

# Towards comprehensive and competent early childhood educational systems across Canada:

## Entangled stories

### Panel Presenters:

*Jane Hewes (Thompson Rivers)*

*Pam Whitty (UNB)*

*Monica Lysack (Sheridan)*

*Esther Maeers (Regina)*

*Christine Massing (Regina)*

*Alexandra Paquette (UQAM)*

*Tricia Lirette (MacEwan)*

*Laura Doan (Thompson Rivers)*

*Joanne Lehrer (UQO)*

*Iris Berger (UBC)*

*Mari Pighini (UBC)*

*Emily Ashton (Regina)*





# Meandering Conversations

How does change happen?

What makes things change?

Change had happened – and at a  
snail's pace

The change we knew most intimately –  
pedagogical/curricular/advocacy/activism

## Three Events

- June 10, 2020 – webinar  
*Moving forward with uncertainty: The pandemic as déclencheur*
- Nov. 21, 2020 – webinar  
*Early childhood educators sketching narratives of change: Gestures and situated responses to the potential of a pan-Canadian ECEC system.*

- Upcoming Symposium:  
*International-Indigenous insights: Possibilities for Canada*

Project Website:  
<https://ecenarratives.opened.ca>

## Pan-federalism including colonialism as an overarching narrative in Canada

With this project:

- what are the narratives?
- how do they work?
- how can we seek them out and listen?
- how might we theorize?

Format:

- moving online
- weekly meetings

## Today...

We begin with the world of the snail.

Shift to that of policy advisors, activists – longstanding and newer narratives.

And then to educators – working throughout the pandemic online and face to face – everyday stories.

We close with snail as metaphor for desire in ECE.



# Discursive Shiftings and Narrative Entanglings

Presenters:

*Jane Hewes (Thompson Rivers)*

*Pam Whitty (UNB)*

*Monica Lysack (Sheridan)*

*Esther Maeers (Regina)*



Let's visit  
the world  
of the  
snail...



# Kakivak increases childcare funding to almost \$2.3 million annually

by Nunavut News October 7, 2020

# Ontario, federal governments give \$234.6M in new funding for child care

By Michelle McQuigge · The Canadian Press  
Posted August 7, 2020 9:02 am · Updated August 7, 2020 3:25 pm

# Remains of 215 children found buried at former B.C. residential school, First Nation says



Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc say ground-penetrating radar was used to locate remains

CBC News - Posted: May 27, 2021 9:58 PM PT | Last Updated: May 29



# Macklem points to child care, education to help ease protracted employment recovery

By Jordan Press, The Canadian Press — Feb 23 2021



# Education workers left out of child care provision during Ontario's coronavirus lockdown: union

By Holly McKenzie-Sutter · The Canadian Press  
Posted January 1, 2021 11:47 am · Updated January 1, 2021 3:16 pm

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## Lack of child-care spaces could stall local economy, chamber tells city council



# Opinion: Children's needs are universal and federal daycare plan can help meet them

Needs of children are not determined by political geography, writes Verda Petry.

Verda Petry  
May 05, 2021 · May 5, 2021 · 3 minute read ·  Join the conversation



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## Child care key to women's recovery from economic impacts of COVID-19: report

Tara Deschamps  
The Canadian Press Staff  
Contact

Published Wednesday, September 9 2020 9:28AM EDT  
Last Updated Wednesday, September 9 2020 12:07PM EDT

# ECEC in the News

# Snail Damage



“...bringing us along with you.”

Honourable Maryam Monsef, Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Rural Economic Development, June 10, 2020



Discursive shiftings... and narrative entanglings

Conflictual? Cooperative? Or conflictual-cooperation?

“Complexity Inertia”

The women who get it done



# “Please don’t stop.”

Honourable Maryam Monsef, Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Rural Economic Development, June 10, 2020



Colonial theory of change locates power and control entirely  
outside of the community.

Eve Tuck – February 2019

Indigenous Feminist Theorizing & Reluctant Theories of Change:

I do not want to haunt you but I will.

Once Shi-shi-etko arrives at school she won't see her parents for many months or even years, she will lose her traditional name, and she will be forced to speak English – a language she doesn't even know. *Nicola I. Campbell*

For a long time, the Canadian government... made laws forcing children as young as four, although generally between the ages of five and six, to go to residential school to learn European culture and religion. Parents were put in jail if they didn't send their children to these schools.

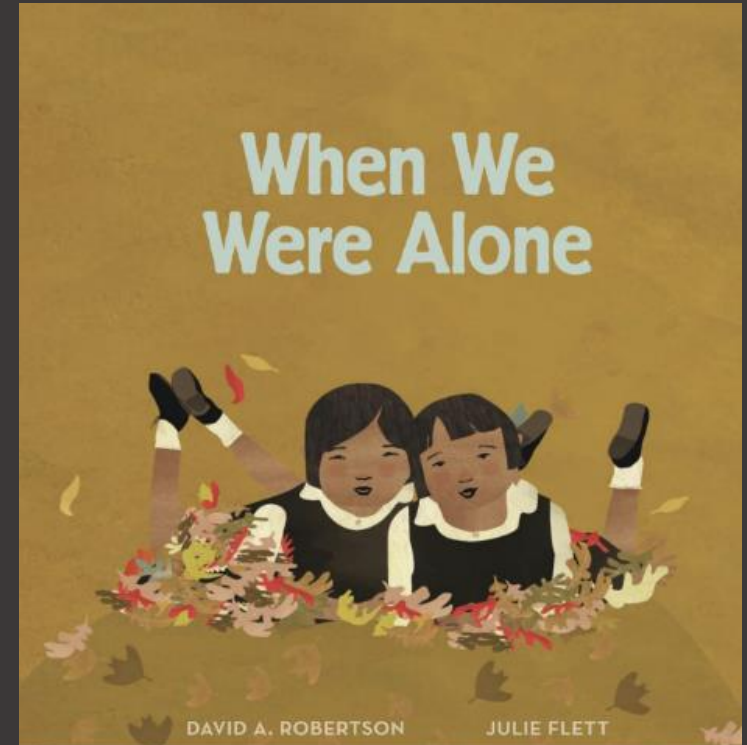
*Can you imagine a community without children?  
Can you imagine children without parents?*



# First Nation Tkemlúps te Secwepemc

“We had a knowing in our community that we were able to verify. To our knowledge, these missing children are undocumented deaths,” Casimir said. “Some were as young as three years old. We sought out a way to confirm that knowing out of deepest respect and love for those lost children and their families, understanding that Tk’emlúps te Secwépemc is the final resting place of these children.”

*Chief Rosanne Casimir - 27 May, 2021, CBC News*







**“that all of our children be rich with diversity & free from oppression”**

**Margo Greenwood (2020)**

# Competing narratives

Webinar #1, June 10th 2020

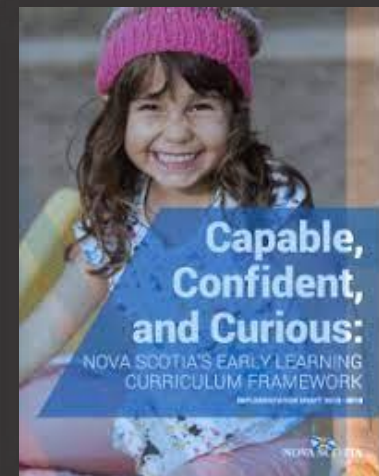
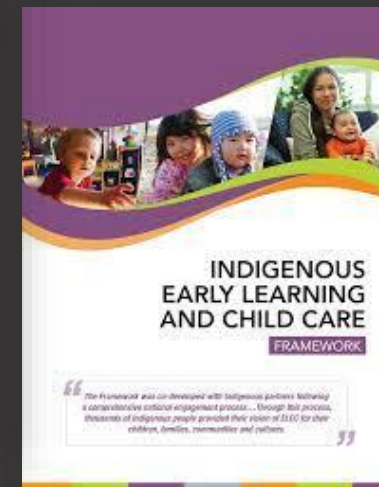
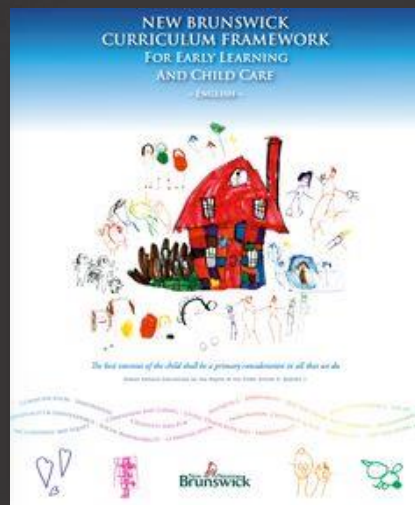
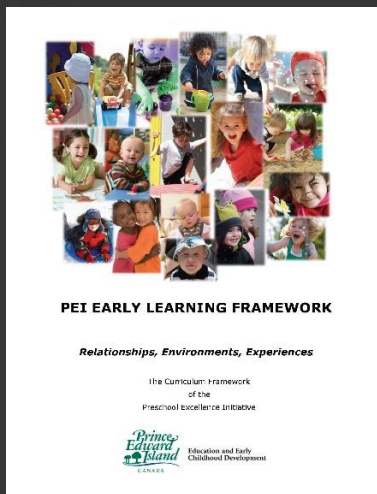
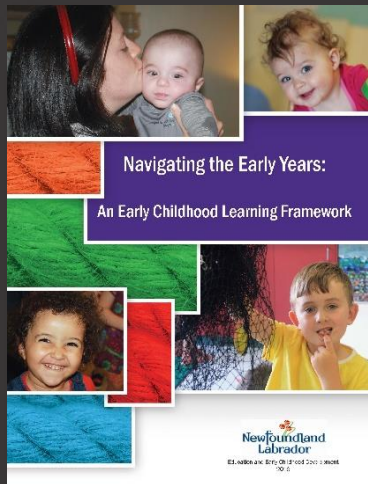
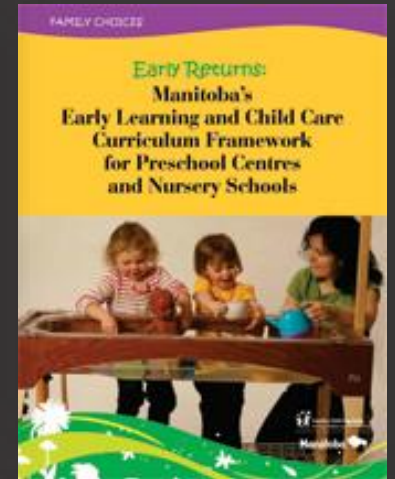
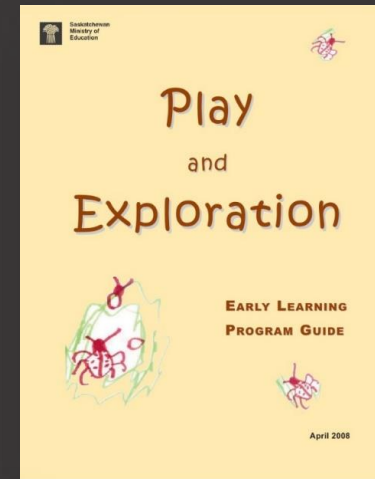
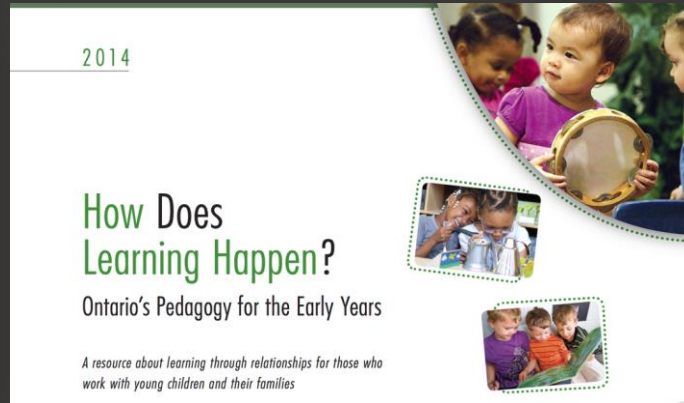
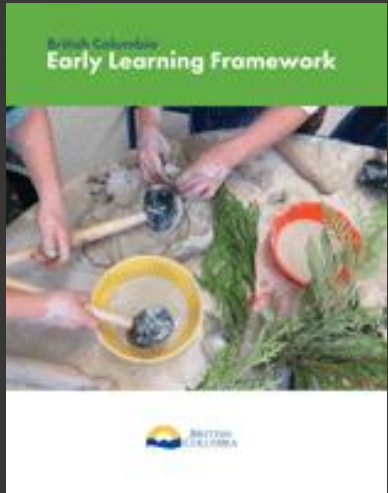


*Martha Friendly*

“The challenge really is in putting these things into some kind of a picture – What is it that we want in a system and how do we make that happen at multiple levels?

The question is how does everybody fit in?”

Where do they fit?



**New narratives...**

“What if we create a new discourse about ECEC? What if we move the narrative beyond ECEC as an “essential service” for the economy and focus on children, early childhood educators (who are more than a workforce), the role of ECEC in community and the unique ECEC pedagogy?” *Iris Berger, webinar chat*

# Pulling together the threads



“I think we can think about all of these different facets of early childhood education and care - from the perspective of parents, children, the workforce, for the economy, for gender equality, for health, social solidarity... I think we can pull that together.”

*Monica Lysack*



Discursive Shiftings and  
Narrative Entanglings

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