





Diversity includes.

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Inclusive Education Canada Site Re-Launched



INFORMATION ON INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Inclusive Education Canada is proud to annouce that their website has been updated and re-launched, and they have expanded their online presence with a few social media channels.

The website promotes the Canadian vision for Inclusive Education. It has been designed as a meeting place for parents, family members, teachers, education officials and community members who are committed to making Inclusive Education a reality in all communities. The website features a blog, news, real-life stories, videos, event listings, and much more!

Inclusive Education Canada also invites you to check out their <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Twitter</u>, and <u>Youtube</u> channels. Please subscribe to their website news feed by <u>RSS</u> or email and join in on the conversation.

Please also stay tuned for an announcment about the launch of the French version of their website. They are hard at work making the final preparations for it and it should be launched in the next few weeks.

Below you can read a welcome message from the Inclusive Education Canada Director, Gordon L. Porter. He tells you about the importance of Inclusive Education and welcomes you to the new website.

Inclusive Education Canada is proud to Re-launch our website just in time for the start of the 2013-2014 school year. Our site has established a unique place as a source of information, news and perspectives on inclusive education during the last few years. We want to build on that foundation and strengthen our ties to those who visit our site.

One of the unique features of <u>www.inclusiveeducation.ca</u> is the mix of people who both use and contribute to our site. Parents and family members, teachers, school leaders, university faculty, researchers and self-advocates, among others have helped energize our discussion of inclusion. We look forward to sharing more dialogue on critical issues in the weeks ahead.

One of the many new features of our online presence includes a blog and social media. We invite you to connect, follow us and add your voice to the many conversations we hope to have and initiate with you.

We are optimistic about where education in Canada is moving. Policy leaders seem to have reached a consensus that creating more inclusive schools is the best path forward even if there is uncertainty about how to that. In many of Canada's largest school systems, the question of how you bring about change to a complex and entrenched system is the greatest challenge. Some argue the spark that could bring change is the Moore Decision (B.C. – November 2012) that establishes several clear mandates to educational authorities, most critically, the need to ensure students with disabilities have "meaningful access" to the benefits of public education in Canada.

"Adequate special education, therefore, is not a dispensable luxury. For those with severe learning disabilities, it is the ramp that provides access to the statutory commitment to education made to all children in B.C."

(Supreme Court of Canada, Moore Vs B.C. 2012)

The challenge is to make sure the access provided is to a well supported, effective and inclusive educational program for children and youth with disabilities. We ask you to join us in contributing to this effort by visiting our website regularly and sharing your perspectives on strategies to reach this goal.

Welcome to the new - www.inclusiveeducation.ca



Gordon Porter Gordon L. Porter, C.M. Director of Inclusive Education Canada

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