



## 17<sup>th</sup> Annual AECENL Provincial Conference *and* AECENL's 20<sup>th</sup> Birthday as an association!!!

### Solidarity: Working Together for Quality Early Learning and Child Care

## Conference Information

Join us at the Battery Hotel, St. John's, NL  
October 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009

\*Note: Conference Info and Registration also posted on our website in the calendar section and the homepage - [www.aecenl.ca](http://www.aecenl.ca)

This year's conference promises to be an exciting one! Your conference fee includes:

- **Three Keynotes...** Friday night hear **Paul White** - one of Newfoundland and Labrador's leading inspirational speakers will help us help ourselves; Saturday morning **Marc Battle**, from Red River College in Manitoba, will look at the value and importance of play; Sunday we will spend the morning with **Jim Mustard**, Coordinator for the Roots of Empathy in Eastern Nova Scotia, hearing about and discussing the critical importance of early child/human development for lifelong health, learning and behaviour.
- **A choice of workshops during the day Saturday**
- **A full morning presentation and forum/working session on Sunday**
- **Lunch on Saturday, breaks, exhibits, door prizes (and of course birthday cake!)**

**Back by Popular Demand ... Bowling** is available as a Saturday night social event from 8-10 at Holiday Lanes on Elizabeth Avenue. There'll be munchies and prizes! You can bring along the beverage of your choice. Put together a team or join a team when you get there and meet new friends! \$5 per person covers the bowling and the shoes (**pre-registration is required on your conference registration form**). Come along and bring a friend (or two or three ...)

The Battery Hotel is offering a conference room rate of \$89 double (note: you are responsible for all room charges). **Book by September 16th to avoid disappointment!** Tell them you are with the AECENL conference to book a room at this rate!

Your **conference brochure and registration form** are enclosed with this letter - workshop descriptions and times are in the conference brochure; biographies for the presenters are on the back of this sheet!



**Remember!** Your **registration form and fee must be received by AECENL's Conference Committee by 5<sup>th</sup> October 2009 (no registration at-the door as we need to plan for meals and workshops!)** ... **the earlier the better ... first come-first served for workshop choices (non-members' workshop choices processed after 21<sup>st</sup> September)!**

Association of Early Childhood Educators Newfoundland - Labrador (AECENL)

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## Biographies for Keynote Presenters and Workshop Facilitators (alphabetical)

**Paul White** is best at sharing simple, yet powerful, ideas. He is an Author, Life Leadership Counsellor and an Inspirational Speaker. With a Master's Degree in Counselling Psychology, Paul enjoys the challenge of helping people help themselves. Paul is a Certified Canadian Counsellor (CCC), a member of the Canadian Association of Professional Speakers (CAPS) and a member of the NL Association of Professional Speakers (NLAPS).



**Marc Battle** thinks quality early childhood education and care programs provide a “marvelous staging ground” for children to learn to live as human beings in a community. Battle, an ECE instructor at Red River College, first became interested in child care when he was a student at York University. After getting his degree in sociology, he went to Durham College for a diploma in Early Childhood Education (ECE). Battle first worked at Toronto’s Children Services, then at the child care centre at Durham College. For six years, he taught ECE at Northwest Community College in B.C. Inspired by a fellow ECE instructor, he became interested in emergent curriculum, which builds on the children’s interests, and in incorporating a more artistic approach to child care programs. He has been at Red River College since 2002, and now teaches in the college’s Workplace Program. He likes to spend his summers in the company of children, singing and playing.

**Jim Mustard** As a young man, Jim found himself in the beauty of Cape Breton with an interest in the land and a growing appreciation for the relationships in a community where you were needed and valued from infants to elders. He has spent much of his adult life with his partner Margaret creating a place to grow those relationships with their own children and children who find themselves in need of foster care. He has championed and coordinated the Roots of Empathy in Nova Scotia (60 programs in 2008) as a way to share his knowledge for optimal infant development as well as to give each student a chance to learn about their unique selves and their classmates in a classroom of caring. Jim is a Fellow with the Council for Early Child Development in NS and is helping to create a network of individuals, organizations and communities working to insure that every child has the best start in life.



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**Dr. Anne Burke** is a professor of literacy and early years learning at Memorial University. Her research is in Using Play to Build Literacy Foundations, Multicultural Education, Family Literacy, Transitions from home to kindergarten. She is a recognized Canadian Research Scholar in the area of new literacies and young learners.

**Lori Chaulk** is a Child Care Services Consultant with Eastern Health. Prior to her work in NL Lori spent 6 years implementing and facilitating professional development opportunities for Early Childhood Professionals in Ontario. Lori has also taught at the College level and is now completing a Masters Degree in Early Childhood Education. Lori has committed herself to this field, the children within early learning environments and the caregivers working in this most valuable sector.

**Nicole Clancey** received her ECE Diploma from Cabot College (now College of the North Atlantic) and went on to receive a Bachelor’s Degree in Child and Youth Studies from Mount St. Vincent University. She has worked in a variety of roles in the child care sector as a Family Child Care Home Visitor, and ECE in centre-based child care, a Healthy Baby Club coordinator, a Family Resource Program Coordinator and a Family Child Care Provider.

**Hazel Clarke and Frances Cole**, retired teachers, were inspired by native NL’s Mary Dyer Gordon who is the Founder and President of Roots of Empathy. They began their affiliation with this organization as Community Developers in the St. John’s region. They have since taken on the role of Managers for the Atlantic Provinces as well as continuing to instruct, mentor and carry out local coordination for the Eastern School District.

**Sonya Clarke Casey** has had a varied career in the Child Care Sector since obtaining her ECE Diploma in 1989. She also holds a Degree in Primary Education. She has enjoyed working in child care facilities, coordinating community development projects, facilitating workshops and teaching ECE. She is currently a Director of Programs and Services at MacMorran Community Centre.

**Donna Connors** has had a wide range of careers in the Child Care Sector - working in a licensed child care centre, working one-on-one, operator of a child care centre, child and youth coordinator and is currently a Director of Programs and Services at MacMorran Community Centre.

**Audrey Didham** is a certified Early Childhood Educator with 17 years experience. She started *Parenting Essentials*, a locally owned and operated consulting company whose mission is to support parents as they journey through the path of parenthood. She is a regulated Family Child Care Provider.

**Dan Dillon** is a Business Development Officer with the Division of Lifelong Learning, Memorial University. He is also a sessional Instructor with the Faculty of Education at MUN. He has been teaching at the post-secondary level for over 10 years. He holds a Masters of Education (Post-secondary) and is passionate about learning and teaching.

**Lori Fritz and Mary Fearon** are co-founders of the NL Parent-Child Mother Goose Program. They have been running these programs in the St. John’s region since 1998. They have facilitated Mother Goose training workshops across the province and other workshops based on the importance of oral language in the early years, storytelling, and playground games for school-age children. Lori and Mary are actively engaged in community-based support of families with young children.

**Darlene Halleran** is an Early Childhood Educator and Primary Education teacher. She has taught children in a variety of early childhood settings and in kindergarten. Her experience also includes teaching pre-service education teachers at the University level and early childhood education at the College level. She is presently an Early Learning Consultant with the Department of Education.

**Kathy-Lynn Lee** is the Ergonomist in the Prevention Services Department with WHSCC. For the past 5 years she has provided ergonomics and soft-tissue injury prevention services and workshops to employers and employees in NL. She also serves on a number of committees. She has a degree in Kinesiology and has worked in both the public and private sectors.

**Laurel Penney** is the Program Consultant for Inclusion with the Department of Child, Youth and Family Services. She has held positions of Child/Behaviour Management Specialist; ECE Instructor; Home Child Care Provider; ECE; and ECE Consultant. Educational history includes a bachelor of Child Study Degree and a Masters of Education Degree (in progress).

**Jennifer Russell** is an Inclusion Consultant with Child care Services, Eastern Health. In this position she works closely with Child care Providers to develop strategies and plans to help include all children, as fully as possible, into the child care setting. Previously she was a Developmental and Behavioural Practitioner with Eastern Health. She has also worked as a home therapist through Regional Autism Services and as a respite worker. She holds a Degree in Psychology and a Masters of Education in Counselling Psychology.