

I would like to extend a warm welcome to those people who recently became new members of the EDC. One of the hallmarks of any good organization is its ability to keep experienced members interested and to attract new people who will take us forward in different ways. In this regard, it has been a dynamic year for us. It was wonderful to see so many new faces at our annual conference this past February in Vancouver examining the theme, “Spanning the Career of an Educational Developer.”

One of the trends I have recently noticed is the unprecedented number of job opportunities arising for educational developers in Canada. Since there is no established “professional qualification” conferring the status of educational developer upon us, this trend continues to highlight the crucial issue of how to attract new members to the profession and support their professional development and training. In short, how do we support and create the next generation?

This question made the theme of this year’s Conference particularly timely as the Opening Plenary began with a dynamic new team of scholars, with a fresh vision, studying pathways into our profession.

The Closing Plenary was presented by Gary Poole (Past-President, STLHE)—a person who knows better than anyone how to tell the story of educational development in Canada, and how to help us draw lessons from our history with wisdom and perspective. These speakers, and the many informative sessions and activities, encouraged us to think more creatively about the future—both individually and collectively.

Thank you to Christine Kurbis (Simon Fraser University) and Alice Macpherson (Kwantlen University College), along with their respective teams, for all their diligent work in bringing the Conference to us, in partnership with Alice Cassidy, EDC Executive Vice-Chair, Professional Development.

I am delighted to see EDC represented by an increasingly wider range of institutions, and that this year’s Conference partnership illustrated how much colleges, university colleges, and universities have in common when it comes to educational development. The Executive is currently entertaining proposals to host the 2009 conference. Email me at tdawson@uvic.ca if this is of interest to you.

Congratulations to Ruth Rogers (Durham College) and Jeanette McDonald (Wilfrid Laurier University), who have been elected to the Executive as Secretary and Vice-Chair, Communications. Congratulations also go to Janice MacMillan (Durham College), our Treasurer, for presenting a balanced budget ahead of the fiscal year—a real achievement.

I have begun to post my regular reports to the website. Please visit the EDC at www.mcmaster.ca/stlhe/edc.html

Teresa Dawson, EDC Chair
University of Victoria