



## Speaker Biographies

### **Battle, Marc**

*Red River College*

Marc Battle is an Early Childhood Education Instructor at Red River College and likes to spend his summers in the company of children, singing and playing.

### **Elfenbaum, Mia**

*Early Childhood Education Program*

Mia Elfenbaum is a faculty member of the Early Childhood Education Program at Red River College. She enjoys helping people learn more about child development and the importance of the early years. Mia has worked in the field for over 20 years as an ECE, program director, consultant and post-secondary instructor. She is currently the RRC lead on the project, *The Science of Early Child Development*, online resource.

### **Gascon-Giard, Claire**

*Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development*

Claire Gascon Giard, coordonnatrice générale au Centre d'excellence pour le développement des jeunes enfants (CEDJE) et au Centre du savoir sur l'apprentissage chez les jeunes enfants.

Claire Gascon Giard détient une maîtrise en psychoéducation de l'Université de Montréal. Elle a travaillé avec des jeunes enfants en difficultés et leurs familles pendant plusieurs années. Depuis 1984, elle participe au développement, à la promotion et à la formation de programmes d'habiletés sociales pour les jeunes enfants au Centre de Psycho-Éducation du Québec. Son implication au Centre d'excellence pour le développement des jeunes enfants et au Centre du savoir pour l'apprentissage chez les jeunes enfants est un heureux mélange de ses intérêts pour la recherche et son application pratique pour les intervenants, les planificateurs de services et les décideurs politiques. Ces deux Centres diffusent les meilleures connaissances scientifiques sur le développement des jeunes enfants, avec un accent plus important sur le développement social et affectif.

*Claire Gascon Giard, General Coordinator. Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development (CEECD) and Early Childhood Learning Knowledge Centre (ECLKC-CCL) Claire Gascon Giard who has a master degree in psycho-education from the University of Montreal has worked with young disrupted children and their families for many years. Since 1984, she has been involved in the development and training of social skills programs for young children at the Centre de Psycho-Éducation du Québec. At the Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development and Early Childhood Learning Knowledge Centre her implication is a happy mix of her interests for research and practical implication aimed at service providers, service planners and policy makers. Both Centres are engaged in the dissemination of the best scientific knowledge on early childhood development with an emphasis on social and emotional development.*





**Gordon, Mary**  
*Roots of Empathy*

Mary Gordon is an internationally recognized educator, author, child advocate and parenting expert. Mary Gordon has created award-winning programs informed by the power of empathy. Roots of Empathy, founded in 1996, is now offered in Canada and internationally.

Seeds of Empathy began in 2005 in BC where it was first piloted. In 1981 she founded Canada's first and largest school-based Parenting and Family Literacy Centres which today serve as a best-practice model internationally and are public policy in Ontario. Ms. Gordon has engaged in public dialogues with the Dalai Lama. Her Canadian bestseller, "Roots of Empathy: Changing the World Child by Child", was one of the Globe & Mail's Top 100 Books of 2005. Ms. Gordon is a Member of the Order of Canada and the first female Ashoka Fellow.

**Hertzman, Dr. Clyde**  
*Council for Early Childhood Development*

Dr. Clyde Hertzman is President of the Council for Early Child Development (CECD) and Director of the Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP), Faculty of Graduate Studies at UBC; Canada Research Chair in Population Health and Human Development; Professor in Department of Health Care and Epidemiology at UBC; and Associate Director of the Centre for Health Services and Policy Research (CHSPR).

He serves as Principal Investigator of the Provincial Early Child Development (ECD) Mapping Unit and the Child & Youth Developmental Trajectories Research Unit; and the Population Health and Learning Observatory. HELP has recently been designated by the World Health Organization (WHO) as the Knowledge Hub on Early Child Development, and Dr. Hertzman is Team Leader of the Knowledge Hub and the Global Knowledge Network.

Nationally, Dr. Hertzman is a fellow of the Experience-based Brain and Biographical Development Programme and the Successful Societies Programs of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIAR).

Dr. Hertzman has led the development of the provincial implementation of the Early Development Instrument, which measures school readiness along five domains of development: physical health and well-being, social competence, emotional maturity, language and cognitive development, and communication and general knowledge. As a result, BC is now the first jurisdiction in the world that has maps of early development that can illuminate the relationships between vulnerability patterns and socioeconomic conditions for every neighbourhood and school district in BC.





**Malenfant, Nathalie**

*Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development*

Nathalie Malenfant is a Ph.D. candidate in clinical psychology at l'Université Laval, in Quebec City. Her research focuses on the aetiology and cognitive processes underlying reading development. She is one of the Scientific Committee coordinators at the Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development and at the Early Childhood Learning Knowledge Centre (ECLKC-CCL).

**Narozniak, Suzanne**

*Early Childhood Education Program*

Sue Narozniak is an instructor in the Early Childhood Education Program at Red River College. She teaches courses based in play theory, curriculum and inquiry, child development, emergent curriculum and aesthetic constructivist environments.

With over 20 years of experience in the field, Sue believes that children and adults can share, discover and teach one another about life and living. Sue is particularly interested in the Reggio Emilia Approach and building family connections among young souls of all ages.

**Petitclerc, Amélie**

*Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development*

Amélie Petitclerc is currently completing a Ph.D. in clinical psychology at l'Université Laval, in Quebec City. Her research focuses on the development and aetiology of disruptive behaviour problems in young children. She is one of the Scientific Committee coordinators at the Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development and at the Early Childhood Learning Knowledge Centre (ECLKC-CCL).

**Prince-Moore, Wendy**

*Mount Carmel Clinic*

Wendy Prince-Moore is a Cree woman from the Opaskwayak Cree Nation with connections to Peguis First Nation. She is the mother of three awesome individuals, grandmother to one amazing girl and currently supports young parents (13-23 years of age) in the Parenting Student Support Program at Mount Carmel Clinic. The supports include: budgeting, housing, information about various educational programs, parenting, personal development ie. self-esteem/self-confidence, grief and loss, residential school history and sharing, etc. Wendy currently blends western with traditional Aboriginal perspectives in her counseling approach as she promotes independence and empowerment.





**Schroeder, Joanne**

*Council for Early Child Development & Human Early Learning Partnership*

Joanne Schroeder studied social work at the University of British Columbia. After working for many years in the child welfare system, she has more recently, focused her work in the areas of community development and strategic planning. She specializes in helping communities create environments that nurture young children and their families.

She currently divides her time between two roles: National Fellow with the Council for Early Child Development, building local leadership for children throughout Canada; and Community Development Manager at the Human Early Learning Partnership, playing a lead role in translating Early Child Development research to communities.

Previously she was the Provincial Advisor to Children First, a community capacity building initiative in 45 communities in BC.

She counts two things as her greatest achievements: mothering and renovating her basement.

**Schroeder, Vera, and team**

*River East Transcona School Division Community Programming Initiatives-Settlement Team*

River East Transcona School Division Neighborhood Immigrant Settlement Workers support newcomers to Canada as they integrate into the River East and Transcona communities. Settlement workers facilitate linkages with the school system and other community partners to ensure that newcomers receive the services and support required in a timely, effective and compassionate manner. The work of the Neighborhood Immigrant Settlement Workers is made possible through the partnership and support of the River East Transcona School Division, Manitoba Labor and Immigration, and the Early Childhood Matters Coalition.

