

## A research team newsletter for the **INCLUSIVE EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICE SYSTEM PROJECT (IECSS)**

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This newsletter is to update all team members (researchers, partners and staff) about recent, ongoing and upcoming activities of the IECSS project. You are welcome to share the newsletter within your organisations, but it is not intended for public circulation. If you would like additional updates, you are always welcome to contact Kathryn Underwood (Project Director, [kunderwood@ryerson.ca](mailto:kunderwood@ryerson.ca), or the office).

I would like to begin by thanking the staff of the IECSS project for all of their work over the last year. We have had a very busy year with recruitment, ongoing refinement of our mapping approaches and data cleaning procedures, and hosting a number of students. I would especially like to thank Thanh Thanh Chung who has coordinated data cleaning and transcription, and our Project Coordinators (Abneet Atwal, Laura Feltham and Alison Smith) who have supported our recruitment and data collection efforts. Laura has also been working on ensuring ethics approvals and renewals run smoothly. Abneet has been actively involved in the Youth Advisory Committee. In addition I would like to thank Katherine Ceolin, who is our Administrative Coordinator, and who has taken a leadership role in addressing the many challenges that are faced in financial and human resources procedures at the University.

I would also like to thank Elaine Frankel and Patty Douglas who over the summer stepped up to support the administration of the project. Up until this time, the Project Director has been the only person with signing authority on the IECSS project. This became an issue this summer when the PD had some family emergencies that meant she could not be present. The result has been some re-organization that will allow shared responsibility when necessary.

In addition to the day to day responsibilities of the project, larger decisions are shared with the Executive Committee, composed of the Co-Investigators who are responsible for data collection and analysis (some Co-Investigators have more specific roles). In the spring of 2019 we held an Executive Committee meeting with a key decision being that it was time to hire a Postdoctoral Fellow.

### **Postdoctoral Fellows update**

- At the Executive Committee meeting we discussed the role of a post-doctoral fellow within the project. A job posting for a Postdoctoral Fellow went out this week and is attached to this communique. The role of the Postdoctoral Fellow will be to support our research team in analysis, writing, and data collection. The posting can be found here: <https://www.ryerson.ca/careers/research-staff-opportunities/iec-ss-postdoctoral-fellow-sep6-2019/>
- In addition, we have been asked to host an application for a SSRHC Postdoctoral Fellow. This application focuses specifically on understanding the role of Speech and Language in the system of early years services. The application is from Tracey Edelist. We wish Tracey the best of luck in the application and will keep you posted.

### **Data collection:**

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We are now in our 6<sup>th</sup> year of data collection (2<sup>nd</sup> year for new communities). We will continue to focus on recruiting new families. The timing of new recruitment will be aligned with interviewing existing participants. For example, we interviewed participants in Brandon, MB between September and December 2018 so we will aim to only recruit new participants within the same time frame. This will give us the capacity to have staff available for ongoing data collection.

### **New communities:**

In addition to our existing communities we are now working toward data collection in some new communities. Thank you to Gillian Parekh who met with key partners in Halifax, NS and travelled to Akwesasne Mohawk Nation with Kathryn Underwood in the spring. Both sites are potential new communities for the project. We have had approval from Ryerson ethics to start working with these communities as well as Peel District, ON, where Abneet Atwal and Alison Smith (staff) live. We will keep you posted and will add these communities to other ethics applications as they are renewed.

### **Events:**

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#### ***Celebrating and Cultivating Inclusive Learning (October 17, 2019):***

Monique Lavalley (partner), Magdalena Janus (Co-Investigator) and Kathryn Underwood (Project Director) will be presenting 3 workshops in Hamilton that will feature findings from the IECSS study, as well as other work from each of the speakers.

#### ***Anaadomaajigig Maanjidwin A gathering of the helpers – working title (April 4-6, 2019 tentative date):***

The District of Timiskaming Wisdom Keepers will be hosting a gathering in Kirkland Lake, Ontario, to bring together researchers from the IECSS project with families and policy makers. We will keep you posted about this event and hope that many of you will be able to attend.

## Other IECSS activities:

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### **IECSS in Action**

- The government of Canada made a public announcement about the ESDC grant. This is a side project of the IECSS that includes 7 partner organisations who implemented strategies to address systemic barriers identified through IECSS findings. The announcement is here (congratulations also to Martha Friendly, one of our Co-Investigators who was also awarded a grant). <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/seven-new-government-of-canada-projects-will-support-innovative-practices-in-early-learning-and-child-care-in-the-greater-toronto-area-820773156.html>. We are currently working with partners to complete their final reports and we will have our full report completed this fall.

### **Youth Advisory Committee:**

- Over the last several months we have been working with our Youth Advisory Committee to create a set of Research Briefs that will inform our data analysis. We held 3 video conference meetings, and one face-face meeting with deaf Youth Advisors to ask them more directly about their views of what we are learning from the experience of families in interaction with institutions. Thank you to Kristin Snoddon (Collaborator) who travelled to Saskatchewan to meet with and lead the discussion with our deaf Youth Advisors. Thank you also to Joanne Weber for her support of the project. The research briefs will be available online shortly.

### **Research Briefs:**

Underwood, K. & Atwal, A. (2019). *Young people's analysis of systemic production of disabled childhoods and research*. Inclusive Early Childhood Service System project: Research Brief No. 1.

Snoddon, K. & Underwood, K. (2019). *Analysis from young deaf people on IECSS findings*. Inclusive Early Childhood Service System project: Research Brief No. 2.

## Recent presentations and submissions:

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### **Journal Articles:**

Church, K., Vorstermans, J. & Underwood, K. (in press). Tensions in disabled childhoods: Representing trans-institutionalization. *Canadian Journal of Disability Studies*.

Underwood, K., Ineese-Nash, N., & Hache, A. (in press). Embedding Indigenous perspectives in early childhood education, care, family support and intervention: A knowledge synthesis. *Canadian Children*.

Frankel, E., Chan, C., & Underwood, K. (2019). Inclusion is an experience, not a placement. *ECELink*, 3(1), 24-34.

**Book Chapters:**

Frankel, E., Underwood, K., Powell, A. (in press). Early Intervention for Young Children. In I. Brown and M. Percy (Eds), *Developmental Disabilities in Ontario (4th Ed)*, Toronto, OADD.

Underwood, K. Church, K. & Van Rhijn, T. (in press). Responsible for Normal: The Contradictory work of Families. In S. Winton, Carpenter, G. Parekh (Eds) *Critical Perspectives on Education Policy and Schools, Families and Communities*. November 15, 2017

Underwood, K. (2019). Ein systemisches Verständnis inklusiver Kindheit: Das Projekt, Inclusive Early Childhood Service System` (IECSS). In D. Jahr & R. Kruschel (Eds.), *Inklusion in Kanada- Internationale Perspektiven auf heterogenitätssensible Bildung* (314-328). Germany: Beltz Juventa.

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[www.InclusiveEarlyChildhood.ca](http://www.InclusiveEarlyChildhood.ca).

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