

Centre for Rural and Northern Health Research (CRaNHR)

Health Care Research Seminar Series 2008-2009

March 19, 2009 (Thursday)

12:00 pm to 1:00 pm

Room 105
Health Sciences Education Resource Centre
Laurentian University

Evaluating the Accessibility and Inclusiveness of Sudbury Playgrounds for Children with Physical Disabilities

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The International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) defines participation as “involvement in a life situation” (United Nations 2008). Playgrounds are important spaces in the daily lives of children due to the amount of time that children spend on them and the physical, intellectual and social skills that are learned. Although play is a crucial life situation for all children, often the policy and physical environments that shape playgrounds exclude children with disabilities. Thirty-four elementary school playgrounds in Sudbury Ontario were audited using a modified version of the Ontario Parks Association playability tool. The findings indicate that there are significant barriers in terms of the quantity, quality and diversity of types of play spaces available to children with physical disabilities. The findings depict playgrounds as precarious spaces for the protection of the participation and spatial rights of children with disabilities. Addressing the policy and physical environments of school playgrounds has important implications for the health of children with physical disabilities and their families and their communities. Schools are important learning environments, where, in addition to academics, children learn and are exposed to attitudes and opinions concerning bodily differences. An inclusive school environment must include school playgrounds.

Nicole Yantzi is an Assistant Professor of Geography at Laurentian University. She is also a faculty investigator with CRaNHR and program faculty with the School of Rural and Northern Health. Her Ph.D. (2005) was supported by a doctoral award from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the Hospital for Sick Children Foundation. Before coming to Laurentian in 2007, she held post-doctoral fellowships with the CIHR strategic research and training initiative in Health Care, Technology and Place (University of Toronto) and the Department of Population Health Sciences (Hospital for Sick Children). Her research which intersects the sub-disciplines of the geographies of health, disability and children is published in *Social Science and Medicine*, *Health and Social Care in the Community* and *Gender, Place and Culture*. As part of this ongoing research program Dr. Yantzi is working with staff at the City of Greater Sudbury and the Sudbury Children’s Treatment Centre to develop and build more inclusive playgrounds in Sudbury, Ontario.

**This free seminar is open to all interested persons
Pay parking available in Lot D
Call Margaret G. Delmege at 675-1151 ext. 4369 for more information**



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| <p>1 Édifice R.D. Parker Building (L)</p> <p>2 Student Centre étudiant (SCE)</p> <p>3 Great Hall / Grand Salon (DA)</p> <p>4 Édifice des Arts Building (A)</p> <p>5 Classroom Building
Édifice des classes (C)</p> <p>6 Bibliothèque J.N. Desmarais Library (J)
Brenda Wallace Reading Room (3rd floor)
Salle de lecture Brenda-Wallace (3^e étage)</p> <p>7 Science I Building
Édifice des sciences I (S)</p> <p>8 Science II Building
Édifice des sciences II (F)</p> <p>9 Auditorium Fraser Auditorium (FA)
Science II Dining Hall
Salon Science II</p> <p>10 SSR – Single Student Residence
REC – Résidence des étudiants célibataires (G)</p> <p>11 MSR – Mature Student Residence
REA – Résidence des étudiants adultes</p> | <p>12 UCR – University College Residence
RCU – Résidence du collège universitaire</p> <p>13 WR / RO – West Residence Ouest (W)</p> <p>14 Health Sciences Education Resource Centre
Centre de ressources pour l'éducation
en matière de santé (H)</p> <p>15 Centre d'éducation physique
B.F. Avery Physical Education Centre (B)</p> <p>16 Laurentian Child and Family Centre
Garderie touche-à-tout</p> <p>17 Outdoor Centre de plein air</p> <p>18 Pavillon Alphonse Raymond Building (E)
Alphonse Raymond Dining Hall
Salon Alphonse-Raymond</p> <p>19 NOSM – Northern Ontario School of Medicine
ÉMNO – École de médecine du Nord de l'Ontario</p> <p>20 English Language School of Education
École des sciences de l'éducation, programme en anglais</p> <p>21 Université Huntington University (HU)</p> <p>22 Université Thorneloe University (T)</p> | <p>23 University of Sudbury
Université de Sudbury (US)</p> <p>24 Maintenance and Security Building
Édifice de l'entretien et de la sécurité</p> <p>25 Centre Willet Green Miller Centre
MIRARCO – Mines and Minerals Research
Centre de recherche minière</p> <p>26 Chalet Robertson Cottage</p> <p>27 Cooperative Freshwater Ecology Unit
Unité conjointe d'écologie d'eau douce</p> <p>28 Beach / Plage</p> |
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Stationnement réservé/général</p> <p>P4 Visitor Parking / Stationnement des visiteurs</p> <p>A, B, C, D Pay and Display Parking
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Stationnement des universités affiliés</p> <p> Walking Trails / Sentiers de promenade</p> |
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