

A woman with a child on her back is seen from behind, standing in a field of tall grass. She is holding a string attached to a colorful kite flying in the sky. The scene is set against a clear blue sky.

A publicly managed system for  
children and families: prenatal–12 years

*Research, policy, practice,  
communication*

Zeenat Janmohamed, Kerry McCuaig,  
Atkinson Centre, OISE, UT

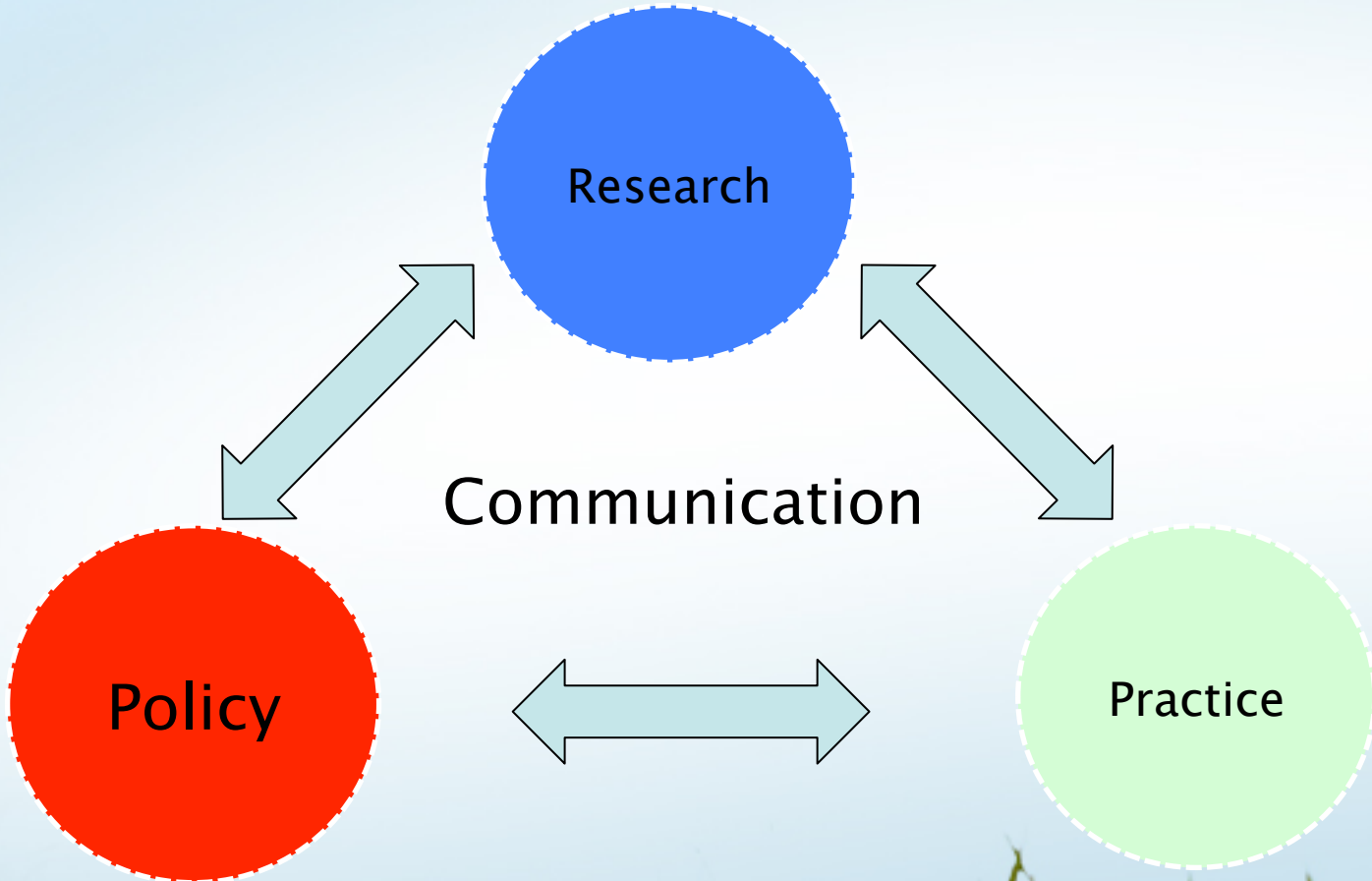


# Atkinson Centre/OISE/UT

- Established in 2000
- Partners include:
  - Ontario Institute for Studies in Education/ University of Toronto
  - George Brown College
  - Jackman Institute of Child Study/OISE



# Research, practice & policy





## AC's involvement in early education policy development

Responding to the *Early Years Study* (1999) AC supported the development of Toronto First Duty a pioneer in the integration of education, childcare and family support programs:

- TFD is an Internationally adopted model, demonstrating best practice in programming & service delivery
- Strong research component documenting cost efficiencies, enhanced quality and access
- Gave birth to a series of policy initiatives informing full day learning in ON, in First Nations communities, Early Years Centres in PE, 'Schools Plus' in SK; demonstration sites in NB, PE, NS. Also adopted in Australia.





## Activist research

- Toronto First Duty continues to inform best practice in ECE programming and systems delivery
- Early Childhood Education Report monitors policy developments across Canada
- Equity & access – integration of critical inclusion lens; demonstrating effective early years programming for all children and families
- Family support research – informs effective program interventions
- Pan-Canadian Monitoring Network provides links to other academic institutions and accountability systems across Canada and internationally



## Informing practice

- Develops and delivers courses for ECE and teacher training focused on how to use research to inform policy development
- Develops and delivers integrated professional development for ECE/teacher teams
- Contribute, evaluate Science of ECD
- Advises the work of governments, foundations, organizations, service providers
- Supports academics to promote their findings to policy makers and the public
- Mentoring for succession planning



## Mobilization

- AC Taskforce brings together key players in ECE systems implementation
- Functions to inform public policy development
- Advocates for a comprehensive child and family system
- Responds to policy developments at the local, provincial and federal levels



## Communication

- AC website & weekly list serve
- Sponsors and presents at conferences, workshops in ON, across Canada and internationally
- Meets with policy makers and influencers
- Develops videos, e-journals, print material
- Contributes to popular & research journals
- Speakers tour





## Outreach

- Website received over 1–million hits in 2012
- Made over 120 presentations, reaching each province and 7 international forums.
- Briefing of high–level policy leaders
- Resource to policy officials
- Our publications are used in course texts in training programs
- Encourage new voices e.g. TD Bank report on benefits of ECE funding
- Host conferences and seminars



# Upcoming priorities

## Research:

- Collaboration on ON & PE Birth Cohort Study
- Further validation of the ECE Report - focus on including territories
- Interim reports on ECE curriculum frameworks
- Review of EDI use across Canada

## Policy development

- Pre-service and professional education
- Consulting on policy frameworks across Canada

## Knowledge mobilization

- Development of partnership with IHD
- Academic review and training strategy with Science of ECD



# The Atkinson Centre

[www.oise.utoronto.ca/atkinson](http://www.oise.utoronto.ca/atkinson)

[kmccuaig@rogers.com](mailto:kmccuaig@rogers.com)

[Zeenat.janmohamed@utoronto.ca](mailto:Zeenat.janmohamed@utoronto.ca)