



**ANNUAL REPORT**

**DAVID PEIKOFF CHAIR OF DEAFNESS STUDIES**

**And**

**WESTERN CANADIAN CENTRE OF STUDIES IN DEAFNESS**

**July 01, 2005 to June 30, 2006**

**Dr. Debra Russell  
David Peikoff Chair of Deafness  
WCCSD Director**



**August 15, 2006**

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## **Executive Summary**

The David Peikoff Chair of Deafness Studies (DPCDS) works in collaboration with the Western Canadian Centre of Studies in Deafness (WCCSD), bridging research and community development. This report summarizes the Centre's accomplishments over the period of July 01, 2005 to June 30, 2006.

The fiscal year ending March 31, 2006 was a time of growth for the Centre with increased research funding and the coordination of more programs and projects. The following are highlights of the past year.

WCCSD continues to play a coordinating role between Lakeland College and the University of Alberta in the area of courses in American Sign Language and the development of interpretation programs. An advisory committee comprised of representatives from Modern Languages and Cultural Studies, Connect Society, Alberta Association of the Deaf, Edmonton Public School Board, the Alberta Chapter of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, and Alberta Learning met twice over the year. WCCSD facilitated two meetings between Douglas College and Lakeland College, designed to explore the development of a joint program for sign language interpreters. In addition, we facilitated a meeting with government representatives of Alberta Learning and the two colleges. While the two colleges were not able to reach a joint agreement, the meetings did result in Lakeland College revising their Program Review Submission substantially and clearly defining how the proposed Alberta program will distinguish itself from other programs across Canada. In the spring of 2006 we learned that Alberta Learning had approved the credit program entitled Deaf Studies, which is the pre-requisite program for entrance into an interpreter program. As of June 30, 2006, we understand that the Interpreter Program has been tentatively approved by Alberta Learning, and is in the Deputy Minister's office pending final approval. In June 2006, three consultants, Dr. Marty Taylor, Dr. Jan Humphrey and Dr. Debra Russell were contracted to develop course outlines for the two-year program, in anticipation of approval of the program.

The David Peikoff Chair of Deafness Studies has enjoyed tremendous support for their research lectures, attracting large numbers of educators, academics, Deaf community members and students from disciplines of education, linguistics, anthropology and modern languages. During 2005-2006 three lectures were held, with Dr. Charlene Chamberlain of University of North Dakota and Dr. David Mason, Professor Emeritus at York University. Dr. Chamberlain also gave a half-day workshop, which we co-sponsored with Connect Society and Alberta School for the Deaf. Teachers and parents in Alberta and Saskatchewan attended this workshop. In addition, WCCSD hosted the Jones Memorial Lecture with Dr. Lynn McQuarrie. In May 2006 WCCSD co-sponsored a lecture in Calgary, collaborating with the Calgary Board of Education and Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services. This lecture featured Dr. Dave Mason, and was in response to the requests from the Calgary community to make our lectures available to southern Alberta. These lectures and workshops are an example of how our centre continues to

reach out to the community, forging closer ties between those conducting the research and those who apply the research in the education of Deaf children.

WCCSD and the Alberta Cultural Society of the Deaf co-sponsored the first ASL Immersion in July 2005 with 95 participants in attendance. The event was very well received, with a staff compliment of 10 Deaf ASL instructors from Calgary and Edmonton in order to offer this event. WCCSD also offered a three-day Educational Interpreting Summer Institute with 30 participants from Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan. This event was a much needed event given the increased numbers of deaf students being educated in their community schools with the assistance of interpreters and assistants.

In July 2005 we were advised from the Fund Development Office that the Peikoff Chair of Deafness Studies had been the recipient of a \$10,000 gift from a private donor. We were able to meet with the family members of the donor to thank them in person for their generous contribution.

Three major research based contracts were completed and reports published. The first contract was with Association of Visual Language Interpreters of Canada, and the deliverables from this contract included the creation of the curriculum for a series of national workshops to be offered to candidates pursuing national certification with AVLIC. As well, we were also contracted by AVLIC to train the workshop facilitators. This training included selecting eight facilitators from across Canada and then constructing a training process that was delivered by teleconference and individual mentorship events.

The second research study reviewed the support services for students with disabilities for Bow Valley College (BVC) in Calgary, Alberta. The deliverable from this contract was a written research report of the focus group and individual interview data and two presentations to the faculty and the administration at BVC. The third research contract was completed for Mount Royal College in Calgary, and this was a review of the policies that provide accommodations for students with disabilities in light of the Alberta Human Rights Bulletin on the Duty to Accommodate Students with Disabilities in Post-Secondary Settings. The report and presentations were completed in May 2006.

In April 2006 we learned that our SSHRC application for a study of Deaf children in inclusive settings received a 4A rating, and was then awarded a grant from the Vice-President's office to strengthen the next proposal to SSHRC. The grant has allowed for some preliminary work to begin on the study in Alberta schools and to begin data analysis that supports the need for this research.

WCCSD was asked to consult with Calgary Catholic Family Services on the development of a needs assessment to determine the types of services required by families with Deaf children and Deaf adults. In addition, Debra Russell conducted two focus groups for the agency, produced a written report of the work, and edited the reports of other focus groups conducted by other community partners.

WCCSD also asked to consult with Edmonton Public School Board on their review of Deaf and Hard of Hearing programs, and with Alberta Learning on the development of their standards document, Essential Components of Programming for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students.

As part of our youth commitment, we sponsored a hard of hearing youth delegate to attend the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association conference in Kelowna during August 2005. In May 2006 we sponsored a Deaf youth delegate to attend the Western Canadian Academic Challenge in Vancouver. From January 2006 to June 2006 we hosted a high school Deaf work-term student from the Alberta School for the Deaf. This student helped us with general office work and was a delightful addition to our team.

Over the year, Dr. Russell was invited to deliver several presentations, including:

- Boston MA: *Time is on my side: Consecutive interpreting*. Keynote address given at the Northeastern Interpreting Mentorship Conference, Boston, MA.
- Calgary, AB: *Access to learning for deaf children*. Presentation given for the Faculty of Education, University of Calgary
- Winnipeg, MB: *Consecutive interpreting: Understanding the research*. Presentation given for the University of Manitoba
- Louisville, Kentucky: *The future starts with you*. Presentation given at the Post Secondary Service Providers Conference
- Durham, England: *What was your question? Cohesion in legal discourse*. Paper presented at the Association of Sign Language Interpreters of the United Kingdom
- Durham, England: *Creating a new values-based code of ethics – How did that happen?* Paper presented at the Association of Sign Language Interpreters of the United Kingdom
- Kyiv, Ukraine: *Deaf community in Canada*. Presentation given for the Ukrainian Deaf Society
- Kyiv, Ukraine: *Education of deaf children in Canada*. Presentation given for the professors at the M. Drahomanov National Pedagogical University
- Kyiv, Ukraine: *Deaf children – Providing language rich environments*. Presentation given for students at the M. Drahomanov National Pedagogical University
- Kyiv, Ukraine: *Interpreting as a profession*. Presentation given for Ukrainian sign language interpreters
- Kyiv, Ukraine: *Signed language research in North America*. Presentation given for the Sign Language Lab at the Institute of Special Pedagogy
- Bogata, Columbia: Invited to give a three-day seminar; declined given the Canadian Government's travel advisory

Dr. Russell has also been appointed to the Editorial Board of the *Sign Language Translator and Interpreter*. In addition, Dr. Russell completed a book review for the first edition of this new journal from Heriott-Watt University in Edinburgh. Dr. Debra Russell

accepted an invitation from Gallaudet University Press to edit a book on legal interpreting. Her co-editor will be Dr. Sandra Hale of Australia and the book is to be published in 2008. The volume will focus on interpretation in legal settings and include research from spoken and signed language scholars.

In October 2005, Dr. Russell attended the first conference of the World Association of Sign Language Interpreters in Capetown, South Africa. While there she represented Canadian interpreters and moderated two plenary sessions. Dr. Russell was also elected to the first board of directors as the North American representative, representing Canada, the United States of America and Mexico.

We continue to work closely with the Canadian Ukraine Research Team (CURT) and through those meetings have provided direct input to our Ukrainian colleagues based at the Institute of Special Pedagogy in Kiev. In April 2006 Dr. Russell spent six days in Kiev in order to consult with the sign language lab researchers, helping them to design their research program focused on Ukrainian Sign Language. While there Dr. Russell gave five presentations and held a number of meetings with academics from university of Ukraine, Drahmanov University and the Institute of Special Pedagogy. In June 2006 Dr. Russell participated in Department meetings with our Ukrainian colleagues who were visiting Edmonton.

The David Peikoff Chair of Deafness Studies supported the Department of Educational Psychology by teaching two courses at the graduate levels over the 2005-06 periods. The courses were Signed Language Research, which was delivered through the University of British Columbia and available to our students through the Dean's Western Agreement. This course represented the spirit of collaboration across two universities and two Deafness Studies Programs. University of British Columbia will once again contract Dr. Russell to teach the course during the 2006-2007 academic year. The David Peikoff Chair of Deafness Studies also supported the department by covering the costs of an extra section of EDPY 472 in the winter semester and Randy Dziwenka taught this course. WCCSD also ran a focus group and developed an on-line survey in order to gather input about the Deafness Studies Program. These results have been tabulated and provided to the Department for their consideration. Dr. Russell supervised two independent studies with two graduate students, and served as the second reader on two capping projects. As well, Dr. Russell continues to serve on a Union University doctoral committee, traveling to Washington DC for the certification meetings.

In January 2006, Northeastern University in Boston contracted Dr. Russell to co-teach with Dr Laurie Swabey of St. Catherine University in Minnesota. This was an on-line graduate course in the Masters in Interpreting Pedagogy program. Dr. Russell was invited to participate in consultation meetings for Northeastern University's program. These meetings were held on Martha's Vineyard in June 2006.

The Centre continues to support a doctoral student, providing mentorship and opportunities for growth for this student. The student was a co-presenter with Dr. Russell and Robin Demko at the Pep-Net conference in Kentucky.

In November 2005 WCCSD coordinated a meeting of all ASL instructors in Alberta. This meeting resulted in greater communication among the institutions delivering ASL instruction, and moved the discussion forward as it relates to standards and consistency within hiring practices, curriculum and materials used, course contact hours and the differences between credit and non-credit offerings.

During the year, our centre experienced staffing changes and Gloria Mercier retired after several years and Robin Demko began with us part-time. She became a full-time work placement student in January 2006, and we have enjoyed her talents and contributions. She has been offered full-time work with us once her work-term placement is completed.

Over the year, WCCSD has supported the deaf and hard of hearing communities in Alberta through its coordination and leadership, building on strengths through multi-sectored partnerships, cooperation, and collaboration, and using community-based approaches. Coordination and support provided by the WCCSD helps strengthen the efforts, overall initiatives, and activities of the University of Alberta and community agencies, practitioners, and other key stakeholders throughout Canada and North America.

WCCSD carries out its activities in four core areas, which include: research, program support for training and educational access; leadership and liaison, and acting as a community resource. Recognizing that the needs of the deaf and hard of hearing communities are truly diverse in nature, priority setting is critical and has guided the Centre's activities over the past year. WCCSD's priority areas of focus are determined by a set of criteria to ensure capturing the needs of the entire province. Priority setting criteria take the following factors into consideration:

- Evidence and research results (i.e. potential for success, effectiveness of strategies)
- Community-identified needs and expressed interest to work with the WCCSD
- Opportunities for partnership
- Availability of human and financial resources
- Ability to further WCCSD's goals and alignment with the priorities of the overall University.

In carrying out its vision and mission, WCCSD demonstrates excellence in the programs and services it provides by applying a relevant and ethical scientific approach in its research, education and advocacy. WCCSD sets measurable objectives and monitors outcomes that result in effectiveness in all programs and services. An innovative and flexible approach to the work and development of partnerships allows the Centre to continue to grow and meet the needs of the communities it serves. WCCSD recognizes the contributions of its stakeholders and respects their views and approaches.

## **WCCSD and the David Peikoff Chair of Deafness Studies**

### **Vision and Values**

The WCCSD and David Peikoff Chair of Deafness Studies Strategic Plan (2004-2006) identifies core activities that include support for conducting and disseminating research, training, enhancing educational access for deaf and hard of hearing students, leadership and liaison, and serving as a community resource. The vision and values that guide the work of the Centre are:

#### Vision and Values:

The David Peikoff Chair of Deafness Studies (DPCDS) works in collaboration with the Western Canadian Centre of Studies in Deafness (WCCSD), bridging research and community development. The vision is to demonstrate leadership in Canada in the areas of research and development in the area of hearing loss. By cooperating with the Deaf and hard of hearing communities, WCCSD will support the development of post-secondary opportunities for d/Deaf and hard of hearing learners and programs for these students throughout Western Canada. In addition WCCSD will cooperate with the Deaf and hard of hearing communities in order to support community capacity building.

We continue to do the following:

- Function as a research and development base in the area of hearing loss;
- Facilitate greater access into post-secondary areas for students with hearing loss;
- Advocate for the accommodation the needs of these students;
- Provide leadership in development of programs and services for deaf and hard of hearing people;
- Evolve as a Centre that cooperates with the hard of hearing and deaf communities in order to support community capacity building.

The values that guide our work include:

- Respect for d/Deaf and hard of hearing people regardless of communication preferences
- Incorporate current literature and research into strategic planning
- To create professional and collegial relationships with all internal and external stakeholders, including within the University community and the external community

### **Achievements and Progress on Goals**

The following information is a summary of the activities of the David Peikoff Chair of Deafness Studies and the Western Canadian Centre of Studies in Deafness from July 01, 2005 to June 30, 2006, and how those activities supported the goals of the Centre.

## **CORE ACTIVITY 1: RESEARCH IN DEAFNESS STUDIES**

Strategic Initiative: To conduct and disseminate current research in deafness studies and to support research efforts of other institutions.

Activities that supported this core activity include:

### **1. Research Projects**

- *Bow Valley College – Support Services for Students with Disabilities:* This study was a review of the services and supports offered at BVC for students with disabilities. Results: A research report and two presentations. Total Award: \$7500.00
- *Association of Visual Language Interpreters of Canada:* Awarded the national contract to train workshop facilitators. Work completed from Nov 2005-June 2006. Total award: \$5,000.00
- *Examination of Access to the Language of Instruction for Deaf Children:* This is an on-going study that is in the data collection stage; it is a study of classroom interpretation provided to deaf students to determine impact and quality of inclusive learning environment on deaf students. As a result of a 4A rating on the SSHRC application submitted for this study, awarded \$7500.00 from University of Alberta.
- *Mount Royal College: Policy Review on Duty to Accommodate:* This was a review to determine changes needed in the policy framework in order to comply with the Alberta Human Rights Bulletin on the Duty to Accommodate. Project was completed from April 2006-June 2006. Final report was submitted in June 2006. Total Award: \$5000.00
- *Ukrainian Signed Language Research Project:* Assisting the Institute of Special Pedagogy (Ukraine) in shaping their initial descriptive analysis of Ukrainian Sign Language and subsequent teacher training materials for using USL in the classroom. In April 2006 I spent six days in Ukraine working on this project.

### **2. David Peikoff Chair of Deafness Studies Research Support**

Through careful expenditure of the budget, we were able to support several research initiatives, thus expanding the pool of researchers working in the field of deafness and contributing to the goal of conducting and disseminating current research.

- Congress of the Deaf: \$500 awarded to Ihor Kobel to travel to Amsterdam to deliver a paper at the International Congress of the Deaf, July 2005.

- Canadian Hard of Hearing Association: \$250.00 awarded to a hard of hearing student in order to attend the youth congress in Kelowna, BC during August 2005.
- Alberta School for the Deaf; \$400.00 awarded to a deaf student in order to attend the academic challenge tournament in Vancouver, BC during April 2006.

### **3. David Peikoff Chair of Deafness Studies Advanced Research Lectures**

- Sponsored two advanced research lectures. Presenters included: Dr. Charlene Chamberlain, University of North Dakota, June 2006 and Dr. David Mason, York University, March 2006
- Organized one professional development opportunity for teachers of the deaf in collaboration with Alberta School for the Deaf and Connect Society (June 2006)
- The Jones Memorial Lecture was hosted in March 2006 with Dr. Lynn McQuarrie, University of Alberta.
- Co-sponsored, with the Calgary Board of Education and Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services, a lecture given by Dr. David Mason, May 2006.

### **4. Publications**

#### Referred Publications:

Russell, D. (2005). Chapter 6: Consecutive interpreting. In T. Janzen (Ed.), *Topics in signed language interpreting*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Russell, D. (2005). Interpreting in legal contexts: Consecutive and simultaneous interpreting. *Interpreting*, 6(2).

Russell, D. (2005, June) *What was your question? Linking devices in ASL/English interpretation*. Paper presented at the Critical Link 4 Conference, Stockholm, Sweden.

#### Commissioned Research Reports:

Russell, D., Demko, R., & Iantkow, M. (2006). *Accommodating students with disabilities: Policies and practices. Determining best practices and potential gaps at Mount Royal College*. Calgary, AB: Mount Royal College.

Russell, D., & Demko, R. (2006). *Review of disability support services*. Calgary, AB: Bow Valley College.

Russell, D., & Demko, R. (2005). *Accommodating learners with disabilities in post-secondary education in Alberta: A review of policies, programs and support services*. Edmonton, AB: Alberta Learning.

Russell, D. & Demko, R. (2005). *Accommodating deaf and hard of hearing students in post secondary settings*. Edmonton, AB: University of Alberta, Western Canadian Centre for Studies in Deafness & Specialized Supports and Disability Services.

Curriculum and Testing Material:

Russell, D., Martin, D., & Demko, R. (2006). *EPSE 525: Studies in sign language and deaf culture*. Vancouver, BC: University of British Columbia. [WebCT course].

Russell, D., Demko, R., Ferguson, K., Korpiniski, D., & Stills, D. (2006). *TOI test preparation facilitators' manuals*. Edmonton, AB: Association of Visual Language Interpreters of Canada. [Includes Interpretation of Narratives Facilitators' Manual, PowerPoint presentation, and CDs; Interpretation of Interactive Interviews Facilitators' Manual, PowerPoint presentation, and CDs; and Test Taking Skills Workbook, PowerPoint presentation, and CD].

Russell, D., Malcolm, K., & McDermid, C. (2005). *AVLIC test of interpretation*. Edmonton, AB: Association of Visual Language Interpreters of Canada. [Two versions. A/B includes narrative and interactive segments].

#### **4. Presentations**

**International Presentations:**

Russell, D, Demko, R and Martin, D. (2006, April) *The future starts with you*. Papers presented at the Pepnet Conference, Louisville, Kentucky.

Russell, D. (2006, April). *Creating a new values-based code of ethics – How did that happen?* Paper presented at the Association of Sign Language Interpreters of the United Kingdom, Durham, England.

Russell, D. (2006, April). *What was your question? Cohesion in legal discourse*. Paper presented at the Association of Sign Language Interpreters of the United Kingdom, Durham, England.

Russell, D. (2006, April). *Deaf community in Canada*. Presentation given for the Ukrainian Deaf Society, Kyiv, Ukraine.

Russell, D. (2006, April). *Education of deaf children in Canada*. Presentation given for the professors at the M. Drahomanov National Pedagogical University, Kyiv, Ukraine.

Russell, D. (2006, April). *Deaf children – Providing language rich environments*. Presentation given for students at the M. Drahomanov National Pedagogical University, Kyiv, Ukraine.

Russell, D. (2006, April). *Interpreting as a profession*. Presentation given for Ukrainian sign language interpreters, Kyiv, Ukraine.

Russell, D. (2006, April). *Signed language research in North America*. Presentation given for the Sign Language Lab at the Institute of Special Pedagogy, Kyiv, Ukraine.

Russell, D. (2005, September). *Time is on my side: Consecutive interpreting*. Keynote address given at the Northeastern Interpreting Mentorship Conference, Boston, MA.

### **National Presentations:**

Russell, D. (2005, December). *Signed language research: Facts and findings*. Presentation given for speech and language pathology students at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB.

Russell, D. (2005, November). *Access to learning for deaf children*. Presentation given for the Faculty of Education, University of Calgary, Calgary, AB.

Russell, D. (2005, November). *Consecutive interpreting: Understanding the research*. Presentation given for the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB.

## **CORE ACTIVITY 2: SUPPORT FOR TRAINING & EDUCATIONAL ACCESS**

Strategic Initiative: To provide support for on-going research, training, and educational access for Deaf and Hard of Hearing students.

Activities that supported this core activity include:

- During August 2005, WCCSD and the Alberta Cultural Society of the Deaf sponsored a 5 day ASL Immersion Program at the University of Alberta. This event promotes the university and also allows for people to learn more about American Sign Language and the Deaf community. This celebration of diversity and linguistic difference certainly contributes to awareness and greater educational access for Deaf students.
- During August 2005 WCCSD hosted the Summer Institute for Interpreters, Transliterators and Teaching Assistants. With support participant revenues, we were able to offer a three-day learning event for 35 participants from Alberta and British Columbia. A team of 8 instructors provided advanced research lectures and hands-on skill development for all participants. We were also able to proctor the Educational Interpreting Performance Assessment for candidates wishing to take this standardized assessment. The assessment is marked at the University of Colorado and provides candidates with a rating and feedback about their skills.

- We continue to provide support to the Malaysian YMCA Mujudiri Foundation for the Deaf Project, consulting on the development of support services for deaf students in that country.
- By collaborating with Lakeland College and the Department of Modern Languages on the development of ASL courses and an Alberta based interpreter education program, we are ultimately creating awareness of the need for educational access for deaf and hard of hearing students, and potentially attracting students to the deafness studies area.

### **CORE ACTIVITY 3: LEADERSHIP AND LIAISON**

Strategic Initiative: To provide leadership and liaison in the field of deafness studies.

Activities that supported this core activity include:

**Lakeland College:** WCCSD has been working closely with Lakeland College over the past year on the development of a proposal for Sign Language Studies and an Interpreter program. By hosting meetings between Douglas College and Lakeland College we were able to further develop and refine the previous program review submission. We have also supported Lakeland College in securing qualified ASL instructors for their courses delivered at the Sherwood Park campus. Finally, we assisted in identifying key stakeholders for an advisory committee that could guide the college in the area of sign language studies and interpretation. The Advisory Committee has representation from the Dept of Modern Languages and Culture as well as community organizations. The past year has seen Alberta Learning grant approval for the Sign Language Studies program, which is the credit-based program that serves as the pre-requisite for entrance into an interpreter education program.

**Canadian Ukraine Research Team:** Participated in the on-going meetings of CURT. In April 2006, Debra Russell went to Ukraine and worked with the Institute of Special Pedagogy on the development of the signed language research lab in Ukraine. We have helped them set a realistic and feasible research project that, if carried out, will result in the documentation of Ukraine Signed Language (USL), which has not been done to date. Finally, we assembled samples of North American research materials and signed language products to share with the staff that will be hired in the lab.

**University of British Columbia:** Dr. Debra Russell agreed to take over the instruction of one on-line course during the spring of 2004. The course was four weeks into the semester when the instructor passed away suddenly. The course was completed per the schedule and this event has led to increased communication between the two universities about their Deafness Studies Programs. Since that time, the course has been further developed and it was taught during the winter, 2006, with students from both U of A and UBC taking the course.

**Northeastern University, Boston, MA:** Participated on a North American consultation team that reviewed the progress of the first year of a masters degree program in teaching

ASL and interpreting (June 2006). Taught the course “Meaning Based Transfer” for NEU in the spring of 2006.

**Institute of Applied Linguistics, University of Warsaw:** Continue to provide support and consultation to a doctoral student on research methodology and survey tools appropriate for conducting a study of signed language interpreters in Poland.

#### **CORE ACTIVITY 4: COMMUNITY RESOURCE**

Strategic Initiative: To act as a community resource in the areas of deafness and hearing loss.

Activities that supported this core activity include:

**University of Alberta Community:** Provided two guest lectures on deafness to the senior classes of the Speech Language Pathology program and the Faculty of Education. Provide consultation to Modern Languages and Cultural Studies on their ASL course offerings.

**Calgary Catholic Family Services:** Have served the past year on the Advisory Committee for the Butterfly Project, which serves Deaf and Hard of Hearing people.

**Additional Consultations** on a range of issues related to hearing loss and deafness were provided to the Dept of Justice, Government of Canada; Mountain View School District; Government of Alberta, Alberta Learning; and Calgary Catholic Family Services.

This summary of progress on goals demonstrates how the activities have supported the core activities, goals, and objectives of the Centre during the period from July 01, 2005 to June 30, 2006. These activities are congruent with the University of Alberta’s priorities, which included community outreach, partnerships, and enhancing the quality of the learning environment for all students. At the same time, these activities allow WCCSD to grow and meet the needs of the communities that it serves.

#### **Plans and Priorities for 2006-2007**

The following activities highlight some of the major plans and priorities for 2006-2007:

- Co-sponsor the teacher-training program with Douglas College for the ASL Teacher Training Certificate Program. Courses to be held at U of A beginning in the August 2006.
- Co-sponsor, with the Alberta Cultural Society of the Deaf, a one-week ASL immersion program for parents, teachers, interpreters, teaching assistants and faculty to be held in July 2006.
- Offer two advanced research lectures

- Offer the Jones Memorial lecture
- Continuation of the research projects underway
- Attend the conference of the World Association of Sign Language Interpreters in Spain, July 2006
- Continue to work with University of Alberta and University of British Columbia on shared courses and collaborative efforts in delivering a Deafness Studies Program.

### **Acknowledgements**

I wish to thank the following people for their continued support, encouragement, wisdom and guidance:

The Peikoff Trustees: Dr. Marc Arnal, Dr. Bill Maynes, and Martin Coutts  
 Dr. Linda McDonald, Chair of the Department of Educational Psychology  
 Dr. Rob Short, Acting Chair of the Department of Educational Psychology  
 Dr. Fern Snart, Dean of Education

I am also grateful for the support that I have enjoyed assistance from Robin Demko, Deena Martin, Greg Carrier and Mark Donnelly who have been exceptional research assistants. Finally, sincere thanks to the administrative assistants within the Department of Educational Psychology for their prompt and efficient service to our Centre.

Should you have questions or feedback about the work conducted in our area, please contact me directly at [debra.russell@ualberta.ca](mailto:debra.russell@ualberta.ca) or telephone: 780-492-1156.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Russell  
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