

The Canadian Council for Exceptional Children Teacher of the Year Award recognizes a CEC member who currently provides direct service to students with exceptionalities. The Award is sponsored by: School Specialty – Abilitations, the industry's leading catalogue for children with special needs, offering the most widespread therapist-selected products specifically for children's therapy, special education and special needs.

The CCEC Teacher of the Year is an outstanding member of the profession whose work exemplifies the best in special education teaching. His/Her work reflects significant educational success for students, continued professional development, and the highest standards of educational quality. The 2007 CCEC Teacher of the Year Award recipient is Elaine Lochhead, Manitoba.

Elaine Lochhead started teaching in a regular classroom in 1980 at St. Norbert Collegiate. She earned a Special Education Certificate in 1983 and began working as a Resource teacher in 1989. Elaine remained a Special Education Resource Teacher at four different schools until she became a Vice-Principal in 2001. Now a Principal at St. Anne Collegiate, Elaine continues to advocate for all students and, in particular, students with special needs.

Fifteen years ago, students with special needs were bussed out of her present school division, Seine River School Division, for specialized programming. When the decision was made to facilitate the students' learning needs within the school division, Elaine met the challenge and emerged as a leader in this movement.

Elaine has spent the last fifteen years ensuring that students' needs are met. She makes sure students are included in school activities. She has developed a lifeskills-based program for students from 5-21 years old. This entailed not only developing the program but training Educational Assistants, ensuring schools could accommodate physical needs, supporting teachers and parents and ensuring that students were seen as valuable members of the community. Elaine's genuine support of the students and their families continues to be rewarded as she is invited to graduations and special family events.

Elaine has never shied away from challenging issues, such as sexuality, finding work placements for students with special needs and keeping Educational Assistants highly trained. She has been creative working through times of limited funding, long travel distances and few support systems. Elaine always found a way to get students to swimming or job placements no matter the distance.

Elaine shares her experiences and her expertise with colleagues and presents workshops at the provincial, national and international levels.

Elaine's colleagues speak highly of her – teachers, superintendents, Educational Assistants and, of course, the parents of students whose lives she has influenced. Elaine was the recipient of the Manitoba CEC Outstanding Educator of the Year Award in February, 2007.

Congratulations, Elaine, you are a most deserving Canadian CEC Teacher of the Year Award recipient.



**Canadian Council  
for Exceptional Children**

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**Le Conseil Canadien  
De L'Enfance Exceptionnelle**

and

**SCHOOL SPECIALTY - ABILITIES**

**TEACHER OF THE YEAR 2007**