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Our Acting President's Column

Dear Members,

The World Assembly and the 68th Congress of OMEP-World took place in Seoul, South Korea, last July. It is with great pride that I represented the OMEP Canadian Committee at the World Assembly. Two other OMEP members have assisted as observers, Marie Jolicoeur and Micheline Simpson.

At this event, a new chairperson was elected, Dr. Eunhye Park, currently the chairperson of OMEP-Korea. She will replace Maggie Koong in January 2017. I would like to highlight that Maggie did a great job by promoting OMEP worldwide.

Congress

Over 650 participants from 43 countries replied to the invitation of the organizing committee of OMEP-Korea. Under the theme, *Change the early childhood education system for the future years*, several workshops were offered, particularly on play and resilience, the curriculum, sustainable development and early childhood education, as well as on training different personnel working with young children.

Visits to child education centers and preschool classes allowed me to see the place and role given to the child as well as the adults' vision of the young Korean child.

Meetings

A congress is an opportunity for meeting interesting people and networking. Moreover, sometimes you have to go to the end of the world to meet Canadian colleagues such as, Manon Boily from UQAM and Sylvie Martel of "Tortue Têtu" day care center, both from Montreal, who presented a poster on implantation of a curriculum based on Reggio Emilia's model. Sylvie is now OMEP member.

OMEP 2016 Statement

The OMEP 2016 Statement, validated in Seoul this past July, requests urgently our world, national and local leaders to take care of the rights and needs of the very young children, who are either moving, are migrants, refugees or asylum requesters. We want to ensure they have human and correct conditions, create policies and public methods allowing for transparent treatment and realistic assessment of the young children. We should also make sure to offer these children safe places to play and learn.

Training of teachers, educators and personnel working with children should be taken into account so that they work successfully with the children. *Not to react is the lack of ethics and violates the Human Rights Declaration as defined by the United Nations and the Rights of Child Convention.* You can find the full statement at www.omep-canada.org

UNESCO

UNESCO also shows that inequality endangers the lives of millions of children and is a menace for the future of the planet. You can find more information in the report titled *Equal chances for each child*, published in June 2016, http://www.unicef.org/french/publications/index_91711.html



Towards 2030: a new vision about education



At Incheon, in the Republic of Korea, at the Education World Forum 2015, UNESCO took the initiative of managing a major event for Education 2030.

The world movement favoring Education for all contributed to considerable progress in Education. Meanwhile, the 2015 survey showed that the six major objectives of the EFA and the Millennium Objectives for development (MOD) relative to education set in 2000 were far from being met.

One of these objectives can be found again on the agenda for 2030. Point 4.2 concerned early childhood education:

Until 2030, make sure that every boy and girl have access to development activities and care since kindergarten, and to a quality pre-school education, which will allow them to continue on to primary school.

Haiti

Haiti was again hit by the passage of hurricane Matthew. We were able to communicate with some colleagues from Port-au-Prince, who ensured us of their safety. However, it is the country's southwest that was most affected. They should let us know their needs and we will see how the Canadian committee together with OMEP-World, could help them.

Opatija 2017

The next World Assembly, as well as the 69th congress will take place at Opatija, Croatia from June 19 to 24, 2017. The theme is, *Early childhood relations: foundation for a sustainable future*. One of our members, Joanne Lehrer will be a guest speaker. A call for workshop suggestions and posters is ongoing until January 14, 2017. The organization of a Symposium is also possible. For more information, see omep.hr.

Christiane Bourdages Simpson
President
OMEP-Canada
Christianebsimpson@gmail.com

The Vice President for North America and the Caribbean's Column

Greetings to OMEP colleagues and friends in Canada.

CELEBRATING IMPORTANT DAYS TOGETHER: We hope that you all joined OMEP members around the world in celebrating the UN International Day of Peace on September 21 and Global Handwashing Day on or around October 15. Celebrating these days with children, early educators, parents and the community is a good way to make OMEP more visible and to reinforce our organization's long-standing ties with the United Nations. The next big day will be November 20, Universal Children's Day, marking the anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), which, to this day, has more signatures from members states than any other human rights treaty in history. OMEP was participated in drafting the CRC and was instrumental in pushing for its endorsement by the United Nations in 1989.

FIRST-EVER REGIONAL CONFERENCE COMING IN FEBRUARY:

OMEP-USA will host the very first North American and Caribbean Regional Conference, co-hosted by OMEP-Canada and OMEP-Haiti. The conference, entitled, *Sustainability at Its Best: Case Studies from around the World*, will be held February 20 – 22, 2017 at the Marriott Buckhead Hotel & Conference Center in Atlanta, Georgia. Early bird registration and proposal deadlines are just around the corner, so please visit the conference website at <https://omep.us/2017-conference-registration-housing-info/>

Big kudos to Jean Simpson, President of OMEP-USA, and her team for organizing the first-ever regional conference. All of the other OMEP regions have annual conferences, so this is a huge step forward for our region.

2017 WORLD ASSEMBLY AND CONFERENCE IN CROATIA:

The 69th World Assembly and Conference will be held in Opatija, Croatia June 19-24, 2017. The conference title is *Early Childhood Relationships: The Foundation for a Sustainable Future*. Early registration continues through March 31. The deadline for submitting presentation abstracts in January 14, 2017. The location is splendid and the program promises to be outstanding as well.

WORD FROM HAITI:

Our colleagues in OMEP-Haiti all survived the recent hurricane disaster, but they report that destruction is wide-spread throughout the country, with the worst challenges for children in the high-risk areas that are experiencing flooding and extensive infrastructure damage. We await updates from them to determine how we can help.

OMEP's 2016 DECLARATION: Each year the World Assembly produces a declaration. The idea is that our members around the world will use these documents as advocacy tools.

The 2016 declaration adopted in Seoul is entitled, *Urgent Call to Address the Rights and Needs of the Youngest Displaced, Migrant, Refugee, and Asylum-seeking Children*. We have been able to use the declaration many times in various position papers and advocacy efforts. We have presented it to the UN High Commission on Refugees and the UN Committee on Migration, currently chaired by Dr. Maria Pia Belloni, one of OMEP's representatives to the United Nations.

Please take a look at the declaration on the World Website:

French: <http://www.worldomep.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/2016-OMEP-Declaration-French.pdf>

English: <http://www.worldomep.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/2016-OMEP-Declaration-English.pdf>

OMEP'S TEAM IN NEW YORK: OMEP has 7 representatives to the United Nations. They are assisted by the "New York Team," comprised of people who support our representatives and, whenever possible, attend meetings and events in New York. Of course it is advantageous to have team members who live in or near New York City, but interested people who do not live close by can also assist with drafting or reviewing documents, networking, and disseminating information. Please let me know if you are interested in becoming involved in OMEP's global policy work at the United Nations. My email address is jwagner@whittier.edu

Judith T. Wagner, Ph.D.
OMEP Regional Vice President, North American and Caribbean

News

...from the *International Journal of Early Childhood*

The *International Journal of Early Childhood* is the OMEP newspaper. It is issued three times per year, and it publishes articles in any of the three OMEP working languages, i.e. English, French and Spanish. Since a few years, it is published and distributed by Springer. Donna Berthelsen, retired professor from the Queensland University of Technology, Australia, is the Editor, supported by a co-editors' team of ten academics, two language editors for French and Spanish, and an editorial secretary. The newspaper keeps on developing, on both the distribution and reputation levels, as shown by the report presented by the Editor to the OMEP World Assembly in Seoul this summer. I will be pleased to forward it (in English, Power Point format) to those who will ask me by e-mail.

you that we must receive your membership by March 1st in order to send our list of subscribers to Springer on time for the first issue published in Anril.

If you wish to submit a manuscript for review, or learn more about the newspaper, please visit http://www.springer.com/education+%26+language/journal/13158?wt_mc=alerts.TOCjournals&hideChart=1. You will see that the optional subscription offered with your annual membership to OMEP-Canada is a real bargain. I take the opportunity to remind you that we must receive your membership by March 1st in order to send our list of subscribers to Springer on time for the first issue published in April.

Madeleine Baillargeon,
OMEP-Canada Vice-president,
French Editor, *International Journal of Early Childhood*
omep-canada@videotron.ca

...about the participation of OMEP-Canada in consultations on educational success and early childhood education in Quebec

At the end of the past summer holidays, the Quebec Minister of Education, Mr Sébastien Proulx, announced the creation of 100 additional full-time kindergartens for 4-year olds in disadvantaged areas, at the same time as a large survey on educational success to be held during the fall. OMEP-Canada reacted by sending a letter to the Minister, recommending him not to rush, but rather make his decisions based on relevant available information. We also showed our interest in participating in the fall survey. The letter was published in *La Presse* and *Le Soleil* newspapers, and sent to OMEP-Canada members.

The topics mentioned in the letter were developed in a brief forwarded to the Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur (MEES) on November 11. The rationale drawn on the 2012 statement of the Conseil supérieur de l'éducation, on recent studies conducted in Quebec and on the position statement presented in a paper by J-Y Lévesque and D. Doyon to be published in the winter 2017 issue of *Revue préscolaire*. The brief (in French) was sent to members and is available on OMEP-Canada's website: www.omep-canada.org

To celebrate in 2017 the 20th anniversary of the Family policy, which created the *centres de la petite enfance* (CPE) and established full-day kindergarten for 5-year olds, the Association québécoise des centres de la petite enfance named a Commission on the education of children 0 to 5-year old to hold a large survey in Quebec. Institut du nouveau monde is in charge of the operations. Some members of OMEP-Canada Board participated and promoted the organisation's position. A copy of the brief to the MEES was also sent to the Commission.

After so many budget cuts all over Quebec's early childhood education and family programs, let's hope these initiatives won't be ignored and will have positive outcomes.

Madeleine Baillargeon, Vice-President
OMEP-Canada

...from Quebec

World Bank and early childhood development

At the time each of our provinces talks more and more about early childhood, I think it is important to inform you about the following: At the General Assembly held between October 3 to 9, 2016 to which the finance ministers of some 180 member countries of the General Bank participated, the chairperson of the World Bank has reserved a day for the theme of early childhood development. It is the first time that the World Bank is presided by a physician, Dr. Jim Yong Kim, and he understands the topic.

If you think this topic is tempting, I suggest the following videos:

- <http://live.worldbank.org/early-childhood-development-a-smart-beginning-for-economies-on-the-rise> (you can listen the French translation) 1h 45 min A panel including Jim Yong Kim
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DvcJtn7ZCfU> Neuroscience and child development 1h 59 min in French.

These texts:

- <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/speech/2016/04/14/remarks-world-bank-group-president-jim-yong-kim-early-childhood-development>
- <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/speech/2015/10/01/speech-world-bank-group-president-shared-prosperity-equal-opportunity> (you can read the French version)

Other documents are published following this event.

CONGRATULATIONS!

October 2016: At a meeting organized with the occasion of the yearly Assembly of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF), nine countries committed to significant investments to reduce delayed childhood growth and impart with tens of millions of young children the necessary skills to succeed in the constantly evolving world.

Jimmy Morales, president of Guatemala, Daniel Kablan Duncan, Prime Minister of Ivory Coast and the Finance Ministers of Cameroon, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Madagascar, Pakistan, Senegal and Tanzania have committed to take actions on multiple fronts in order to give tens of millions of children the chance to succeed.

The World Bank gets out the work gear to shoulder these

countries decided to invest in nutrition, learning and protection of one of their most precious resource.

Launch of the Lancet Series

The Lancet series on early childhood development was launched at the World Bank General Assembly: www.thelancet.com/series/ECD2016. I would like to inform the members that this is available only in English. It seems that the visibility of our organization could be increased within the Canadian University environment.

Ginette Beauséjour
Quebec Representative

... the Prairies

Information regarding the child care issues and recent changes in our province stated below:

Saskatchewan has implemented in the high schools that Early Childhood classes are being taken in grade twelve and are recognized as a credit.

Nine child care centres will be put into nine schools with ninety spaces each in Saskatoon, Warman, Regina, etc. The centres will only be hiring level one and level three ECE's, pairing both levels into each room with level one ECE assisting the level three ECE. After one year they will gather data to see if this was a good working model of ECE's working together.

The government action creates many concerns among professionals regarding the level of education and raising a lot of rhetorical questions such:

- Will this government action improve a centre?
- Will this practice be best for the children's benefit to develop to the full potential?
- Will the current situation of the ECE's improve?

Lilliana Sulikowska-Klebec
Prairies' Representative

... from British Columbia

We are pleased to advise you of updates to our African ECD related websites, as well as highlight a couple of new resources for ECD in Africa.

Our new website, www.ecdinafrica.org, brings together several of our ECD projects including the recently updated Early Childhood Development Virtual University (ECDVU) website, the African Scholars and Institutions (AS&I) initiative, and the recently

established (2015) sub-Saharan African ECD Compendium (with over 800 ECD/CD related resources). All three, plus a link to the recently published background story of the ECDVU: *Complexities, Capacities, Communities: Changing Development Narratives in Early Childhood Education, Care and Development*, can be accessed through the ecdinafrica.org website home page.

The new volume, *Complexities...*, which includes an account of the ECDVU's origins in work with Canadian First Nations (Indigenous) communities, is available as an Open Access document, in both English and French. Several other free, open access publications (including some others in French as well as English) can also be found in the Resources section of ecdinafrica.org.

We hope that you find these new, and updated, resources useful in your work—and we would be pleased to receive any additional, sub-Saharan Africa-focused items for the SSA ECD Compendium.

Alan Pence
Early Childhood Development Virtual University
University of Victoria

Events

October 2016 - May 2017

L'Univers, un terrain de jeu infini! (The World, a boundless playground!)

International contest of toys made from recycled material

Send three winning toys by February 1, 2017, deadline

February 2017: winners' ceremony

February - May 2017, Rio Tinto Planetarium, Montreal,

Quebec, Canada, Toy exhibition

Information: oxfam.qc.ca

December 9, 2016, Quebec, Canada

Colloque annuel du centre de recherche sur l'adaptation des jeunes et des familles à risque (JEFAR) de l'Université Laval

Jeunes et familles à risque en 2016. Que savons-nous? Que faisons-nous?

Information: [Depliant_Colloque_JEFAR_2016_WEB.pdf](#)

January 8 - 10, 2017, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA

The IAFOR International Conference on Language Learning

Information: <http://iafor.org/iiclhawaii2017-call-for-papers/>

February 8-10, 2017, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

2017 Best Start Resource Centre Annual Conference

Information: en.beststart.org

March 2-4, 2017, Hammamet, Tunisia

Colloque international « Inégalités: Quelles contributions des Éducatrices...? »

Information: <http://www.ecole-informatique.net/EducA2017/fr>

May 9 - 12, 2017, Auckland, New Zealand

World Forum on Early Care and Education
worldforumfoundation.org

May 10 - 13, 2017, Leiden, the Netherlands

14th International Toy Library Conference

Information: <http://itla-toylibraries.org/home/2016/05/08/14th-international-toy-library-conference-netherlands-2017/>

May 15 - 18, 2017, Athens, Greece

19th Annual International Conference on Education

Information: atiner.gr

May 17 - 20, 2017, Prague, Czech Republic

XVII International Congress of AIFREF

Childrens' quality of life today

Information: www.aifref2017prague.cz

May 18 - 19, 2017, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

4e Colloque international en éducation

Information: colloque.crifpe.ca

<http://colloque2017.crifpe.ca>

Call for papers: November 11, 2016

June 19 - 24, 2017, Opatija, Croatia

69th OMEP World Assembly and International Conference Early Childhood Relationships as the Foundation for a sustainable future

14 January 2017: Abstract submission deadline

1 December 2016: Registration Opens

31 march 2017: Early bird registration deadline

<https://omep2017.exordo.com/login>

September 13 - 16, 2017, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

20e International Play Association Triennial World Conference

information: canada2017.ipaworld.org

From our bookshelf

ACFAS 2016, Captation vidéo du colloque *Qualité des services éducatifs pendant la petite enfance: Un bilan de 10 ans de recherche et d'intervention*.

qualitépetitenenfance.uqam.ca

CEFRIO (2016). *Portrait des compétences numériques parentales: résultats d'une enquête menée auprès de parents d'enfants d'âge scolaire*. Québec, Montréal, Québec : CEFRIO.

Lien:

http://www.cefrio.qc.ca/media/uploader/Portrait_compétences_numeriques_parentales_final.pdf

Duval, Stéphanie, Caroline Bouchard, Christine Hamel et Pierre Pagé (2016). « La qualité des interactions observées en classe et les pratiques déclarées par les enseignantes à l'éducation préscolaire ». *Revue canadienne de l'éducation* 39:3. www.cje-rce.ca

Institut de la statistique du Québec (2016). *Enquête québécoise sur l'expérience des parents d'enfants de 0 à 5 ans 2015 (EQEPE). Mieux connaître la parentalité au Québec. Un portrait à partir de l'Enquête québécoise sur l'expérience des parents d'enfants de 0 à 5 ans 2015*.

stat.gouv.qc.ca. (Il faut aller sous les onglets : statistiques et publications, conditions de vie société, environnement familial puis cliquer sur Mieux connaître la parentalité au Québec).

Institut de la statistique du Québec (2016). Les défis de la conciliation travail-famille chez les parents salariés. Cette publication est réalisée à partir des données de l'Enquête québécoise sur l'expérience des parents d'enfants de 0 à 5 ans 2015, commandée et financée par l'organisme Avenir d'enfants dans le cadre de l'initiative Perspectives Parents.

Landry, D. (2016). *L'acquisition du vocabulaire chez les élèves du préscolaire*. Thèse de doctorat inédite. Université du Québec à Montréal, Montréal, Québec.

L'Infolettre de l'observatoire des tout-petits

vs13.campaign-archive.com

Marinova, Krasimira et Diane Biron (dir.) (2016). *Mathématiques ludiques pour les enfants de 4-8 ans*, PUQ, 228 pages.

OCDE (2016). *Education at a glance 2016*. OCDE Indicators. ocde.org

Pagnossin, E., Armi, F. & Matei, A. (2016). *Ecole enfantine et compétences des jeunes romands : quelques résultats des enquêtes PISA 2003, 2009 et 2012*. Neuchâtel (Suisse) : Institut de recherche et de documentation pédagogique (IRD).

Pouliot-Cleare, H. (2016). *Différents outils pour aider une enseignante débutante*. *Nouvelles ressources pour la rentrée*. www.chezmadamehelene.com

UNESCO (2016). *Global Education Monitoring Report 2016 : Education for people and planet: Creating sustainable futures for all*. Paris : United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

UNICEF Annual Report 2015

<http://unicef/2amkRKA>

UNICEF (2016)

Unrooted: The growing Crisis for Refugee and Migrant Children. UNICEF report finds nearly 50 million children have migrated across borders or been forcibly displaced: more than half of these have fled violence and insecurity. www.unicef.org/unrooted

UNICEF (2016). *Clear the Air for Children*. unicef.org

Vlasov, Janniina; Hujala, Eeva; Essary, Jessica & Lenskaya, Elena (2016). « Longitudinal study of changes in teachers' views of early childhood education in the USA, Russia, and Finland » in *Journal of Early Childhood Education Research*.

Childhood Education, Volume 92, Issue 6, 2016
www.tandfonline.com/toc/uced20/current

Childhood Explorer, Summer 2016
acei.org/childhood-explorer

Children in Scotland - Issue 176, October/November 2016
childreninscotland.org.uk

Early Childhood Education Journal, November 2016, Volume 44, Issue 6
link.springer.com/journal/10643

Early Years Bulletin, Fall 2016, vol. 4, no. 1
www.acei.org/early-years-bulletin

International Journal of Early Childhood, Volume 48, Number 1, 2016

<http://link.springer.com/search?query=international+journal+of+early+childhood>

International Journal of Early Childhood, Volume 48, Number 2, 2016

Special Issue: Values education in Nordic Preschool: Theory and Practice

<http://link.springer.com/search?query=international+journal+of+early+childhood>

Journal of Early Childhood Teacher Education, Volume 37, Issue 3, 2016

www.tandfonline.com/toc/ujec20/current

Revue préscolaire, Vol. 54, n° 3 / été 2016

Dossier *Le langage oral*

www.aepq.ca

Revue préscolaire, Vol. 54, n° 4 / automne 2016

Dossier *Notre rôle de passeur culturel*

www.aepq.ca

Young Children, September 2016, Vol. 71, No. 4

Ensuring Best Practice: Quality Improvement Initiatives

www.naeyc.org/yc/currentissue

OMEP-Canada's Newsletter is published in March, June and November. **We expect your news by the middle of January for the next issue.** Please send them preferably by e-mail to: [Denise Doyon@uqac.ca](mailto:Denise.Doyon@uqac.ca) and in c.c. to omep-canada@videotron.ca

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Denise Doyon, chair of the Newsletter Committee.

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Facebook (French & English)

[https://www.facebook.com/pages/OMEP-](https://www.facebook.com/pages/OMEP-CANADA-Organisation-Mondiale-pour-l-Education-Préscolaire/16311904)

[CANADA-Organisation-Mondiale-pour-](https://www.facebook.com/pages/OMEP-CANADA-Organisation-Mondiale-pour-l-Education-Préscolaire/16311904)

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