



ANNUAL REPORT

DAVID PEIKOFF CHAIR OF DEAF STUDIES

And

WESTERN CANADIAN CENTRE OF STUDIES IN DEAFNESS

July 01, 2007 to June 30, 2008

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



August 15, 2008

ANNUAL REPORT

**DAVID PEIKOFF CHAIR OF DEAF STUDIES
WESTERN CANADIAN CENTRE OF STUDIES IN DEAFNESS**

July 01, 2007 to June 30, 2008

Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
VISION AND VALUES	6
ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROGRESS ON GOALS.....	7
CORE ACTIVITY 1: RESEARCH IN DEAF STUDIES.....	7
CORE ACTIVITY 2: SUPPORT FOR TRAINING & EDUCATIONAL ACCESS..	11
CORE ACTIVITY 3: LEADERSHIP AND LIAISON	12
CORE ACTIVITY 4: COMMUNITY RESOURCE	13
ALIGNMENT WITH UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA PRIORITIES	15
PLANS AND PRIORITIES FOR 2008-2009	17
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	18

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The David Peikoff Chair of Deaf Studies (DPCDS) works in collaboration with the Western Canadian Centre of Studies in Deafness (WCCSD), bridging research, teaching excellence, and community development. This report summarizes the Centre's accomplishments over the period of July 01, 2007 to June 30, 2008.

The fiscal year ending March 31, 2008 saw continued growth within the Centre with increased research funding and the coordination of more programs and projects. The following are highlights of the past year.

WCCSD and Lakeland College continued to work towards funding of the Program of Signed Language Interpretation, and in February 2008 government funding was secured. This prompted a series of actions that resulted in a Memo of Understanding that was signed between the University of Alberta and Lakeland College. This means that the program is delivered in collaboration with the University and the Faculty of Education. Lakeland College appointed Kirk Ferguson-Uhrich as the Chair of the program and WCCSD has provided office space in our area.

The David Peikoff Chair of Deaf Studies and WCCSD have continued to offer research lectures, attracting large numbers of educators, academics, Deaf community members, and students from disciplines of education, linguistics, anthropology and modern languages. In September 2007, Jolanta Lapiak presented our autumn Peikoff Research Lecture entitled the *Phonocentrism: Ptolemy of Language*. In January 2008, Dr. Stephane Perreault presented the lecture *Deaf Experiences in Quebec: 1850-1930: Models of Difference*. In March 2008, Heather Gibson delivered the Jones Memorial Lecture, addressing the development of the ASL curriculum in Ontario.

WCCSD and the Alberta Cultural Society of the Deaf co-sponsored two ASL Immersion programs, one at the Campus St. Jean and the other in collaboration with the University of Calgary during July 2007. A total of 115 participants attended. The events were very well received, with a staff compliment of 12 Deaf ASL instructors from Calgary and Edmonton. WCCSD, in collaboration with the Alberta Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Sorenson Communications and Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services also offered a two-day Interpreting Institute with 30 participants from Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Montana. Our presenters were Dr. Terry Janzen, University of Manitoba and Dr. Barbara Shafer, University of New Mexico. This event took place in October 2007 and was offered in Calgary.

Two major commissioned research contracts were completed and reports published. The first contract was with University of Calgary and was focused on a review of the disability supports program. The second contract was with Grant MacEwan College and was a process review of the support services for students with disabilities.

The past year has seen considerable progress on the three-year SHHRC funded study of Deaf children in inclusive settings, with the first year of data collection completed in

Alberta. Planning for the second year is underway to extend the data collection to other provinces. Several conference presentations were made on initial results from teacher and student data. Two graduate students and one undergraduate student have been employed on this grant to date.

WCCSD was asked to consult with several organizations over the year. One of the on-going consultations is with International Congress on the Education of the Deaf on the interpreting services to be employed for the 2010 international congress in Vancouver. Edmonton Public School Board also sought our consultation on creating effective learning environments for deaf children and the subsequent professional development needed by existing teaching and support staff. Finally, WCCSD has served to facilitate three stakeholder meetings focused on the improvement of provincial-wide mental health services for deaf, hard of hearing and deaf-blind Albertans.

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

- San Luis Potosi, Mexico: “*What do they think of our work? Consumer perspectives on interpreting in educational settings.*” Paper given at the Mexican Federation of Sign Language Interpreters.
- San Luis Potosi, Mexico: “*World Association of Sign Language Interpreters.*” Paper given at the Mexican Federation of Sign Language Interpreters.
- Kiev, Ukraine: “*Inclusion or the illusion of inclusion: A study of interpreters working with deaf students in inclusive educational settings.*” Paper given at Drahomanov National Pedagogical University.
- Kiev, Ukraine: “*Updates on sign language research project.*” Presentation given at the Sign Language Laboratory, Institute of Special Pedagogy.
- Kiev, Ukraine: “*WASLI: World Association of Sign Language Interpreters.*” Paper given at the Ukrainian Society of the Deaf.
- Kiev, Ukraine: “*Deaf youth in Canada.*” Presentation given at the national Deaf Youth Conference.
- Toronto, ON: “*Cohesion in interpreted discourse: Recognizing the subtle pieces.*” Two-day seminar presented for the Ontario Association of Sign Language Interpreters.
- Toronto, ON: “*Interpreting in academic settings: Challenges and opportunities.*” Paper presented at Culture, Communication and Technology for Academic Interpreting Conference, Ryerson University.

- University of Alberta: “*Preservice teacher transformation through modeling innovative inclusive practices.*” Poster presentation with Dr. Lynn McQuarrie at the Festival of Teaching.
- London, UK: “*Educational interpreting: Multiple perceptions about our work.*” Paper given at the Supporting Deaf People 2009 on-line conference.
- Rochester, NY: “*What do they think of our work? Consumer perspectives on interpreting in educational settings.*” Paper given at the Rochester Institute of Technology, NTID.
- Kelowna, BC: “*Talking about our work*”. One-day professional development seminar for interpreters in the Kelowna School District.
- St. John, NB: “*Ethical conduct – Bridging the words and the actions.*” One-day seminar presented for the St. John Deaf and Hard of Hearing Society.
- London, UK: “*Blending consecutive and simultaneous interpreting in community settings*” Co-presenter: Karen Malcolm, Douglas College. Paper given at the Association of Sign Language Interpreters conference.
- London, UK: “*Getting to skopos: What does a mediated education look like for deaf students?*” Paper given at the Association of Sign Language Interpreters conference.
- Ottawa, ON: “*Cohesion in interpreted discourse: Putting the subtle pieces together*”. Two-day seminar presented to Sign Language Interpreters Association of Ontario (SLIAO).
- Vancouver, BC: “*Getting to skopos: What does a mediated education look like for deaf students?*” Paper given at the CSSE 36th Annual Conference: May 31st – June 3rd.
- Lviv, Ukraine: “*Ukrainian Sign Language: Bridging research and educational practice*”. Paper given at the Ukrainian Diaspora Conference.
- St. John’s, NF: “*Getting to skopos: What does a mediated education look like for deaf students?*” Paper given at the AVLIC Biennial Conference: July 29 – August 3rd.
- St. John’s, NF: “*Rethinking equivalence in interpretation.*” Panel discussion at the AVLIC Biennial Conference: July 29 – August 3rd.

Dr. Debra Russell and Dr. Sandra Hale have submitted the final proof of a manuscript for Gallaudet University Press. The book is to be published in September 2008. The volume

will focus on interpretation in legal settings and includes research from spoken and signed language scholars.



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. The CURT team were awarded a \$10,000 grant from Partnerships for Tomorrow Program to allow Dr. Roman Petryshen, Dr. Judy Lupart and Dr. Debra Russell to travel to Ukraine in November 2007. Dr. Russell was

able to work directly with the Sign Language Laboratory housed at the Institute of Special Pedagogy in Kiev, and visit several schools and post-secondary institutions working with deaf and hard of hearing students. She was also able to deliver the technical resources that were sponsored through a grant from the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education and the Canadian Ukraine Alliance for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons. Lastly, as part of the CURT work, we have received \$85,000 from CIDA for the Ukrainian Sign Language project.

The David Peikoff Chair of Deaf Studies supported the Department of Educational Psychology by teaching courses at the graduate levels over the 2007-2008 period. A new course, *EDPY 497/597 Studies in Sign Language and Deaf Culture* was developed and delivered, combining both face-to-face and on-line learning. Dr. Russell served on one doctoral candidacy committee during the year. Dr. Russell taught two on-line graduate courses this year for Northeastern University in Boston. The courses were part of the Masters in Interpreting Pedagogy program.

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:

- Practices informed by 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 partnerships with community and educational organizations.
- 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 Deaf Studies Strategic Plan 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:

The David Peikoff Chair of Deaf 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 needed for 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 language and communication preferences.
- Incorporate current literature and research into strategic planning.
- 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 Deaf Studies and the Western Canadian Centre of Studies in Deafness from July 01, 2007 to June 30, 2008, and how those activities supported the goals of the Centre.

CORE ACTIVITY 1: RESEARCH IN DEAF STUDIES

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

Activities that supported this core activity include:

1. Research Projects

- **Educational Interpreting Inclusive Settings Study** – Recruited three research assistants and 2 external sign language analysts; Nov 07 - hosted a conference call with Dr. Betsy Winston and Dr. Melanie Metzger to seek guidance on the research project. Data collection proceeding with the on-line survey tools for teachers, parents and administrators. Data collection from Francophone teachers, interpreters, parents and administrators has also begun. Prepared presentations based on preliminary data given in England, Turkey and Canada. Data analysis on interpreted classroom samples began late in May. Moved research assistants to the third floor.
- **Ukrainian Sign Language** – Based on the donation received last May, we purchased the laptop computer, video camera and D-Link videophone for the lab in Kiev. I delivered these to the Sign Language Laboratory, Institute of Special Pedagogy, during the November 2007 visit. While there, we planned the next activities to be undertaken in the laboratory. I traveled to Ukraine again from June 13-23 and met with the USL research team, visited schools in Odessa and Lviv, and we presented a paper at a symposium in Lviv. On April 29 I attended the CURT meeting and was advised that our portion of the grant application to CIDA grant has been approved. This funding will allow for a research fellow from Ukraine to study with us in Canada for three months, and it will support the data collection and analysis of the signed language corpus. Finally, it will result in the production of teacher and parent resource materials on the use of Ukrainian Signed Language with Deaf children.
- **History of Signed Language Interpreting in Canada** - Met with Dr. Terry Janzen, University of Manitoba and Sue Stegenga to create a book proposal for a book on the socio-historical development of interpreting in Canada. Once the proposal is ready we will approach presses to determine the level of interest and support.

2. David Peikoff Chair of Deaf Studies Research Support

Through careful expenditure of the budget, we were able to support several research initiatives, thus expanding the pool of researchers working with Deaf and hard of hearing people and contributing to the goal of conducting and disseminating current research.

- \$500 awarded to Ihor Kobel to travel to Kiev to begin data collection for his doctoral study.
- \$1000 awarded to Dr. Lynn McQuarrie to travel to Turkey to present on the initial findings of our teacher survey

3. David Peikoff Chair of Deaf Studies Advanced Research Lectures

- Sponsored two advanced research lectures. Presenters included: Jolanta Lapiak: *Phonocentrism: Ptolemy of Language* and Dr. Stephane Perreault *Deaf Experiences in Quebec: 1850-1930: Models of Difference*.
- The Jones Memorial Lecture was hosted in March 2008 with Heather Gibson, Ministry of Education in Ontario, entitled *The Implementation of the ASL Curriculum*.
- Co-sponsored, with the Alberta School for the Deaf, the Edmonton Association of the Deaf and Connect Society a workshop given by Heather Gibson, March 2008.
- Of note, two lectures were videotaped and made available through the Internet via video-streaming technology.

4. Publications in the past year

Referred Publications:

Russell, D., & Hale, S. (Eds.) (in press). *Studies in interpretation, volume 7: Issues in legal interpretation*. Washington, DC: Gallaudet Press.

McQuarrie, L., & Russell, D. (in press). Modeling inclusive practices in teacher education programs in Canada. *Journal of Special Pedagogy*.

Russell, D. (in press). Educational interpreting: Multiple perspectives of our work. In J. Mole (Ed.), *International perspectives on educational interpreting*.

Russell, D. & Malcolm, K. (in press). Assessing ASL-English interpreters: The Canadian model of national certification. In C. Angelelli & H. Jacobson (Eds.) *Testing and assessment in translation and interpreting*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

McQuarrie, L., & Russell, D. (2008). *Preservice teacher transformation through modeling innovative inclusive practices*. Proceedings of the 2008 Hawaii International Conference on Education (pp. 251-261), Honolulu, Hawaii (URL: <http://www.hiceducation.org>)

Russell, D. (2008). What do others think of our work? Deaf students, teachers, administrators and parent perspectives on educational interpreting. In C. Roy (Ed.), *Diversity and community in the worldwide sign language interpreting profession: proceedings of the 2nd WASLI Conference* (pp. 34 -38). UK: Douglas McLean Publishing.

Curriculum and Testing Material:

Russell, D. & Demko, R. (2008). *EDPY 497/497: Studies in sign language and deaf culture*. Edmonton, AB: University of Alberta. [WebCT and face-to-face delivery course].

Russell, D. (2008). *Language studies 105: Becoming an ally*. Edmonton, Alberta. Lakeland College. [WebCT and face-to-face delivery course].

5. Presentations

Referred Presentations at Scholarly Meetings and Conferences

Russell, D. & McQuarrie, L. (2008, June). *Teaching deaf students in inclusive settings: Canadian teachers' perspectives*. Paper presented at the 2nd International Conference on Special Education. Mulga, Turkey.

Russell, D. (2008, June). "Ukrainian Sign Language: Bridging research and educational practice". Paper given at the Ukrainian Diaspora Conference. Lviv, Ukraine:

Russell D. (2008, April). *Getting to skopos: What does a mediated education look like for deaf students?* Presentation for the Association of Sign Language Interpreters of UK. London, England.

Russell D. & Malcolm, K. (2008, April). *Blending CI and SI in community settings*. Presentation for the Association of Sign Language Interpreters of UK. London, England.

Russell, D. (2008, February). *Getting to skopos: What does a mediated education look like for deaf students?* Roundtable presentation for the National Technical Institute for the Deaf Center for Education Research Partnerships. Rochester, New York.

Russell, D. (2008, February). *Educational interpreting: Multiple perspectives of our work.* Paper presented at the Online Conference on Supporting Deaf People 2008. Retrieved from <http://www.online-conference.co.uk/SDP2008/>



McQuarrie, L. & Russell, D. (2008, January). *Modeling innovative inclusive practices in teaching in the Faculty of Education.* Poster presentation for the Festival of Teaching, Edmonton, AB.

McQuarrie, L., & Russell, D. (2008, January). *Preservice teacher transformation through modeling innovative inclusive practices.* Paper presented at the 2008 Hawaii International Conference on Education. Honolulu, Hawaii.

Russell, D. (2007, November). *WASLI: World association of sign language interpreters.* Presentation given for the sign language interpreters, Kyiv, Ukraine.

Russell, D. (2007, November). *Inclusion or the illusion of inclusion: A study of interpreters working with deaf students in inclusive educational settings.* Presentation given for the deaf education students at the M. Drahomanov National Pedagogical University, Kyiv, Ukraine.

McQuarrie, L., & Russell, D. (2007, November). *Modeling inclusive practices in preservice teacher education programs in Canada.* Paper presented at M. Drahomanov National Pedagogical University. Kyiv, Ukraine.

Russell, D. (September, 2007). *WASLI – Regional and international cooperation.* Paper given at the national conference of Mexican Sign Language Interpreters (ANILS) in San Luis Potosi, Mexico.

Other Presentations at Scholarly Meetings and Conferences:

Russell, D. (2008, June). *Shifting parameter: Deaf and hard of hearing education.* Presentation for the Calgary Board of Education Student Services Support Team, Calgary, AB.

Russell, D. (2007, November). *Deaf youth in Canada.* Presentation given for the Deaf Youth Leaders conference, Kyiv, Ukraine.

Russell, D. (September 2007). *Becoming a Profession – what does it take?* Paper given at the national conference of Mexican Sign Language Interpreters (ANILS) in San Luis Potosi, Mexico.

Seminars Taught Nationally and Internationally

Russell, D. (2007, December). *Cohesion in interpreted discourse: Recognizing the subtle pieces.* Seminar given for the Ontario Association of Sign Language Interpreters (OASLI), Toronto, ON.

CORE ACTIVITY 2: SUPPORT FOR TRAINING & EDUCATIONAL ACCESS

Strategic Initiative: To provide support for on-going research, training, and educational access for d/Deaf and hard of hearing students.

Activities that supported this core activity include:

- WCCSD/ACSD ASL Immersion – we held two successful ASL immersions last summer. From July 23-28, we conducted the immersion at Campus St. Jean. The University of Calgary was our site during August 13-17. During the Edmonton immersion we had four Deaf people mentored by the more experienced ASL teachers and we hope that these potential teachers will work with us next year. The total number of participants across both events was 115 (Edmonton - 65; Calgary – 50).
- International Congress of the Deaf: Joe McLaughlin and I will chair the committee responsible for interpreting services for this event. We met in San Francisco in August 2007 to review the budget submission and to prepare the early stages of interpreter recruitment.
- Organized room bookings to deliver two of the courses that are part of the ASL Instructors Certificate Program, offered in collaboration with Douglas College and the Alberta Cultural Society for the Deaf. Met with Faculty of Extension to explore options for delivery of an ASL Instructors program. We are continuing to hold conversations with Dr. Katy Campbell about program design and options for delivering the program.
- WCCSD organized a meeting of the stakeholders interested in mental health services during November 2007 and again in June 2008. The group was able to select two co-chairs, Monique Jaiman and Diane Undershultz, and they are now working towards producing a letter of intent for funding to hire a researcher who can create the larger proposal that would enhance the delivery of mental health services for Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind Albertans.

CORE ACTIVITY 3: LEADERSHIP AND LIAISON

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

Activities that supported this core activity include:



Education Dean, Fern Snart, and Provost Carl Amrhein with the signed MOU.

Lakeland College: By collaborating with Lakeland College and the Department of Modern Languages we achieved the following goals:

In February 2008, Lakeland College was granted funding for the two-year Sign Language Interpretation Program. This comes after almost 4 years of lobbying and proposal writing efforts, and is very good news for the community. WCCSD continues to play a role on the Advisory Committee, and helped facilitate the Memo of Understanding reached by the University of Alberta and Lakeland

College. Through this agreement the Faculty of Education has agreed to host the Lakeland College program at the U of A. WCCSD has arranged for office space for the Chair of the program and provided some additional administrative support until Lakeland College could hire their own support staff.

In March 2007 WCCSD helped coordinate the student screening processes to select the first cohort of students.



The Ukrainian Sign Language Project
Marina Liferova, Dr. Debra Russell, Dr. Svitlana Kulbida, Iryna Chepchyna

Canadian Ukraine Research Team: Nov 10-17/07 - I traveled with Dr. Judy Lupart and Dr. Roman Petryshen to Kiev, Ukraine to participate in joint meetings with Drahomanov University and the Institute of Special Pedagogy. After the first day of a shared program, I spent the next 4 days traveling and presenting, as part of a delegation of Deaf Ukrainians, along with

Deaf delegates from Russia and Bulgaria. While there I gave presentations, visited several schools for the deaf and post-secondary institutions serving Deaf students, and attended a Deaf youth conference and an interpreter symposium. Considerable time was spent at the Sign Language Laboratory in the Institute of Special Pedagogy planning for the next stages of data analysis and data collection. During June 13-24/08 I returned to Ukraine, meeting with the researchers from the Sign language Laboratory, visiting

schools for the Deaf in Odessa and Lviv, and presenting a paper as part of the CURT team in the International Diaspora Conference.

CIDA grant: The Sign Language Research Project has received a portion of the CIDA grant (\$85,000) which will be dedicated to bringing a Ukrainian research fellow to study in Canada, complete phase one and two of data analysis and produce materials suitable for parents and teachers.

University of British Columbia: We continue to collaborate and have increased communication with UBC about their Deafness Studies Programs. During Fall 2007, Dr. Russell taught one on-line course (EPSE 525) with students from UBC taking the course.

Northeastern University, Boston, MA: We continue to provide on-going consultation to Northeastern University regarding the evolution of the masters degree program in teaching ASL and interpreting. Dr. Russell taught three courses for NEU (Fall 2007, Winter 2008, and Spring 2008).

World Association of Sign Language Interpreters: Continue to provide support and consultation as the North American representative serving Canada, the United States, and Mexico. I represented the WASLI board at the national conference of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf in San Francisco, CA, from August 5-8/07. I also gave a paper at the ANILS conference Sept. 29/30/07 in San Luis Potosi, Mexico. While in the United Kingdom in April 2008 I participated in Board of Director's meetings.

CORE ACTIVITY 4: COMMUNITY RESOURCE

Strategic Initiative: To act as a community resource.

Activities that supported this core activity include:

University of Alberta Community: Provided two guest lectures 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 two years on the Advisory Committee for the Butterfly Project, which serves Deaf and Hard of Hearing people.

Mental Health Group: WCCSD facilitated two community meetings of stakeholders interested in improving access to mental health services for Deaf, hard of hearing and Deaf-Blind Albertans.

Additional Consultations on a range of issues related to hearing loss and working with Deaf children and adults were provided to the Dept of Justice; Government of NWT; Mountain View School District; Government of Alberta; Alberta Learning; Deaf and

Hard of Hearing Services; Edmonton Public School District; 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, 2007 to June 30, 2008.

ALIGNMENT WITH UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA PRIORITIES

Our activities are congruent with the University of Alberta's cornerstones of talented people, learning, discovery and citizenship, connecting communities, and transformative organization and support, as demonstrated through the following examples.

Talented People: Our activities that support this cornerstone have included the recruitment of outstanding students and a focus on partnerships with organizations and colleges that serve non-traditional students. By virtue of language and culture, deaf and hard of hearing students are seen as non-traditional, and as a multi-cultural community of learners, they often face multiple barriers. We are building bridges between the University community and the larger community, ensuring that prospective deaf and hard of hearing students consider the University of Alberta as a welcoming learning environment that can accommodate their learning needs. Our centre celebrates and draws upon diversity by hiring Deaf employees who use American Sign Language and all of our research affiliates possess American Sign Language fluency. In addition, our research lectures focus on evidence based research in their field of Deaf Studies, and features scholars from Canada and from other countries.

Learning, Discovery and Citizenship: We support this cornerstone by creating national and international research collaborations. To date we have formed effective relationships with the University of British Columbia, Northeastern University in Boston, Institute of Special Pedagogy in Kiev, Ukraine, and Gallaudet University in Washington, DC. Finally, our centre has offered mentorship and learning opportunities to undergraduate and graduate students. As well, we serve as a work experience site for high school students from the Alberta School for the Deaf. By serving on the international board of directors for the World Association of Sign Language Interpreters, we are also building international relationships that create initiatives to foster mutual understanding, advance human rights agendas, and to further enhance the quality of life for all d/Deaf and hard of hearing citizens.

Connecting Communities: Our partnerships with school boards in Edmonton and Calgary, our collaboration with many community organizations such as the Canadian Cultural Society of the Deaf, the Alberta Cultural Society of the Deaf and the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association allow us to identify research challenges and to provide life-long learning opportunities. Teachers working with deaf and hard of hearing students are able to participate in our workshops, which provide access to new research outcomes and create a bridge between research and teaching practice. Our ASL Immersion experiences offer opportunities to learn American Sign Language and to learn how to meaningfully engage with this distinct linguistic minority. Our research lectures invite intellectual openness and opportunities for ongoing dialogue and discussion about areas of importance to the deaf and hard of hearing community. We continue to make the lectures accessible to all Canadians who have access to the Internet, through video-streaming technology.

Transformation Organization and Support: Our past record of providing two doctoral fellowships and one undergraduate fellowship support the University of Alberta’s goal of increasing financial assistance to attract outstanding students. We have also maintained good stewardship of the David Peikoff Endowment Fund, ensuring the financial resources will continue to available in the future. This will allow the University of Alberta to attract outstanding scholars to serve as the David Peikoff Chair of Deafness Studies. Finally, we have increased our ability to communicate among both the internal and external university community by producing regular newsletters, bi-monthly written reports to Peikoff Trustees, Dean Snart, and Dr. Everall, and maintaining a current web and electronic presence.

PLANS AND PRIORITIES FOR 2008-2009

The following activities highlight some of the major plans and priorities for 2008-2009:

- 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 2008.
- Offer two advanced research lectures, and make them available on the World Wide Web through video technology.
- Offer the Jones Memorial lecture.
- Complete year two of the SSHRC grant work and plan for year three.

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. Robin Everall, Chair of the Department of Educational Psychology.
Dr. Fern Snart, Dean of Education.

I am also grateful for the support that I have enjoyed from Jane McLeod, Megan Senechal, and Jilliane Yawney who have been exceptional research assistants. To Robin Demko, my administrative assistant, my sincere thanks for her exceptional work that continues to ensure our activities are carried out efficiently and effectively. Questions or feedback about the work conducted in our area can be directed to debra.russell@ualberta.ca or telephone: 780-492-1156.

Respectfully submitted,



Debra Russell
David Peikoff Chair of Deaf Studies & WCCSD Director