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Friday, October 24th

- 18:30 Registration/Coffee & Tea 2101 - 2102
Sponsored by UEY Western Nova Scotia
- 18:55 Welcome
- 19:00 Keynote: Theresa Griffen
Theme - "Coherence to Chaos" - Maritime Council ECD
- 20:30 Closing Remarks

Saturday, October 25th

- 08:30 Registration/Coffee & Tea 2101 - 2102
Sponsored by NSCC
- 09:00 Welcome
- 09:10 Keynote: Jim Mustard
Theme - "The Crisis of Change"
- 10:00 Break
- 10:15 Concurrent Sessions 1
 - Community Development - Debbie Reimer 2101
 - School Readiness - Hazel Dill & Erna Fraser 2102
 - Fathers & Early Literacy - Jane Baskill A212-A
 - Community Data Resources - Jeff Kelly & Jeff Wentzell A-206
- 11:00 Break
Sponsored by Kids Action Program
- 11:15 Concurrent Sessions 2
 - Community Development - Debbie Reimer 2101
 - School Readiness - Hazel Dill & Erna Fraser 2102
 - Fathers & Early Literacy - Jane Baskill A212-A
 - Community Data Resources - Jeff Kelly & Jeff Wentzell A-206
- 12:00 Lunch - Networking 2101-2102
Provided by Sobey's, Sponsored by UEY Western Nova Scotia
- 13:00 Community Kettle 2101-2102
- 14:15 Closing - Peggy Duncan 2101 - 2102

Schedule Subject to Change



C O N F E R E N C E S E S S I O N S



Friday, October 24th

Opening Keynote: Theresa Griffen

“Windows of Opportunity: Coherence to the Chaos”

Theresa has over thirty years experience in early childhood education, research, and community projects. She was a key member in creating several community based child care options for families in Halifax in the early 70's. During her time researching early childhood education issues in Ontario, she helped create the Toronto First Duty integrated early years program.

Theresa will discuss her experience in early learning, child care and community initiatives. She will provide an overview of where we were and where we're going in Nova Scotia focusing on the context of then and now for early childhood educators/ early years service providers. She will discuss successes, what was achieved, and the challenges yet to overcome.

She will also share with the audience what is currently available for supporting early learning in communities from the Maritime Council for Early Child Development. Theresa is the Project Coordinator for the Maritime Council.



C O N F E R E N C E S C H E D U L E

Saturday, October 25th

Opening Keynote: Jim Mustard

"It takes a village to raise a child" what does it take to "raise the village?" Crisis - reflection –creating a process for change. As a long time resident of Inverness, Cape Breton and one who specializes in working with and supporting children and families, Jim will share his story about the recent events that have put his community in the spotlight. The tragedy in Inverness, Cape Breton, where six young people were charged with first degree murder from a home invasion in June 2008, has become a catalyst to reflect on who we are as a community and to move beyond the blame and look at our responsibility as a community to each other. To "raise the village" of Inverness is to reconnect the relationships in the "village" with an inclusive and meaningful process- from parents, educators, family resource staff, doctors, business, childcare, food security, public health, community health boards, church groups, volunteers, the arts community and the municipality – so that we will work together to improve the outcomes for all our children and in doing so each others' lives.

Concurrent Sessions:

Early Literacy – Jane Baskill

"Read to me, Daddy -

Involving dads and male caregivers in children's literacy development

This presentation focuses on the important role dads and male caregivers play in children's early literacy development. Jane will discuss the Picture It, Dads! Project and will share her research, materials, and experience working with dads, male caregivers and children.

School Readiness – Hazel Dill & Erna Fraser

"School Readiness: What does it really mean?"

While parents are justifiably concerned about academic preparation for school, aspects such as social and emotional development play a huge role in school success. This workshop will focus primarily on those two aspects of child development; a significant emphasis will be placed on promoting independence in our youngest learners. Time will be set aside for a question and answer session.

Community Development – Debbie Reimer

What is community development, anyway?!

Community development doesn't need to be an academic topic. Community development is about contributing to your community the best way you can. This session will explore local community development projects, past and present, and highlight how these projects have made a real impact on families. It will also offer opportunities for how you can become involved in your community.

Community Data – Jeff Wentzell & Jeff Kelly

"Where do you live?"

Ever wonder how many people live in your community? What's the average age of people in your community? Or, what the employment rate is? These are key indicators from which public policy and important decisions, particularly affecting families of young children, are made. Come to this session and the two Jeffs will show you how to access this information, and much more, so you too can be informed.

Community Kettle – Community Focused Discussion

The day will conclude with a session designed to share our own community experiences. Drawing on the content of the day, small table discussions will focus on how communities can fully support families. Share what you have done in your community, what you are aware of, or explore what can/needs to be done. The kettle will be on, let's chat.