

July 13-15, 2012: International Innovations in ECE: A Canadian Forum on Early Childhood Frameworks

The Unit for Early Years Research and Development, co-directed by SCYC faculty members Dr. Alan Pence and Dr. Veronica Pacini-Ketchabaw, is hosting the conference, *International Innovations in ECE: A Canadian Forum on Early Childhood Frameworks*. This conference builds on the ongoing *Investigating Quality* project initiated by the Unit in 2005, which explores the links between theory to policy to practice. (For more information on the Unit's work, go to <http://web.uvic.ca/~eyrd/>.)

Early childhood care and education is very much on the contemporary international agenda, and one key facet of that agenda is the introduction of early childhood frameworks. These frameworks have profound implications for early years policies, programs, research, and practice - they have provided the opportunity for numerous innovations in the field.

This conference, the first of its kind in Canada, brings renowned early childhood leaders from Italy (Reggio Emilia), New Zealand, and Australia to Victoria, British Columbia for learning, sharing, and planning ways forward for Canada's young children and families.

Featured conference speakers include:

- Dr. Carla Rinaldi (Reggio Emilia, Italy), President and inspirational leader of Reggio Children**
- Dr. Margaret Carr (New Zealand), co-author of the innovative and influential *Te Whaariki*, New Zealand's bi-cultural early childhood curriculum framework
- Dr. Jennifer Sumsion (Australia), co-leader of the national consortium that recently developed *Belonging, Being and Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia*.

The Unit invites early childhood practitioners, instructors, advocates, policy makers, researchers, and graduate students from across Canada to come together in a unique national early childhood forum to present, to discuss, and to plan creative approaches to early years practice, policy, research, and training, all within the beautiful setting of Victoria in the summer.

Mark July 13-15, 2012 in your calendars now and plan to attend a conference that can make a difference for the early childhood field in Canada! For more information and to submit proposals for presentations, please visit the conference website at <http://uvicearlyyears.ca/>.

***Immediately following the Victoria conference, Reggio Emilia's travelling "Wonder of Learning" exhibit (<http://www.thewonderoflearning.com/exhibition/>) will be launched in Vancouver. Stay longer and participate in both events!*