

„Canadian pre-service teacher views of inclusive education“

Prof. Tim Loreman, Concordia University of Edmonton

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Abstract

Canada is seen by many as an international leader in inclusive education for children with disabilities. While this may be true in some regions and in some ways, inclusive education in Canada faces many of the same challenges that are evident in other parts of the world. The Province of Alberta has found meaningful change in favour of inclusion to be elusive. If meaningful change is to be accomplished it is important that new teachers be empowered with the attitudes and skills required for success. This presentation draws on a body of research conducted at Concordia University of Edmonton in Canada that serves to highlight the views that pre-service elementary education teachers hold towards inclusive education in general, including a specific discussion on inclusive physical education. Are these new teachers adequately prepared for the demands of an inclusive classroom? This session will attempt to answer that question.

Prof. Tim Loreman is Concordia University of Edmonton's 8th President and Vice Chancellor. He is a professor in the Faculty of Education and was previously a classroom teacher in Australian and Canadian schools. His active research interests include inclusive education and pedagogy, having published widely in the area. He has held visiting professorships at the Hong Kong Institute for Education, the University of Bologna, and Queens University Belfast. He has been involved in a number of major Canadian and international research grants along with large international studies on inclusive education. Dr. Loreman was founding editor of the International Journal of Whole Schooling and has served as co-editor of Exceptionality Education International.