

CANADA

Montessori Society of Canada (MSC)

Highlights

The Montessori Society of Canada (MSC), the AMI Alumni group and affiliate in Canada, has continued to follow its mandate of providing quality professional development for the AMI Alumni in Canada. There has been an on-going strategic focus on membership growth and strengthening the AMI Community. As Canada's large geographical landmass makes it challenging to connect at times, there was a continued focus to utilise the Volunteer Regional Liaisons appointed in 2014 to create smaller regional social events where AMI Alumni Members could connect, share experiences, and build relationships. Several of these intimate and successful events were held across the country.

Mission

To maintain and promote the growth of Montessori education, by upholding the principles of Maria Montessori for the full development of the human being, supporting the objectives of AMI. MSC promotes the development of teacher training in Canada and professional development in keeping with AMI standards.

Events & Activities

The MSC hosted four workshops across Canada in 2015 open to all affiliates of Montessori trained teachers. This year, some workshops were also opened to classroom assistants and keynote talks that were open to parents, teachers, assistants and school support staff were held at every workshop with the hope of spreading the word of Montessori to the largest possible audience.

March 2015

Due to the success of the workshop of the same name in Vancouver of January 2014, MSC was thrilled to once again host "Exploration, Discovery and Marvel: The Worlds of Mathematics and Geometry," led by Phyllis-Pottish Lewis.

May 2015

Karen Elliott gave a dynamic talk titled, "Creating a Culture of Collaboration One Conversation at a Time" as part of MSC's AGM held in Vancouver, British Columbia. Feedback was positive. Attendees commented on the possible applications of the information learned and skills practised across a diverse range of relationships including students, parents, co-workers, administrators, employees, and in their personal lives, too.

October & November 2015

Due to a significant number of requests from members to learn more about effectively addressing the needs of students with learning differences, MSC hosted two workshops, one in Calgary, Alberta, with AMI Primary trainer, Janet McDonnell and one in Ottawa, Ontario with AMI Infancy and Primary trainer Dr Silvia Dubovoy. Both were

titled, “Montessori for All Children: Inclusive Education”. These workshops were also open to teaching assistants.

Collaborations and Partnerships

The third annual grassroots walk open to all Montessori schools in Canada was held in November to mark the United Nations Rights of the Child and continues to attempt to support collaboration between various Montessori groups through the most important commonality – the child.

Memberships

Additional avenues with discounts for joining MSC were created to grow membership. In addition to the usual individual membership, schools were invited to purchase group memberships at a discounted rate. MSC also continued to offer a joint membership with AMI-EAA for elementary trained teachers in Canada. MSC’s Board voted to expand our membership to include those who have taken an AMI Assistant’s Course and those who have taken the AMI Orientation to Adolescent Studies for the 2016 membership year.

In 2015, MSC membership totalled: 116

Board & Committees

In addition to the typical annual operations of MSC, there has been some board discussion and consideration around the best way to work and/or integrate with the AMI Canada organisation that was founded in late 2014. The process has been slow to move forward as MSC has given the AMI Canada group space for their own consideration and deliberations before collaborating. Collaboration is now in process. The scope of possibility is significant and care is being taken to ensure that the best possible model is created to most effectively support the growth and awareness of AMI Montessori in Canada.

Tiffany Goulding
President