

NATIONAL NETWORK LINKS CANADA'S BEST EARLY CHILD DEVELOPMENT RESEARCHERS

In March 2008, 14 of Canada's leading researchers of early child development committed to work closely together for at least the next 7 years.

Known as the Strategic Knowledge Cluster on Early Child Development, the network will make sure that parents, educators, community group leaders, and government policy makers have information about how children develop between pregnancy and the first day of school. This task takes on particular importance given the well-documented links of positive, nurturing experiences early in life with later success, and given the context of the National Children's

Agenda (NCA) adopted several years ago by federal and provincial ministers to support the healthy development of children.

The Cluster has received almost \$300,000 per year from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) and \$100,000 from both *Université Laval* and *Université de Montréal*, along with in-kind contributions from groups within universities located across the country (University of Alberta, University of British Columbia, University of Calgary, McMaster University, University of New Brunswick, University of Ottawa, Queens University, University of Toronto, and University of Western Ontario). Collaboration is also expected from more than 20 nonacademic, private organizations and

international and national governmental agencies specialized in the field.

Plans to convey information include an annual conference to bring researchers, students, and partners' organizations to meet face to face. Knowledge mobilization work will also take the form of review papers, policy briefs, and consultations, all under the coleadership of Michel Boivin from *Université Laval* and Richard E. Tremblay from *Université de Montréal*. Both hold Canada Research Chairs in child development and can be counted on to foster collaboration across Canada while nurturing international research associations that will extend the network beyond national borders. 🐾

BY TRACEY ARIAL

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The CEECD identifies and summarizes the best scientific work on social and emotional development of young children and makes this information available to service planners, service providers and policy-makers.

The Centre's partners are Université de Montréal, Fondation Lucie et André Chagnon, Alberta Centre for Child, Family and Community Research, CHU Sainte-Justine Research Center, Strategic Knowledge Cluster on Early Child Development, George Brown College, Canadian Association of School Administrators, Canadian Paediatric Society, Montreal Children's Hospital, Canadian Child Care Federation, University of British Columbia, McGill University, Institut national de santé publique du Québec, Dalhousie University, IWK Health Centre, Centre de Psycho-Éducation du Québec, Queen's University, First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Health and Social Services Commission, Invest in Kids, Canadian Association of Principals.

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