

TO: Alberta CEC Membership
SUBJECT: January 2009 Newsletter (Volume 1:1)



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to all of the hope and anticipation inspired by the start of a New Year!

The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) is the largest international professional organization dedicated to improving the educational success of individuals with disabilities and/or gifts and talents. CEC advocates for appropriate governmental policies, sets professional standards, provides professional development, advocates for individuals with exceptionalities, and helps professionals obtain conditions and resources necessary for effective professional practice. The focus of Alberta CEC is to extend the services provided on an international basis through to ensuring relevancy and applicability for the education of students within Alberta. With the dissolution of the Canadian CEC and the very significant loss within the Alberta CEC of a president who was in many ways the backbone of the Alberta CEC, 2009 presents itself as an opportunity for Renewal, Revitalization and Re-energizing. I look forward to this upcoming year with anticipation of growth in Alberta CEC including a new and dynamic executive, increased initiatives and services for its members and more individualized contact to find out how we can maximize the benefits – ultimately for the success of the exceptional students, families and colleagues with whom we work.

ALBERTA CEC EXECUTIVE

Dwaine Souveny, Acting President, dsouveny@wolfcreek.ab.ca 403 318 4415

Don Noble, secretary/treasurer

Robert St.Onge, Member at large

Aka Papish, Member at large, Representative Assembly delegate

Brenda Fitzner, Membership Chair, bfitzner@telusplanet.net 403 782 1488

Calling for new executive members!

Dwaine and Brenda are eager to initiate revitalization of the Alberta membership, by increasing our membership, and by seeking new executive members. Do step forward if you would like to be part of the Alberta CEC executive; let us know by phone or email.

Please share information with colleagues who may be interested in CEC membership. For details, click on *Membership* at the CEC website: www.cec.sped.org

Please give us your feedback...

Let us know how the Alberta CEC unit can effectively serve its members by offering your suggestions and ideas. We are brainstorming long range plans for an **Alberta CEC conference in 2010**, and would welcome your thoughts and inspirations. Of course we will need presenters and volunteers for the event! Let us know if you would like to help out.

NEWS BULLETIN: CCEC Dissolved

Canadian CEC (CCEC) was a founding partner with the CEC since its inception in 1922. After thoughtful consideration and significant discussion, a national delegation representing the CCEC made the decision to dissolve the CCEC as of December 31, 2008. The cost of financing a national non-profit organization had made it difficult to continue. Through the dedication, commitment and skill of this board, the CCEC has successfully represented children and youth with exceptionalities for over 80 years at both national and international levels. Although CCEC has dissolved, the Canadian voice will still be represented. The provincial CEC units continue to follow the mandates of the international board as applied for the services for individuals within their provinces. Furthermore, on an international basis, Canada is represented on a US/Canada Working Group and there is a motion to establish a Canada/US Standing Committee. Canada has a Member-at-Large on the CEC board of directors and each of the applicable provinces provide Representative Assembly delegates. A Canadian Caucus meeting is planned for the next CEC conference in Seattle.

CEC CONVENTION & EXPO, Seattle, April 1-4, 2009

Mark your calendar for the April 1- 4 CEC 2009 Convention & Expo to take place in Seattle. Go to www.cec.sped.org for the latest information. Look for the registration discount offered to CEC members, and note that early birds receive a significant discount for registering prior to January 12.

COGNITIVE-BEHAVIOURAL COACH TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Dwaine Souveny, on behalf of Dynamic Developments Psychological Services, is offering a 10% discount on Cognitive-Behavioural Coach Training to members of Alberta CEC. The dates for the Coach training are 1) training for consultants, therapists and counsellors on May 1 & 2 2009 and 2) training for educational personnel including administrators, teachers, and Educational Support personnel on July 6-10. Please contact Dynamic Development at dynamicdevelopment@shaw.ca or call 403-391-1459 for details.

RESOLUTION HONOURING DR. MICHAEL C. PYRYT

WHEREAS, Dr. Michael Christopher Pyryt was a dedicated teacher and a distinguished scholar in the field of gifted education; as director of the Centre for Gifted Education at the University of Calgary, he was a driving force in the awareness and development of gifted education locally, provincially, nationally and internationally;

WHEREAS, Dr. Pyryt was a mentor and advisor whose wisdom was highly sought by countless individuals and organizations;

WHEREAS, Dr. Pyryt's research contributed to our understanding of gifted students' self-perceptions and social development, he was generous with his wisdom; his academic and professional contributions are numerous. He published extensively in the field of gifted education since the 1970s, contributing as an author, reviewer and editor to publications such as the *Journal for the Education of the Gifted*, *The Handbook for Gifted Education*, the *International Journal of Special Education*, *Roeper Review*, *Exceptional Education Canada*, *Gifted Child Quarterly* and *Keeping In Touch*, the Canadian Council for Exceptional Children's own newsletter. He also presented at conferences for scholars, educators and parents around the world and helped to organize local events such as SAGE Conferences and the Dabrowski symposia;

WHEREAS, Dr. Pyryt was a member of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) for 30 years and served as a Board Member on the Canadian Council for Exceptional Children between 2000-2008; he was a strong supporter, advocate and contributor to services for individuals with exceptional needs from direct services through to governmental policy within his own province of Alberta, holding a variety of positions on the Executive of the Alberta CEC Unit including his most recent position as President. His impact was felt throughout Alberta, Canada and anywhere else his travels may have taken him;

WHEREAS, Dr. Pyryt was a member of the Association for the Gifted (TAG) and was the Canadian Delegate on the Executive of the Association for the Gifted from 2003-2006;

WHEREAS, Dr. Pyryt could always be relied upon to volunteer for and complete undertakings with deep care and commitment. He enriched the lives of all who were blessed to have known him and will truly be missed. Without him, we shall have to work just a little harder, with a greater sense of determination, to ensure his concern for the development of gifted potential will thrive.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council for Exceptional Children, during the Annual Meeting of the Council's Representative Assembly in Boston, Massachusetts, the 05 day of April, 2008, and on behalf of the Canadian Council for Exceptional Children, the Alberta CEC Unit, the Association for the Gifted and all special educators around the world, convey deep appreciation and profound admiration for Dr. Pyryt's enduring contributions in advancing the quality of life for individuals with exceptionalities.