

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL

SUMMER INSTITUTE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT



The Early Years:  
From  
**disruption**  
to  
**recovery**  
and Beyond



Monday, May 31, 2021 to

Thursday, June 3, 2021

**ONLINE ZOOM EVENT**



ABOUT THE  
**17th ANNUAL  
SUMMER  
INSTITUTE**

The Summer Institute is an annual collaboration between the School of Early Childhood at George Brown College and the Atkinson Centre for Society and Child Development at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education/University of Toronto. The Institute strives to offer timely information to inform early childhood research, policy, and practice. As Canada and the world have been rocked by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Institute examines the impact on the early childhood education and care sector, including issues of equity, and the infrastructure necessary to support recovery and beyond. Join Canadian and international experts in identifying challenges, and proposing the solutions to building and sustaining high quality early education.

# about

# opening

REMARKS

A native of Toronto, Anne Sado has been President of George Brown College since 2004. Her impact on the vision, direction and culture of the college has seen a doubling of enrolment and a significant increase in its physical footprint in the heart of Canada's largest city. She has also led a critical public discussion on the value of college education in Ontario's economic development.

Anne was appointed a Member of the Order of Canada in June 2013. She was recognized as one of Canada's Top 25 Women of Influence in 2014, and one of Canada's Most Powerful Women by WXN over four years, leading to her induction in the WXN Hall of Fame in 2014.



**ANNE SADO**

President  
George Brown College

DAY  
**one**

MAY 31

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**BUILDING EQUITY  
IN EARLY LEARNING  
AND CHILD CARE**



## **DAWN DESJARDINS**

Vice President  
Deputy Chief Economist  
RBC Royal Bank

Dawn Desjardins joined the Royal Bank Economics team in January 2006 as a senior economist. She is responsible for the macroeconomic and interest rate forecasts for Canada and the U.S. Previously, Dawn worked as a reporter for *Bloomberg* Financial News in Toronto covering the Canadian bond and currency markets. She was also the Canadian bond market strategist for a major U.S. bank for ten years.

---



## **NICOLE INEESSE-NASH**

Research Associate  
Ryerson University

Nicole is an Anishinaabe (Oji-Cree) scholar and educator whose work focuses on Indigenous experiences of social systems, understandings of land-knowledge, and community-based research. She completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in Early Childhood Studies with a minor in psychology from Ryerson University before continuing graduate studies in Early Childhood Studies. Currently, Nicole is a doctoral student at OISE in the Social Justice Education program, specializing in Indigenous health. Nicole works as a Research Associate and Contract Lecturer cross-appointed between Early Childhood Studies and Child and Youth Care at Ryerson University. Her work centers on Indigenous youth, families, and communities and seeks to support self-determination and Indigenous resurgence. Nicole is particularly interested in supporting Indigenous youth to connect with their ancestry, land, and cultures. Nicole is also the director and founder of *Finding Our Power Together*, an Indigenous-led non-profit organization supporting youth in realizing their own goals.

---



## **GLORY RESSLER**

Program Manager  
Service System Policy, Planning and Development  
Children's Services  
City of Toronto

Glory Ressler has been working in the early learning and care sector for over 25 years. She is currently a Program Manager in Toronto Children's Services' Policy, Planning and Development unit where she manages the system planning, policy and data related work. Previously, Glory led Mothercraft's College of Early Childhood Education and Data Group. She has supported communities across Ontario as well as various Canadian provincial associations. From 2011 – 2020, Glory was the Canadian National Representative to the World Forum on Early Care and Education and was named an Exceptional Master Leader by *Child Care Exchange* magazine.

---

DAY  
**two**

June 1  
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**THE PUBLIC ADVANTAGE  
OF EARLY LEARNING  
AND CHILD CARE**





## **SHANLEY MCNAMEE**

General Manager  
Children's Services  
City of Toronto

Shanley McNamee has been the General Manager for Toronto Children's Services since July 2019. Prior to this, she held a few senior positions within the Division where she led the development and implementation of a number of key initiatives including a new system-wide funding model for the City's child care sector, and Council's Child Care Growth Strategy. Shanley is committed to driving improved service access for families and advancing implementation of an integrated system of early learning and care services for Toronto's children and their families. Shanley holds a Diploma in Early Childhood Education, from Centennial College, and a Bachelor of Arts, Psychology "With Distinction" degree from York University. Shanley began her career working in the non-profit child care sector and continues to value input, insight and collaboration with a broad range of community and government stakeholders.

---



## **ISABELLE VINET, M.SC.**

Executive Director  
Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood  
Development/Centre de Psycho-Éducation du  
Québec

Isabelle Vinet, M.Sc., is the Executive Director of the Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development (CEECD) hosted at Université Laval and Université de Montréal. Within the scope of her functions, she has been leading all knowledge mobilization activities, with the main focus being the development of the Encyclopedia on Early Childhood Development (EECD) [www.child-encyclopedia.com](http://www.child-encyclopedia.com), a unique, current free access, and up-to-date source of information on ECD. She also oversees the production of all derived products and works in close collaboration with key partners to ensure the science contained within the EECD serves concrete and impactful actions for young children and their families. She also has spent the last 15 years leading another knowledge translation unit, affiliated with the Université de Montréal, the Centre de Psycho-Éducation du Québec [www.cpeq.net](http://www.cpeq.net). CPEQ' core activities are to support and evaluate the implementation of Social-Emotional Programs for young children based on a highly impactful prevention program derived from the Montreal Longitudinal and Experimental Study and to train early childhood educators on best practices across Canada.

---



## **MAUREEN DOCKENDORF**

Superintendent of Reading/Literacy and Early  
Learning  
British Columbia Ministry of Education

Maureen has spent her career in Education. She has worked as a teacher, university faculty associate, principal, and assistant superintendent. As the Superintendent of Reading/Literacy and Early Learning, at the British Columbia Ministry of Education, Maureen has been a team member supporting the redesign of BC's 2019 Early Learning Framework, K – 12 curriculum, and core competencies. Maureen currently works with the BC Ministry of Education as the Early Learning Child Care Strategic Consultant. Maureen leads the Ministry's professional early learning initiatives: Changing Results for Young Children ([cr4yr.com](http://cr4yr.com)), and Strengthening Early Years to Kindergarten Transitions. Maureen is currently called upon to provide advice on policy, practice, and process with the purpose of cultivating a BC continuum of care and learning system from child care to primary school years and beyond, aligning with BC's Early Learning Framework. Maureen has an unwavering commitment to public education to ensure that all children and families can enact their right to a quality, inclusive integrated system of early learning and child care.

---

DAY  
**three**

June 2  
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

**THE WORKFORCE**





## **ARMINE YALNIZYAN**

Senior Economist

The Atkinson Fellow on the Future of Workers

Armine Yalnizyan is a leading voice on Canada's economic scene. Recently serving as senior economic policy advisor to the Deputy Minister of Employment and Social Development Canada, Armine was senior economist with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives' Inequality Project from 2008 to 2017. Armine has contributed economics columns for the *Globe and Mail's* Economy Lab from 2010 to 2013, and from 2012 to mid-2018 she provided weekly business commentary for CBC Radio's Metro Morning and CBC TV's premier business show *On The Money* (formerly the *Lang and O'Leary Exchange*). She is also a frequent contributor to CBC Radio, TVO's *The Agenda with Steve Paikin*, BNN's *Bloomberg Markets*. You can read her in the *Toronto Star* and *Maclean's* magazine.

---



## **ALANA POWELL, RECE**

Executive Coordinator

Association of Early Childhood Educators Ontario (AECEO)

Alana Powell is a proud Registered Early Childhood Educator, and the Executive Coordinator at the Association of Early Childhood Educators of Ontario (AECEO). Alana completed her MA in Early Childhood Studies from Ryerson University where her research engaged in critical exploration of care discourses in Ontario's 2014 and 2018 elections. Prior to her role at the AECEO she was a contract lecturer at George Brown College's School of Early Childhood. In her current role at the AECEO, Alana is committed to listening to and advancing the voices of educators in the movement for professional pay and decent work and breaking down barriers that exclude them from advocacy and policy spaces. Alana engages in the reconceptualist movement and continues scholarly work which seeks to reposition care as central in politics, practice, and advocacy.

---



## **KERRY MCCUAIG**

Fellow in Early Childhood Policy

Atkinson Centre for Society and Child Development  
OISE, University of Toronto

Kerry McCuaig co-developed and produces the Early Childhood Education Report, which tracks provincial/territorial progress in early years program development. She co-authored *Early Years Study 3, Making Decisions, Taking Action* with Margaret McCain and the late Fraser Mustard. Kerry has had a long involvement in early childhood policy including as a founder of Toronto First Duty, a pioneer in the integrated delivery of early childhood programming. She has authored several publications, including those commissioned by the Senate of Canada, the Toronto Board of Trade, and the governments of Manitoba, New Brunswick, the Northwest Territories, British Columbia, Ontario, and the City of Toronto as well as reports for labour, women's and community organizations. Kerry is a frequent speaker at national and international conferences, her articles have appeared in major publication including the *Globe and Mail* and *Toronto Star*.

---

DAY  
**four**

June 3

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**NATIONAL AND  
INTERNATIONAL  
LESSONS**



## **GÉRALDINE LIBREAU**

Policy Officer  
Early Childhood Education and Care  
European Commission

Géraldine Libreau is the policy officer for Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) in the Directorate general Education, Youth, Sport and Culture of the European Commission. She currently coordinates an expert group, bringing together ministerial representatives from 34 European countries and representatives of trade unions, cities, children's interests, etc. The group explores efficient policies and practices to professionalise further ECEC staff as well as to increase inclusiveness of ECEC systems and settings. Géraldine graduated in European and international public law and dedicated all her career to management and evaluation of European policies, programmes and projects in the field of education, training and youth.

---



## **EMIS AKBARI, PH.D.**

Professor and Program Coordinator  
School of Early Childhood  
George Brown College

Senior Policy Fellow  
Atkinson Centre for Society and Child Development

Dr. Emis Akbari is a professor and program coordinator at the School of Early Childhood at George Brown College. She is also an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Applied Psychology and Human Development and the Senior Policy Fellow at the Atkinson Centre for Society and Child Development at OISE at the University of Toronto. Emis' initial research examined issues surrounding early life adversity on brain and behavioural development in animal models. Her more recent work evaluates current and changes in policy at all levels of government. Emis is the co-author of the *Early Childhood Education Report*. This report provides a snapshot of provincial and territorial preschool services and performance on different criteria including access to child care programs and investments in early education. She is ardent and committed to evidence-based change in policy and global development and its connection to improving child education, development and outcome.

---



## **CECEILE MINOTT**

Director  
Consortium for Social Development and Research  
The University of the West Indies Open Campus

Ceceile Minott is the Director for the Consortium for Social Development and Research at The University of the West Indies (The UWI) Open Campus. She holds a Master in Education with specialization in counselling from the University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida, USA. Her interest centres on early childhood education and counselling and have published in these areas in peered review journals. She developed and implemented the first laboratory preschool in Jamaica at The UWI lead the team that developed the Continuing Education Programme (CPE) in Early Childhood Education as well as the first online MPhil/PhD research programme in Child, Adolescent and Youth Studies for The University of the West Indies Open Campus. She has collaborated with researchers, practitioners and policy makers in developing policies, curricula and the training of early childhood teachers and teacher trainers in the region.

---



**Please join us in recognizing the contributions of Jane Mercer, champion for equity and quality in early childhood education and care.**

## **JANE MERCER**

Jane Mercer is an early childhood educator and a graduate of George Brown College. Her early career in the early childhood sector was as director of the St. Lawrence Co-operative Daycare. She developed her love of community and community organizing in what turned out to be one of Toronto's biggest triumphs in a highly successful, fully-functioning, mixed-use, mixed-income community. The program grew to 3 centres and over 200 children aged 0-12.

Best known for her work as the executive coordinator of the Toronto Community for Better Child Care (TCBCC), Jane was a strong voice for child care, families, and educators for 20 years. In retirement, Jane continues to advocate on behalf of families in Toronto and the need for affordable, transit, housing, and child care.

# acknowledgement

# general

## INQUIRIES

For further information about this program, please contact:

George Brown College, School of Early Childhood

T: 416.415.5000 ext.2310

Email: [jsantino@georgebrown.ca](mailto:jsantino@georgebrown.ca)

Summer Institute 2021 Information:

<https://www.oise.utoronto.ca/atkinson/Events/2021Events/SI2021.html>

PLEASE COMPLETE AND SUBMIT THE FORM BELOW BY EMAIL. PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY. FILLABLE FORM PDF

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL **SUMMER INSTITUTE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT**

## The Early Years: From Disruption to Recovery and Beyond

Monday, May 31, 2021 to Thursday, June 3, 2021

**ONLINE ZOOM EVENT**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ PROVINCE: \_\_\_\_\_

POSTAL CODE: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL (REQUIRED): \_\_\_\_\_

---

### REGISTRATION FEES

Full Conference: \$30

The HST Registration Number is 108082868RTR0001. Advance payment is required to register. **Space is limited.**

**\*TOTAL REMITTANCE: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

### METHOD OF PAYMENT

VISA    MASTERCARD

If you are paying by credit card, we will call you for card details. Email your completed registration form to [jsantino@georgebrown.ca](mailto:jsantino@georgebrown.ca).

---

PLEASE IDENTIFY ANY REQUIRED ACCOMMODATIONS. EVERY ATTEMPT WILL BE MADE TO FULFILL YOUR REQUEST.

SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER

OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

# registration

FORM