

Mapping the Canadian ED Landscape: Demographics and Practices of Post-Secondary Educational Development Centres: Phase II

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The purpose of Phase II of this collaborative national study is to continue to collect data from educational development (ED) centres across Canada, moving the project forward to incorporate data from most of the ED centres, resulting in the most comprehensive data collection of its kind.

Phase I data collection questions encompass a wide range of centre activities and practices (39 questions in total). Website data collection includes centre name, history, staffing, location (both physical and organizational), budget, reporting structure, activities and programs, mission/goals, awards, grants, and research and other initiatives. To date, data on nearly 40 university and college centres has been collected. This information has been returned to Centre Directors for verification, and to invite them to add data not typically found on websites, including institutional relationships, procedures for planning activities, innovations promoted by the unit, assessment practices, and exemplary practices. Anecdotally, participating centres have indicated benefits to compiling their data, seeing the summary of their own data, and having information from other centres.

Our research assistant has just added nearly 20 more centres to this database; further centre website data will be sent to centre directors for verification.

The collection of this information serves four purposes:

- Provide information on activities and exemplary practices to inform the ED community
- Provide information on ED centres' research on their own practices.
- Provide feedback on ED centres' website information dissemination, making recommendations for areas typically under-represented on websites.
- Within the context of the history of ED in Canada, by studying ED centres' recent growth, attempt to anticipate future directions, including what national initiatives might support those directions.

Although we acknowledged that building a complete database is beyond the scope of the EDC grants, we do expect to be able to provide a searchable database to the EDC for posting on the website, thanks to the efforts of both the project RA and input from Michael Li, a coop student at the University of Waterloo. We expect this stage will be completed by April, 2010.

We have yet to survey the centres to examine the short-term impact of this project to validate anecdotal comments of usefulness, but anticipate doing that during the grant period, and also to interview 2-3 key developers re: summarizing the past and anticipating the future. A further journal article is still in preparation on the literature review. We anticipate completing these in spring/summer 2010.

2008-2009 Grant

Conference Presentations

Simmons, N., Cassidy, A., Kustra, E., McPherson, A., Potter, M., Rodgers, R., Scrimger, A. (2009). *The Ebb and Flow of Canadian Educational Development Practices*. Presented at the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (STLHE) conference, Fredericton, June.

Simmons, N., Kustra, E., Potter, M., Rodgers, R., Scrimger, A., & Wolstenholme, J. (2009). *An evolving landscape: demographics and practices of Canadian educational development (ED) centres*. Presented at the Educational Developers' Caucus (EDC) conference, Oshawa, February.

2009-2010 Grant to Date

Conference Presentations

Simmons, N., Cassidy, A., Kustra, E., Macpherson, A., Potter, M., Rodgers, R., Scrimger, A., & Wilson, M. (2010). *ED Website A, B, C, D: A Bridge for Cross-Cultural Dialogue?* Presented at the Educational Developers' Caucus (EDC) conference, Kamloops, BC, February.

Publication

Simmons, N. (accepted). Canadian Educational Development (ED) websites: More ebb than flow? *Collected Essays on Learning and Teaching, 3*.