



Professional Development & Community Engagement (PDCE)

2023-2024 Impact Report



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Faculty of Education

Professional Development & Community Engagement

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Message from the Dean

As the educational landscape continues to evolve, the Professional Development & Community Engagement (PDCE) unit remains at the forefront, providing educators with relevant and timely professional learning opportunities. Our diverse programs are designed to meet the changing needs of today's educators, offering flexibility through part-time, online, and on-campus options, as well as an expanding range of workshops and non-credit offerings. Through these initiatives, PDCE supports UBC Faculty of Education's mission to advance the role of Education in the wellbeing of people and communities.

The Faculty's commitment to Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Decolonization (EDID) remains central to PDCE programming and initiatives, most notably through the new [Assessment for Equity program](#), which invites educators to explore assessment practices through diverse cultural lenses and create more inclusive and meaningful learning experiences in K-12 classrooms.

Looking ahead, PDCE has identified two new priorities to guide future work. First, PDCE is focusing on digital learning and the transformative role of artificial intelligence (AI) in Education. In collaboration with the Dean's Office, faculty, and other key partners, PDCE will deliver professional learning opportunities that equip teachers with knowledge and skills to integrate AI into their teaching practice, including the upcoming series, [AI in K-12 Education: Classroom of the Future](#).

Sustainability is the second key priority. Collaborating with various community partners will facilitate the development of new pathways for professional learning on sustainability. This includes the launch of a new MEd cohort that represents a novel partnership between the Faculties of Education, Land & Food Systems, and Forestry, as well as the exploration and development of non-credit learning opportunities focused on practical topics such as school food programs, community gardens, and more.

These initiatives reflect PDCE's ongoing dedication to providing educators with the tools and knowledge needed to address critical issues in education, while fostering innovation and inclusivity in every learning environment. We invite you to engage with our programs and learn more about this important work.

Dr. Jan Hare, Dean



Team

The Professional Development & Community Engagement (PDCE) team is a dynamic group of individuals with experience and expertise in education, administration, and marketing.

The 2023-24 team included:

Abby Blinch, Manager, Marketing & Communications

Nhu Dinh, Senior Program Assistant

Vicki Domansky, Team Lead, Senior Program Assistants

Peyvand Fralick, Project Coordinator

Bryan Wern Yan Lee, Assistant, Marketing & Communications

Sarah Lockman, Manager, Professional Development

Kelvin Mok, Senior Program Assistant

David Roy, Senior Program Assistant

Vanessa Smith, Director

Lynne Tomlinson, Assistant Dean

Samantha Tsui, Marketing & Communications Specialist

This year, the unit was pleased to welcome new members, **Samantha Tsui** and **Nhu Dinh**, and celebrated long-time staff member, **Vicki Domansky**, who was recognized for **35 years of service** to UBC. Additionally, Assistant Dean, **Lynne Tomlinson**, was acknowledged as a nominee for a **YWCA Women of Distinction Award** in the Education, Training & Development category.

Team Professional Development

As a unit dedicated to professional development, the team continued to emphasize learning for its own members in 2023-24, attending Faculty-organized opportunities around leadership development and artificial intelligence in the workplace. As a group, PDCE also visited UBC's [Indian Residential School History and Dialogue Centre](#), in order to deepen their knowledge and awareness of colonialism's legacy and harmful impacts in Canada.

PDCE collaborated with the Learning Design & Digital Innovation unit (LDDI) to obtain an Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Decolonization (EDID) professional development grant via the **Faculty of Education Staff EDID Initiatives Fund**. This grant supported the delivery of a workshop entitled **Working with our Many Storied Selves: Exploring Intersectionality and Positionality through Creative Expression**, wherein participants had the opportunity to connect, learn, and discuss EDID topics while playing with different artistic mediums.

Team members also attended **conferences** related to education in British Columbia, including the **British Columbia School Superintendents Association Conference (BCSSA)**, the **Networks of Inquiry & Indigenous Education Symposium (NOIE)**, and the **Farm to School BC Conference**. Individually, team members also attended professional development opportunities focused on area-specific knowledge and networking, including **marketing and promotions** (DigiMarCon, Digital Marketing Conference), **leadership** (Dare to Lead series, Leadership & Well-being: Power to Give), **change management** (Prosci Change Management), and **decolonization** (Truth & Reconciliations: Decolonizing Educational Praxis, Learning from the Land: Reconciliation Education, Every Child Matters: 4 Seasons of Reconciliation).



Committees

This year, PDCE hosted two meetings of its **Field Advisory Committee**. This group brought together district leads from both urban and rural areas in British Columbia to discuss professional development priorities.

Key topics of discussion included:

- New professional learning around EDID, including refugee students and SOGI
- Possibilities for learning around AI in schools
- Areas of continued need, including literacy support for Grades 4-7 and new graduation requirements around Indigenous Education

The PDCE team looks forward to continuing conversations with the above noted committee on these and other issues in the upcoming academic year.



Professional Development & Community Engagement Initiatives

Graduate Support

As one of its core service portfolios, PDCE provided broad-based administrative support to all active/ongoing cohort-based master’s programs in the 2023-24 school year.

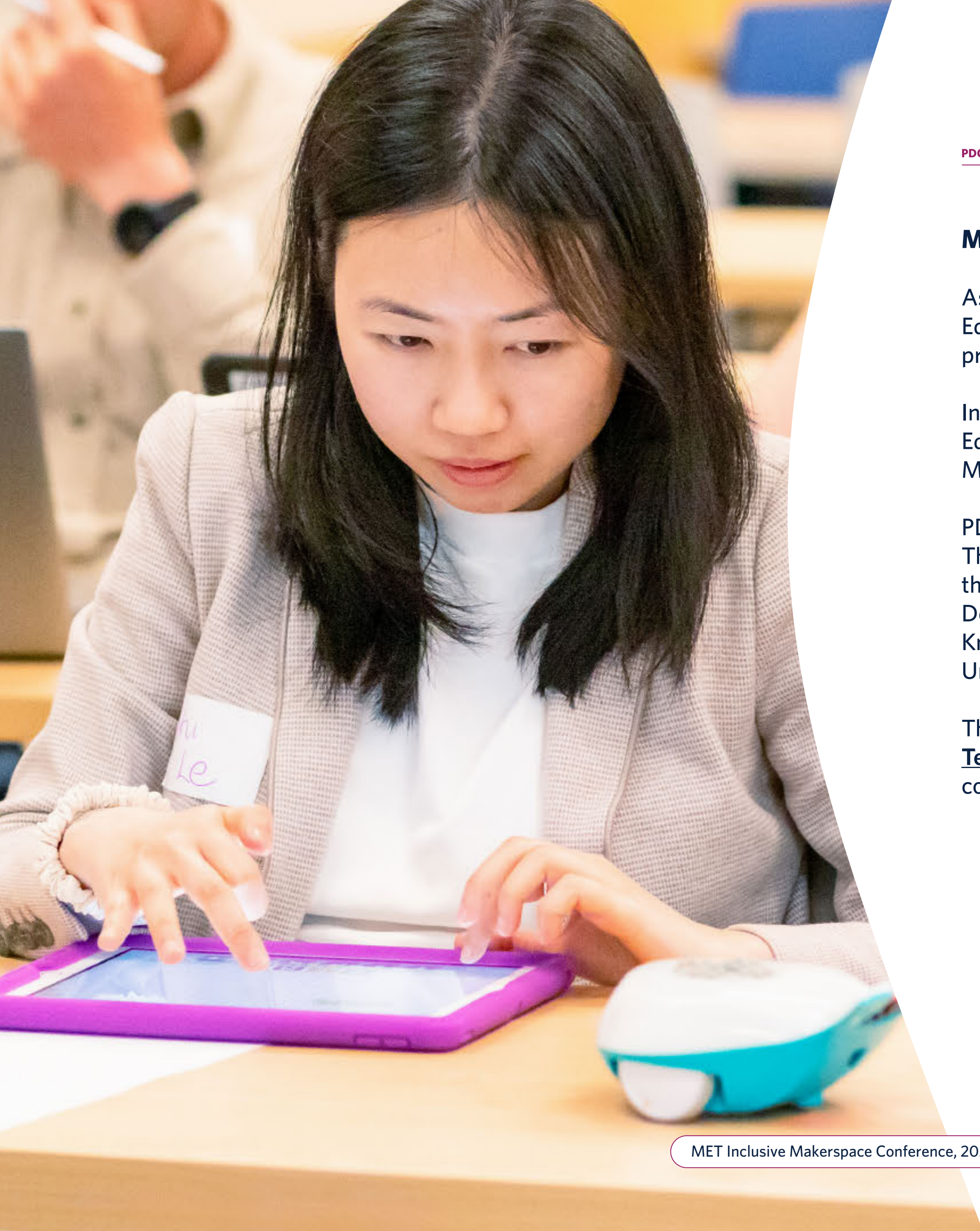
Relative to new intakes, PDCE also supported the marketing, recruitment and admissions activities for the below-noted cohort-based master’s programs in the 2023-24 school year:

Program	Term Started	No. of Students Admitted
Master of Education in Indigenous Education	Jul. 2023	25
Master of Education in Literacy Education	Sep. 2023	20
Master of Education in Social Studies Education	Jul. 2023	16

Undergraduate Support

As one of its core service portfolios, PDCE provided broad-based administrative support to all online undergraduate courses, including scheduling of course sections and maintenance of waitlists.





PDCE INITIATIVES CONTINUED

Master of Educational Technology Program (MET)

As another of its core service portfolios, PDCE provided broad-based support to the Master of Educational Technology program, including support for marketing, recruitment, admissions, and general program administration, as well as support for human resources and financial functions.

In the 2023-24 school year, MET welcomed **116 new students** (Graduate Certificate and Master of Educational Technology) and said congratulations to **136 successful graduates** (Graduate Certificate and Master of Educational Technology).

PDCE also supported the MET program in delivery of the 2023-24 **MET Anti-racism Speaker Series**. This year, the series attracted over **232 participants** across **two live online events**, and also resulted in the production of five podcasts. The series featured many notable speakers, including **Dr. Bryan Brayboy**, Dean of Northwestern University's School of Education and Social Policy, discussing Indigenous Knowledge Systems, and **Dr. Shibao Guo**, Professor at the Werklund School of Education at the University of Calgary, discussing anti-Asian racism.

The program was also pleased to recognize the inaugural recipients of the **Master of Educational Technology Award for Indigenous Students**, selecting **two students** who will have the cost of tuition covered for their Master of Educational Technology program.

Early Childhood Education Program (ECED)

As another of its core service portfolios, PDCE provided broad-based support to the Early Childhood Education program, including support for marketing, recruitment, admissions, and general program administration, as well as support for human resources and financial functions.

Graduate Education

In the 2023-24 school year, ECED welcomed **36 new MEd students** (on-campus and online) and said congratulations to **40 successful graduates**.

Undergraduate Education

In the 2023-24 school year, ECED welcomed a number of new students to its various undergraduate programs, including those linked to provincial certification as an Early Childhood Educator via the Ministry of Education and Child Care in BC:

Program	Newly Admitted Students
Infant Development & Supported Child Development (Certificate/Diploma)	8*
Early Years Education (Certificate/Diploma)	185
B.C. ECE Assistant Certificate (3 credits)	97
B.C. ECE Basic Certificate (48 credits)	51

*Admission to these programs has temporarily been suspended while the courses are revised.

PDCE also supported ECED in the successful September 2023 launch of a cohort of approximately **10 students who are deaf/hard of hearing** to complete their **BC ECE Basic Certificate**. This program was adapted for accessibility with funding from the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills.



Panda AAC Camp, 2024



PDCE INITIATIVES CONTINUED

Transformative Educational Leadership Program (TELP)

PDCE provides full-service support to TELP, including support for marketing, recruitment, admissions, implementation and strategic planning, as well as support for human resources and financial functions.

In 2023-24, TELP was delivered in a **blended format**, with two sessions held face-to-face at UBC Vancouver, for **24 participants**. The program engaged 4 TELP alumni as Reading Group Facilitators, building connections between past and current cohort participants.

PDCE also supported TELP in the delivery of the **Spring 2024 TELP Alumni event** held at UBC Vancouver. This event attracted **50 attendees** and included international speakers from Lebanon and the US, and living case studies from across British Columbia. In addition, the PDCE supported the publication of 2 issues of the TEL Journal, including 10 articles featuring topics such as reconciliation, promoting Indigenous student success, equity, district-level organizational design and leading K-12 system transformation.

Next year the PDCE will support TELP in its **10th Anniversary celebrations**, with planning currently underway.

Conferences

In 2023-24 PDCE provided administrative and marketing leadership and support to two conferences, varying in size and scope:

- **MET Inclusive Makerspace Conference (May 2023)**
 - 153 registrants, attending in person and via Zoom
 - 2 esteemed Keynote Speakers, Dr. Hannah Kye and Dr. Maggie Melo
- **Early Years Conference (February 2024)**
 - 427 registrants, attending in person
 - 2 esteemed Keynote Speakers, Dr. Ripudaman Minhas and Dr. Elizabeth Erwin

Institutes & Workshops

In 2023-24, as one of its key priorities, PDCE provided administrative support for various institutes and workshops, including the return of the highly popular **Institut de Français, UBC à Québec** (overseen by the Dept. of Language and Literacy Education). This three-week immersive experience takes place in the summer, bringing BC-based teachers together in Québec City, QC to develop their knowledge and teaching of French language and culture. In 2023-24, the Institut de Français expanded to welcome **40 participants** across two cohorts, including practicing teachers and teacher candidates.

PDCE also supported the planning and delivery of an online institute in the spring, **SOGI Inclusive Education & Leadership**, which introduced participants to a number of anti-racist and decolonial frameworks to think with and address sexuality and gender in its complex intersections.





MET Inclusive Makerspace Conference, 2023

PDCE INITIATIVES CONTINUED

Introduction to the BC K-12 School System & Professional Standard for Educators

Throughout 2023-24, PDCE worked with key partners, including the **BC Teachers' Council (BCTC)**, the **Association of BC Deans of Education (ABCDE)**, to deliver this newly created non-credit online course to satisfy the revised familiarization requirement for teachers who are new to BC and hold internationally issued credentials, including the below offerings:

Start	No. of Registrants
July 2023	72
September 2023	36
October 2023	36
April 2024	36

Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)

In 2023-24, PDCE continued to support delivery of the many massive open online courses (MOOCs) hosted by the Faculty, including the below:

MOOC	No. of Registrants 2023-24
Anti-racism Awareness	1,328
Reconciliation through Indigenous Education	2,301
Learn Mental Health Literacy	2,418
Teach Mental Health Literacy	673

PDCE also partnered with a handful of organizations to provide customized versions of the Anti-racism Awareness MOOC to nearly 1,000 employees as part of their in-house learning and professional development opportunities.

Edith Lando Virtual Learning Centre

As another of its core service portfolios, PDCE provided broad-based support to the Edith Lando Virtual Learning Centre, including support for marketing and general program administration, as well as support for human resources and financial functions.

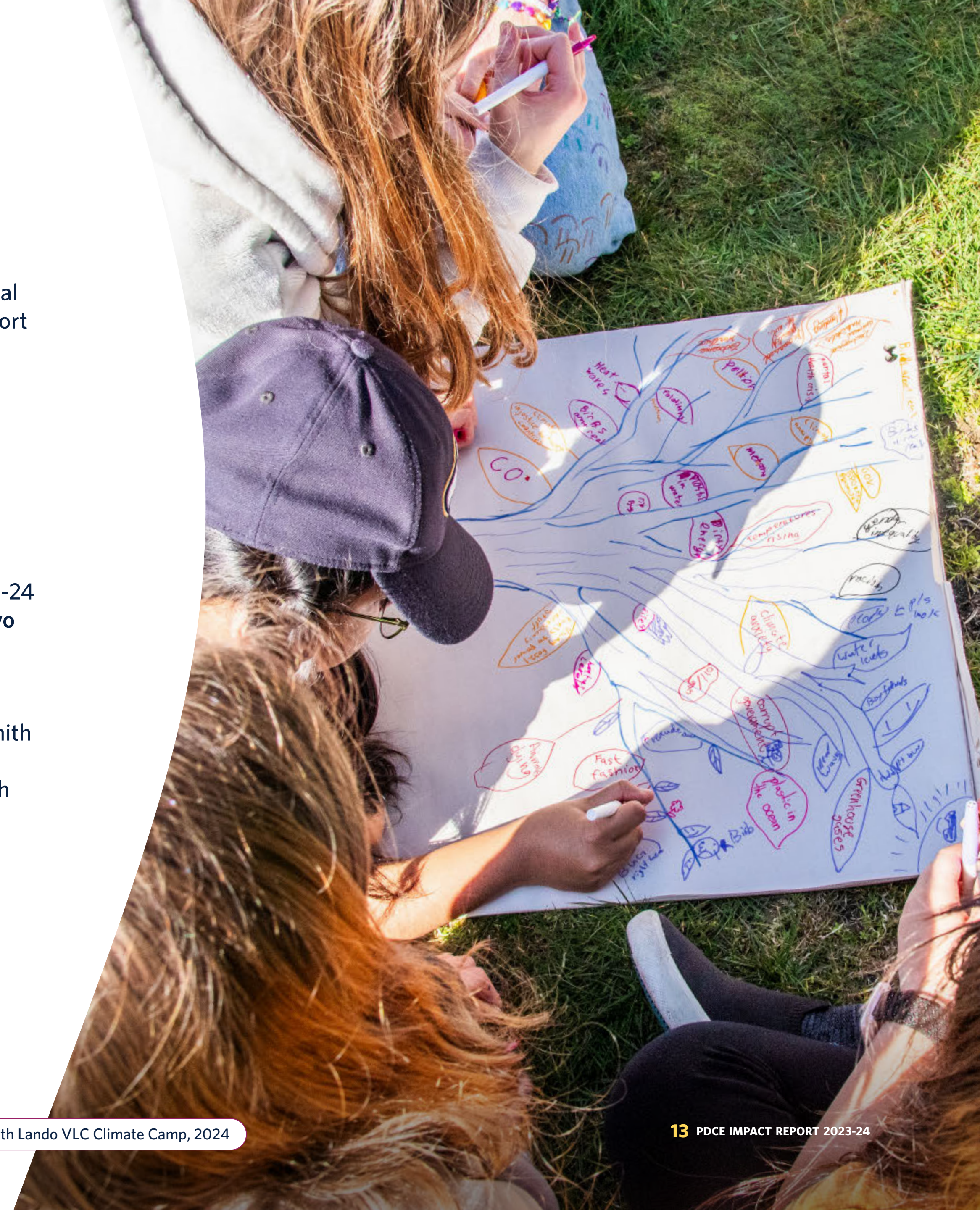
To view the Edith Lando Virtual Learning Centre activities/programming, please view their [website](#) and/or their [annual report](#).

Community Engagement Activities

Dean's Community Engagement Series

This year, PDCE continued to support the Office of the Dean (Dr. Jan Hare) in delivery of the 2023-24 **Dean's Community Engagement Series**. This free series attracted over **350 participants** across **two live online events**, addressing these key topics:

- **Learning & Leadership in the Early Years** (featuring **Dr. Jeffrey Wood** of Laurentian University, **Kirsten Deasey** of the Sunshine Coast School District, and **Aimee Blow** of the Nanaimo-Ladysmith School District)
- **Supporting Immigrant & Refugee Students** (featuring **Dr. Sofia Noori** of the University of British Columbia, **Kabir Qurban** of the Surrey School District, and **Asma Howba**, a recent high school graduate)



Key Stats

6,720
MOOC registrations



40
participants in the Institut de Français: UBC à Québec

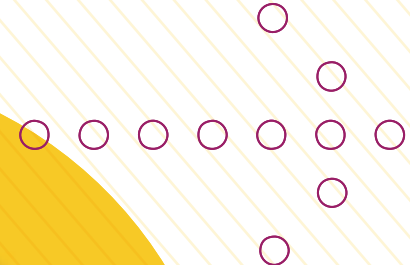


580
conference attendees



61
students admitted to MEd cohort programs

OVER
350
participants in the Dean's Community Engagement Series



116
new Master of Educational Technology students

Pictured above: (L) Early Years Conference 2024, (R) MET Inclusive Makerspace Conference 2023

Innovation

Innovation is a cornerstone of PDCE's work to mobilize leading research and practices related to learning opportunities for educational professionals. In 2023-24, PDCE invested team time and resources into the below noted innovations, all of which will be carried forward to the coming year:

Assessment for Equity

- Working with content leads, Drs. Deena Kotak-Buckley and Brooke Moore, PDCE has invested in the development of a new non-credit offering that will allow participants to examine assessment for learning through various cultural lenses to uncover how best to design instructional strategies and learning experiences that resonate in K-12 classrooms.
- The program will launch in October 2024 and run online over 4 months with 7 synchronous meeting opportunities.

Digital Archive of Indigenous Stories

- Working with Squamish and Musqueam Elders, PDCE invested in the development of high-quality digital recordings of Indian Residential School Survivors that will provide open access to this critically important content to teachers and other educational professionals who can use these resources in their classrooms and other instructional settings.
- The recordings will be debuted in Fall 2024 and will be made available to educators via PDCE's website thereafter.

LinkedIn Advertising

- This year, the PDCE Marketing team introduced LinkedIn as a key advertising channel to enhance outreach to working professionals. LinkedIn's platform allows PDCE to target a more specific audience based on professional experience, industry, and career interests.
- This initiative reflects PDCE's ongoing efforts to stay ahead of marketing trends and optimize campaigns to reach educators and professionals who may benefit from our diverse program offerings.



Conclusion/2024-25 Focus

Moving forward, as we embark on the 2024-25 academic year, PDCE looks forward to providing ongoing service to its core portfolios, in addition to focusing on some new priorities and future directions:

Developing Non-Credit Opportunities

- With the adoption of [UBC-Vancouver Senate Policy V-129: Non-Credit Credentials](#) in September 2023, as well as the proliferation of interest in micro-credentials, the PDCE team will support the Faculty's creation of an internal framework for the development of responsive and timely non-credit credentials, in addition to providing support for delivery.

Digital Learning & Artificial Intelligence

- The PDCE team will be collaborating with the Dean's Office, the Edith Lando Virtual Learning Centre, and other partners to design and deliver professional development opportunities for teachers around digital learning and the use of artificial intelligence, such as the upcoming non-credit learning series, [AI in K-12 Education: Classroom of the Future](#).

Sustainability & Green Futures

- PDCE will be working with various field and faculty partners on pathways for professional learning devoted to sustainability and green futures. This includes the launch of a new MEd cohort that represents a novel partnership between the Faculties of Education, Land & Food Systems, and Forestry, as well as the exploration and development of non-credit learning opportunities focusing on topics such as school food programs, and community gardens, etc. (panels, workshops, series, etc.).

Expanding on EDID Commitments

- PDCE continues to seek ways to expand on the Faculty of Education's commitments to EDID (including subjects like Indigeneity, Reconciliation, anti-racism, sexual orientation and gender identity, etc.). This involves furthering the team's own professional development, as well as providing new opportunities to the field.





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