

The background of the page is a scenic landscape. On the left, there are dark, rocky mountains. In the middle, a field of golden grass stretches across the frame. On the right, a dense line of evergreen trees stands against a clear blue sky. In the far right foreground, a white lighthouse with a red roof is partially visible.

NEWS RELEASE

TORONTO: July, 2010

CEO APPOINTED TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF PRIOR LEARNING INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CENTRE

Joy Van Kleef, CEO of the Canadian Institute for Recognizing Learning has been appointed to the board of directors of the Prior Learning International Research Centre (PLIRC).

Thompson Rivers University through its Open Learning Division, launched the initiative to develop the Centre in 2009. The vision for the Centre, which is helmed by Dr. Christine Wihak, Director of Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) at the University, is to stimulate innovative and provocative research concerning prior learning and the theory, policy and practice of its assessment and/or recognition and/or validation. "PLAR lies at the intersection of research on workplace, learning and society," Dr. Wihak said, in recognition of the importance of the new centre.

PLIRC provides an international forum for networking amongst scholars of PLAR and will actively promote dissemination of research findings to practitioners and policy makers alike. Its first major initiative is the publication of a book on research in PLAR around the world. A second initiative is currently underway - the development of an international, online and searchable database on research, literature and policies on PLAR in the eight countries currently represented on PLIRC. This database development has been made possible through continuing collaboration with the European University Continuing Education Network (EUCEN).

PLIRC is a virtual centre, residing in the BC Centre for Open Learning located on TRU's Kamloops campus. Its current membership is comprised of representatives from Australia, Canada, England, France, Scotland, South Africa, Sweden, and the United States. Once formal TRU approval for the new Centre is received; PLIRC will invite other international academic and applied researchers to participate.

More information can be found on the PLIRC website at <http://www.tru.ca/distance/plirc.html>