



**NOIE Symposium**  
***Connections & Curiosity***  
**May 9-10, 2025**

**PROGRAM DAY 1**  
**Friday May 9, 2025**

7:30 - 8:30      **Check-In and Breakfast**

8:30 - 9:00      **Welcome to the Symposium**

Jana Fox (SD 54 Bulkley Valley) and Tashi Kirincic (SD 37 Delta)

**Acknowledgement of Territory**

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[Dancers of Damelahamid](#)

9:00 - 9:15      **Connections & Curiosity**

Judy Halbert and Linda Kaser, NOIE

9:15 - 10:00      **Keeping It Real: Cultivating Curiosity with Care and Authenticity (Part 1)**

Kath Murdoch, Seastar Educational Consulting

There has been a welcome rise in awareness of the importance of curiosity for children's learning. Often described as the 'engine' that drives learning, educators now understand a lot more about the role of curiosity in their classrooms. Over two connected sessions, Kath Murdoch will invite us to bring an inquiring stance to curiosity itself. What are some of the practices that truly nurture curiosity? What are some of the pitfalls? How do we avoid skating across the surface while neglecting the potential of curiosity to really challenge and deepen learning? How can we challenge ourselves to remain unflinchingly curious as we continue this privileged work of teaching young people?

10:00 - 10:30      **Stretch & Network**

10:30 - 11:15      **Unleashing Student Engagement and Agency**

Rebecca Winthrop, Brookings Institution

For the past five years, the Brookings Institution's global education expert Rebecca Winthrop has been investigating why so many children lose their love of learning in adolescence. In her new book, *The Disengaged Teen: Helping Kids Learn Better, Feel Better, and Live Better*, (co-authored with award-winning journalist Jenny Anderson), she offers practical guidance for parents, educators, and school leaders on how to re-engage students and reignite their excitement for learning.

Join Rebecca for an insightful conversation about the crisis in American education. Explore how middle and high school students are navigating shifting academic demands and social dynamics and learn evidence-based strategies that educators, parents, and school leaders can use to foster meaningful connections, enhance engagement, and reignite a passion for learning in today's students.



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|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11:15 - 11:30 | Discussion                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 11:30 - 12:00 | <b>Weaving Our Ways of Knowing</b><br>Claire D'Aoust (SD 37 Delta), Paige Fisher (VIU), and Emily Magyar (SD 68 Nanaimo Ladysmith)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 12:00 - 1:00  | Lunch <b>TELP Information Session (12:15-12:45)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 1:00 - 2:00   | <b>Group Presentations, <a href="#">Break-Out #1</a></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 2:00 - 2:15   | Stretch & Network                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 2:15 - 3:15   | <b>Group Presentations, <a href="#">Break-Out #2</a></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 3:15-3:30     | Stretch & Network                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 3:30 - 4:00   | <b>Portable Generosity</b><br>Jillian Lewis, Consultant<br><br>Talents, skills, abilities, know-how ... our gifts manifest themselves in many different ways. You don't have to be labelled "special" or "famous" or "a standout" to have a significant and lasting impact on others. All you have to do is recognize your gifts, acknowledge them, and choose to share. |
| 4:00 - 5:00   | Social Hour (with cash bar)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

**PROGRAM DAY 2**  
**Saturday May 10, 2025**

|                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
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| 7:30 - 8:30 am | <b>Breakfast</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 8:30 - 8:45    | <b>Welcome to the Day</b><br>Jana Fox, Tashi Kirincic, and Jillian Lewis                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 8:45 - 9:15    | <b>Keeping It Real: Cultivating Curiosity with Care and Authenticity (Part 2)</b><br>Kath Murdoch, Seastar Educational Consulting<br><br>There has been a welcome rise in awareness of the importance of curiosity for children's learning. Often described as the 'engine' that drives learning, educators now understand a lot more about the role of curiosity in their classrooms. Over two connected sessions, Kath Murdoch will invite us to bring an inquiring stance to curiosity itself. What are some of the practices that truly nurture curiosity? What are some of the pitfalls? How do we avoid skating across the surface while neglecting the potential of curiosity to really challenge and deepen learning? How can we challenge ourselves to remain unflinchingly curious as we continue this privileged work of teaching young people? |



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9:15 - 9:30

Discussion

9:30 - 10:15

**Remember Who We Are**

Leona Prince, BC Ministry of Education and Child Care

In this session, we will speak to the importance of remembering who we are personally, professionally and as a community of educators who are supporting the development of the next generation of citizens. In a time of great uncertainty, we must stay strong in our convictions and our values within our roles.

10:15 - 10:45

Stretch and Network

10:45 - 11:30

**Building a Culture of Human Connection Where People and Organizations Thrive**

Pete Bombaci, GenWell

Join Pete Bombaci, the visionary founder and CEO of Genwell, Canada's Human Connection Movement, for an inspiring and engaging exploration of the power of social connection and social health. This dynamic presentation will illuminate the critical role of social connections in enhancing personal well-being and professional success.

Discover practical strategies for nurturing deep connections that lead to happier and healthier employees who are more productive, trusting, optimistic, collaborative, and more. Pete will guide you through how fostering strong connections can combat the disconnected world we live in today and transform everyday interactions into powerful networks of support, collaboration and competitive advantage. This session isn't just informative—it's designed to be fun, interactive, and full of surprises, ensuring audience participation is encouraged and rewarded.

Pete's passionate delivery and important message will inspire you to see the untapped potential of human connections in a new light. Let's shape a future where promoting strong social health fuels purpose-driven organizations, inspires leadership and innovation, and is the cornerstone of communities, enhancing our collective well-being!

11:30 - 11:40

Judy Halbert and Linda Kaser, NOIIE

11:40 - 11:50

**Connections & Curiosity: Four Perspectives**

11:50 - 12:00

**Closing**