

# I'm Involved!

## Conference on Parental and Community Involvement

November 24 and 25, 2016  
Manoir Saint-Sauveur

### FINAL REPORT



First Nations



Education Council

## 1. Introduction

During the Circle of Light First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Conference held in 2009, parents expressed their desire to become more involved and supportive of their children's education, but that they needed tools to do so.

Student success depends on several factors in the home environment including the level of parental commitment, involvement and guidance in their child's scholastic activities, as well as parenting style. A significant amount of research has also shown that there is a positive correlation between parental involvement and student success.

For these reasons, and to meet the needs of parents in member communities, the FNEC decided to organize a conference on parental and community involvement. Held at the Manoir Saint-Sauveur on November 24 and 25, 2016, the I'M INVOLVED! Conference was the first one of its kind and attracted over sixty participants.



*The FNEC team welcomes the participants. From left to right: Mira Levasseur-Moreau (Governance and School Administration Director) Sean Coghlan-Tolley (Student Success Counsellor), Martin Bertrand (ICT Pedagogical Counsellor), Treena Metallic (Research and Development Analyst), Dorothée Picard (SIS Technician-Trainer), Gino Lesage (Special Education Counsellor) and Eve Lapointe (Parental and Community Involvement Counsellor).*

## 2. Conference Objectives

As part of the First Nations education governance project, twelve standards were established in the area of parental and community involvement; one of which states that the necessary provisions should be made to support the development of parenting skills related to educating children. The objectives of the I'M INVOLVED Conference were in line with this standard.

The main objectives of the conference were to:

- Give parents a variety of ways to support and encourage their child's learning;
- Identify the issues and challenges parents face, and gather their suggestions to guide the FNEC's work on parental and community involvement;

- Draw attention to the importance of developing, maintaining, and strengthening ties between home, school, and community;
- Create a parents network and a direct line of communication with the FNEC through the development of a data base;
- Encourage parents to value student success and volunteering at school;

Results of the evaluation form filled out by conference participants show that the objectives were achieved, and that participants returned to their community with the impression that they have learned things they can put into practice.



*Participants decorate a tree with photos and the names of the children for whom they are attending the conference.*

### **3. Summary of Presentations**

Parental involvement in school activities plays a pivotal role in student success and perseverance, and conference presentations were selected with this theme in mind. Presentations and workshops were given in French or in English with simultaneous interpretation services offered to participants.

### ***Six Types of Parental Involvement***

Epstein's six types of parental involvement and the various ways they can be put into practice were explained in this presentation. Parents were given simple things they could do to become more involved in their child's education.

The role of parents who have children with special needs, as well as their rights and responsibilities were also explained in this presentation. Various approaches to parental involvement in the context of a child with disabilities were also considered along with the difference parents can make in fostering their child's success and development.



*Gino Lesage and Eve Lapointe present Six Types of Parental Involvement.*

### ***Robot Demonstration***

The FNEC decided to invest in a robot kit available on loan to member community schools. Participants were able to see how robots can be an effective learning tool, and discovered what students at any level can do with them.

### ***Techies at School – The SMART Board***

For some time now, the FNEC has been supporting its member communities in technopedagogy by helping them equip their classrooms with interactive whiteboards, and by providing training courses on this tool that has become a classroom essential. Participants were showed how the interactive whiteboard can play a pivotal role in developing 21<sup>st</sup> century skills.

### ***The Parent-Teacher Relationship: Tips to Make it Work!***

This presentation gave parents insight on how to create the best possible relationship with teachers by knowing when the teacher should be contacted, how the teacher should be approached, what the best course of action is, and the winning attitude needed to work together for the well-being of the child.



*Sylvie Bastien-Doss presents The Parent-Teacher Relationship: Tips to Make it Work!*

### ***Improve Orthograph and Math Competencies with Dybuster***

Homework time is often a difficult moment in the day for both children and parents. Learning to spell and do math requires a lot of repetition, and standard methods do not always work well with every child.

Dybuster offers two independent training software programs: one for spelling and another for mathematics. This presentation gave participants the opportunity to see the advantages to using this software.

### ***CANO Parents Page – A Web Portal for Parents***

Parents Page is a Web portal that gives parents access to their child’s school records including report cards, homework assignments, the school calendar, etc. It is also a communication tool that some schools are starting to use and promote among parents. This presentation enabled parents to discover what can be found on the Parents Page, and how to receive a parental access code.



*Dorothee Picard explains the CANO Parents Page.*

### ***The ABCs of Student Motivation***

This presentation shed some light on the expectations of parents in relation to their child’s level of motivation and the role they have to play. It is proven beyond a doubt that parents who are equipped, involved and who bet on their children, will encourage their academic success

The presenter used the alphabet to what he calls the “capital letters” of success which are Motivation, Involvement, Strategies, and Effort. Lowercase characters were presented as concrete strategies to equip and support children in their efforts to increase their motivation.

### ***Tools in Your Pocket: Positive Parenting***

The aim of this presentation was to help participants navigate through a variety of challenges such as temper tantrums, sibling rivalry, getting out the door in the morning, setting rules and more. Positive parenting methods were shared that will have an impact on the family and extended members of the community.

### ***Vital Interaction between School and Community: Kiuna's Experience***

Kiuna Institution is the only postsecondary institution dedicated to First Nations in Quebec. To fulfill the communities' aspirations of providing a quality college education that respects First Nations history, values and traditions, Kiuna's educational project is rooted in First Nations culture, developing a strong First Nations identity, and acquiring academic and social skills that are essential to being an active and responsible citizen.

To consolidate learning and enrich the curriculum for students, Kiuna regularly calls on the communities to take part in educational activities as part of cultural programming that showcases their knowledge, know-how and people skills. Participants discovered how the communities are directly involved in fulfilling Kiuna's mission to shape the next generation of leaders.

### ***Kids and Technology: Understanding the Advantages and Challenges for Education and Homework***

This presentation addressed the issue of kids and technology. Why is technology needed in education? What role can technology play in homework? What are the real advantages to having technology in the classroom? What are some key challenges that inevitably accompany its arrival? How can parents deal with these challenges? What approach should be used to deal with upcoming challenges? What are some success stories that can be looked to for inspiration? What traps should be avoided? Twenty-five recommendations on kids and technology were presented to parents enabling them to learn more about technology...and their children.



*Thierry Karsenti presents Kids and Technology: Understanding the Advantages and Challenges for Education and Homework.*

### ***Catalysts for Parental and Community Involvement***

Participants were asked to reflect on how they can become agents of change in their community. The goal of this workshop was to identify parents' expectations towards school and the FNEC, and the primary challenges they face in relation to the various types of parental involvement.

### ***Standards in Parental and Community Involvement***

Participants attending this presentation had the opportunity to discover the standards in parental and community involvement developed as part of the "Supporting Strong First Nation Education Governance" project. The underlying objectives are to structure parental involvement and make it a priority for FNEC-member communities. Participants also became familiar with what the FNEC and its member communities are doing to meet these objectives

### ***Nehirosikw, First Teachers of Their Children!***

The goal of this presentation was to foster and bring about the commitment of participants to the perseverance and success of their children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews. The presentation focused on the importance of the role of parents and extended family in encouraging student perseverance and academic success, and their future success in life. Subjects such as parent-child bonding, child development and self-esteem were examined. Issues including school readiness, the importance of Aboriginal identity and culture as factors for perseverance and success were also addressed.

### ***Welcome to Kindergarten™***

The Welcome to Kindergarten™ program presentation provided a snapshot of the excitement, challenges and great rewards of working in partnership. Participants learned about the benefits of having the Welcome to Kindergarten™ program in communities and schools to assist educators and families in bridging the gap between home and school for preschoolers. The program provides families with invaluable educational resources and strategies to help prepare their children for kindergarten.



*Earlyn Sharpe (centre) explains the activities in the Welcome to Kindergarten™ kit.*

### ***Croqu'Plaisir – Healthy Eating for Early Childhood***

This presentation gave participants a summary of a few training modules on nutrition for children developed by Extenso, the *Centre de référence en nutrition de l'Université de Montréal*, in conjunction with early childhood organizations in Quebec. The goal of this workshop was to raise awareness among parents of young children, inform them and talk to them about the fundamentals of healthy eating in early childhood, the development of taste, watching for signs of hunger and fullness to know what to serve children to ensure they have a healthy diet.

### ***Recipe for Reading***

We all know that reading is a determining factor in the success of every student. Participants learned some tips and got ideas on how to improve children's reading skills. This workshop also gave participants the opportunity to discover a variety of books for children of all ages.

### ***Make Discipline as Simple as Child's Play***

With *Educoeur's* method of discipline, parents learned how to pass down their values to their children, make efficient demands without repeating themselves, raising their voice or threatening their child, and help their children behave and empower them through responsibilities.

### ***Conflict Resolution: For the Young and not so Young!***

Bullying is cause for concern and everyone in the community has a role to play in preventing and dealing with violence and bullying. This presentation gave parents the opportunity to become familiar with ways to help their children resolve their conflicts peacefully so that they do not end up in violent confrontation or bullying. Parents also learned how to support their children if they are involved in these kinds of situations, and gained a better understanding of their role in preventing bullying and cyberbullying.



*Manawan community members present their parental and community involvement structure.*

#### **4. Next Steps**

The level of participation among parents in the conference shows that the interest and the need for parental and community involvement exist in the communities. To support parents and the communities in their efforts, the FNEC is planning on conducting the following activities that will encourage parental and community involvement throughout the year:

- Based on the results of the survey on parental and community involvement completed by conference participants, the FNEC's parental and community involvement counsellors will conduct various activities to encourage the communities to pursue their efforts in the area of parental involvement (e.g. creating parents committees);
- Initiatives will be put in place to help parents become agents of change in their community;
- A parents network will be developed and maintained;
- A monthly newsletter will be created for the parents network containing suggestions and ideas on how parents can become more involved in their child's education;
- Another conference on parental and community involvement will be organized.

The FNEC firmly maintains its commitment to developing its expertise in parental and community involvement and transferring the benefits directly to the communities. The ultimate goal is to make parental involvement a community priority. Reaching this objective can assuredly be achieved by valuing the role of parents in their children's education, volunteering, a variety of learning methods, and First Nations student success.



*Children are always welcome at FNEC events!*



*Mira Levasseur-Moreau and Patsy Bastien congratulate one of the winners of a gift basket containing games and books for the whole family!*

# Program

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2016			
		Presenter	Room
7:30 a.m.	Registration		Foyer
8:30 a.m.	Opening prayer	Alex Sonny Diabo	Everest A Simultaneous interpretation
8:45 a.m.	Word of welcome	FNEC staff	Everest A Simultaneous interpretation
9:00 a.m.	Icebreaker activity		Everest A Simultaneous interpretation
9:30 a.m.	<i>Six Types of Parental Involvement</i>	Eve Lapointe & Gino Lesage FNEC	Everest A Simultaneous interpretation
10:00 a.m.	Break		
10:15 a.m.	<i>CANO Parents Page – A Web Portal for Parents</i>	Dorothée Picard FNEC	Everest A Simultaneous interpretation
10:45 a.m.	<i>Believing in our Children's Success</i>	The Capsule Family – Video	Everest A
11:00 a.m.	<i>Kids and Technology: Understanding the Advantages and Challenges for Education and Homework</i>	Thierry Karsenti CRIFPE	Everest A Simultaneous interpretation
12:00 p.m.	Lunch		
1:00 p.m.	Robot demonstration	Martin Bertrand FNEC	Everest A Simultaneous interpretation
1:30 p.m.	<i>Standards in Parental and Community Involvement</i>	Treena Metallic FNEC	Everest A Simultaneous interpretation
1:45 p.m.	<i>Reading With Our Children</i>	The Capsule Family – Video	Everest A
2:00 p.m.	<i>The Parent-Teacher Relationship: Tips to Make it Work!</i>	Sylvie Bastien-Doss	Everest A Simultaneous interpretation
	<i>Croqu'Plaisir – Healthy Eating for Early Childhood</i>	Thanh-Van Nguyen Health Canada	Chamonix B in English
	<i>S'améliorer en orthographe et en mathématiques avec les logiciels de Dybuster</i>	Carlo Coccaro Math et Mots Monde	Saint-Moritz in French
3:00 p.m.	Break		
3:15 p.m.	<i>Catalysts for Parental and Community Involvement</i>	Mira Levasseur-Moreau FNEC	Everest A Simultaneous interpretation
3:45 p.m.	<i>Tools in Your Pocket: Positive Parenting</i>	Sharyn Timerman The Early Years	Everest A Simultaneous interpretation
	<i>Croqu'Plaisir – Saine alimentation des enfants</i>	Thanh-Van Nguyen Health Canada	Chamonix B in French
	<i>Improve Orthograph and Math Competences with Dybuster</i>	Carlo Coccaro Math et Mots Monde	Saint-Moritz in English
4:45 p.m.	End of day 1		

# Program

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2016			
		Presenter	Room
8:30 a.m.	Welcoming remarks	FNEC staff	Everest A Simultaneous interpretation
8:45 a.m.	<i>Nehirosikw, First Teachers of Their Children!</i>	Sylvie Roy <i>Opitciwan</i>	Everest A Simultaneous interpretation
9:30 a.m.	<i>Vital Interaction between School and Community: Kiuna's Experience</i>	Prudence Hannis <i>Kiuna Institution</i>	Everest A Simultaneous interpretation
10:15 a.m.	Break		
10:30 a.m.	<i>Techies at School – The SMART Board</i>	Martin Bertrand <i>FNEC</i>	Everest A Simultaneous interpretation
11:00 a.m.	<i>Make Discipline as Simple as Child's Play</i>	Brigitte Racine <i>Éducœur</i>	Everest A Simultaneous interpretation
	<i>Conflict Resolution: For the Young and not so Young!</i>	Anne Gauvreau <i>Institut Pacifique</i>	Chamonix B in English
	<i>Bonifiez votre environnement de Trucs Lecture</i>	Julie Provencher <i>Pouvoir de lire</i>	Saint-Moritz in French
12:00 p.m.	Lunch		
12:45 p.m.	<i>Welcome to Kindergarten™</i>	Earlyn Sharpe <i>Kahnawake</i>	Everest A Simultaneous interpretation
1:00 p.m.	<i>How can I support my child's learning at the elementary and secondary levels?</i>	Sakay Ottawa <i>Manawan</i>	Everest A Simultaneous interpretation
1:15 p.m.	Introduction to this parental involvement advisory body	Atikamekw Nehirowisiw okiskinohamakewin (ANO) <i>Manawan</i>	Everest A Simultaneous interpretation
1:30 p.m.	<i>The ABCs of Student Motivation!</i>	Robert Darche	Everest A Simultaneous interpretation
	<i>La résolution de conflits et la prévention de l'intimidation : pour les grands et les petits!</i>	Geneviève Duchesne <i>Institut Pacifique</i>	Chamonix B in French
	<i>Recipe for Reading</i>	Julie Provencher <i>Pouvoir de lire</i>	Saint-Moritz in English
2:30 p.m.	I'M INVOLVED! – My commitment to my family and community Feedback on the “Catalysts” workshop	FNEC staff	Everest A Simultaneous interpretation
2:45 p.m.	Door prize draw		Everest A Simultaneous interpretation
3:00 p.m.	Closing prayer	Alex Sonny Diabo	Everest A Simultaneous interpretation





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