, phone number of the organization and must be signed with a designate officer and their direct phone number. MCCA reserves the right to decline any Purchase Order.
- MCCA reserves the right to limit the amount of registrations from one centre for a workshop.

Cancellation Policies

- *Individual registrations:* Cancellations will be accepted until May 5, 2024 and only 75% of the registration fee will be refunded. A written request must be submitted to Karen Kowalski at kkowalski@mccahouse.org. No refunds will be granted after this date.
- *Bulk packages:* no cancellations or refunds granted - only substitutions. Substitutes must be MCCA members, attend the workshops that are currently registered and must be made by May 16, 2024.

Special Requirements

If you should require ASL interpretive services or any other service, please call Karen Kowalski at 204-336-5062 or Toll Free (Manitoba only) 1-888-323-4676 ext. 224 or email kkowalski@mccahouse.org.

Thursday, May 23

7:30 am - Registration Opens
8:30 am - Welcome
9:00 am - 10:00 am - Keynote
David A. Robertson
10:00 am - 10:30 am - Transition Break
10:30 am - 12:30 pm - **AM session**
12:30 pm - 1:45 pm - **Lunch**
2:45 pm - 3:15 pm - Break
3:00 pm - 50/50 Draw
1:45 pm - 4:15 pm - **PM session**
4:30 pm - AGM registration
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm - Annual General Meeting
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Networking Evening

Registration is located outside of the Centennial Ballrooms – Doors on Berry Street entrance.

The Trade Show Hours:
7:30 am – 3:15 pm (Thursday)
7:30 am – 3:15 pm (Friday)

Please ensure you complete your evaluation at the end of your last conference day. You can access the evaluation on the mobile conference app.

Friday, May 24

7:30 am - Registration Opens
8:30 am - Welcome
9:00 am - 10:00 am - Keynote
Dr. Beverlie Dietze
10:00 am - 10:30 am - Transition Break
10:30 am - 12:30 pm - **AM session**
12:30 pm - 1:45 pm - **Lunch**
2:45 pm - 3:15 pm - Break
3:00 pm - 50/50 Draw
1:45 pm - 4:15 pm - **PM session**
6:15 pm - Awards Banquet



Registrant's Name: _____ MCCA #: _____

Pronouns: _____ (will appear on your name badge)

Organization or Facility Name: _____

Business/Home Phone: _____ Personal Cell Phone: _____

Work Email: _____ Personal Email: _____

Classification: CCA ECE II ECE III FCCP OTHER

FOOD: I require a vegetarian meal **Vegan meal** **Gluten free meal**

**These are the only three dietary requests we can accommodate.*

I will attend the following Thursday evening events:

- MCCA's Annual General Meeting (4:30 pm – 6:00 pm) - No cost to attend
- Networking Evening (6:00 pm – 9:00 pm) MCCA Members: Free Non-members: \$10

Registration Instructions

- **If you choose to take two different workshops in a day, you must select an AM and a PM workshop for your 1st, 2nd, or 3rd choice. You can also choose to take a full day workshop. You can select a combination of either 2 ½ day workshops or a full day workshop for your 1st, 2nd or 3rd choices.**
- Each conference day includes the keynote address (unless otherwise noted) and lunch.
- ½ day registrations are not accepted and registrants cannot share days or two day packages.
- Each person must fill out their own registration form.
- If registering online you will not need to make a 2nd & 3rd choice because if the workshop is full it will not show up as an option.

Day & Session	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice
Thursday AM			
Thursday PM			
Thursday Full Day			
Thursday Offsite			
Friday AM			
Friday PM			
Friday Full Day			
Friday Offsite			

Turn over for conference fees, submit pages 29 & 30 to register.

Purchase Options

	Individual Member	Non Member
2 Day Conference	\$275.00	\$550.00
1 Day Conference	\$180.00	\$360.00

Bulk Package Purchase

MCCA Members Only: Take advantage of bulk buying and save!! (All delegates must be from the same centre/organization and must be individual MCCA members).

Package "A" Four (4) Two Day Conference Packages \$950.00 (Save \$150.00)

(Entitles four (4) individual members to attend 2 full days of conference.)

List All Delegates:

1: _____ 2: _____
 3: _____ 4: _____

Package "B" Four (4) One Day Conference Packages \$575.00 (Save \$145.00)

(Entitles four (4) individual members to attend 1 full day of conference.)

List All Delegates:

1: _____ 2: _____
 3: _____ 4: _____

Individual Fees _____ x _____ \$ _____

Bulk Purchases: Package _____ x _____ \$ _____

Creating Connections: Networking Evening:

free x _____ Members

\$10.00 x _____ Non-members \$ _____

Awards Banquet Tickets: \$45.00 x _____ \$ _____

Names of the people attending Awards Banquet:

TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED \$

Method of Payment

Cheque enclosed in the amount of \$ _____

Visa or Mastercard: go to our website at www.mccahouse.org and register online.

Date processed: _____ Cheque No. _____ Amount: _____

Mail completed registration forms (pages 29 & 30) and payment to:
 Manitoba Child Care Association, 2nd Flr., Royal Bank Building, 2350 McPhillips Street, Winnipeg, MB R2V 4J6