



December 2018

Dear Network Colleagues

As the year draws to a close, Linda and Judy would like to wish each of you a very happy holiday and the very best for a wonderful year of learning, curiosity and new adventures in inquiry in 2019.

This has been an extraordinary year for the Networks. So much has happened, so much growth has taken place, and so many thousands of young people have been positively influenced by the efforts of Network educators both in BC and beyond. Here is just a quick glimpse back at what has taken place – and a sneak preview of what lies ahead.

AESN TRANSITION STUDY

The final report on improving transitions for Indigenous learners is nearing completion. This has been a very important piece of work and we are deeply grateful to Catherine McGregor and her grad students at U Vic for leading the research study. Debbie Leighton Stephens' facilitation of the schools and her work as a coach and with the other coaches – Andrea Davidson, Lynne Tomlinson and Heidi Wood – helped move this work forward in a wise and substantive way. We have all learned a great deal through this process and we know you will find the final report and the companion guide for schools both highly interesting and very useful. ***Being, Becoming and Belonging*** have emerged as central themes in improving transitions for Indigenous learners and the case studies of the ten schools involved all illustrate their importance.

At the FNEESC conference in November, Heidi Wood and Jana Fox presented a workshop about the Transition Study and they summarized the findings beautifully.

Re-examining Transitions

Transitions are holistic & embedded in all life experiences, not just school transition points.

Supporting students in transitions requires us to re-imagine learners engaged in a journey of being, becoming, & belonging.

Andy Everson
Northwest Coast Artist

10 Transitions Teams

Ballenas Secondary School, <i>Parksville</i>	Gudengaay Tlaats'gaa Naay Secondary School, Masset
Charles Hays Secondary School, Prince Rupert	Peace River North Secondary School & partner <i>middle schools, Fort St. John</i>
Dover Bay Secondary School, Nanaimo	Smithers Secondary School, <i>Smithers</i>
Eke Me-Xi Learning Centre, <i>Port Hardy</i>	South Okanagan Secondary School, Oliver
Frank Hurt Secondary School, Surrey	WL Seaton Secondary, <i>Vernon</i>

The final step in this phase of the transition study is the development of a short companion guide for schools interested in improving the experiences of their learners at key transition points. This guide, along with a poster highlighting the key findings will be completed early in the New Year and will be provided to everyone attending the NOIIE symposium in May. But this is not the end, rather it is just the beginning.

NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR TRANSITION FOCUSED SCHOOLS

With the support of the Irving K Barber Learning Centre at UBC, we are pleased to offer the opportunity for a second cohort of secondary schools to focus their inquiries over the next two years on improving transitions for their Indigenous learners by applying some of the lessons learned from the first group of schools. Jana Fox from Bulkley Valley has agreed to coordinate this initiative and has made initial contact with all BC superintendents to let them know about this opportunity. Jana will be sending out information in January about how schools can apply to be involved. These schools will be meeting face to face at the May symposium and each school will be working with a network leader serving as an inquiry coach throughout the process.

NAME CHANGE: NOIIE – LINKS AND CONNECTIONS

At the meeting of Network leaders in October, there was a lively discussion and consensus about the timing to combine NOII and AESN into one connected network under the umbrella term Networks of Inquiry and Indigenous Education. You will see we already have a new twitter handle @noiie and our [facebook page](#) also reflects the name change. And on that, thanks to Jody Billingsley, Jennifer Delvecchio, Sarah Lockman and Angela Stott for maintaining our social media presence.

REGIONAL MEETINGS

We know the importance of getting together face to face at least a couple of times a year and really appreciate that local meetings are taking place in a range of places in a variety of ways. Sometimes it might be three or four schools getting together to share ideas and strategies. In other cases, more formal opportunities are being organized for school teams to connect. Regardless of how it is happening, we appreciate all the efforts network leaders are making to connect and support schools.



We were pleased to be able to attend a large gathering in Comox in November and are looking forward to the Ignite evening planned for January in Vancouver.

As you can, please let us know of gatherings you have planned. If at all possible, we would like to support network leaders from across regions to have the chance to participate in a variety of events – and if you can send us photos and/or a short write up about what took place, that would be great.

SYMPOSIUM MAY 9-11 *DOING WHAT MATTERS MOST*

The annual symposium is a key opportunity for all NOIIE educators to share new learning, dive more deeply into inquiry and to reconnect with old friends and meet new colleagues. This year's program is going to focus on ACTION – the kinds of action that make a significant difference to learners and their learning. Be ready for engaging speakers, challenging Ignite sessions, fast paced flash chats and school presentations designed to extend our thinking about what is possible.


With an emphasis on nature and science, assessment for learning, practice analysis conversations, place based learning and Indigenous understandings – there is an exciting array of speakers and presentations. We are pleased that Dr. Scott Sampson, the CEO of Science World and the author of [How to Raise a Wild Child](#) will be joining us. For a sneak preview, check out this [You Tube](#) clip.

You will also have a chance to meet and learn from [Chris DeLuca](#) from Queen's University and Lorna Earl – a good friend to NOIIE for several decades. Chris is leading a SSHRC grant application to connect every province and territory in Canada through an inquiry network focused on deepening assessment for learning practices using the spiral of

inquiry as the linking strategy. Lorna is the author of [Assessment AS Learning](#) and is currently the president of CAFLN (Canadian Assessment for Learning Network).

Through our work with the Whole Education Network in England, we have become aware of some very creative work being done by two educators and film makers in Finland with a focus on teaching global citizenship through immersive human stories. We are delighted that Serdar Ferit and Paulina Tervo will be sharing their work at the symposium. This is the first chance for Canadian educators to experience [Lyfta](#) and we think you will be impressed with the potential - and with the timeliness of this opportunity.

MAY 9 FULL DAY SEMINAR WITH HELEN TIMPERLEY



SAVE THE DATE

“DOING WHAT MATTERS MOST”

A symposium sponsored by the Networks of Inquiry and Indigenous Education (NOIIE)

MAY 9, 2019 – PRE-SYMPOSIUM
MAY 10 & 11, 2019 – SYMPOSIUM

WESTIN WALL CENTRE, VANCOUVER AIRPORT
3099 CORVETTE WAY, RICHMOND, BC

Focusing on **INQUIRY, INDIGENOUS EDUCATION, ASSESSMENT FOR LEARNING** and **NATURE**, events will include:

- SPEAKERS from around the globe.
- SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS showcasing case studies of inquiry in action.
- IGNITE sessions inspiring with passion and creativity.
- FLASH CHATS providing a chance for all participants to share actions that matter most and make a difference.

Registration opens January 2019
www.noi.ca/symposium

Stay connected:
www.noi.ca | [@noie_bc](https://twitter.com/noie_bc) | www.facebook.com/noiebc

All of us in NOIIE are familiar with the world class research of Helen Timperley connected to teacher professional learning. Helen’s work has had an enormous influence on our learning and our collaboration with Helen in the design of the spiral of inquiry is one of the professional highlights of our careers so far.

Recently, Helen has been working closely with schools in New Zealand and Australia on the kinds of practice analysis conversations that help educators develop adaptive expertise. Helen will be back with us in May for the symposium and she will be offering the pre-symposium seminar on her work with challenging professional conversations. The seminar itself will be limited to 100 participants with first seats going to NOIIE leaders.

Make sure to plan your travel accordingly as this will be a unique opportunity to learn from one of the best in the world. There is no fee for NOIIE leaders – this is our way of thanking you for your contributions to the networks.

NOIIE SOCIAL MAY 9

What's a network without a chance to network?? Once again, we are happy to host a social the afternoon of May 9 for all NOIIE leaders, speakers, school presenting teams and our current and former grad students. Stay tuned for details!

BC SCHOOL GRANTS

Thanks to the generosity of the IKBLC and the BCPVPA through the publication of *Spirals of Inquiry*, we were able to provide recognition grants to BC public schools this fall for making their learning visible through their case studies. In addition to saying YES as a key Network norm, so too is saying thank you. These grants are simply our way of saying thank you for your hard work and your generosity in sharing your learning.

INQUIRING DISTRICTS RESEARCH – BOOK CHAPTER COMING UP

For the past three years, Dr. Catherine McGregor has been working with a group of district leaders in BC who are committed to professional inquiry as a catalyst for change and also committed to learning from and with each other. Catherine is currently working on a chapter for a forthcoming book that will include detailed case studies from Delta School District and Coast Mountains School District. Here is a snippet from the abstract:

This chapter will focus on the work of a dynamic, networked group of district leaders from the British Columbia (BC) school system devoted to the exploration of inquiry based professional learning (Halbert & Kaser, 2013). The chapter will begin by detailing features of the network and how it operates. It will then outline how the network thrives by continually engaging in cycles of inquiry and in ongoing, reciprocal discussions around outcomes and purpose. An important aspect of discussion will be how PLN's accelerate innovation and change.

We will let you know as soon as the publication is released and we are confident that it will make a strong contribution to the research on district change.

INTERNATIONAL UPDATES

The ways in which NOIIE and the spiral of inquiry are taking hold in a range of jurisdictions is sometimes a bit mind boggling. Who would have imagined that when we first met at the Surrey Conference Centre that what started with a group of keen schools

in BC would now include schools in the Yukon, Manitoba, England, NSW, Queensland, The Northern Territories, New Zealand, Sweden, Barcelona, China and Wales as well as a refugee camp in Kenya?

We have had the good fortune of visiting schools in almost every one of these jurisdictions and every time we visit, we leave feeling like we have met with the very best educators imaginable. Despite our language, policy and cultural differences, what unites us is our commitment to the big NOIE goals:

- EVERY learner crossing the stage with dignity, purpose and options.
- EVERY learner leaving our settings more curious than when they arrive.
- ALL learners gaining an understanding of and respect for Indigenous ways of knowing, and
- Through our collective efforts, eliminating racism in schools

Here are a few short snippets of what is happening:

ICSEI 2019 Stavenger Norway – We are excited that on January 10, network leaders from Australia, Canada, England, Sweden and Barcelona will be meeting face to face for the first time in a joint workshop where we will be sharing how networks of schools in our different jurisdictions are applying the spiral of inquiry to change the learning outcomes for young people.

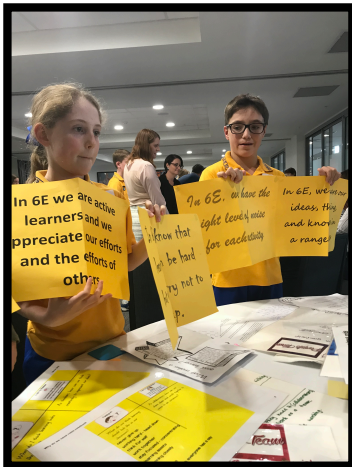
NSW, Queensland and Northern Territories

The work in Australia – across the states on NSW, Queensland and the Northern Territories is exciting, promising and showing impact. David Sim has been a key part of NOIE since he first attended a BC symposium in 2015. Since then he and his colleague Natalie Mansour have hosted study tours to BC, formed a powerful network hub in Western Sydney with their colleagues Haillie Baxter and Michael Newcombe, hosted two extremely successful symposia, and have been honoured with an Award of Excellence by the Australian Council of Education for their efforts. Just recently David's school, Lurnea Public School was acknowledged as the most value adding primary school of 800 schools in their region. We are so happy to be welcoming the NSW team back to BC this spring and appreciate their generosity in supporting other networks across Australia.



In Queensland, David Turner, Zoe Smith and Vicki Baker are leading the way in creating a strong network of inquiring schools. At their symposium in June, it was especially great to see students sharing their learning with confidence. Vicki was part of a study tour to BC in 2017 and commented that their visit to Vancouver Island North and the work in BC

around Indigenous education was transformational. We were fortunate to be able to visit both Vicki and Zoe's school – and look forward to welcoming Zoe to the symposium in Vancouver this May.



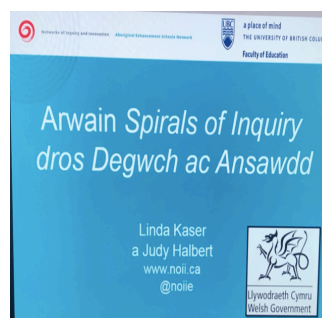
The QLD symposium was preceded with a two-day inquiry institute where we met a superb group of educators from the Northern Territories. Since then, a network has been launched, connections have been made with the NOIIE team in NSW, visits have taken place and Jackie Roberts will be flying to Norway to be part of the workshop at ICSEI. We have learned NEVER to underestimate the capacity of school leaders to create significant change!

The Northern Territory Team



Wales

In October we had the opportunity as part of an OECD initiative in Wales to introduce Spirals of Inquiry to senior policy makers and principals from across the country. It was a pleasure to work with Marco Kools, Beatriz Pont and Louise Stoll – and presenting in a castle was a novel experience. The commitment of the Welsh



government to preserving language and culture - and to developing schools as learning organizations in Wales was truly impressive.

New Zealand

Some of you met Rebecca Sweeney at the 2017 symposium where she and her colleague Suzi Gould shared their work in developing Catalyst, a board game based on the Spiral of Inquiry. Since then Rebecca has been working with a wide range of schools and has developed a series of resources connected to the stages of the spiral. Rebecca has agreed to share these with NOIIE leaders and we will send you some links in the New Year. We appreciate the generosity – and the thoughtfulness – that has gone into these materials. In the meantime, please check out Rebecca's [blog](#) – it is filled with powerful ideas and resources.

Sweden



Twenty years ago when we were doctoral students, we met a terrific educator from Sweden. Lillemor Renhberg was a school principal at the time. Since then she has gone on to develop a leadership program at Uppsala University. Two years ago, she brought a team of Swedish educators to BC and through school visits in Richmond, she became aware of the spiral of inquiry. Since then, she attended a spirals launch in London with the Whole Education Network, translated the Spiral playbook into Swedish, invited us to present a two day introductory session for 100 school leaders, came to the symposium in BC last May – and in January, prior to ICSEI we will be meeting with 1000 principals and community leaders

in Hudiksvall. Lillemor knows how to make things happen! What she didn't do was warn us about translation challenges. When we spoke about BC, the Swedes thought we were talking about Before Christ. This made for quite a few laughs!

Barcelona

This fall Professor Antoni Badia from the Open University in Barcelona has been in BC exploring the ways in which teachers move from telling forms of teaching to inquiring forms. It has been a pleasure to have Antoni here and the English language resources he is developing will be shared across the networks. The Barcelona network includes 300 schools and we are looking forward to reconnecting with Begonya Martinez and her Catalan colleagues at ICSEI. We know we will all learn a lot from the thoughtful ways in which these schools have been approaching the scanning process.

China

When Jacalyn Kersey, a long time network leader from Vernon accepted the position of assistant superintendent of the Maple Leaf Foreign Nationals Schools in Dalian China, she did not expect that at her very first principals' meeting she would be engaged in a discussion about the spiral of inquiry with Jeff Laing, one of our VIU grad students. From this chance encounter NOIIE China has begun. Please check out this article that appeared in Adminfo about '[Spiralling in China.](#)'

England

Our connection with the [Whole Education Network](#) (WEN) in England is now in its fifth



WEN schools sharing at showcase event in September

year and it is deeply gratifying to see the ways in which the spiral initiative is taking hold and expanding across the country. Initially the focus in WEN was on narrowing the gap for disadvantaged learners. Currently WEN schools are exploring important issues across a range of topics with plans developing for a focus on the alarming number of young people who are excluded from school altogether. This article from [The Guardian](#) describes the complexity and enormity of the problem. Working with the committed, dedicated and passionate educators in WEN is a real privilege and we are very pleased that Rosie Leonard Kane will be part of the team at ICSEI and will also be bringing a study group to BC this May.

FINAL THOUGHTS...

As we head into the holiday season, we want to express our gratitude to all of you for your commitment to making the world a better place through education. We are gratified to work with each of you and wish you all the very best for health, happiness, curiosity, teamwork and impact in 2019. Oh, and if you are wondering what's currently on our reading list check these out.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Judy & Linda