

# *Ontario CEC 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Special Education Conference*



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The voice and vision of  
**special education.**

 Council for  
Exceptional  
Children

 ONTARIO

*November 30 - December 1, 2018  
Toronto, Ontario*

# *2018 Ontario CEC Provincial Conference Board of Directors*

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*Ontario CEC gratefully acknowledges  
the generous support and contributions of the following:*

*Manohar Khattar & Micro Assistive Technology*

*Musical Entertainment: Aneta Gronowski, Head of the Music Department, and  
Students in the Regional Arts Centre at Father John Redmond CSS, TCDSB*

*Silent Auction Donors*

## *Past Presidents of the Ontario Council for Exceptional Children*

<b>Year/Conference Location</b>	<b>President</b>	<b>Year/Conference Location</b>	<b>President</b>
1956 – Windsor	Hellen Delaporte	1957 – Niagara Falls	Don Warren
1958 - Ottawa	Edythe Blackburn	1959 – Toronto	Dr. John McIntosh
1960 – London	Murray Chalmers	1961 – Hamilton	Murray Chalmers
1962 – Niagara Falls	William Sled	1963 - Windsor	Marian Francis
1964 – Cooksville	Dr. T. Martin	1965 – Kitchener	Elgin Fretz
1966 – Toronto	Gil Darnley	1967 – Ottawa	Ruth Campbell
1968 – London	Madeline Hardy	1969 – Kingston	Catherine Michalski
1970 – North York	Jim Pittaway	1971 – Hamilton	Peter Beveridge
1972 - Toronto	Robert Martin	1973 - Windsor	Zolle Veres
1974 – Ottawa	Lorne Cassidy	1975 – Toronto	Bettie Beattie
1976 – London	Bruce Georgeff	1977 – Toronto	Frank Ionson
1978 – Ottawa	Jim Townsend	1979 – Hamilton	Wayne Tompkins
1980 - Windsor	Don Rikley	1981 – Toronto	Earl Campbell
1982 – London	Don Werner	1983 - Toronto	Marion MacLeod
1984 - Ottawa	Mary Scott	1985 - Toronto	Robert Adams
1986 – Kitchener	Rosemary Nagel	1987 – Toronto	Barry Lee
1988 – London	Ron Gough	1989 – Sault Ste. Marie	Cheryl Zinszer
1990 – Kingston	Hellen Bogie	1991 - Hamilton	Elizabeth Bond
1992 – Toronto	Enid Baird	1993 - Windsor	Bruce Mason
1994 – Mississauga	Claranne McFarling	1995 – Ottawa	Joe de Bruijn
1996 – Richmond Hill	Lynn Ziraldo	1997 – London	Jackie Bajus
1998 – Toronto	Marie Labelle	1999 – Sault Ste. Marie	Marianna Kreppi
2000 – Niagara Falls	Dick Edwards	2001 - Stratford	Marlene Sartor
2002 – Oakville	Denise Drinkwalter	2003 – Toronto	Denise Drinkwalter
2004 – Ottawa	Diane Vandenbossche	2005 - Sudbury	Kim Taylor Horeck
2006 – Richmond Hill	Kim Taylor Horeck	2007 – Niagara Falls	Cindy Perras
2008 – London	Allan Balitian	2009 - Oakville	Josette Heslop
2010 – Niagara Falls	Ashleigh Molloy	2011 – Toronto	Amy Shannon
2012 – Niagara Falls	Cindy Perras	2013 – Niagara Falls	Beth Kavanagh
2014 – Niagara Falls	Beth Kavanagh	2015 – Niagara Falls	Dianne Parr
2016 – Toronto	Dianne Parr	2017 - Toronto	Robert Spall

# *Conference at a Glance*

**Thursday, November 29, 2018**

TIME	LOCATION	EVENT
4:00 – 6:00 p.m.	Hotel Lobby	Conference Registration
5:00 – 6:00 p.m.	Hospitality Suite #1414	Ontario CEC AGM
8:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Grand Ballroom Foyer	Exhibitor Set-up

**Friday, November 30, 2018**

TIME	LOCATION	EVENT
7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Grand Ballroom Foyer	Conference Registration
	Grand Ballroom Foyer	Exhibitors/Publishers' Display & Refreshment Station
	Grand Ballroom Foyer	Silent Auction
7:00 – 8:00 a.m.	Grand Ballroom Foyer	Continental Breakfast
8:00 – 9:30 a.m.	Grand Ballroom (Salons A & B)	<b>Opening General Session</b>
9:45 – 10:45 a.m.	Meeting Rooms & Salons C & D	Concurrent Presentations
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Meeting Rooms & Salons C & D	Concurrent Presentations
12:00 – 1:15 p.m.	Grand Ballroom	Luncheon/Networking
1:15 – 2:15 p.m.	Meeting Rooms & Salons C & D	Concurrent Presentations
1:30 – 2:00 p.m.	Hospitality Suite #1414	Pioneer Division AGM
2:30 – 3:30 p.m.	Meeting Rooms & Salons C & D	Concurrent Presentations
3:30 – 4:30 p.m.	Meeting Rooms & Salons C & D	Concurrent Presentations
3:30 – 5:00 p.m.	Grand Ballroom Foyer	Poster Presentations <b>Presidents' Reception</b>
5:00 p.m.	Grand Ballroom Foyer	Silent Auction Closes

## Saturday, December 1, 2018

TIME	LOCATION	EVENT
7:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Grand Ballroom Foyer	Conference Registration
	Grand Ballroom Foyer	Exhibitors/Publishers' Display
7:30 – 8:30 a.m.	Grand Ballroom Foyer	Continental Breakfast
8:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Meeting Rooms & Salons C & D	Concurrent Presentations
9:45 – 10:45 a.m.	Meeting Rooms & Salons C & D	Concurrent Presentations
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Meeting Rooms & Salons C & D	Concurrent Presentations
12:00 – 1:30 p.m.	Grand Ballroom	<b>Closing Session/Luncheon</b> Awards Presentations Self-advocate Address

## *Awards Presentations*

### **Ontario CEC Annual General Meeting**

Thursday, November 29, 2018

5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Hospitality Room – Suite #1414

**Departing Board Member Recognition**

**25-Year CEC Member Recognition**

### **Awards Luncheon**

Saturday, December 1, 2018

12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

Grand Ballroom – Salons A & B

## **Adult Awards**

Lynn Ziraldo Advocacy Award  
President's Award to a CEC Member  
Subdivision Member of the Year Award  
President's Award to a Partner in Education  
Business, Community & Agency Award  
Paraprofessional of the Year Award  
Teacher of the Year Award  
Kenn Kloby Teacher of the Year Award  
Educational Leader of the Year Award  
Irene Mackowski Educational Leader of the Year Award  
Yes I Can! Parent Award

## **Student Yes I Can! Awards**

Yes I Can! Student Awards  
Self-Advocate Address

The Yes I Can! Student Awards are generously supported, in part, by:



# Conference Sessions & Speakers

**Friday, November 30, 2018**

**8:00 – 9:30 a.m.                      Opening General Session**

**Grand Ballroom Salons A & B**

National Anthem

Welcoming Remarks

**Keynote Address:** *At the Heart of the Matter: Creating Classrooms and Schools that Support Well-being for All*

**Dr. Sue Ball, ABSNP, C. Psych. Chief Psychologist, York Region DSB**



Imagine classrooms and schools that support positive mental health and well-being for all, where every student and staff feel they belong and they matter. Relationships are built through connection. The schools most effective at promoting resiliency and well-being embed the core principles of well-being, connection, mattering and resilience in everyday practice, through a whole school approach, which extends to parent/guardians and the community. Everybody matters, everybody counts, and every interaction becomes an opportunity to promote well-being.

*Keynote presentation sponsored by CEC's Ontario Subdivision for Learning Disabilities.*

**Dr. Sue Ball** is the Chief Psychologist at the York Region District School Board. Sue has spoken at the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Provincial and International conferences on topics such as Resiliency: What We Do Matters, Supporting Students with Learning Disabilities, ADHD, and Anxiety, in Mathematics. She is on the executive for both the Association of Chiefs of Psychology of Ontario School Boards (ACPOSB) and the Minister's Advisory Council for Special Education (MACSE), and is part of the resource development team for School Mental Health-ASSIST, a provincial implementation team supporting mental health and well-being in Ontario schools.

Sue's passion is for supporting all learners to understand their unique learning profile of strengths and needs and how to advocate for themselves, with the underlying belief that all students can learn and that every educator and student matters.

**9:45 – 10:45 a.m.**

**Breakout Sessions – Exhibits & Silent Auction Open**

- Salon C**      **Promoting Math Well-being Strategies & Reducing Anxiety for All**  
*Dr. Steven Reid, Sessional Lecturer and Dr. Mary Reid, Assistant Professor, OISE/UT*
- Salon D**      **Facilitating a Positive Communication Environment for Students with Developmental Disabilities**  
*Misha Beline, Special Education Low Incidence Consultant, Jacob Wagner, Speech and Language Pathologist, Stephanie Collins, Special Education Low Incidence Consultant, Prayna Mehan, Speech and Language Pathologist and Maya Sulkowski, Speech and Language Pathologist, Toronto District School Board*
- York A & B**      **ATSelect.org: Getting the Right Assistive Technology Tool**  
*Dr. Todd Cunningham and Bronwyn Lamond, OISE/UT*
- Bay**      **Storytelling as Part of Your Pedagogy**  
*Rachelle Bergen and Marlene Rogers, Itinerant Teachers for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing, Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board*
- Simcoe**      **Good Enough | Not Good Enough: What (might) Precede and Support Social Belonging around Disability**  
*Dr. Kimberly Maich, PhD, OCT, BCBA-D, Memorial University*
- Salon I**      **Structured Recess - A Key to Student Success**  
*Janet Arnold, Behaviour Consultant and Author at Finding Solutions and Shulie Klots, M.S.C.C.*
- Salon II**      **The Science of Breath: Elevating Student Self-Regulation, Executive Function, State of Well-Being, and Growth Mindset through Meditation, Yoga & Mindfulness.**  
*Claudia Bauman and Karen McCarthy, Special Education Consultants, Halton Catholic DSB*
- Salon III**      **Transforming Struggling Students into Lifelong Learners**  
*Mary-Lou Maclean, Executive Director, NILD Canada*
- Salon IV**      **Transitioning through Inclusion: Perspectives of Students with Intellectual Disabilities and their Parents**  
*Dr. Sheila Bennett, Dr. Monique Somma, Dr. Tiffany Gallagher and Rebecca White, Brock University*

**11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**Breakout Sessions – Exhibits & Silent Auction Open**

- Salon C**      **The Beginning of a Journey and Creating Hope: Implementing Mental Health Education Plans in Secondary School**  
*Maya Holson, Special Education Program Leader, and Allan Davy, Student Success Teacher, Manitoulin Secondary School*



- Salon D**      **The Imagery-Language Connection: Teaching All Children to Read and Comprehend**  
*Angelica Benson, Ed.M., Lindamood-Bell Learning Processes*
- York A & B**      **If Inclusion Means Everyone, Why Not Me? An Overview of Parent Perspectives on the School Experiences of Their Children with Intellectual Disabilities.**  
*Dr. Monique Somma, Dr. Sheila Bennett, and Rebecca White, Brock University and Dr. Jacqui Specht, Western University*
- Bay**      **Pedagogical Documentation of Learning in Students with Intellectual Disability**  
*Sue MacVicar-Stewart, M.Ed., OCT, Retired Teacher, Toronto District School Board*
- Simcoe**      **A New Paradigm and Pathway Forward to Educational Equity for All, In Service of Children, Youth and Society**  
*Kimberly Lefevre-Walke, Doctoral Candidate, OISE/UT*
- Salon I**      **Finding a Voice - Students Sharing Strategies for Classroom Success**  
*"The Techdudes" Ryan, Jack, Nicholas, James, Andrew, Lily D., Will, and Lily P., students with learning disabilities and Stacey Falconer (their teacher), Lakeshore P.S., Halton District School Board*  
*Presentation sponsored by Ontario CEC Chapter 391 (Halton & Peel)*
- Salon II**      **Learning to Communicate: The First Step in a Journey**  
*Janet McAuley Oliver, Speech Language Pathologist and Cindy MacLean, Blind/Low Vision Itinerant Teacher, Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board*
- Salon III**      **Secondary School Transitions – Setting Students with Special Needs up for Success.**  
*Jenessa Dworet, BA, MA in Education, Special Education Department Head, Toronto District School Board*

**12:00 – 1:15 p.m.**

**Grand Ballroom      Luncheon/Networking – Exhibits & Silent Auction Open**

**1:15 - 2:15 p.m.      Breakout Sessions – Exhibits & Silent Auction Open**

- Salon C**      **Self-Regulation in a Kindergarten Classroom**  
*Staci Whittle, Principal and Jennifer Gibbs, Special Education Consultant, Niagara Children's Centre School Authority*
- Salon D**      **Activated Learning: Easy Whole Class Executive Functioning Support**  
*Laurie Faith, Doctoral Candidate, OISE/UT*
- York A & B**      **Building an Inclusive Community: A Story of Belonging and Inclusion through Teaching to Diversity**  
*Rada Mihajlovic, Itinerant Teacher - ASD, Maxine Mount, Principal Cooksville Creek P.S., Kavita Sharma, Special Education Teacher; Cooksville Creek P.S., and Camila Gonzalez, Educational Resource Facilitator; Cooksville Creek P.S., Peel District School Board.*

- Bay**                      **Two Worlds Unite: How Elementary Reading Strategies Can Support Resilient Readers in Secondary English**  
*Dr. Tiffany Gallagher, Dr. Arlene Grierson, and Rachel St. Hilaire, Brock University; Irene Constantini and Krista Moscato, Niagara Catholic District School Board*
- Simcoe**                      **The Future in “Education Disruption”**  
*Dr. Ashleigh Molloy, Director, Transformation Education*
- Salon I**                      **Affirming Ability Through Artistic Expression**  
*Lorna Jones, Teacher, and Busi Tshuma, Educational Assistant, Bloorview School Authority*
- Salon II**                      **Mediation and the Executive Brain**  
*Mary-Lou Maclean, Executive Director, NILD Canada*
- Salon III**                      **Workplace Violence Risk Assessment and Re-Assessment Tool**  
*Ed Hager, Health and Safety Consultant, Public Services Health and Safety Association (PSHSA)*

**2:30 – 3:30 p.m.                      Breakout Sessions – Exhibits & Silent Auction Open**

- Salon C**                      **Building Communication Skills in the Classroom: Helping our Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) Develop their Communication Skills.**  
*Heather Farrell, Speech-Language Pathologist, Toronto Catholic District School Board*
- Salon D**                      **Behaviour Hot Topics**  
*OCCBD Executive*
- York A & B**                      **Indigenous Students At-risk for Learning Difficulties: An Alternative Assessment Approach**  
*Dr. Julia L.S. Ferrari and Dr. Todd Cunningham, Department of Applied Psychology & Human Development OISE, University of Toronto*
- Bay**                      **Myths Versus Facts About Developmental Services Ontario (DSO)**  
*Karyn Farber, Supervisor - Service Navigators, DSO and Jacqueline Coles, Service Navigator*
- Simcoe**                      **Early Start Denver Model (ESDM): What is it and what services are available?**  
*Nona Davis & Sonia Stellato, AlphaBee*
- Salon I**                      **Preparing Students with LDs for Post-Secondary Education: Strategies and Tips for Students, Teachers, and Parents**  
*Kathryn Hansen, M.Ed., Professor, St. Clair College, Ph.D. Candidate, Western University and Sarah Terreberry, M.Ed., Ph.D., OCT, Instructor, Brock University*
- Salon II**                      **Supporting ALL Students in the FSL Programs**  
*Annette Ackerman, M.Ed., OCT, Instructional Resource Teacher for French, Peel District School Board*

**Salon III**

**Trauma Informed Instruction: A Universal Approach to Teaching and Motivating At-Risk and Special Needs Students to Experience Well Being, Equity and Success.**

*Josef Balazic MA, OCT, Section 23 Teacher (Retired), Toronto Catholic District School Board*

**3:30 – 5:00 p.m.**

**Poster Presentations/Presidents' Reception**

**Breakout Sessions – Exhibits & Silent Auction (Closes at 5:00 p.m.)**

**Grand  
Ballroom Foyer**

**Poster Presentations:**

**1. Pathology Persists and Stigma Stays: Representations of (Autistic) Steven Greaves in the Post-Apocalyptic World**

*Dr. Kimberly Maich, PhD, OCT, BCBA-D, Memorial University, Grace Maich and Adam Davies, Ph.D. Students, University of Toronto*

**2. Addressing Ableism in Schools: A Tripartite Intervention**

*John Freer, University of Windsor and St. Clair College*

**3. Autism Spectrum Disorder and Behavioural Interventions in New Brunswick: A Program Evaluation of 2017 - 2018 Data**

*Dr. Kimberly Maich, PhD, OCT, BCBA-D, Memorial University*

**4. Advancing the Effectiveness of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) for Students in School Activity Settings**

*Tracy A. Shepherd, Holland Bloorview*

**5. The ABCs of Math Anxiety and Mathematical Learning**

*Pamela A. McDonald, Doctoral Student and Dr. Derek H. Berg, Queen's University*

**6. Can't Read, Can't Write, Here's My Book**

*Michael Jacques, Self-Advocate, Community Living Ontario*

**7. My Friend Clyde**

*Jacqueline Kendall, Self-Advocate*

**8. Literacy Intervention for Struggling Readers: Knowledge Mobilization in our Communities**

*Tara Johnston, M.Ed. Student and Dr. John McNamara, Brock University*

**9. Beginning Inclusive Practice: Pre-Service and In-Service Teachers' Attitudes and Recommendations for Effective Inclusive Practice**

*Linda Ismailos, Ph.D. Candidate, Dr. Tiffany Gallagher and Dr. Sheila Bennett, Brock University*

**10. Graphical Pedagogy: An Experiment into the Effectiveness of Alternative Communications Modes**

*Karen Hall, Lecturer, University of Guyana*

## 11. Guidelines for the Assessment and Diagnosis of Learning Disabilities in School Aged Children and Youth

*Dr. Carolyn Lennox, Manager of Psychological Services, Toronto District School Board, on Behalf of the Association of Chief Psychologists of Ontario School Boards*

# Saturday, December 1, 2018

8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

## Breakout Sessions – Exhibits Open

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| Salon C    | <b>Quick Tips to Make your Life Easier and Decrease Challenging Behaviour in the Process</b><br><i>Maria Ferlick, M.S. Ed., BCBA, LABA, Master Trainer/Consultant, QBS, Inc.</i>   |
| Salon D    | <b>Self-Regulation: A Psychophysiological Approach to Mental Health and Well-Being</b><br><i>Casey Burgess, Lakehead University</i>  |
| York A & B | <b>Engaging the Mind for Cognitive Change</b><br><i>Mary-Lou Maclean, Executive Director, NILD Canada</i>  |
| Simcoe     | <b>Using Assistive Technology to Support Grade 9 under a UDL Framework</b><br><i>Cora Peisz, ACL Special Education, Newtonbrook S.S and Sharon Moskovitz, Assistive Technology Teacher, Toronto District School Board</i>                    |
| Salon I    | <b>Can't Read, Can't Write, Here's My Book</b><br><i>Michael Jacques, Self-Advocate, Community Living Ontario and Kaila Jacques<br/>Session sponsored by CEC's Division on Autism &amp; Developmental Disabilities (Ontario Subdivision)</i> |
| Salon II   | <b>Cognitive Remediation for Autism Spectrum Disorder</b><br><i>Vinay Singh, Ph.D., MBA</i>  |
| Salon III  | <b>Effective Teaching Strategies when Dealing with Students with Special Needs</b><br><i>Norberto Abanes, Educational Assistant, Toronto Catholic District School Board</i>  |

9:45 – 10:45 a.m.

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| Salon C    | <b>Supporting Students with Learning Disabilities and Anxiety in Math</b><br><i>Dr. Sue Ball, Chief Psychologist, and Janine Franklin, Vice Principal, York Region District School Board</i> |
| Salon D    | <b>Laughter Yoga Workshop</b><br><i>Lisa Sherwin-O'Leary, Therapist and Certified Laugh Yoga Teacher</i>   |
| York A & B | <b>Enhancing Executive Functions Through the Principles of Neuroplasticity</b><br><i>Kristen Fernandez, Program Co-ordinator, Arrowsmith Program</i>   |

- Bay** **Autism and Developmental Disabilities: Literacy Based Strategies**  
*Pawanjit Mahal and Nancy Corbett, Special Needs Itinerant Teachers, Peel District School Board*  
*Note: Part I of a double session.*
- Simcoe** **Everybody is Somebody**  
*Kelly Clark, Director, Who is Nobody? Education Program*
- Salon I** **Climbing the Literacy Ladder**  
*Dagney Gardiner Weis, K-12 Learning Coach, Toronto District School Board*
- Salon II** **Creating a World without Barriers - Rick Hansen Foundation School Program (RHFSP)**  
*Diane Talbot-Schoenhoff, B.A., B.A.A., M.A., Program Coordinator (Ontario), Rick Hansen Foundation School Program and Robert Hampson, Rick Hansen School Program Ambassador*
- Salon III** **Engineering an Inclusive Kindergarten/Primary Classroom Using Graphics for Learning**  
*Staci Whittle, Principal and Jennifer Gibbs, Special Education Consultant, Niagara Children's Centre School Authority*

**11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

- Salon C** **Self-Regulation in The Classroom**  
*Janet Arnold, Behaviour Consultant and Author, Finding Solutions and Robin Bacher, OCT, Education Consultant*
- Salon D** **Let's Get Working! Practical Strategies to Support Students with Autism to Start and Stay Focused on Academic Tasks in Classrooms**  
*Teresa Lee and Eileen Jeevakumar, Surrey Place Centre, SAAAC Autism Awareness Centre*
- York A & B** **Supporting Students with High-Incidence Hidden Exceptionalities through Non-Academic Intervention**  
*Ian Matheson and Kyle Robinson, Queen's University*
- Bay** **Autism and Developmental Disabilities: Literacy Based Strategies**  
*Pawanjit Mahal and Nancy Corbett, Special Needs Itinerant Teachers, Peel District School Board*  
*Note: Part II of a double session.*
- Simcoe** **Recent Literature on Students' Attitudes toward Disability: A Systematic Literature Review**  
*John Freer, University of Windsor and St. Clair College*
- Salon I** **Interactive, Responsive, Accessible, Technologically Engaging Bulletin Boards and Beyond**  
*Lorna Jones, Teacher, Andrea Statton, Technology Enabled Learning and Teaching ~ TELT Contact Teacher, and Busi Tshuma, Educational Assistant, Bloorview School Authority*
- Salon II** **RSEKN - Equity Knowledge Network and Education Students with Exceptionalities**  
*Dr. Jacqueline Specht and Olivia Faulconbridge, Ph.D. Candidate, Western University, Dr. Sheila Bennett and Dr. Tiffany Gallagher, Brock University*

# *Exhibitors*

Amanda Golench (Self-Advocate) - Jewelry Display & Sale

Bridges Canada

Camp Kodiak

Camps on Tracks

fdmt

Finding Solutions

Kit Planete

Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario

Marathon Learning Materials

Micro Assistive Tech Inc.

Nelson Education

NILD Canada

QBS Inc.

Retired Teachers of Ontario (RTO)

Scanning Pens

Spectrum Education

STAR Autism Support

TechXtend Education Solutions/robots4Autism

Thames Valley Children's Centre

The Association of Chief Psychologists with Ontario School Boards

Watermelonworks™

### Salon III

#### **Using the C-Pen to Support Individuals with Literacy Difficulties**

*Fernanda Bianconi, Learning & Adaptive Technology Facilitator, CICE Program, Georgian College*

**12:00 - 1:30 p.m.**

### **Grand Ballroom Salons A & B**

### **Closing General Session & Awards Luncheon**

**Motivational Address:** Robert Hampson, Self-Advocate, Rick Hansen School Program Ambassador



One day in 1997, at the age of 4, Robert was riding in the car and wondered why he couldn't see the CN tower on the horizon anymore. Later, at a doctor's appointment, he thought someone was playing a trick on him when he covered his left eye, because suddenly the room went dark. Doctors told him needed surgery to remove a brain tumour. After surgery, it was dark all of the time, because now Robert was blind.

Robert spent more than 11 years battling his brain tumours, and every day since that first surgery he had to learn how to adapt to a world without sight.

When you hear Robert's story, you will see that being blind has never held him back. Adversity, and the will to overcome it, defines Robert. He is a competitive swimmer, runs a successful charity and is a graduate of St. Lawrence College. Robert has received the King Clancy Award from the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons, a Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal, and has been inducted into the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame in recognition of his work for people with disabilities. Robert enjoys spending time in the kitchen and finds himself occupied by his passion for woodworking.

**"Never tell me something is impossible. I think, if you want to do a thing badly enough you can find a way. When somebody tells me I can't, it usually makes me want to do it even more."**



Thank you for sharing your professional learning experience with us – we look forward to seeing you at next year's Ontario CEC Conference in Toronto, November 29 – 30, 2019!

Cindy Perras, M.Ed., OCT  
Ontario CEC  
Conference Co-ordinator  
cindy.perras@gmail.com



# TOP 10 REASONS

## Why YOU Should Belong to the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)

### 10 Keep Up-To-Date on Special Education Issues, Trends, and Findings

*TEACHING Exceptional Children* is the only classroom-oriented magazine reporting the latest practical methods, materials, and programs for teaching children with exceptionalities. *Exceptional Children* gives you an early look at the significant findings and trends in special education.

### 9 Save Big Bucks

Attend the CEC Annual Convention and Expo, and you'll save the cost of your membership . . . and then some! Plus, as a member you can take advantage of professional liability and other insurance programs, discounts on educational resources, financial services, and much more.

### 8 Network, Network, Network!

Dues include membership in your state/provincial CEC (and local chapter where applicable). Get to know other experts in your community, your state/province, nationally, and around the globe.

### 7 Increase Your Professional Profile

Explore career options online in the largest job bank on the Internet devoted exclusively to special education professionals. Publish in CEC's journals. Share your expertise at CEC's highly respected conferences and symposia. Receive recognition for your contributions through CEC's award programs.

### 6 Add to Your Expertise

Join any—or all!—of CEC's 17 special interest divisions to increase your knowledge and become more deeply involved in your profession.

### 5 Get the Resources You Need at Prices You Can Afford

The CEC Catalog is crammed with resources and materials specifically for special educators. Members save up to 30%!

### 4 Add New Leadership Skills to Your Resume

You don't have to be a long-term member to get involved. New members are encouraged to participate in your local chapter or state/provincial CEC activities, join a committee, run for office, or get involved in a variety of ways at all levels of CEC.

### 3 Vote for the Leadership to Represent Your Profession

Your voice . . . and your vote . . . makes a difference. Vote for dedicated educators to lead CEC and the special education profession into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### 2 Influence the Profession

Add your voice to advance the policies that support children with exceptionalities and the professionals who serve them. Just a few of the issues for which CEC has advocated include reduction of special education paperwork, full funding for special education, and preserving special education research programs.

### 1 Improve the Educational Success of Individuals with Disabilities

*Isn't that why you became a special educator in the first place?*