

# THE DEAN'S DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER LECTURE

## **JANUSZ KORCZAK, THE FATHER OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS: TURNING RIGHTS INTO ACTION**

The Faculty of Education and the Janusz Korczak  
Association of Canada

Present

**THE MUSIC GARAGE**  
**A transdisciplinary and transsystemic  
integrated education program**

Mrs. H el ene (Sioui) Trudel  
Dr. Gilles Julien

November 10, 2016 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM  
Ponderosa Commons East Ballroom 6445 University Boulevard

# A transdisciplinary practice group to support dignity and global health for children and youth

November 10, 2016  
7:00 PM – 8:30 PM



a place of mind  
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
Faculty of Education



THE JANUSZ KORCZAK  
ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

## INTRODUCTIONS:

**Dr. Mark Beauchamp**, Associate Dean, Research, Faculty of Education, University of British Columbia

**Jerry Nussbaum**, President of the Janusz Korczak Association of Canada

**Claudia Diaz**, the Janusz Korczak Scholarship recipient for 2015/16

## MODERATOR:

**Dr. Charles Ungerleider**

## DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS:

**Mrs. Hélène (Sioui) Trudel**, Q.C., lawyer and mediator, a key proponent of actualizing the Convention on the Rights of the Child in Canada

**Dr. Gilles Julien**, C.M., O.Q., the founder of the field of community social pediatrics

## LECTURE ABSTRACT:

The presentation will focus on the description and functioning of a practice group in a Community Social Pediatrics Center and mainly

in an experimental project called The Music Garage (GAM) in Montreal, founded by Mrs. Trudel. It will promote the need to support this type of innovative program for vulnerable children through an integrated education program that is both transdisciplinary and trans-systemic.

«IT IS EASIER TO BUILD STRONG  
CHILDREN THAN TO REPAIR  
BROKEN MEN» *F. DOUGLASS*

The Music Garage does exactly that, which is to use best practices to orchestrate the lives of vulnerable children by giving them access to powerful tools to develop their full potential. It is based on the democratisation of the collective practice of music, of specialised and adapted school support and on an integrated practice of social medicine to attain the goal to equip all children for life. It is built on a strong partnership between doctors, social workers and lawyers for expertise, as well as on a strong relationship with the child, the extended family and the community as active partners along with professionals. GAM also gives children tools to advocate for themselves and improve their living conditions and their pathways to success.

The practice of music within a group has a strong impact on the developing brain. According to some studies in neuroscience, the brain of a child who lacks stimulation from birth will have almost half the volume of the brain of a well-stimulated child at three years of age. Starting school at the age of five, the under stimulated child will be much more at risk of developing adaptation and behavior problems, learning disabilities and chronic

diseases. Substantial and costly resources will then be needed to fill in the gaps, frequently with poor and expensive results. Such negative pathways to failure and diseases are preventable with intensive actions early in life within the community.

The Community social pediatrics approach developed and taught by the Fondation du Dr. Julien has proven effective in vulnerable communities and it is now going through a process of scaling out throughout the province of Quebec with the support of the Government of Quebec, and also elsewhere in Canada. It succeeds in integrating best practices from science and evidence at the clinical level, one child at a time, all along his or her developmental pathway.

GAM brings community social pediatrics further ahead by integrating the collective practice of music and specialised academic support to the practice of social pediatrics, within a joint venture approach with the community, that ensures that all children have the same opportunities to develop their potential. It contributes to a fuller application of children's rights under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and in a paradigm of respect and equity.

The participation of education and research sectors is essential in order to spread this innovative practice and to train professionals from all fields to this approach. McGill University and the Université de Montréal have recently created two interlinked research chairs in community social pediatrics in order to support the Fondation du Dr. Julien in this matter.

## **ABOUT THE SPEAKERS:**

**Hélène (Sioui) Trudel, Q.C.** A graduate of Simon Fraser University in criminology (1986), Hélène (Sioui) Trudel holds a civil law degree from the University of Ottawa (1998), a master's degree in comparative law from McGill University (2016) and is a member of the Barreau du Québec (1999). Over the course of her career, she has made many remarkable contributions to high-profile cases involving health and social services for First Nations communities, pay equity, constitutional law, land claims and human rights. She is dedicated to the promotion, development and use of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms in cases involving respect for children's fundamental rights as stated in the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Hélène (Sioui) Trudel has been working with the Fondation du Dr. Julien officially since 2006. She integrated law and mediation into the community social pediatrics approach by developing powerful mobilization tools such as the Child's Protective Circle and the Music Garage, and by establishing the department of Transfer of Knowledge.

For her exceptional contribution to promoting greater equity for children and the most vulnerable in our society, and for her commitment to facilitate access to justice and respect of fundamental rights of vulnerable populations, Hélène (Sioui) Trudel was awarded the Prix de la Justice award in 2013 by the Minister of Justice Stéphanie Vallée. The Prix de la Justice award is Québec's highest honorary distinction in the field of law. In 2016, she was admitted as a member of the Order of Québec.

**Dr. Gilles Julien, C.M., O.Q.,** Dr. Gilles Julien has always been passionate about helping children at risk to thrive and develop their full potential. After earning his medical degree at Université Laval (1970) and specializing in pediatrics at Université de Montréal (1974), he became interested early in his career in the causes of morbidity among children facing social and economic injustice. He went on to hold several different positions in research and in community and public health in Québec, in Inuit communities, as well as in Comoros Islands, and worked for the World Bank in reviewing the Albanian Health system.

Using what he had learned from these experiences, he developed and refined his approach over the years so he could be more effective in helping children and families at risk. Beginning in 1990, he began to focus his practice on two disadvantaged neighbourhoods in Outaouais and two in Montreal. Working closely with professionals in the health system, youth protection and schools, Dr. Julien strived to prevent children from being placed outside the home and to deal with situations involving neglect, violence and abuse in a disadvantaged neighbourhood.

It was during this time that he began integrating the notion of rights into his practice, but without real means other than going to Court. This innovative approach, which he termed community social pediatrics, mobilized important people in the children's lives (social services and health professionals, parents, teachers, etc.) with the aim of better addressing the children's needs and ensuring that their rights and best interests were respected.

With the help of the community and key partners, he set up two community social pediatrics centers in Montreal: Assistance d'enfants en difficulté in Hochelaga-Maisonneuve (1997), and the Centre de services préventifs à l'enfance in Côte-des-Neiges (2003). With his team of professionals, several thousand children received appropriate care every year. His centers, affiliated with McGill University and Université de Montréal, provide sought-after training for doctors and other professionals in the fields of health, social work and law.

In 2005, Dr. Julien set up a charity to ensure the sustainability of community social pediatrics practice. The Fondation du Dr. Julien oversees the two community social pediatrics centres and supports teams across the country working to set up social pediatrics centres that reflect their own communities.

Dr. Julien is recognized locally and internationally as an expert on child development in disadvantaged communities, preventing neglect, abuse and mistreatment, and on the impacts of social and economic inequalities on children's overall health. He is a fellow with the prestigious international community of social entrepreneurs, Ashoka, and has received numerous honours and distinctions, including the Lieutenant-Governor of Québec's Gold Medal and induction into both the Ordre National du Québec and the Order of Canada. He was also awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Ottawa in 2014.

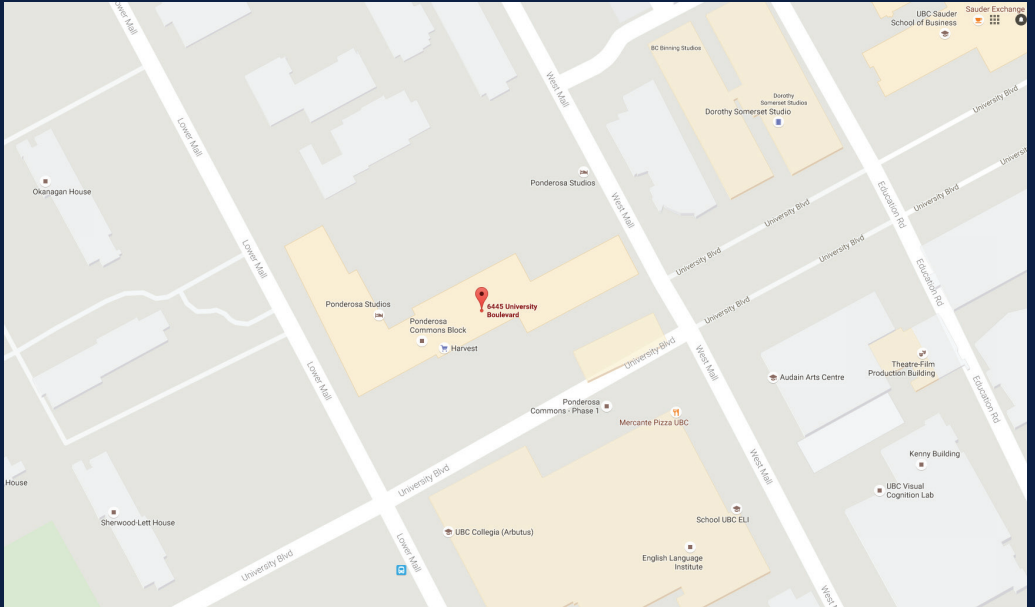
#### **ABOUT THE MODERATOR:**

**Charles Ungerleider**, a sociologist whose research has addressed a wide range of topics from assessment to xenophobia, is Director of Research and Managing Partner of Directions Evidence and Policy Research Group, LLP. Conversant with a broad range of research methods, Ungerleider has produced systematic reviews of literature, policy analyses, analyses using large and small data sets, evaluation reports, as well as government briefing documents and cabinet submissions. Ungerleider has broad knowledge of government and public education systems in Canada from his research, from his direct experience as a researcher, and from serving as a Deputy Minister of Education in British Columbia. the Janusz Korczak Lecture series conversations will bring and to share the what's been passed along to him from youth in and from care in BC.



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