



SEPTEMBER 2019

Connections, Links and Impact

The start of the school year is such an exciting time - new learners, new colleagues, new opportunities, new challenges – and possibly even new shoes! Each year we select one word that will focus our efforts and keep us grounded in *'doing what is most important.'* This year our focus word is **impact** – impact on learners and impact on systems.

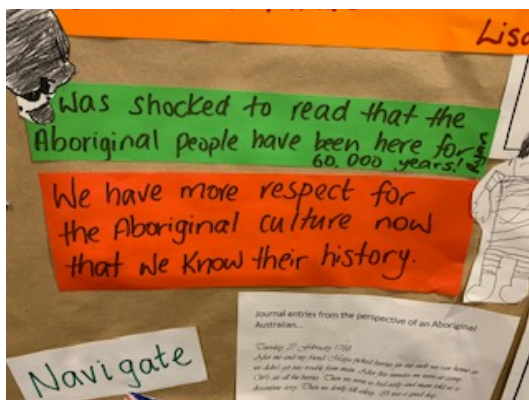
The themes for this newsletter are connections, links and impact. We hope you will enjoy reading about the ways in which your work is having an influence far beyond the walls of your individual classrooms and schools. We also encourage you to continually ask yourselves, 'What's going on for our learners?' and 'Are we making *enough* of a difference?' That's what NOIIE is all about.

Let's start with some of the links that are having an impact in ways few of us might have imagined.

IMPACT OF STUDY TOURS

Study tours to other countries – let alone to other districts or provinces – have not been a part of the culture for most BC educators. Yes, there have been opportunities for teacher exchanges but that is not the same as the experience that is shared when a group of colleagues travel together to explore and learn from other systems.

Over the past few years NOIIE has hosted study tours including teachers, principals, district leaders and researchers from a range of places. BC and Yukon schools have been exceedingly generous in opening up their schools to visitors. Here is just a snap shot of the impact that these visits have had.



NOI Northern Territories, Australia

As mentioned in the June newsletter, we are delighted that Jackie Roberts, a leader of NOI NT accepted a position in the School Leadership and Improvement Team. This allows her to support leadership teams in small rural communities AND to continue her work leading Spirals across the Northern Territory. Jackie was part of a study tour three years ago to BC and it was her visit to Vancouver Island North, and in particular to Alert Bay that led her to leave her

school in Brisbane and take on the challenge of improving Indigenous education in the Northern Territories.

In August, we were fortunate to attend the first NOII NT symposium in Darwin along with colleagues from NOII NSW. The symposium was facilitated by NOII NT leaders Robyn Thorpe, Jackie Roberts and Britany Roestenburg. A short video of the highlights from Darwin will soon be available.



It was great to see the ways in which student inquiry focused on Indigenous education is changing perspectives and how asking the key learning questions is opening up powerful focus areas for school teams. When you hear this answer in response to 'what are you learning in Math and why is it important?' your focus area becomes pretty clear. We love the honesty of the NT schools and know their work over the next few years is going to make a big difference.

NOII New South Wales



the focus on story work at Annieville Elementary in Delta has led to some powerful work in a number of Australian schools. It was exciting to see the team from St Helen's Park Primary School share their story work both in Brisbane at the NOII QLD symposium and also at the NOII NSW event in August.

The link with Annieville is just one of several connections that have been formed between NSW schools and schools in BC and the Yukon. We have seen first-hand how

Our connection with NSW started with our meeting David Martin at a session in Sydney in 2013 and has grown stronger and deeper ever since. Each spring over the past five years a group of educators from Sydney has come to BC and the Yukon. David is now joined by Natalie Mansour, Halie Baxter, Michael Newcombe and Sue Sessions in leading the work in NSW. The energy and momentum there is profound. Seeing



Lynne with Ann McIntyre at NOII NSW



Michelle providing closing remarks

recent visits to schools in Richmond, West Vancouver, Burnaby and Vancouver (to name just a few) are influencing practice across NSW.

We were pleased that Lynne Tomlinson was one of the keynote speakers at the NOII NSW symposium. Lynne had the audience intrigued by her story (cows and pant suits?) of the ways in which her involvement in NOII BC from its inception has influenced her as an educator.

Michelle Miller-Gauthier, long time NOII leader from Nechako Lakes School District and her husband Mark, principal of Evelyn Dickson Elementary School were also at the NOII NSW symposium. Michelle made a great

contribution as one of the closing speakers.

Check out the [NOII NSW Facebook](#) page for lots of photos from the symposium as well as up to date information about the spirals work that is changing the experiences of thousands of learners.

In early October, Murat Dizdar the Deputy Secretary for Education in NSW and Sarah Mitchell, the NSW Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning will be spending two days visiting schools in BC and meeting with Ministry officials in Victoria to learn more about large scale improvement strategies and improving outcomes for Indigenous students. This has come about as a result of the teamwork between NOII NSW and BC.

NOII Queensland

Vicki Baker, the principal of [Griffin State School](#) in Brisbane participated in a study tour to BC three years ago organized by David Turner the Director of Professional Learning for the Queensland Primary Principals' Association. Vicki, David and Zoe Smith, the Principal of [Graceville State School](#) are now heading up NOII Qld. Many of you who attended the NOII BC symposium last May will remember Zoe from her presentation on the powerful work her school is doing with student inquiry based on Kath Murdoch's *The Power of Inquiry*.

The symposium held at Graceville in August provided all the participants a superb experience of inquiry in action as school was in session and we got to see the impact of a coherent, school-wide approach to student inquiry. The opening song in the Yuggera language and the acknowledgement of territory from the Graceville students were highly memorable.

And, on a personal note of links and impact, we were happy to meet one of the newest staff members at Griffin State School, Delaney Rose Biollo – the daughter of Heather Rose, a TELP graduate and principal in Okanagan Skaha.



Judy, Delaney and Linda in Brisbane



Whole Education Network

The Spirals work across England just continues to deepen and the impact is both moving and encouraging - moving, because the policy environment in England is subject to shifts that make it difficult for schools to sustain a focus and encouraging because we are seeing the difference that can be made when teachers and principals are supported through a network genuinely focused on improving the experiences of their learners. Please take a look at the [WEN website](#) and the examples of the changes that schools are making through their inquiries.

We were pleased to welcome a study tour from WEN to BC last May and plans are well underway for a return visit next spring.

Two of the participants from the tour last spring work in special education settings in England. As a result of their visit to BC, they will be speaking at the upcoming [NASS](#) conference in Brighton about how teachers of children with special education needs can bring more curiosity to their roles.



Image from the WEN mid-year event in Wigan

Recently Rosie Leonard Kane, the head of programs at WEN wrote a [think piece](#) about the importance of listening to students as practitioners and policy makers grapple with the

challenge of exclusions. In this Rosie reflects on what she learned from the study tour to BC and offers a clear perspective on how spirals can shift practices in England.

OTHER CONNECTIONS

Catalonia

All of you at the NOIE symposium last May will recall the impact of the work of the Barcelona team working with hundreds of schools in the Catalan region and we hope that you have taken a look at the beautiful and compelling presentation that is available on the [NOIE](#) website. We are looking forward to reconnecting with our Catalan colleagues later this month when we will also be discussing ways in which Spirals of Inquiry might be applied in parts of Spain.

Germany

Currently work is underway through the University of Heidelberg to translate *The Spiral Playbook* into German. Researchers there have identified that Spirals in combination with Japanese lesson study design are the two most promising ways forward to school improvement and we are looking forward to seeing where this work leads next.

Sweden

We are also looking forward to reconnecting with our Swedish colleagues next week. In July Helen Timperley was in Sweden sharing her [insights](#) into the ways in which collaborative inquiry using the Spiral is a key way to develop adaptive expertise and to address complex challenges. We will be meeting educators gathering in Gavle for a two day symposium to launch a new group of schools as part of NOIE Sweden. How did this link happen? You may have guessed – a study tour to BC led by Lillemor Renhberg three years ago followed up by a visit to WEN in London was how it started.

New Zealand

Rebecca Sweeney, a facilitator with CORE Education in New Zealand is supporting many NZ schools in using Spirals. Many of you met Rebecca in BC a couple of years ago when she and her colleague Suzi Gould tested out the interactive board game [Catalyst](#) that they developed based on spirals of inquiry. Rebecca's work with collaborative inquiry is very thoughtful and the resources on her [blog](#) are well worth checking out.

We are pleased that Rebecca will be part of a team of international and BC NOIE leaders sharing their experiences in leading spirals at ICSEI 2020 in Marrakesh. The papers that are being presented in January will form the basis of what we hope will be a useful set of resources across all networks.

And speaking of resources.... There are a number of new resources that will be very helpful to Network schools. We are pleased that NOIIE educators have been directly involved in their development. Please take a good look at the following.

RESOURCES

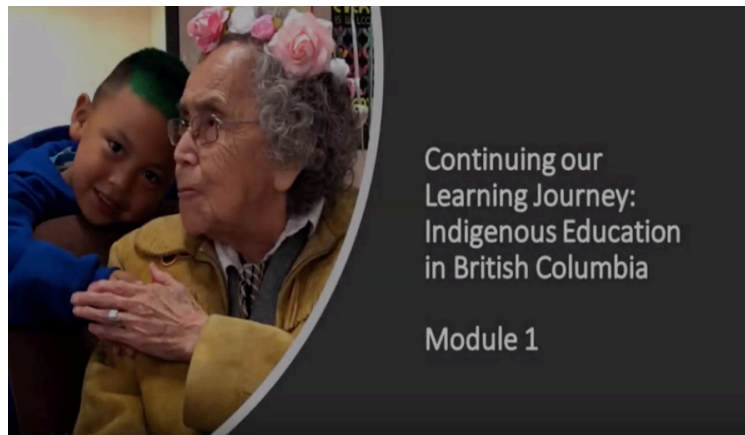
Classroom Assessment and Reporting

The Network started with a focus on classroom assessment and we maintain the strong conviction that assessment for and as learning is the bridge from the sorting to the learning system. We encourage everyone to watch this [video](#), to use the accompanying facilitators' guide and to pay close attention to the classroom and assessment supports that are provided.

Continuing Our Learning Journey: Indigenous Education in BC

We hope you have all checked out this great new [resource](#) from the BC Ministry of Education. It provides a framework and content for a professional learning opportunity focused on how to bring Indigenous knowledge, content and perspectives into the classroom. The modules are designed to be used in either a one-day session or shorter sessions spread out

over four days. The set of materials contains video clips from NOIIE schools, the voices of NOIIE leaders (Lynne, Brooke, Heidi, Andrea) sharing their perspectives, and NOIIE case studies from Ecole Ballenas Secondary, the Ebus Academy, Silverthorne Elementary, Fort St John Secondary, Forest Park Elementary and Garibalidi Highlands Elementary. We are grateful to Jo-Anne Chrona, Tammy Renyard, Heather Brown and Denise Augustine for their leadership in creating this invaluable resource.



COMING SOON- *The Decision Playbook: How to make thoughtful choices in a complex world*

Noted decision-making experts, Lee Failing, Robin Gregory and Graham Long along with NOIIE leader Brooke Moore have developed a set of ideas that will be enormously helpful to educators working together to make good decisions on behalf of their learners. There are many tricky decisions to be made during the Spiral of Inquiry such as how to select a focus area that will have a big impact and how to determine what evidence will be most useful in checking for impact. We are excited that this resource will be available in October and will be shared with all NOIIE leaders at our fall meeting. Stay tuned for much more about how to access and use this playbook.

Yukon Celebration of Learning



A big thank you to Chris Stacey and the Yukon team for creating 3 minute videos featuring the work in the Yukon Inquiry network last year. Here is a [sample](#). We think this is a great way of sharing in addition to the written case studies – which leads us to.....

Case Studies 2018-2019

The case studies from NOIIE schools provide a rich picture of the ways in which schools are working together to change outcomes for their learners. The Spiral of Inquiry really comes to life in these stories that are now all [posted](#). We now have a searchable data base (thanks, Sarah) for the case studies. Just click Mathematics, Indigenous understandings or place based learning and see what you can discover. We encourage you to use the case studies to prompt curiosity and promote discussion with your colleagues. And, please remember always to acknowledge with respect the actions of these schools in making their inquiry work public.

BC School Grants

Thanks to the support of the Irving K Barber Learning Centre at UBC 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.

IMPROVING TRANSITIONS FOR INDIGENOUS LEARNERS



We are very pleased to be able to support the second cohort of schools focused on improving transitions for their Indigenous learners. The [report](#) that Dr. Catherine MacGregor provided based on the work of the first cohort will help to shape the thinking and direction of the following schools:

Brooks Secondary, Nanaimo District Secondary
Lake City Secondary, Barriere Secondary,
Pemberton Secondary, Valleyview Secondary,
South Okanagan Secondary, Shuswap Middle
School, Savory Elementary, Port Hardy Secondary

School, Fort St James Secondary School

These schools will be working together over the next two years under the guidance of Jana Fox and supported by inquiry learning partners from NOIIE. We are confident that all of you have found the findings, the recommendations and the challenges included in the transitions report as useful and thought-provoking as we have.

NOIIE SYMPOSIUM 2020: THE LEADING EDGE MAY 28-30

In May 2020, the NOIIE symposium will be a collaboration with the Professional Development and Community Education Department at UBC. Lynne Tomlinson, the Assistant Dean of PDCE (and one of the original NOIIE educators) is busy getting local and international speakers lined up and we are pleased that you will have a chance to learn from some highly respected researchers and practitioners from Switzerland, Singapore, England and Australia as well as many outstanding NOIIE educators and UBC scholars.

The pre-symposium seminar will feature an opportunity for an in-depth session with Ann McIntyre. Ann is one of our educational heroes – one of the first female superintendents in NSW, an international expert on teacher professional learning and school leadership, a policy advisor to the national government, a passionate advocate for Indigenous education and a truly fine person.

Stay tuned for more details – and make sure to register early so that there are no disappointments.

NEWS IN BRIEF

And a few final notes:

1. **Network leaders** will be meeting on Monday October 21 in Vancouver at the VSB. A special thanks to Suzanne Hoffman for providing the meeting space free of charge. We very much appreciate all school districts for supporting the great group of volunteer NOIIE leaders who work together so effectively in pursuit of our common goals.
2. **Ministry colleagues** - We are pleased that Kaleb Child the Director for Indigenous Education and a long-time friend of NOIIE will be attending our October meeting along with Katherine McIntosh who will be supporting the work of improving results of Indigenous learners in school districts across in BC. Welcome Katherine and Kaleb.
3. **Regional meetings** - Please let us know when regional meetings will be taking place. As much as possible, we would like to encourage NOIIE leaders to participate in meetings across the province.
4. **New schools** – New schools and districts are always welcome in NOIIE. The way to participate is to use the Spiral of Inquiry to frame your collaborative actions, to submit the focus for your inquiry later this fall, to participate in local and regional gatherings and then to write a short case study about what you have done and what you have learned. Please share this newsletter and information with your colleagues.

This has proved to be a lot longer newsletter that we originally intended – and there is much more that we look forward to sharing with you over the coming school year. We will draw the line for now though!

Please follow us on twitter @noiie_bc (thanks Jennifer Delvecchio) and on [Facebook](#) (thanks Angela Gadd)

Wishing each of you a wonderful year of curiosity, inquiry, new learning, networking and impact.

Judy & Linda

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*Every learner crossing the stage with dignity, purpose and options.
Every learner leaving our settings more curious than when they arrived.
All learners gaining an understanding of and respect for Indigenous ways of knowing.*