

National Panel Members Share Insights About Making Inclusion Work

Partners present free webinar Feb. 28 February 2011 -- Natalie Hamilton

Educators who can make a positive impact on inclusion in Canada are tuned into a webinar hosted by Inclusive Education Canada, Community Living Ontario and the Canadian Association for Community Living (CACL).

In celebration of February being Inclusive Education Month in Canada, the organizations presented School Inclusion: Critical Issue for Leaders on Monday, Feb. 28 from noon to 1:15 p.m.

“We thought it would be a good conclusion (to Inclusive Education Month) for a national panel to deal with some of the issues,” says Gordon Porter, director of Inclusive Education Canada.

The session targeted professionals who hold leadership positions from principals to resource teachers to others who are a responsible for inclusive education.

“It was focused on leadership and the critical issues in leadership that can make inclusive education a reality.”

Three speakers with distinct perspectives addressed issues facing school and district leaders in making inclusion both possible and successful. Each speaker gave a short presentation, discussed the topics and took questions from participants.

On the bill was Jody Carr, New Brunswick’s Education and Early Childhood Development minister, Bendina Miller, a former school district superintendent in British Columbia and president of CACL, and Calvin Fraser, secretary general of the Canadian Teachers’ Federation. Carr will provide an update about what’s happening in the area of inclusive education at the provincial government level.

Miller shared her thoughts from the perspective of a retired senior educator. Meanwhile, Fraser offered his insights about what’s necessary for inclusion from the standpoint of teachers. “He has a perspective from Canada’s teachers — the people who have to make it happen in the classrooms,” Porter says.

“It’s a small group but there were very interesting perspectives represented here.” CACL executive vice-president Michael Bach facilitated the webinar. The event was free and further events are being planned. Anyone with a computer, web access and speakers can take part.



Jody Carr, Education and Early Childhood Development Minister, N.B.



Bendina Miller former school district superintendent, B.C., and president of CACL



Calvin Fraser, secretary general of the Canadian Teachers' Federation.