



June 2019

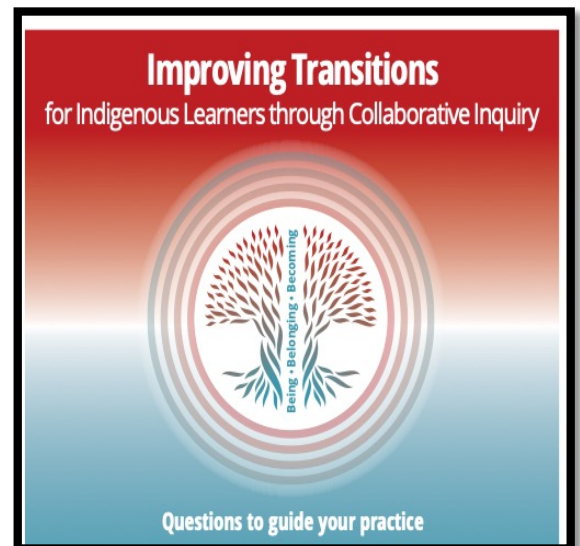
### DEAR NETWORK COLLEAGUES

This has been an extraordinary year for the Networks. So much has happened, so much growth has taken place, and so many thousands of young people have been positively influenced by the efforts of Network educators both in BC and beyond. Here is just a quick glimpse back at what has taken place – and a sneak preview of what lies ahead.

### TRANSITION STUDY – looking back, looking forward

The final report, poster and flyer highlighting the key findings was released in February. We hope that you have all taken a close look at the findings and the key themes of [Being, Belonging, Becoming](#). There is much for all schools to learn from the work of this first group of schools. We are deeply grateful to Dr. Catherine McGregor for producing such an excellent report and to Debbie Leighton-Stephens for staying on top of every aspect of this initiative.

We are also very pleased to be able to support eleven new schools over the next two years. These schools - from Williams Lake to Fort St James to Port Hardy and everywhere in between – will be working with Jana Fox and a team of inquiry partners to apply the findings from the report to their own setting. Each of these schools will be using the spiral framework to change the experiences of their Indigenous learners. You can expect to hear much more about the work in these schools over the next couple of years. Once again, we are grateful to Gordon Yusko and the Irving K Barber Learning Centre for the on-going support to NOIIE.



### SYMPOSIUM 2019 – Doing What Matters Most May 9-11

What a great few days of learning! The enthusiasm, the buzz in the room, the international connections, the powerful ignites and the highly informative school and district sessions all made Symposium 2019 extra special. We are grateful that Helen Timperley challenged and pushed all of our thinking with her recent work on complexity and adaptive expertise. Helen's slides and the beautifully crafted presentation from the Barcelona team will be posted on the website very soon! Save the dates of **May 28-30**

**2020** for a combined Symposium and International conference, ***Leading from the Edge***, at UBC.

For some more great photos from the Symposium please check out <https://www.flickr.com/photos/pdce/albums/72157680408325548/with/47851722501/>



International friendships



& Multi-generational learning



Can you hear me?



Northwest Cool in Shades

### **CASE STUDIES 2018-2019**

There is much to learn from each of the NOIIE case studies and we look forward to once again posting all the NOIIE case studies on the NOIIE website. Please submit your case study using this link <https://www.noii.ca/case-study-submission/> and please get it in by **July 15.**

Tammy Reynard and Heather Brown, our colleagues at the Ministry of Education have been developing a series of professional development sessions focused on Indigenous

understandings. With the help of some NOIIE leaders, they identified a few case studies from 2016-2018 that have been adapted to be included in the support materials. We are pleased that the case studies from Fort St James Secondary, Forest Park Elementary, Ecole Ballenas Secondary, Ebus, Garibaldi Highlands and Silverthorne Elementary will form part of the resource package.

And congratulation to Heather on the birth of her new little boy!

### **BC SCHOOL GRANTS**

Thanks to the generosity of the IKBLC and the BCPVPA through the publication of Spirals of Inquiry, we will be once again providing recognition grants to BC schools this fall for making their learning visible through their case studies. In addition to saying YES as a key Network norm, so too is saying thank you. These grants are simply our way of saying thank you for your hard work and your generosity in sharing your learning.

### **KALEB CHILD MUSGAMDZI – DIRECTOR OF INDIGENOUS EDUCATION**

We would like to offer our congratulations and thanks to Kaleb Child for taking on the role of Director of Indigenous Education in BC. Kaleb is a long-term supporter of NOIIE and we look forward to working closely with Kaleb as together we focus on high quality and high equity for all learners.

### **OECD EDUCATION 2030 PROJECT MAY 22-24**

The [OECD conference](#) hosted by the Ministry of Education and held in Vancouver had a strong NOIIE presence. Serving on the advisory committee with Jo Chrona and then witnessing her powerful keynote presentation was a real pleasure. It was inspiring to see several NOIIE Ignite speakers be so warmly acknowledged by the local and international delegates. Bravo to Mike Hooker, Jordan Bayda, Kristen Vogel, Joanne Calder, Jen Manuel and Abhay Sachal – and to Brooke Moore for making all this happen.

We appreciated listening to Suzanne Hoffman, a long time Network leader narrate a video about the strengths of the BC system. Her message was clear, articulate and substantive. It was fun watching the skills of several NOIIE educators as they facilitated complex discussion groups. And finally, hearing Suzanne Dillon, the Assistant Chief Inspector for the Department of Skills and Training in Ireland and a key leader in the OECD 2030 project say the goal of ensuring '*every learner crosses the stage with dignity, purpose and options*' is what the OECD 2030 project is all about made it all feel worthwhile.

## NEW PARTNERSHIPS

### a. CAfLN - Canadian Assessment for Learning Network

In May, just before the NOIIE symposium, Delta School District - thanks to Brooke Moore and Neil Stephenson - hosted the annual Canadian Assessment for Learning Network



conference. It was great to see the participation of many NOIIE members and we appreciated being able to capitalize on this partnership by having Lorna Earl and Chris DeLuca be part of the NOIIE symposium.

A highlight of CAfLN was hearing the students from Delta secondary schools burst some myths about assessment. They could take this show on the road!!

### b. Symbiosis – Science World

NOIIE was invited to be a partner on an important new initiative through Science World. Here's an excerpt from the [website](#) that explains the focus and importance of this partnership.

"Every major Canadian city hosts dozens to hundreds of organizations that engage children and youth in STEAM learning. Yet, for the most part, these organizations operate in isolation. The result is that a huge proportion of Canadian youth, particularly in First Nations and other underserved communities, are not receiving quality STEAM learning opportunities. In order to address this pressing need, Science World British Columbia ([scienceworld.ca](http://scienceworld.ca)) is spearheading the creation of Symbiosis, a deeply collaborative STEAM learning ecosystem. Driven by a diverse network of cross-sector partners, Symbiosis will become a vibrant model for scaling the kinds of learning and careers needed in a knowledge-based economy." We are excited to be part of this work – look for more details in the fall.

### c. CIRCE <http://www.circsfu.ca>

*Growing Engaged Minds: Imagining and Making Better Worlds* is the mission statement for the Centre for Imagination, Research and Culture in Education at SFU. Doesn't this seem like a perfect fit with NOIIE?



Many of you may have participated in the 30-day walking challenge last April and we look forward to even more schools becoming involved next April 1 2020.

We are delighted that Heidi Wood, Network leader from Surrey is working with Gillian Judson at CIRCE to develop an Indigenous perspective on the walking curriculum.

### **CMOLIK PRIZE**

Debbie, Linda and I were thrilled that NOIIE was selected as the winner of the Cmolik Prize for 2019. Just being nominated (thanks to Brooke Moore and Laura Tait) is a huge honour. To win, was amazing. The \$100,000 prize will make a big difference in our capacity to support network activity around BC and the Yukon. At the awards ceremony, a short video was shown that we think that captures a lot of what we are trying to accomplish through the network. If you haven't already, please take a look.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cKaSc-hJe1w>

At the symposium, we learned from our Barcelona colleagues who read the fine print, that as winners of the Cmolik, NOIIE is automatically nominated for the [Yidan Prize](#). That would really be something!

### **TAKE A STAND: YOUTH FOR CONSERVATION**

One of the finalists for the Cmolik Prize was "[Take a Stand](#)" and the more we heard about this work, the more we knew we wanted a connection. The Take a Stand youth outreach program is geared towards helping educators meet environmentally oriented learning outcomes in Science, Social Studies and Fine Arts. The program is free to schools and is definitely worth checking out. Imagine using surfing and paddle boarding to showcase the ecological, cultural and aesthetic value of the West Coast. Their goal is to foster environmental stewardship in youth across BC and to empower students to become agents of effective social and environmental change. Please check out the website and take a peek at the [video](#) of their work presented at the Cmolik awards.



## INTERNATIONAL UPDATES

It is inspiring to see the ways in which our international network colleagues are applying the spiral of inquiry and developing school-to-school networks to address complex challenges of equity and quality in very different contexts. This is just a quick update.

### ICSEI 2020 Marrakesh <https://2020.icsei.net>

For the past several years, ICSEI (International Congress of School Effectiveness and Improvement) has been a catalyst for us in making connections, gaining new knowledge and extending our perspectives. Last January in Stavanger Norway, a group of us from NOIIE - Brooke Moore, Lynne Tomlinson, Nancy Gordon from BC, Jackie Roberts from the Northern Territories (Australia), David Turner from Queensland, Lillemor Rehnberg from Sweden, Rosie Leonard Kane from England and Begonya Folch Martinez, Victoria Ibanez and Merce Mas from Barcelona collaborated on a workshop sharing briefly how the spiral of inquiry is being used in our different settings.

Building on this experience, we have submitted a proposal for a symposium in Marrakesh next January. This time each jurisdiction will present a short paper with Louise Stoll providing a response. We think these papers from the different jurisdictions will be highly informative and will help all of us in deepening our own work as we draw on the experiences of each other.

### Catalonia

Those of you who were at the symposium had a chance to hear directly about the brilliant work taking place in Barcelona. The presentation by Begonya Folch Martinez, Victoria Ibanez and Merce Mas linking learning, unlearning, assessment for learning and the four key questions through a powerful metaphor left us in awe.

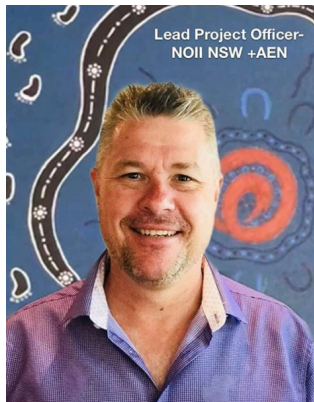
The program "*Xarxes per al canvi*" ("*Networks for Change*") is a public program led by the Barcelona Consortium of Education through an agreement with *Escola Nova 21* program, the *Teachers Association Rosa Sensat* and the *Education Sciences Institute of the Autonomous University of Barcelona* (UAB). As of June 2019, the program includes 240 schools in 22 networks and it will continue growing.

The aim of the program is to rethink together, school leaders and teachers, the purpose of education. *Xarxes per al canvi* is designed to give educators the opportunity



to build a collaborative practice in an increasingly trusting professional relationship that requires teamwork, sharing reflections, connecting energies and taking action for change. We look forward to our continuing connection with our Barcelona colleagues.

**NOII NSW** <https://www.noiinsw.com>



One of the most exciting new initiatives connected with NOII NSW is the announcement that Michael Newcombe, one of the NOII NSW leaders has been asked by the Aboriginal Education and Communities Directorate to share the spiral of inquiry with Aboriginal Education Teams and schools in rural and remote areas around the state of NSW. As the NOII NSW leaders say, "this is an exciting opportunity for a number of our school leaders to share their Spiral journey and provide quality professional learning and support to other educators. In turn, we have an opportunity to learn and walk beside our Aboriginal educators and students."

#### **And in the Northern Territories.....**

Jackie Roberts, one the key leaders of the Spirals network in Darwin and principal of Wagaman Primary School has just been seconded for a term to the Department of Education as Executive Director School Improvement and Leadership for rural and remote schools across the top end of the territory. This position will give Jackie the chance to work alongside principals in mostly Indigenous communities - and will also allow her to continue her work to grow Spirals across the territory. Bravo, Jackie!



#### **NOII NSW, NOII QLD, NOII NT, Spiral of Inquiry Sweden and Whole Education, England**

Between now and the end of September, NOII NSW, QLD and NT will be holding their symposia. We are delighted that Lynne Tomlinson will be a key note speaker in Sydney this August. Whole Education will launch a new cohort of Spirals schools and also start a new focus area dealing with the challenge of exclusions. Spirals of Inquiry Sweden will host two day sessions in both Malmo and Stockholm. We have been invited to speak about Spirals and NOII at the [World Educational Leadership Conference](#) in Zug

Switzerland and Spirals of Inquiry will be translated into German. It is going to be a full few months! Make sure to check twitter @noiie\_bc for regular updates.

## **LEARNING TAKES PATIENCE AND TIME**

One of the key learnings for us over the past two decades is the importance of persistence, perseverance, focus and patience. It is unrealistic to expect that significant changes in learner outcomes and experiences will happen overnight, or even in a few months. Real, lasting change especially in challenging areas demanding adaptive expertise, takes time.

This was reinforced recently in our visit to Vancouver Island North. For the past seven years, A J Elliott Elementary School has persisted with a focus on Mathematics K-7. Their hunch was that their traditional way of teaching Mathematics chunked into units was not working for their learners. Their new learning has involved working with Trevor Calkins and Jo Boaler. They have presented their work at NOIIE, and they have checked closely at every step of the way to see if they were making a big enough difference to their learners. Now they have some data from the performance of their students at secondary school that indicates they are definitely on the right track. Every one of their students is succeeding in secondary school and some of their students are taking advanced senior math courses when in Grade 8 or 9. And, families are now saying that their children love Math.

Helen Timperley reminded us in May that the spiral is designed to be used for complex problems – problems for which routine or already known strategies won't suffice. Changing attitudes, beliefs and practices in Mathematics is one of those complex problems that lots of schools are wrestling with. We really want to acknowledge the team at this school – and their district – for sustaining a focus over time. What's next for them? They are partnering with a neighboring school that is also focused on Math and they are exploring meaningful ways to incorporate Indigenous ways of knowing into the Math program. We share this as just one example of the ways in which the Spiral, consistently and intentionally applied, is changing the experiences of learners – of all ages.

## **SUMMER WISHES**

As we head into the summer holidays in BC, we want to express our gratitude to all of you for your commitment to ensuring that every learner in each of our schools crosses the stage with dignity, purpose and options. It feels to us that at no time has a strong public education system been more important.

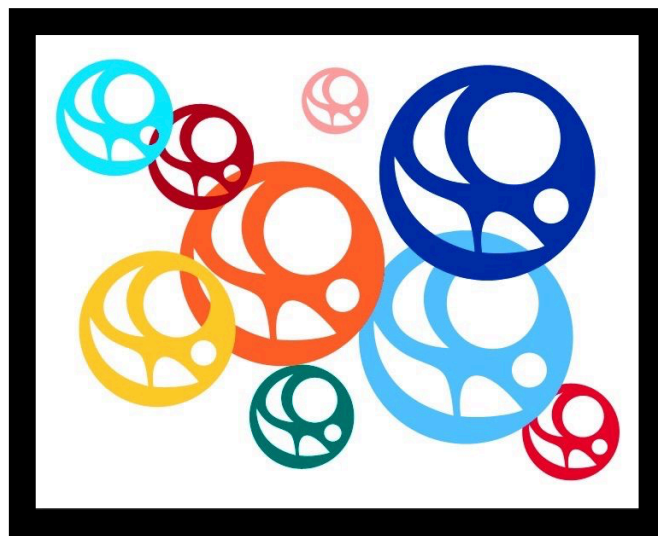


We need to ensure that learners - of all ages - stay curious for a lifetime. We all must have the capacity to think critically, to question sources of information thoughtfully and to make informed decisions. We need to learn lessons of the land, stewardship, respect and sustainability from our Indigenous knowledge holders. We must work tirelessly to confront and eliminate racism. And we must ensure that our schools are places where everyone feels safe, welcome and included. This is what the Network is all about.

We hope that you all have a wonderful summer. Relax, hang out with family and friends, read a few books just for fun, try something you have never done before – and maybe even have a few wild adventures.

Let's unleash the network energy and make next year the best ever.

*Judy & Linda*



*Energy Unleashed, Val Malesku*