

Department of Integrated Studies in Education (DISE)

# Annual Report, 2016



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## Introduction

The mission of the Department of Integrated Studies in Education remains to improve the quality of education in the formal (e.g. schools, colleges, universities), non-formal (e.g. NGOs) and informal (e.g. social media) sectors in Quebec, Canada, and internationally by working in partnership with educational organizations and related groups to identify and meet their evolving needs. This includes, of course, the research and community service required to fulfil this mission. In order to achieve and surpass these objectives and goals the Department is committed to: (1) educating effective teachers and educational leaders for organizations and groups engaged in education; (2) promoting scholarship in the areas of pedagogy, curriculum, assessment, literacy education, technology, educational policy and educational leadership; (3) providing expertise to the academic, professional, and international communities and; (4) engaging in policy research that engages with contemporary trends and developments associated with globalisation, particularly as these affect provincial and national issues. The Department makes a special contribution to the McGill academic community, the professional educational community, and the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) and its Indigenous partners (Cree, Inuit, Mohawk, Naskapi and Mi'gmaq). In all its programs, the Department is committed to excellence and innovation in its teaching, to the continuous updating of its programs, and to a high quality of student life..

## Academic staff

In 2016, DISE academic staff consisted of 4 Full Professors, 12.5 Associate Professors, 10 Assistant Professors, and 5 Faculty Lecturers (\*this excludes the 3 academic staff members who retired mid-year in 2016). There were no new academic hires in 2016 in the tenured or contract academic staff categories. In 2016, a total of 222 courses were offered and taught; 95 course lecturers were hired to teach our students over the winter, summer, and fall semesters while Faculty members took on the remainder of the teaching assignments. The course lecturer assignments continue to be a source of teaching opportunities to our own graduate students recruited based on strict criteria and guidelines. Our faculty and administrative staff continually and consistently strive to deliver excellent programs and provide support to our undergraduate and graduate students as well as the McGill community at large, including our many partnerships across the country in local partner schools, NGOs, community groups, as well as the education of indigenous teachers within indigenous schools and communities.

## Administrative support

The administrative team grew to include Ms. Deborah Vasconcellos, appointed as Administrative Coordinator for the First Nations & Inuit Education. In addition, two administrators were hired to provide support for, and funded by, the research grants of two top researchers in the Department. Ms. Mearon O'Brien was hired by Dr. Claudia Mitchell as Project Administrator, and Ms. Lara El Challah was hired by Dr. Shaheen Shareef as Project Administrator. These new administrative hires have provided much needed support to our administrative team now counting twelve members.

Our Graduate program offerings includes five areas of specialization with the Master of Arts in Teaching and Learning (MATL) four graduate Certificate programs, four Master of Arts programs as well as one Ph.D. program in Educational Studies (which has four streams: second language education, cultural and international education, math/science education, and education and society).

Due to a broader restructuring of the McGill library system, the Faculty of Education Library was dismantled in 2015. This space is now used as study space for our students and the renovation project, aptly named the multi-literacies lab, will begin construction in September 2017 with an estimated project completion date of April 2018. This newly revamped space will include teaching and student space.

## Research and Publications

DISE faculty members continued to be engaged in scholarly activities throughout 2016, publishing peer reviewed books, book chapters, edited volumes, and papers across a broad range of text-based and online media. This also included scholarly presentations at provincial, national and international conferences in their respective fields of expertise. As the figures since 2011 indicate, there has been a general upward trend in both these areas reflecting a gradual move away from a ‘normal school’ to a ‘research intensive’ culture within the Department.

Table 1: DISE Metrics on Scholarship

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Scholarly publications	78	107	83	90	90	109
Conference papers	125	196	141	163	148	179

Due to inconsistencies in funding patterns from year to year, the fact that funding for faculty research is obtained from a diverse range of peer and non-peer reviewed sources, including the Canadian Tri Council agencies, Ministry of Education, national and international NGOs etc., and that this can lead to double counting, data on faculty research funding is not presented here.

## Graduate Student funding

### Graduate Excellence Funding (GEF)

The total GEF funding for 2016-17 was \$459,320. This was used for Entrance Awards for new student & Department Awards. Over the same period graduate students in DISE secured a total of \$881,681 in external funding from tri-council agencies.

## Teaching and Learning (Undergraduate and Graduate)

### Program Directors

There have been several program director changes in 2016. The current program directors are as follows:

#### Undergraduate B.Ed Programs

Caroline Riches – Director of Undergraduate Programs, Associate Director, MA in Teaching and Learning

Sheryl Smith-Gilman – Assistant Director of Undergraduate Teacher Education Programs.

#### Undergraduate BA (Education) program

Naomi Nichols

#### Graduate Programs

Caroline Riches – Director, Teacher Education and Graduate MA Programs.

Lynn Butler-Kisber – Director, Graduate Certificates in Leadership.

Marta Kobiela – Graduate Program Director, PhD.

Lisa Starr – Assistant Program Director, MATL and Graduate Leadership Certificates.

#### Senior Academic Administrators

Fiona J. Benson – Director, Internships and Student Affairs, Undergraduate and Graduate Programs; Associate Director, MA in Teaching and Learning.

Eric Caplan – Director, Jewish Teaching Option.

Jim Howden – Director, Office of First Nations and Inuit Education.

Elizabeth Wood – Associate Dean, Academic Programs.

Steven Jordan – Chair, Department of Integrated Studies in Education (DISE)

## Undergraduate Programs

### Existing UG programs

All DISE Bachelor of Education programs lead to teacher certification in the province of Quebec.

We currently offer 12 undergraduate programs leading to a Bachelor of Education degree. These programs include the B.Ed. Kindergarten & Elementary (K/Elem) (Regular, First Nations and Inuit Education, Jewish Studies Option, Pédagogie de l'Immersion Française (PIF) Option); B.Ed. Secondary (Social Sciences, Science and Technology, Mathematics, English); B.Ed. Teaching English as a Second Language (Regular, Teaching Greek Language and Culture Option); B.Ed. Music Education; Concurrent B.Mus/B.Ed.

In 2016, we had 1,049 active undergraduate students during the winter semester, 463 during the summer semester, and 1,078 students during the fall semester. 280 students were newly admitted to our undergraduate programs for the fall of 2016 while over 270 students graduated during 2016 from our various undergraduate programs (breakdown – 218 in winter; 21 in summer; 33 in fall). As for our graduate programs, our enrolment for the winter, summer, and fall semesters was 574, 621, and 701 respectively. A total of 63 graduate students graduated from our various programs in 2016.

Work this year centered on development and support of teaching and coordination of programs and courses. A comprehensive review of all course syllabi was performed, to ensure inclusion of university and program level requirements (e.g. policy statements, guidelines and professional competencies) and to promote course coordination and coherence (Ministry of Education mandated 'l'approche programme'). With respect to program admissions, the Letter of Intent (LOI), now required as part of the admissions package for all B.Ed. programs, was reviewed and refined. The Undergraduate Program Director and Assistant Director also oversaw coordination of the English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT), an admission requirement for B.Ed. TESL and French Language Proficiency Test (FLPT), an admission requirement for B.Ed. Kindergarten and Elementary. EDEC 233 Indigenous Education was added to all programs.

### New Undergraduate program: BA (Education) Education in Global Contexts

Led by Dr Elizabeth Wood (Associate Dean, Academic Programs), the Department has completed the design and development of a new undergraduate program, the BA (Education) Education in Global Contexts. In 2016, following submission of the document to the Ministry, Dr. Naomi Nicholas, Assistant Professor in DISE was appointed Program Director.

The BA (Education) is a three-year, 90 credit program designed to prepare educators for non-school teaching environments, for example government, NGO, industry, or community environments. The focus is on providing students with a liberal education program, including foundations - courses in philosophy, psychology, diversity, assessment, and curriculum, for example - while also providing opportunities for students to develop competency in key 21st Century areas such as communication, imagination, identity, sustainability, and technology. In addition to coursework, program requirements include a summer co-op placement and research project bridging years two and three, and also must select a minor area of concentration that is reflective of their professional interests, choosing from psychology, management, international development, or entrepreneurship. The program is presently under review for Ministry approval, which we anticipate in time for the first cohort to begin in September 2018.

### Graduate Programs

Several programs were revised during the year to create alignment across all MA programs. All programs now have a thesis, a project and a course work option, except MA SLE which only has a thesis and coursework option.

The MA Education & Society non-thesis program was revised to add an additional 6-credit project, for a total of 12 credits of project work. This change allows eligible students to apply for scholarships. The MA Education & Society concentration in Math & Science was also revised to add a 12 credit project option making these students eligible to apply for scholarships. We have also added a coursework option and increased the complementary courses to add more flexibility for part time students. The new options were added with the goal of increasing enrollment in the concentration. The MA in Second Language Education was revised to add EDSL 627 to the required list in order to provide a more concentrated focus on Second Language Education. We have also created the EDSL 640 Language Awareness as a new course and added it to the complementary list. All MATL programs were revised to reschedule the first methods courses to occur in the semester prior to the first internship (rather than during it), with the

goal of better preparing students for the first internship and lessening their workload during it. We also added a subject-specific course for all subject areas and finally we have replaced EDSL 500-001 with EDTL 607 to provide a course dealing with Quebec education policy, language and legal issues and replaced EDEM 690 with EDEM 609 providing a more general introduction to educational research.

The eligibility requirements for the PhD program were revised and approved by the department. In order to receive feedback on the PhD program, we held 2 focus groups and sent a survey to PhD students, held a coffeehouse with faculty members and also sent a survey to them. The results from the sessions and surveys are being used to consider changes to coursework and streams for the PhD program. The PhD admissions deadline was moved from January 15 to December 15 so as to encourage PhD students to accept their offers. We hosted a PhD Recruitment Day in which we invited admitted PhD students to visit campus (thanks to funding from GPS). 10 students attended.

The Department introduced a new procedure for the awarding of MA supervisors.

## Office of First Nations and Inuit Programs (OFNIE)

OFNIE offered 52 courses in 2016. Jim Howden, the Director, also taught EDEC 248, Reading and Writing Inuktitut for the Kativik partner, Professional Seminar 1 and 2 for Kahnawake partner and will teach Professional Seminar 1 and 2 with the Cree partner. He also continues to teach in France.

Partners and advisors continued to meet as often as required.

The Department of Education and Counselling Psychology is in partnership with the OFNIE office (teaching the certificate in inclusive education and any EDPI course). Both units are engaged in inter-unit collaborations aimed at strengthening program offerings.

Graduates from the Spring ceremony included 3 students from the *Certificate in Aboriginal Literacy Education 3*; five students from the *Certificate in Inclusive Education 5*, one student from the *Certificate in Education First Nations and Inuit Education 1* and one student from the *B.Ed. First Nations and Inuit Education 1*.

Of note in 2016 for OFNIE were the following:

- Program Director, Jim Howden, was part of the Provosts Task force on Indigenous Studies and Education at McGill. He also serves on the Indigenous Affairs Work Group.
- OFNIE collaborated with the McGill registrar in order to determine a process for OFNIE students to receive McGill ID numbers and cards.
- The Senate subcommittee on First People's Equity pursued discussions on the territorial acknowledgement statement, as well as issues with the name "Redmen," building reconciliation, including different places to smudge on campus.
- A new course for the leadership certificate with Louisa Oovaut in the area of conflict resolution is being developed.
- *The Gaspé Spec*, English-language weekly of the Gaspé, Quebec area, published a detailed article concerning the B.Ed. program in First Nations and Inuit Education, offered by the [Office of First Nations and Inuit Education](#) (OFNIE) with our faculty. "It is the first time that a complete Bachelor of Education program is being offered wholly off campus anywhere in Canada."

Initiatives in early planning stages for 2017:

- Feasibility study for a Master of Education (Master of Arts in Indigenous Education - MAISE)
- Individual Instructor's Handbook respecting the needs of each partner.
- Feasibility study for a Certificate in Teaching at the Secondary level.

## Recognition

On November 22, Professor [Claudia Mitchell](#) was named the recipient of the 2016 SSHRC Gold Medal, the agency's highest research honour. "Her passion is social justice, as shown by her work over the past two decades aiding youth around the world, in places such as South Africa, Rwanda, Russia and Ethiopia" the agency announced on its website. Very soon after this announcement, Dr Mitchell was awarded a prestigious Trudeau Fellowship which she will commence in 2017.

## Artists in Residence

Funded by the P. Lantz Initiative for Excellence in Education in the Arts, DISE welcomed two new artists in residence in September 2016: Kama La mackerel and Lori Beavis. Maria Ezcurra also continued to work as an arts mediator within the Faculty, ensuring continuity across years and stakeholders.

## Milestones

2016 saw the retirement of Professors Sylvia Sklar, David Dillon, and Ronald Morris. The Department wishes them all the best in their respective endeavours in the future.