

UPEI Centre for Education Research

Spring Report

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ISLAND



UPEI Centre for Education Research

Spring Report

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Director's Reflections: February—June 2009

Year Two in my role as Director of the UPEI Centre for Education Research (CER) ends much the same as Year One—reflecting back on our positive growth and success over the year and looking ahead with worry and anticipation for the sustainability of the CER. We have been able to hire a full-time Project Manager (and a very good one in the person of Christine Gordon Manley) and this position has proven to be essential if we are to steadily build the organization. We have funding to support this person until December 2009 and our main priority has to be finding sustained funding for this position. A few new funds are coming (or have come) in the form of \$3000 from the Joint Education Research Group (JERG), \$8000 for the second contract for the Research in Early Child Development (RECD) Initiative, as well as future support from membership fees, the Faculty of Education, and ORD. However, we are going to have to take a much more serious look at how to raise more funds, both from research grants and contracts, but also perhaps in more entrepreneurial endeavours.

I have included some reflections here on the major activities of the CER and some challenges we need to deal with in the next few months.

Sharing Research

Our Research Seminar Series and the joint Research Forum (CER & CHART) were very successful events, and did much to highlight the work of CER members and to raise the profile of CER. More people know who we are and what we are trying to do, and our colleagues speak very positively about our efforts. This is particularly true in our relationship with ORD and the continued support of Katherine Schultz and her team.

Research Collective

Our office in Dalton Hall, while removed from the main Faculty of Education, has proven to be very helpful in stabilizing our presence, giving us ample work space for meetings and for research assistants, while keeping us in close proximity to graduate students, a few Faculty sessionals, and, most importantly, to the research offices of the CRC in Youth Transitions/Cultures, Kate Tilliczek. This positioning will certainly help us forge strong partnerships with the CRC office and help both CER and the CRC grow in tandem. Looking to the future as we welcome a CRC, I can imagine a type of “research collective” emerging with collaborations developing with CER, the CRC, the Qualitative Research Lab, CHART, CMTC, the Family Literacy Research Group, and the Community-based Research Group, all within minutes of each other physically, and all with overlapping needs for similar resources and services. It seems to me, we are all after the same pot of money, we all have limited paid human resources, and we all could benefit from more collaborations amongst these groups. I would like to see the CER take a leadership role here in developing such a research collective.



Data-Mapping

A major research contract with the Department of Education and Early Child Development (DEECD), which is referred to as the Research in Early Child Development (RECD) Initiative, has been extended for a second year, bringing another \$80,000 contract to the CER for work to be completed by March 1, 2010. I won't dwell on the specifics of this work, but raise it here because I see it as having the potential to make the CER the "go to" place in PEI for research in early child development. The DEECD (through the partnership of Sarah Henry and Sonya Corrigan) has really handed the CER an opportunity to show



we can deliver on research which helps answer pressing and emerging questions. We are currently creating an Advisory Team of UPEI (and CER) researchers who will work with the RECD initiative to steer the data mapping aspects of our project with an eye to making the CER a source of this expertise for other projects provincially and regionally. My hope is that such work could become a money-generator for the CER, increasing both our profile and our sustainability.

CER-OC

The CER Operational Committee has once again proven itself an invaluable part of the way CER handles its mandate and I want to thank this year's group for all of their work on your behalf. Many thanks to the CER-Operational Committee for 2008—2009:

- Suzanne Thomas, CER Member
- Martha Gabriel, CER Member
- Sean Wiebe, CER Member
- Craig MacDonald, Graduate Student Representative
- Ray Doiron, CER Director
- Kate Graham, Administrative Support
- Christine Gordon Manley, CER Project Manager

Since the last CER report in January, the CER-OC helped design and approve a Membership Policy which describes full and associate membership in the CER and lists the benefits of membership in each category (see Appendix A). This policy was an action arising from the January meeting.

Research Dissemination

A second action centred around the CER's role in raising and promoting the profiles of CER members and their current research activity. This has been done principally through the enhancements made at the CER website and through the publication of CER Research Translations (CERTs). On the CER website (www.upei.ca/cer), some members have more things included than others and some do not have any CERTs created about their research. I worry that this gives the sense that some people are being promoted more than others, but in reality, it is because not every member is sending research information to Christine. My hope is that we will all do more to supply the information and get the good word out on all the CER members.

Digital Dissemination

Christine has made many improvements at the CER website (including a new CER logo) and even tried her hand at a couple of media features (SlideShare and a photomontage from the Research Forum). These features and the many possibilities for using ICTs and Web 2.0 tools for research dissemination and CER promotion are avenues I would like to see us pursue more. My dream is to be able to hire a digital media technologist for CER (and maybe to be shared by that research collective I mentioned above) to help CER members develop digital ways of sharing their work. There are exciting opportunities here and lessons I have learned by having someone like this (our former digital media person, Morgan Merritt) able to support the Eating Between the Lines and the WorldReaders projects. We are adding a new person soon for the RECD project and I would like to find supplementary funding to have that person do some more of that type of work, what I like to call “digital dissemination.” Christine can’t do it all.

Fundraising

I want to test the waters with all of you about developing a strategy within the CER for raising money in alternative ways than relying on membership fees and support from research projects. These sources of funds will continue, of course, but I speculate there may be more entrepreneurial ways we could be thinking and acting in order to generate money. For instance, could we develop research institutes and charge fees which would go to the CER? Are there CER members willing to take part in such events? We could have the CER organize and manage these, pay an honourarium to the presenters, and use the balance raised for CER. Do we want to develop several research services that the CER can offer and get the word out so we could garner a few research contracts? This could take a great deal of time and effort and use our limited CER resources, but perhaps there could be a pay-off in the end. I hope we can discuss this issue and look for more ideas like this to increase our funding sources.

Many, many thanks to Christine for all her work in the CER!

CER Members: 2008—2009

- Dr. Ray Doiron, Director (Faculty of Education, UPEI)
- Dr. Alexander McAuley (Faculty of Education, UPEI)
- Dr. Audrey J. Penner (Adult Education, Learner Supports, & Applied Research, Holland College)
- Dr. Basil Favaro (Faculty of Education, UPEI)
- Dr. Carla DiGiorgio (Faculty of Education, UPEI)
- Dr. Fiona Walton (Faculty of Education, UPEI)
- Dr. Graham Pike (International Education, Vancouver Island University)
- Dr. J Tim Goddard (Faculty of Education, UPEI)
- Dr. Jennifer Taylor (Family & Nutritional Sciences, UPEI)
- Dr. Kate Tilleczek (CRC Child/Youth Cultures & Transitions)
- Dr. Khym Goslin (Faculty of Education, UPEI)
- Dr. Martha Gabriel (Faculty of Education, UPEI)
- Dr. Miles Turnbull (Faculty of Education, UPEI)
- Dr. Ronald MacDonald (Faculty of Education, UPEI)
- Dr. Sean Wiebe (Faculty of Education, UPEI)
- Dr. Suzanne Thomas (Faculty of Education, UPEI)
- Dr. Tess Miller (Faculty of Education, UPEI)

CER Research Activity

Joint Education Research Group (JERG)

CER's Director sits on the Joint Education Research Group (JERG), and this year, JERG issued a call for proposals to the education system in PEI to solicit projects that could be given a series of proposal-writing sessions to develop a full proposal. Nine proposals came forward and five were selected to move on in the process. The CER was hired to give two workshops to these five people and help develop their research projects. Four of the five projects went back to the JERG for review, and all four were accepted and funded. The CER then hosted a workshop for preparing the projects for ethics submission to UPEI REB. Ron MacDonald and Miles Turnbull helped with this ethics workshop. The CER was paid a fee for this work and will handle the accounts for these four projects. All four projects include a research advisor from UPEI, three of whom are CER full members.

The projects are:

1. *Factors Affecting Student Achievement in Science* – Jonathan Hayes (Department of Education and Early Child Development). Dr. Ron MacDonald is the research advisor on this project.
2. *Exploring the Use of Group Singing to Improve Competence in Reading* – Betty Bailey (Department of Education and Early Child Development). Dr. June Countryman and Dr. Philip Smith are research advisors on this project.
3. *English as an Additional Language (EAL) Students' Lived Experiences: Student Perspectives on Barriers to Learning and Living on PEI* – Vicki Whitlock (Department of Education and Early Child Development). Dr. Miles Turnbull is the research advisor on this project.
4. *Nothing Like the Real Thing: Cognitive Effect of Material Culture Artifacts* – Paula Kenny (PEI Museums). Dr. Suzanne Thomas is the research advisor on this project.

Promoting Educational Success for Mi'kmaq Learners on PEI



The final report for the Mi'kmaq research project was submitted to the Mi'kmaq Confederacy on May 1, 2009. Since that date, the research team (comprised of Fiona Walton, Basil Favaro, Tim Goddard, Danielle Frenette, Lisa Cooper, Nancy Peters, and Joe Burgess), have been busy disseminating the research. They have presented the results of the project to the Department of Education, to the

Coordinating Committee of the Canada/PEI/Mi'kmaq Agreement, and at several education conferences and symposia. Most recently, they have joined the Pathways to Health research team, who conducted a similar study in health this past year, in taking the research results back to the communities. They were in Lennox Island First Nation in June 9th and will be in the Abegweit First Nation on June 15th. The team looks forward to continuing the dissemination and working with the Mi'kmaq Confederacy, the First Nations Committee, the Native Council, and the Department of Education on the implementation of the recommendations.

Research in Early Child Development (RECD) Initiative

Members of the RECD Research Team went to the Pan-Canadian Summit of Early Child Development in Montreal in January; the National Strategy for Early Literacy in Charlottetown in January; and Putting Science into Action in Sackville in May. RECD Initiative work was presented to the ED616 class, as well as at the CHART-CER Research Forum. The RECD Research Team has ongoing meetings to verify the populated framework based on the results from research meetings held from January through May, 2009, and is working with five of the networks to facilitate their projects.

Part of the RECD work included the generation and facilitation of new research in early childhood on PEI. The RECD team hosted two workshops for the 13 networks and from these sessions, there emerged five research projects currently in final development. The networks involved include:

1. Family Literacy Network
2. Child Safety Network
3. Early Childhood Education Committee
4. Exceptional Child Network
5. Parent Support Network.



Each of these projects will develop as an action research project led by graduate students and the main Research Assistant on the RECD, Gabriela Sanchez. CER members will be approached to support some of these projects. The April 30, 2009, report is available online (www.upei.ca/cer/research/current-projects) which offers a more detailed outline of the RECD Initiative. There are a number of directions for future development affiliated with this project.

New Learners @UPEI

While the “New Learners” take their place as this generation of university students, campuses work to respond: to address the potential and challenges of providing education to this group, and to review and reconsider the very fundamentals of education and how it is delivered. This body of students, born between 1982 and 2001, are also known as the “Millenials,” “Net Generation Learners,” and “Digital Natives.” They have grown up during the birth and development of the Internet, Web 1.0, and Web 2.0.

Their digital technology knowledge and use have led to curriculum considerations and literacy redefinitions.

The New Learners project team has been focused in two separate but interconnected areas in the past six months –presentations and a funding proposal. Four of the members –Martha Gabriel, Ray Doiron, Ron MacDonald, and Sean Wiebe—delivered individual papers in a team presentation on UPEI and New Learners at two sites in May: the 2009 Research Forum at UPEI and the Canadian Society for the Study of Education (CSSE) Annual Conference in Ottawa. A funding proposal is also in the works, in order for the team to explore long-term research in this area.

The Team was successful in securing a Major Research Grant (UPEI) in April.

Graduates of Two-Year BEd Program (1997—2007)



The report on the Graduates of the Two-Year Bed program, 1997—2007 was recently completed. CER Members will receive copies of this report at the Annual General Meeting, and the report will soon be available on the CER website. Principal researchers on this one-year study were Dr. Ray Doiron and Dr. Basil Favaro, with research assistant, Paula Croken.

Eating Between the Lines (EBTL)

Eating Between the Lines is an early literacy, healthy eating program for young children developed and tested in childcare facilities in Prince Edward Island.

The official launch of the Eating Between the Lines website took place on June 2, 2009. The website (www.ebtl.org) is comprised of two main sections: one for early childhood educators and one for parents. The educators' section includes modules and activities for use in the classroom, while the section for parents makes use of games, recipes, music, stories, and meal planning activities to engage children in healthy eating literacy.



The website was created by a team of early childhood researchers and an advisory team at UPEI. The launch of the site generated positive PR including a story in *The Guardian*, a spotlight on *Live at 5*, and a section on the main page of the UPEI website.

WorldReaders: Young Readers Reading the World



Close to 100 young people are now members of this social network (<http://worldreaders.ning.com/>), aimed at sharing and encouraging young people's reading. Stonepark Junior High School in Charlottetown and the Inter-Community School in Switzerland have been added and several other international sites are getting set to join. The supplementary educators' resource designed to complement the social networking site is still in development, but a draft of it is available at <http://worldreaders.org/>. With the pressing timetable for the launch of the EBTL website and with the

resignation of Morgan Merritt, this project has had a bit of a hiatus in the past two months. Our new digital media technologist will be taking over this project well.

CER Hosted Events

Education Seminar Series

During the Winter semester of the 2008—2009 academic year, the Centre for Education Research continued to host informal research seminars focusing on CER members' current research activity. The intent of these sessions was to create a research conversation, while also celebrating CER members' research accomplishments. The following seminars were presented from February—April 2009:



Dialoguing to Create a Research Agenda for EAL Programming in PEI Schools – Let's Identify and Discuss the Issues – Dr. Miles Turnbull

The Constellation of Instructional Leadership – Dr. Khym Goslin

Research and Development of Serious Games – Mark Sandiford

Sintayehu: I Have Seen So Many Things. Reflections on Literacy and Libraries in Ethiopia – Dr. Ray Doiron

Grant Opportunities & Website Preview Meeting

In February, Ray & Christine hosted a grant exploration meeting with CER members. Various funding opportunities were discussed. In addition, a preview of the new CER website was demonstrated. For more details on this meeting, please see the section under Project Manager's Report.

Education Research Forum: Fostering Research Collaborations in Education & Health (co-hosted by CER & CHART)



The annual Education Research Forum was held this year on May 20, 2009, in MacDougall Hall, UPEI. For the first time, the Forum was co-hosted with another research group. Partnering with The Children's Health Applied Research Team (CHART) allowed presenters to highlight issues in both education and health, fostering future research collaborations, and igniting energy between the two research groups.

Before the official start of the Research Forum itself, the two research groups (CER & CHART) met for a series of presentations and discussions, allowing for both celebration of past research collaborations

and inspiration for future collaborations. During this half-day session, the following presentations were given:

Research Collaborations: Successes and Challenges – Dr. Fiona Walton

Leadership of the CRC in Future CHART-CER Collaborations – Dr. Kate Tilleczek

Graduate Student Supervision (Panel Presentation) – Drs. Kate Tilleczek, Miles Turnbull, & Kim Critchley

Over three concurrent sessions, 18 presentations were given by over 30 presenters. Topics ranged from school health to early childhood education; from aboriginal health and education, to technologies and learning.

The keynote this year was given by Dr. Kate Tilleczek, recently appointed Canada Research Chair in Children/Youth Cultures and Transition at UPEI, and research scientist with the Community Health Systems Group at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. Her presentation was entitled *Aligning Health and Education for and with Young People: Can we Collectively Cultivate “Developmental Health”?*

An interactive summary of the Research Forum is currently on the CER website. The page includes photos taken throughout the course of the day, links to research posters that were presented, and brief summaries of the research presentations.



Eating Between the Lines Website Launch

The official launch of the EBTL website took place on June 2, 2009. Please see the write-up under CER Research Activity for more details.

International Symposium on Poetic Inquiry

The 2nd International Symposium on Poetic Inquiry, with the theme *Poetry as a Way of Knowing*, will be held in Charlottetown, PEI, October 15—18, 2009. Co-hosted by the UPEI Centre for Education Research and the Centre for Arts-informed Research, OISE (University of Toronto), the Symposium will focus on

bridging links between a community of international literary poets and a community of interdisciplinary artists, poets/scholars.

Ray and Christine have been working with Suzanne Thomas in planning the Symposium. Funding has been obtained and confirmed from the Faculty of Education, the Faculty of Arts, and the President of UPEI. Further funding opportunities are currently being explored.

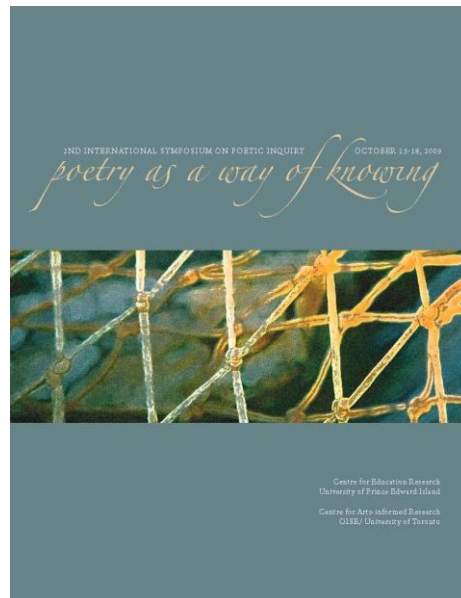
A draft program of the event is being constructed, with evening activities as follows:

Thursday October 15: Opening Reception (UPEI Faculty Lounge)

Friday October 16: Poetry Galla (Havilland Club, Charlottetown – catered by Kurt Ellis)

Saturday October 17: Lobster Supper (Stanley Bridge Resort)

The summer and early fall will be spent confirming participants' registration, organizing presentation sessions, and finalizing the budget. At present, we have received verbal commitments from 23 presenters. Efforts will be made throughout the summer to increase awareness of this symposium, gathering local interest.



Project Manager's Summary of Activity

Christine Gordon Manley was hired as Project Manager for the CER in late 2008, and started working full-time at CER on January 19, 2009.

Funding Opportunities

A major part of Christine's job has been to seek out funding opportunities for CER and CER members. In January, Christine began an initial search, using the COS database and general Internet searches. A funding table and grants calendar was created. In February, Christine used the content to create an online grants database located on the CER website. This database, constructed with the help of Integrated Communications, uses the four pillars of CER to break the grants/funding opportunities down by topic: literacy and learning, leadership in education, arts-based education, and education for inclusion and social justice. The intent of this database is to narrow the focus of education-specific grants, providing CER members with a specific list of grants that relate to their individual research interest. By having such a resource available, it will save CER members time from researching grant opportunities themselves.

Currently, there are two challenges that are limiting the optimal use of this funding tool. Because of the sensitive and competitive nature of grant/funding opportunities, the CER felt it necessary to locate this information on a password-sensitive section of the CER website (located under a "Members Only" section). While the idea for this section was devised and created in February, Christine continues to work with Integrated Communications to implement this page. While it was first thought to work effectively, CER was informed in May that IC is still exploring the use of password-protected subsites off the UPEI main website, and will be in touch when the issue has been resolved. It is Christine's aim to have this issue resolved and the database available to CER members for the fall semester. In the interim, Christine will continue keeping members updated on relevant funding opportunities via email. The second challenge is keeping the database up-to-date. In order for the database to be of any use for the CER members, there needs to be a commitment made for updating the database. While this will be primarily Christine's responsibility, it would be helpful if all CER members kept Christine informed of any funding opportunities that they discover.

On February 26, 2009, the Centre for Education Research hosted a grant opportunities meeting for all CER members. Christine walked members through the grant database and discussed various opportunities with CER members.

CER Website

Over the past several months, Christine has been busy overhauling the CER website. The template for the new CER website was shown to CER members during the grants opportunity meeting in February. The new website has been simplified to allow for a cleaner look, emphasizing CER content, and includes the CER's new logo:



Instead of having content located on one main page, the new website now streamlines content into four major areas: About CER, Events, Research, and Members. The About section of the website includes information on the CER history and mandate; CER members, staff, and associate members; and information on joining the CER. The Events section includes information on upcoming CER-related events, as well as an inventory of past CER-hosted events. The Research section provides an update on CER research activity, highlighting specific research projects and promoting CER members' specific research activity with the inclusion of CERTs (see section on research promotion). The Members section is intended for CER members only and is password protected. When activated (see funding section for explanation), members will gain access to the grant database and specific CER information for members (i.e. meeting dates/times/locations and various CER reports).

The CER office hired a university photographer for several of their events, and these professional quality photos have enhanced the look of the CER website.

Next for the CER website will be an increased emphasis on research promotion (see research promotion section).

Research Promotion & Dissemination

CERTs: Centre for Education Research Translations

The creation of a CERT (Centre for Education Research Translations) stemmed from the desire to profile research projects in an easy-to-read one-page format. The idea behind a CERT is that anyone can pick one up, read about a specific research project, and understand it, despite individual interests and backgrounds. Christine researched other research centres' one-pagers (i.e. CHART pages, CRISPfacts) and subsequently created the CERT. Currently, there are four CERTs produced:

Eating Between the Lines (Led by Dr. Ray Doiron & Dr. Jennifer Taylor)

Research in Early Child Development (RECD) Initiative (Led by Dr. Ray Doiron & Dr. Martha Gabriel)

WorldReaders: Young Readers Reading the World (Led by Dr. Ray Doiron)

Incorporating Literacy & Science in the French Immersion Curriculum (Led by Dr. Miles Turnbull)

Computer-based Assessment (Led by Dr. Tess Miller)

CERTs are available in several locations on the website, to ensure easy and multiple access. Any CER member listed on the CER website who has a project profiled in a CERT has a link from their membership profile directly to their CERT. Additionally, CERTs are located collectively in the Research section of the website, as well as individually in the research projects section.

Over the summer, Christine plans on tweaking the look of the CERT to ensure compliance with both university policy and Mac-compatible software.

Twitter

The social networking site, Twitter, is a highly effective tool for organizational promotion and awareness. Christine began researching the effectiveness of using Twitter to promote CER activities in March, researching best practices and reading various articles written by business professionals. In early May, 2009, the Centre for Education Research officially joined Twitter under the name UPEICER. Updates on various CER activities are being made as frequently as possible. To help enhance the effectiveness of CER's profile on Twitter and gain increased attention, Christine circulated details on the CER account to all CER members, allowing access for multiple users and updates. A Twitter widget is also now located on the CER website. It is CER's hope to increase members' participation in this outreach tool over the months to come.

Twitter Username: CERUPEI

Password: cer408

Website Promotion: Member Profiles

Each CER member has a personal profile page on the website. At the moment, these profiles are very basic, including a photo of the member, a brief bio, and a list of research interests. Work has begun to add links to specific research projects, CERts, etc. Christine hopes to continue working on the membership profiles over the summer months, resulting in a portfolio type look. CER members are encouraged to send any information they would like included on their profile to Christine.

Additional Promotion

Christine has been working to increase ties with Integrated Communications regarding CER activities. Frequent updates have been circulated via campus events, and Integrated Communications worked together with Christine to promote the Eating Between the Lines website launch both on the main campus website, in *The Guardian* (local newspaper), and on *Live at 5* (regional newscast). Christine also works with ORD with all promotions and relevant to this, the CER looks forward to working with David Aktison, the newly hired ORD research communications officer, to fully promote CER research activity.

Under the Research section of the website is a link to "Research: CER Members." This subpage contains a brief blurb regarding CER members' research activity, a list of 2008—2009 CER members, and a hyperlink from each members' name back to their individual member profile.

Regular updates to the Notice block on the CER website will be made to reflect CER members' activity. Members are asked to send Christine "anything and everything" and she will make sure it gets uploaded to the website.

Christine created a slideshow of CER members, which was originally used to profile CER members at the Research Forum. A revised version is now present on the Research section of the website. It is available for anyone to download if needed.

CER-Hosted Events

As noted in previous sections, the CER has been, and continues to be, busy with various events. Christine has been active in organizing most of these activities, including the Grants Opportunity workshop, the Education Research Forum, the Eating Between the Lines website launch, and the International Symposium on Poetic Inquiry.

Associate Membership

This term saw the implementation of a new status of membership for the Centre for Education Research: the Associate Member. While discussion has been ongoing for quite some time regarding associate members, the invitation was officially extended in February to people on campus and in the Island community who we felt would be interested in becoming an associate member of CER. As stated on our website: *Associate members are drawn from a wide community including graduate students, educational leaders in the community, educators conducting research in schools, community-based organizations and networks, those responsible for research activity at district and department levels, and anyone interested in contributing and sharing in the work of the CER.*

Associate members pay a one-time fee of \$50.00 with the exception of graduate students who gain membership at no-cost.

To date, we have 18 associate members:

- Dr. Janet Bryanton (School of Nursing, UPEI)
- Elizabeth Costa (Graduate Student, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development)
- Dr. Kim Critchley (School of Nursing, UPEI)
- Dr. Barbara Campbell (The Webster Centre for Teaching & Learning, UPEI)
- Frank Hennessey (Department of Education and Early Childhood Development)
- Dr. Rosemary Herbert (Acting VP Academic Development, UPEI)
- Tamara Hubley-Little (Eastern School District)
- Mark Leggott (University Librarian, UPEI)
- Dr. Debbie MacLellan (Family & Nutritional Sciences, UPEI)
- Marion Stordy (Independent Scholar)
- Gabriela Sanchez (Graduate Student, UPEI)
- Craig MacDonald (Graduate Student, UPEI)
- Laura Cudmore (Western School Board)
- Linda Lowther (Department of Education & Early Childhood Development)

- Bob MacRae (PEITF)
- Sarah Henry (Department of Education & Early Childhood Development)
- Cindy Wood (Department of Education & Early Childhood Development)
- Alaina Roach O’Keefe (Department of Education & Early Childhood Development)

In upcoming months, Christine plans on spending more time engaging the associate members and thanking them for their interest in and support for CER. Efforts will be made as well to invite additional members.

Supporting CER Members

Since starting her position as Project Manager at CER, Christine has made herself available for any support needed from CER members. Some of her activity over the past 4—5 months include:

- Assisted in qualitative analysis for Basil & Fiona (Mi’kmaq project)
- Assisted Ron MacDonald in preparation of Spenser grant application
- Proofed and formatted two MRG applications (New Learners & RECD)
- Wrote and sent acceptance letters for Suzanne Thomas re: Poetics Symposium
- Assisted in ALVA letter of inquiry (RECD)
- Assisted in various job postings for CER Members
- Assisted with poster preparation on BEd program with Ron MacDonald & Morgan Merritt
- Edited final report for Mi’kmaq Education project
- Edited various reports for RECD project
- Edited modules on EBTL website
- Part of a team exploring funding opportunities for projects in Nunavut (led by Fiona Walton)
- Part of a team associated with CJAL – Canadian Journal of Applied Linguistics, headed by Miles Turnbull

Administrative Assistant's Summary of Activity

Kate Graham has offered invaluable support to the CER office, working on tasks such as the following:

- Attended meetings of the Operational Committee (up until the Project Manager was hired)
- Monitored & reported on CER budget
- Completed paperwork for purchases and payroll
- Created posters, sent emails, and corresponded with attendees for the CER Seminar Series
- Created and edited forms and correspondence
- Assisted members with the collection of membership dues
- Invoiced projects
- Produced reports for CER meetings
- Assisted with staff orientation
- Worked with Facilities Management, Procurement, and Computer Services re: the Centre's move to Dalton Hall
- Arranged for signage for the office in Dalton Hall
- Booked rooms for meetings
- Assisted with pre-planning for the Annual Research Forum
- Ordered catering for meetings and events

Appendix A: CER Membership Policy

Eligibility:

Any active researcher in areas related broadly to education, specifically in the four main areas of the CER (literacy & learning, leadership in education, arts-based education, and education for inclusion and social justice) can request to become a full member of CER.

Responsibilities of a CER Member:

CER Members are expected to:

- be active in research and in the events of the CER;
- to state their affiliation with the CER on education-related publications and presentations;
- to provide information about specific research and projects for inclusion in CER reports;
- to allow their name to be included on CER membership lists;
- to take turns on the advisory or operational committees if nominated;
- to accept the mission and objectives of the CER;
- to provide positive support to other active CER researchers; and,
- to provide updated CV information for use by the CER.

Benefits of Membership:

CER Members will be given:

- priority notification of education-related research grants and other funding opportunities;
- assistance with funding applications/proposals and, when requested, research reports;
- inclusion in CER-sponsored events (seminars, lectures, workshops, symposiums);
- opportunities to have their research highlighted through CER research profiles;
- permission to use their CER affiliation on various research proposals/reports;
- opportunities for research dissemination, knowledge transfer, and networking; and,
- promotion of research activity through the CER.

Researchers benefit from CER membership by being able to take advantage of CER research resources and direction of the Director and other, more experienced, researchers. Other partners outside of the university research community (i.e. government and industry) benefit by using the CER as a centre of information, enabling research connections, and facilitating long-term research.

Application for Membership:

Anyone interested in applying for CER membership should notify the Director of the CER regarding their interest in membership (please include a CV outlining current and past research). Membership fee is \$300 annually. Applications are reviewed and approved by the CER Operational Committee.