

Value of Languages in Nova Scotia

Friday, November 18th, 2016

Theatre Auditorium, McNally Main, Saint Mary's University

Agenda

8:45 –

9:10 am **Registration**

9:15 am **Introduction and Welcome**

- Welcome from the acting Vice President of SMU (Dr. Esther Enns)
- Welcome from the Deputy Minister of Immigration (Dep. Min. Julie Towers)
- Overview, Halifax Languages Consortium President (Dr. John L. Plews)

9:35 am

Vignettes

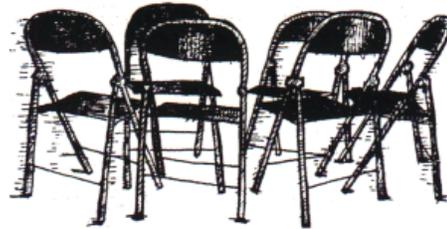
- Value of languages for cognitive development, academics, and healthcare (Dr. N. Conrad)
- Value of languages for the economy (Dr. Claudia de Fuentes)
- Value of languages for society, community integration, immigration, and global citizenship (Sonja Grcic-Stuart)
- Value of indigenous languages (John R. Sylliboy)
- Value of languages in healthcare provision (Nicole Holland)

10:20 am

Opening the space

Principles of Open Space

1. Whoever comes is/are the right people.
2. When it starts is the right time.
3. Whatever happens is the only thing that could have happened.
4. When it's over, it's over



The Law of Two Feet

If you find yourself in a situation where you are not learning or contributing, go somewhere where you can.

10:55 am Small group discussion #1

11:30 am Small group discussion #2

12:05 am Closing circle

12:35 -1:35 pm **Lunch / Exhibition of Language Services Providers* (Homburg Centre)**

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- 1:35 pm** **Keynote testimonials**
- Three speakers to represent languages in Nova Scotia (Graham Steele, Hossein Mousavi, Tracey Jones-Grant)
- 2:20 pm** **Re-opening the space: Committing to action**
- Small group discussion #3
- Closing circle
- 4:20 pm** **Closing words and commitment to reconvene**

*Exhibition continues in afternoon for local students.

Refreshments will be served in the Theatre Auditorium during registration and the open space. Lunch will be served in the Homburg Centre.

Parking at Saint Mary's University

Day-long parking permits will be available for purchase at registration. The permit costs \$10 per day. Permits are valid in general spots only (i.e., no carpool, faculty, Homburg Members only lot, meters or accessible—unless the vehicle also holds a city-/province-issued handicap permit).

Parking near campus is available on the street around campus, which is controlled by the City of Halifax. It is generally for 2 hours at a time, after which the vehicle must be moved. Some blocks further from campus, parking is not controlled.

There are some parking meters in the campus lots that may be used for \$2/hr; most meters will accept coins for up to 4 hours before more money must be added; some accept coins only for up to 2 hours before more money must be added.

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Speaker biographies

DR. NICOLE CONRAD is Associate Professor in the Dept. of Psychology, Saint Mary's University, where she has taught since 2005. She received her Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology from McMaster University in Hamilton, ON (2002). Most of her previous and current research relates to the broad area of reading acquisition. Within this broad area, her research focuses on how memory is involved in reading acquisition and skilled reading, how children acquire the linguistic and cognition information necessary to become skilled readers, and the nature of the beneficial relation between reading and spelling.

DR. CLAUDIA DE FUENTES is Assistant Professor in the Sobey School of Business, Saint Mary's University, where she has taught since 2011. She received her Ph.D. in Social Sciences with a Speciality in Innovation and Technology Development from the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Xochimilco in Mexico in 2007. Her research interests include systems of innovation, university-industry collaboration, global innovation networks, social innovation, and determinants of innovation.

SONJA GRCIC-STUART is English as an Additional Language (EAL) Consultant for the Halifax Regional School Board, focused on language-content and literacy programming for immigrant children and youth. She has worked as a primary to grade 12 English and EAL teacher in Quebec City and Halifax and authored Canadian educational books for a science and social studies series supporting English language learning. Sonja is the former Vice President ESL/EAL for the NS Language Teachers Association and participates in the Halifax Local Immigration Partnership Advisory Committee, where she chairs the subcommittee for Education, Language Training and Related Matters. Sonja is a graduate of Saint Mary's and completed her M.Ed. at Mount Saint Vincent University.

NICOLE HOLLAND is Interpretation and French Language Services Coordinator for the Nova Scotia Health Authority (NSHA). She completed her studies in Languages and Civilization receiving a Diplôme d'études de civilisation Cycle III from the L'Institut Catholique de Paris and studied translation with the Chartered Institute of Linguists of London (through Dublin City University). Ms. Holland has worked as a Cultural Health Interpreter, ESL teacher, bilingual editor and translator, and bilingual airline agent. She believes strongly patients' right to quality health care regardless of culture or language and works to ensure patients' access to interpretation services at the NSHA.

TRACEY JONES-GRANT grew up in Halifax, graduating from Mount Saint Vincent University in 1984 and earning a Masters of Library Sciences at Dalhousie in 1986. The daughter of Joan and Burnley "Rocky" Jones, Tracey grew up at the height of the efforts to define Black identity and fight for civil rights. Tracey has worked in the area of diversity, from being the Diversity Manager for Halifax Public Libraries to coordinating Diversity Management for the Halifax Regional School board to, most recently, serving as the Manager of Diversity and Inclusion for the Halifax Regional Municipality in the newly created Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

HOSSEIN MOUSAVI. Prior to founding Cresco in 1989, Hossein began his university education with his eye on a medical degree. However, his artistic heart won him over, and with a Bachelor of Science degree from Saint Francis Xavier University in hand, he

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followed his dream into home renovations. Today, Hossein is widely respected for his visionary methods and progressive thinking when planning communities. His ideas and input on home building industry trends are regularly sought out by various organizations. Hossein and his wife, Darlene, have three children.

GRAHAM STEELE was born and raised in Winnipeg to unilingual British immigrants. He went to school before French immersion was an option. He nevertheless grew to love languages, and learned French, Spanish and Esperanto, as well as useful phrases in the language of whatever country he was visiting next. He was a member of the Nova Scotia legislature 2001-2013 and Minister of Acadian Affairs 2009-2012. He currently teaches Law in the Rowe School of Business at Dalhousie University, and is trying to learn Mandarin.

JOHN R. SYLLIBOY is a member of the Millbrook First Nation and the Aboriginal Children's Hurt & Healing Initiative (ACHH) National Aboriginal Research Engagement Coordinator at IWK Health Centre. He has extensive experience as a health policy analyst for Atlantic First Nation communities and is leads several research projects on the health, wellbeing and educational pursuit of Aboriginal youth. John is Co-founder of the Wabanaki Two Spirit Alliance, a regional organization supporting education, health and well-being for Two Spirits in the Atlantic region through awareness, cultural knowledge sharing, and youth empowerment. John is completing his MA in Education Foundations at Mount Saint Vincent University.

JULIE TOWERS became Chief Executive Officer of the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration in June 2016, and takes an action-oriented approach to growing our province. She has also led the Nova Scotia Office of Aboriginal Affairs since 2014. Julie is a graduate of the University of Toronto and the University of New Brunswick, with Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in Biology. She worked as a wildlife biologist before entering Nova Scotia's public service, has served as the Executive Director of Renewable Resources for the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources, and has run her own consulting business in British Columbia.

Open space facilitator

Judith Richardson, PONO Consultants International. PONO Consultants offers a roster of robust and inspiring sessions and services to facilitate change in organizations and the people within it. These include: Peak Performance; Stakeholder Engagement; Organizational Culture Optimization; Integrated Communications; Research and Organizational Development; Speaking/Workshops.

Your hosts

The Halifax Languages Consotium is an association of some 40 highly qualified persons, including representatives of local universities' Modern Languages departments and ESL programs, the city of Halifax, public and independent schools, NGOs, immigration settlement services, student parents' associations, private language schools, and translators' and interpreters' associations. Our goal is to promote the teaching and learning of languages in Nova Scotia.

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The Halifax Local Immigration Partnership. Funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada, the Halifax Local Immigration Partnership is one of 40 community initiatives established across Canada to promote the settlement and integration of immigrants and facilitate links between sectors by engaging local stakeholders and institutions.

Saint Mary's University, Centre for the Interdisciplinary Study of Culture (CISC), located in the Faculty of Arts, provides an active forum for scholars, researchers, and students to cultivate and promote the study of culture across academic disciplines. CISC aims to promote cultural research and facilitate connections between cultural institutions as well as foster alternative ways of understanding and participating in culture.

Acknowledgements

Financial Donations

We would very much like to thank the following institutions for their generous financial contributions to the Summit on the Value of Languages in Nova Scotia:

Alliance Française

Canadian Parents for French Nova Scotia

Confucius Institute, Saint Mary's University

Dalhousie University, Faculty of Arts

International Language Institute, Halifax

Local Immigration Partnership, Halifax Branch

Mount Saint Vincent University, Department of Modern Languages

Nova Scotia Department of Labour and Advanced Education

**Nova Scotia Language Teachers Association / Association des
enseignant(e)s de langue de la Nouvelle-Écosse**

**Saint Mary's University, Centre for the Interdisciplinary Study of Culture
(Faculty of Arts)**

Saint Mary's University, Department of Modern Languages & Classics

Saint Mary's University, Faculty of Graduate Studies & Research

Saint Mary's University, Office of the Vice-President Academic & Research

Swedish Honorary Consulate in Halifax

Université Sainte Anne



Labour and Advanced Education

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