

**Atkinson Centre Internship Report**

*Tianhong Zheng*

B.A. Candidate/Atkinson Centre Intern

**Early Childhood Leadership**

George Brown College

July 10, 2013

The focus of my internship at the Atkinson Centre was to review official websites of four jurisdictions: Manitoba, Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut, and collect current information related to the early childhood education and care (ECEC) sector. My research allowed me to explore the provision of ECEC programs and services. It gave me the opportunity to observe the influence of government policies on early childhood environment and children's outcomes.

I have learned a great number of new ideas by taking part in organizing the 10th Annual Summer Institute on Early Childhood Development. I also enjoyed participating in the Canadian Tour with Dr. Edward Melhuish on the Effective Provision of Pre-School Education (EPPE). I believe that a series of stimulating events I had a chance to experience at the Atkinson Centre helped me to develop the understanding of the complex and crucial role of leadership.

My work for Zeenat and Kerry allowed me to closely observe how they define problems and look for solutions. I witnessed their profound understanding of policy framework and early childhood development.

During my 14-week internship, I was able to build my strengths as well as accomplish all work-related tasks. My internship experience was extraordinary and went far beyond my expectations. I believe the experience will motivate me to move forward and to accomplish my personal and professional goals.