

## **The Educational Developers Caucus (EDC) Corner**

*Nicola Simmons, EDC Chair*

The EDC is a diverse, collegial community that shares ideas and resources informally in support of educational development across Canada. We provide professional development opportunities for members – conferences, Resource Bulletins, and new this year, our first Educational Developers Institute in February. In addition, we provide grants in support of teaching and learning. Visit the Caucus at [www.edcaucus.com](http://www.edcaucus.com)

### **EDC Conference**

EDC members were enthusiastic about their experience at this year's conference in Sault Ste. Marie, the conference theme of Deep Learning, and Ken Bain's keynote. Some highlights noted by participants included:

I thought the calibre of sessions was very high. Those I attended were very thought provoking and really left me wanting to follow up on many of the ideas raised.

Connections ... it is always reinvigorating to meet with colleagues struggling with the same issues as I am in my institution. There were some great sessions, with excellent discussions, and I commend the presenters for the quality of their contributions! I didn't have a bad session all conference (which is rare at most conferences)!!!

The quality of the sessions in terms of depth, engagement, discussion, and variety -- because I was far more engaged and excited about what was happening in these sessions than I have been in a long time. I enjoyed every session I attended, and I don't even know when the last time I felt that was might have been.

The pre-conference Institute set a thoughtful, welcoming tone, and I highly recommend repeating this in the future.

It was wonderful that the conference was held in a smaller center. I know this was a trade off since the cost made the trip prohibitive for many unable to attend from a greater distance. However, the smaller format resulted in a more intimate event.

There were more opportunities to connect with people repeatedly over the course of the conference, something more difficult when the numbers are greater.

The hosts provided a very warm welcome. Lovely to see something other than a large center host the conference.

I really enjoyed the conference this year--it was small and intimate, but highly informative and invigorating!! Well done!

### **The EDC Living Plan**

The EDC executive is looking forward to our May 2 retreat when we'll be revisiting the Living Plan (see <http://www.stlhe.ca/en/stlhe/constituencies/edc/documents.php>) and thinking about the best ways to move forward with initiatives we can implement on your behalf (and with your engagement!). Please contact me at [nesimmons@cogeco.ca](mailto:nesimmons@cogeco.ca) if there are ways you would like to be involved or things you would like to see your executive do.

Hope to see you at the STLHE annual conference – and at the EDC AGM!