On March 1st we offer the gift of time — time to listen, engage, ponder and

CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY PRESENTS

THE THIRD ANNUAL BECS Conference

NURTURING ECOLOGICAL IDENTITY
Forming Relationships with the Natural World and Each Other
Saturday March 1st, 2014
8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Ann Pelo
Teacher Education, Consultant, Author

Monique Lavallee
Niwasa Aboriginal Education Programs

Jackie Ryan
Executive Director, Children’s Lands Canada

Friday February 28, 2014
AN AFTERNOON WITH ANN PELO
1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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Ann Pelo, Teacher Education, Consultant, Author

Ann Pelo is a teacher educator, program consultant, and author whose primary work focuses on Reggio-inspired, social justice, and ecological teaching and learning, and on the art of mentoring. She worked as a teacher and teacher mentor for sixteen years at Hilltop Children’s Center, a full-day childcare program in Seattle, Washington, and was featured in several videos filmed there, including “To See Takes Time” and “Setting Sail”.


Ann’s new book, The Goodness of Rain, focuses on cultivating an ecological identity in young children. This is what Ann says about her latest book: To nurture ecological identity in young children, we invite them into relationship with the world beyond walls and with the creatures that live there. We invite them into ethical thinking anchored by the compassion that comes from caring and engaged relationships. We invite them to come home to the Earth, and to live honourably in that home.

Monique Lavallee, Niwasa Aboriginal Education Programs & Jackie Ryan, Executive Director for Children’s Lands Canada.

Monique and Jackie will share their journey, literally and figuratively, with a project called Children’s Land. This concept was founded in Peru, and is being implemented throughout the world, involving 20,000 children (including some Ontario Early Years Centres). It promotes a change to the current situation, in which most decisions are made by adults, by giving children a voice, encouraging them to make decisions and acknowledging them for the contributions they make to the world. Children’s Lands is about adults giving a piece of land to the children. It could be a potted plant or a forest. Projects can be of a small or large scale. The project helps children to base decisions on what is good for them, other people and the environment. It helps children think about how decisions affect them, other people and the world at large. Children’s Lands is not a gardening program for children; it is helping children develop a love of the land – a land that heals them by growing a plant(s), etc. The role of the adults is to circle and protect the land and to support the children to make decisions as caretakers of the land. Children create well-being for themselves, others and nature.

Jackie has collaborated with an architect to begin a local organization called Planting Seeds of Hope. Monique inspired Niwasa Head Start Centre to be the first education facility to embrace Children’s Lands at an early learning and child care centre which has now extended to other centres/programmes. Both Jackie and Monique have many inspirational stories to share about their experiences with Children’s Lands.

Jackie and Monique attended the 2013 International Indigenous Early Childhood Education Conference in New Zealand last January at which Children’s Lands was presented. New Zealand has accepted Canada’s invitation to host the 2nd International Indigenous Early Childhood Education Conference in 2016. The Children’s Land program is beneficial for all children, not only indigenous children. The goal is that we can all learn to develop a shared love of the land, respecting nature and one another.

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 28, 2014 . 1:30 - 4 PM/SATURDAY MARCH 1ST, 2014 . 8:30 AM - 4 PM .
CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY 860 HARRINGTON COURT, BURLINGTON ON . _TEL: 905.333.4955

REGISTRATION $120 SATURDAY/ $50 FRIDAY P.M./$150 FRIDAY P.M. & SATURDAY

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AN AFTERNOON WITH ANN PELO.
Friday February 28, 2014
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NURTURING ECOLOGICAL IDENTITY
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CONFERENCE IN UNHURRIED TIME
Come prepared to participate in an emergent conference experience.

On March 1st we offer the gift of time — time to listen, engage, ponder and offer your own insights on nurturing ecological identity. You are invited to engage with Ann Pelo, Monique Lavallee and Jackie Ryan to consider the view of child in the context of ecological identity and Children’s Lands, an international initiative that acknowledges the important role children have as caretakers of the environment. In the spirit of a view of educator as contributor and co-constructer of knowledge, this day includes democratic participation in “conversation circles.” Provoked by the presentations of our keynote speakers, participants will engage in group conversations and generate ideas, comments and questions which will be folded into a discussion with Ann, Monique and Jackie. Join us for an emergent conference experience, in unhurried time.

Saturday March 1st
Sketch of the Day
Registration & coffee
Welcome & Announcements
Keynote by Ann Pelo
Tea break
Conversation Circles
Lunch
Keynote by Monique Lavallee & Jackie Ryan
Tea break
Response from keynote speakers to comments/questions generated in the Conversation Circles
Wrap up

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