

Centre for Educational Research and Innovation (CERI), OECD  
Alberta Education, Canada

**Government  
of Alberta** ■  
Education



## Innovative Learning Environments (ILE)

### International Conference on Innovative Learning Environments

Banff Conference Centre, Banff, Alberta, Canada

October 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> 2011

#### CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

This international conference on Innovative Learning Environments (ILE) has been co-organised by OECD's Centre for Educational Research and Innovation (CERI) and Alberta Education, the Ministry of Education in the Canadian province of Alberta. The local hosts was the Canadian Rockies Public Schools, the Alberta school district in which the town of Banff is located.

The OECD/Alberta conference was the most ambitious event in the OECD work on Innovative Learning Environments. It draws on the earlier work on learning research and addressed in detail the “innovative cases” analysis and the new work focused on the key issues of “implementation and change”. It is also the most ambitious in terms of the numbers of invited participants who, in addition to the core group of those in each system most closely engaged in the ILE project (the “system coordinators”), will include key players in different leadership positions and stakeholder groups.

The Alberta Government has engaged in a widespread dialogue to create a long-term vision for transforming education, focusing on innovation, shared governance, inclusiveness, engagement, a shift towards building competencies, and shared responsibility and accountability for student-centred education.



[www.oecd.org/edu/learningenvironments](http://www.oecd.org/edu/learningenvironments)

The ILE conference was run for 2 ½ days, beginning at 2pm on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2011 and finished at the end of Wednesday afternoon, 12<sup>th</sup> October. Immediately following the OECD/Alberta conference, and overlapping with a session at the end of Wednesday afternoon a *21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Leadership Forum* until October 14<sup>th</sup>. Participants in the ILE conference were able to stay on or choose to attend school visits in the Canadian Rockies Public Schools district on Thursday October 13<sup>th</sup>.

The conference discussion was led by Tony Mackay, Centre for Strategic Education, Melbourne, Australia.

The specific aims of the meeting were to:

- ***Examine inspiring forms of learning innovation*** being tried in different countries and contexts, addressing their innovative design and their aims and outcomes.
- ***Discuss strategies and priorities for expanding*** new forms of learning environments, both in particular localities and through wider clusters and networking, and the broader policy implications to facilitate this process.
- ***Consolidate the international network of systems, stakeholders and researchers*** building 21<sup>st</sup> century learning environments and exploring how these can be implemented at scale.
- As a spin-off from these, to ***provide substantial input to the OECD work on Innovative Learning Environments***, both in its analysis of “innovative cases” and in designing new work on “implementation and change”.

The programme has been devised to meet these different aims, with a mix of plenary discussions and breakout sessions into smaller groups. The different sessions will be carefully recorded to avoid lengthy feedback reporting during the conference.

The record of the conference is presented in the conference webpage-



MONDAY, 10<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2011

14:00 CONFERENCE OPENS

14:00 – 17:45 [*All in Plenary Session*]

14:00-15:00

**1. Welcome and Conference Aims**

- Welcome by Conference Chair Tony Mackay and by Alberta Deputy Minister and Chair of the OECD Education Policy Committee, Keray Henke

**2. Setting the Scene – Current Agendas**

- *Introduction to reforms and innovation in Alberta*: Minister Dave Hancock, Minister of Education
- *The Key Role of Learning and Innovation – Insights from the OECD*, Director Barbara Ischinger, OECD Directorate for Education

15:00 – 16:30

**3. Why Systems Must Innovate their Learning**

- Keynote by Valerie Hannon, Innovation Unit, England
- Open discussion

The aim of Session 2 was to lay out existing priorities and developments in learning and innovation as seen both from the education system, and from the international OECD viewpoints.

The keynote that open up to the conference was the urgency of innovating learning systems in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, democratising deep learning across the whole generation of young people, rather than in isolated pockets, and engaging in the innovation that this implies. Sessions 2 and 3 sharpened the agenda for the rest of the conference and it allow the participants from many different countries and vantage points to place their priority issues on the table.

16:30 -17:00            *Tea/coffee break*

17:00 – 17:45

**4. The OECD/CERI International “Innovative Learning Environments” (ILE) Project: Framing Concepts and Existing Conclusions**

- David Istance, ILE Project Leader
- Discussion

[For reference: OECD overview powerpoint and project summary; Alberta “Inspirin Action in Education”. 2010]



18:00-19:00            *Conference Reception offered by Alberta Education.*

TUESDAY, 11<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2011

9:00 – 10:30 [*in plenary session*]

**5. Overview of Innovative Learning Environments in the International Project**

- *The range of innovative learning environments in the ILE compilation – approaches and innovative features*, Vanessa Shadoian-Gersing and Mariana Martinez Salgado, OECD
- *“The Nature of Learning” in the ILE Case Studies*, Hanna Dumont, Tuebingen University, Germany
- Discussion

The aim of this session was to consider the range of different learning arrangements emerging from the pool of cases being compiled by the ILE project and what they reveal about the dimensions of innovation and the nature of learning within them. The aim is also to consider the most appropriate and useful forms of synthesis in subsequent revisions.

*[For reference: the Universe and Inventory Synthesis, the ILE Universe Summary report, and the individual ILE “Inventory” case studies]*

10:30 -11:00            *Tea/coffee break*

11:00 – 12:30 [*in workshops*]

**6. Facets and Dimensions of Innovative Learning Environments**

- What different ILEs mean for the learner and for the learning professionals – *changing the learning experience*
- Reorganising learning environments – *organisation and dynamics*
- Integrating technology’s potential for *redesigning the medium of learning*
- ILEs for new knowledge, competences and capacities – *changing content*

The aim of this session was to address the dimensions of innovation in learning environments through specific concrete approaches and examples, while in all cases exploring their implications for holistic reorganisation. Each workshop will be guided by specific questions with the aim of exploring broader issues and potentials, not describe specific cases.

12:30-13:45            *Lunch at Banff Conference Centre*



13:45 – 14:15 [in plenary session]

- Open discussion of the morning's workshop issues and insights
- Introduction to next workshops.

14:15 – 16:00 [Workshops]

### **7. Key Transversal Issues arising for Innovative Learning Environments**

- The ILE set of *research-based principles* by which to design and organise learning environments – an unattainable ideal or an unavoidable requirement?
- Defining and building “*learning leadership*”
- *Teacher professionalism* for 21<sup>st</sup> century learning environments
- How appropriately to judge the success of ILEs - *outcomes*?

The aim of this session was to examine a number of the *transversal issues* that are critical to the implementation of 21<sup>st</sup> century learning environments, and which call for substantial clarification of concepts and aims as well as necessary organisational drive and political will. Consideration of options will extend beyond specific cases prepared for the ILE project.

16: -16:30      *Tea/coffee break*

16:30 - 17:00 [Plenary]

- Panel of Workshop Chairs on “Key Transversal Issues arising for ILEs”

17:00 -18:00 [Plenary]

### **8. Making Innovations Happen – Insights from ILE Cases and Wider OECD Analysis**

- *Launching and Sustaining ILEs: the insights from the ILE case studies*, Anne Sliwka, Heidelberg University of Education, Germany
- *Insights from the OECD “Innovation Strategy” analysis of education systems – motors and brakes*, Stéphan Vincent-Lancrin, OECD/CERI

This session will form the bridge between the issues discussed on Days 2 and 3 of the conference and it will bring together the insights from the case studies regarding how the ILEs began and were sustained over time

[For reference: Draft OECD Synthesis Report on Innovative Learning Environments, Executive Summary from the 2010 OECD publication “The Nature of Learning: Using Research to Inspire Practice”, and the “Implementation and Change” discussion paper.]



WEDNESDAY, 12<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2011

9:00 – 9:30 [*Plenary*]

Reflections on discussions and issues from Day 2 including presentations in item 8.

9:30 – 10:30 [*Plenary*]

**9. The Governance and System Challenges**

- Keynote by Nelson Gonzalez, Stupski Foundation, USA
- Discussion

10:30 -11:00            *Tea/coffee break*

11:00 -12:30 [*Workshops*]

- Systems and modes of governance appropriate for fostering 21<sup>st</sup> century learning environments
- Networks and clusters-going to scales through a well-developed “meso” level
- Resource challenges- in times and contexts of limited resources, how to ensure that quality 21<sup>st</sup> century learning environments do not depend on high resourcing?
- Influencing climates, building capacities, and creating conducive conditions-appropriate policies?

12:30 – 14:00            *Lunch at Banff Conference Centre*

14:00 -14:45 [*in plenary*]

**9. The Governance and System Challenges (continued)**

- Key issues emerging from morning workshops
- Discussion

The aim of this substantial item – with keynote, plenary discussion, workshops, and conclusions – is to address the challenges of systemic growth of 21<sup>st</sup> century learning environments. It is to identify promising models and examples and to address outstanding inhibiting factors. It is ask how current reform priorities and approaches match the directions identified through the discussions.



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*14:45 -16:30 [in plenary]*

**10. Taking Stock and Looking Ahead**

- Stakeholder Panel – social partners (business, trade unions), international and national policy players, researcher – What have we learned?
- Discussion
- Final reflections – how far have we come and next steps.

**7:00 pm *Creativity, innovation and leadership***

- Opening of the Alberta 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Leadership Forum
- Keynote presentation by Sir Ken Robinson [title].

THURSDAY, 13<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2011 (OPTIONAL)

- Visits in the Canadian Rockies Public Schools District (a.m./p.m.)
- SmartTech and Olds tours (full day)

THURSDAY, 13<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER AND FRIDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2011 (OPTIONAL)

- Alberta 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Leadership Forum