

# SYSTEM A: The Individual Learner

- University of Manitoba
- Centre for Research, Youth, Science Teaching & Learning



**Associated Research Focus:** How do attributes of the learner combine to impede, contribute to, and sustain personal science and mathematics success?

## **Objectives:**

- (1) to identify personal attribute factors that impede or support the learning of science and mathematics in formal school settings;
- (2) to identify the risk and protective factors that affect decisions to further study science and mathematics;
- (3) to identify the course trajectories of students in relation to demographic and achievement data as they progress through the school system.

# Projects in System A

- Linking Communities to Enhance Learning Opportunities in Science for both Teachers and Students in Minority Language Schools " - Dr. Léonard Rivard and Dr. Rodelyn Stoeber (Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface)
- "Trajectories of Students Learning Mathematics and Science: Research Study" - Dr. Ralph Mason (University of Manitoba) and Janelle McFeetors (River East Transcona School Division)
- "Improving Learning in Chemistry through Improved Teaching and Assessment" - Dr. Brian Lewthwaite, Dr. Karen Smith, Dr. Philip Hultin (University of Manitoba) and Dr. Tony Bartley (Lakehead University)
- "Teaching for Resiliency in Science Students over Five Years" - Shannon Gadbois, Dr. Bev Bailey and Sandy Margetts (Brandon University)



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## Le Centre de recherche sur l'enseignement et l'apprentissage des sciences (CRÉAS)

**Linking Communities to Enhance Learning Opportunities in  
Science for both Teachers and Students in Minority  
Language Schools**

**Setting the scene for professional development:  
How can technology help?**

Rodelyn Stoeber  
Professor  
Faculté d'éducation



# Major Objectives of Our Project

- To determine the risk and protective factors impacting on the teaching of science in the francophone minority language context.
- To develop and implement a professional development strategy that addresses the identified needs of science teachers in this context.
- To explore how technology can be used to develop and sustain the P.D. strategy.
- To develop pedagogical strategies that promote reading and writing in the teaching and learning of science.
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## Development team

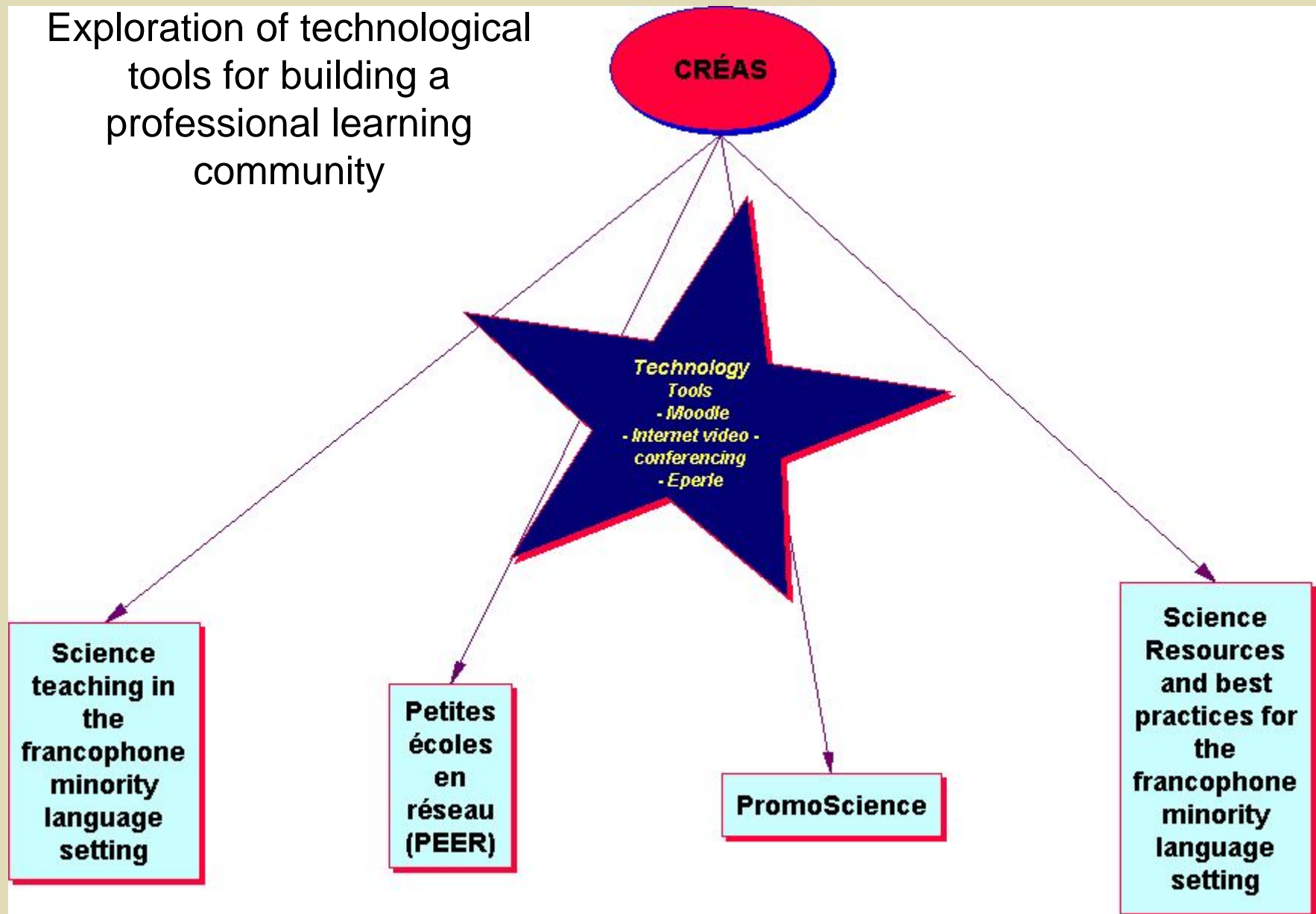
**Léonard Rivard** – Dean, Faculty of  
Education Director of Research: CUSB

**Deny Gravel** – Middle and Senior Years  
Coordinator

**Danièle Dubois-Jacques** – Science  
Consultant: BEF

**Rodelyn Stoeber** - Professor, Faculty of  
Education: CUSB

Exploration of technological  
tools for building a  
professional learning  
community





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## First year of the project

Identification of the risk and protective factors impacting science teaching in the francophone minority language context.



Identify the teacher needs for professional development regarding science issues and concepts in the minority language.



# Challenges associated with teaching in a minority language setting

- Multi-level classes
- Inadequacy of French-language teaching materials
- Isolation of schools
- Shortage of specialists
- Lack of in-service PD in French

# Implications for P.D.

Need for sessions and support related to :

- laboratory issues, techniques and experiments
- lessons and activities that link theory and experiments
- resources for STSE
- resources in French



# **Implications for P.D.**

Need for sessions and support related to :

- the « big ideas » in each science cluster
- sharing of knowledge
- technology tools and integration
- more activities that match curricular outcomes

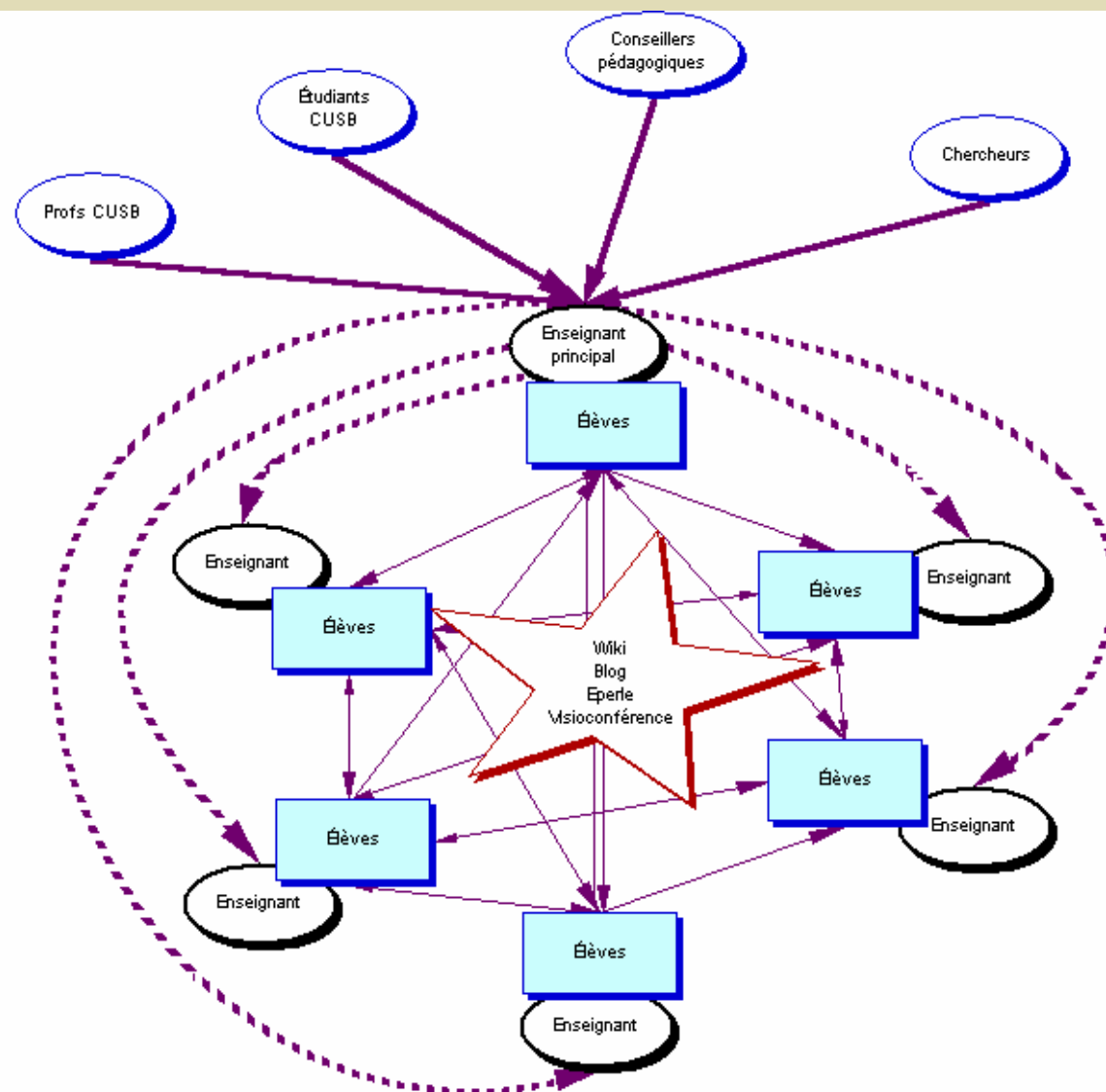
# Project PEER (Petites Écoles En Réseau)

Creation of a virtual learning community for the purposes of:

- addressing the needs of small, rural schools
- giving teachers the opportunity to teach using their areas of expertise and promote sharing of expertise
- enhancing programs and curriculum
- enriching the learning environment of students - group learning, access to experts and mentors
- exploring the roles of the teacher and the student in this context
- creating a relevant strategy and model with regards to the teaching of science and other curricula for small rural schools



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# Delivery of the Professional Development

What?

Why?

How?

# Literature Review

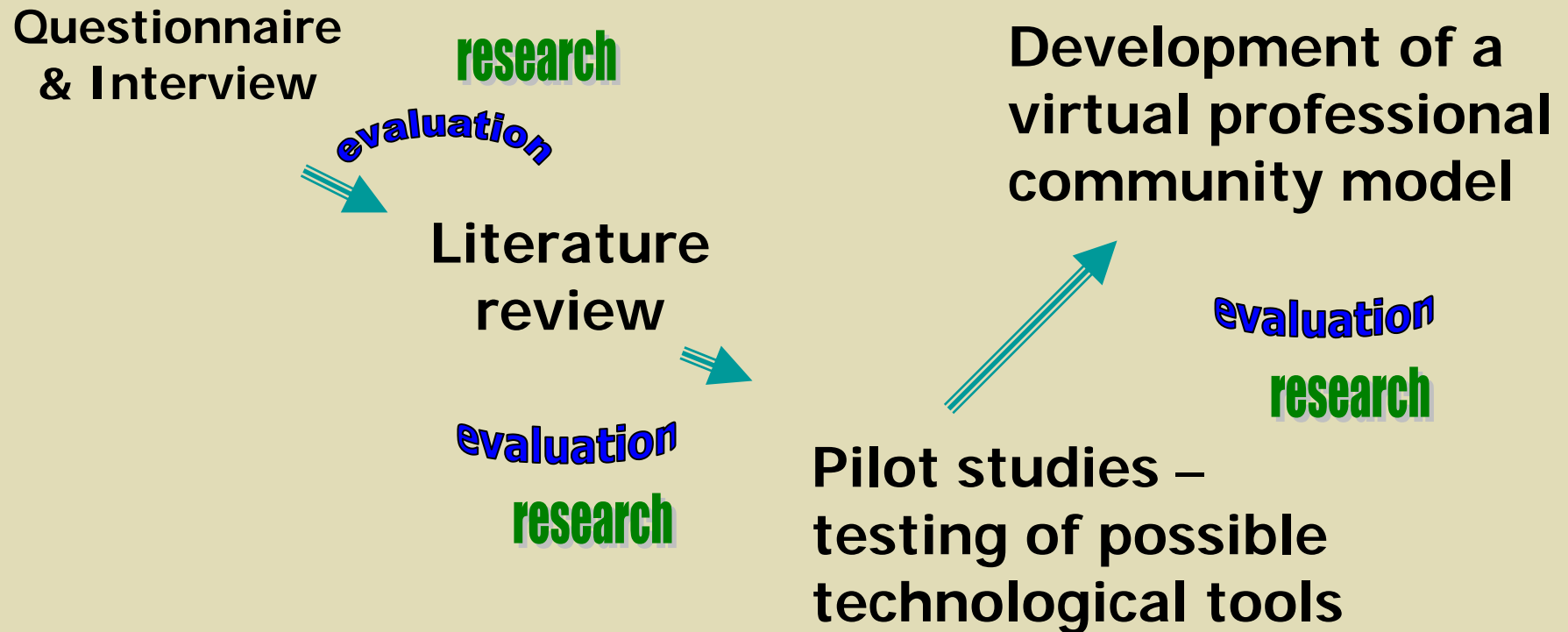
- “Traditional” professional development approaches have been cited as inadequate and are viewed as being pockets of innovation without the necessary time and support for learning and do not necessarily conform to learning outcomes (Lee, 2005)
- Teachers are often seen as targets of change rather than agents of change and often feel detached because they have little or no say in what is being presented (Halsdorfer, 2006)

# Literature Review

- In a community based learning environment, teachers construct and improve their learning experiences, work together, exchange feedback and learn from each other (Keller, Bonk & Hew, 2004).
- Working collaboratively is an effective means for developing professionally especially for those working in rural settings (Gerber et al., 2003)



# Sustaining Professional Development



# Pilot projects – exploration of tools

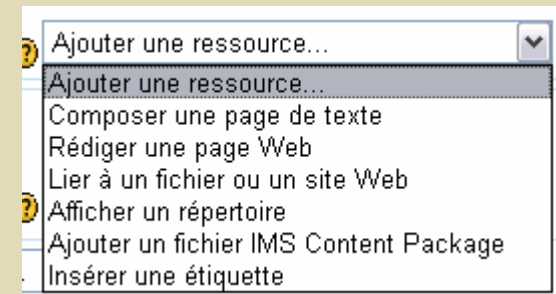
- **WebCT** - collaborative online learning community – distance education
- **Wikispaces** - A free wiki host providing community wiki spaces, visual page editing, and discussion areas
- **Atrium (First Class - DSFM)** – collaborative online learning community, E-mail
- **Moodle** - a course management system (CMS) - a free, Open Source software package to help educators create effective online learning communities.
- **Epearl** – Electronic Portfolio

# MOODLE

Teachers

Moodle

Students



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La classe

Participants

Activités

Forums  
Glossaires  
Journaux  
Ressources  
Wikis

Recherche forums

Valider

Recherche avancée

Administration

Activer le mode édition  
Paramètres  
Attribution des rôles  
Groupes  
Sauvegarde  
Restaurer  
Importation  
Réinitialisation  
Rapports  
Questions  
Échelles  
Fichiers  
Notes  
Me désinscrire de  
PromoScience

Mes cours

Aperçu de la semaine

- Commentaires du projet
- Glossaire des animaux
- Glossaire des végétaux
- Glossaire des myoïtes
- Glossaire des protistes
- Glossaire des monères (bactéries)
- Analyse de l'expérience
- Rapport d'expérience
- Journal de bord de Richard Bazin
- Journal de bord de Bernard Poirier
- Journal de bord de Mélanie Dheilly
- Journal de bord de Rodelyn Stoeber
- Journal de bord de Miguel Bérubé
- Journal de bord de Fernand Saurette
- Journal de bord de Roger Rouire
- Collecte de données (Exemple)
- Collecte de données (Jours 1 et 2)
- Collecte de données (Jours 3 et 4)
- Collecte de données (Jours 5 et 6)
- Collecte de données (Jours 7 et 8)
- Collecte de données (Jours 9 et 10)
- Ressources de PromoSciences

11 juillet 17 juillet

Aller à...

Calendrier

septembre 2007

Dim	Lun	Mar	Mer	Jeu	Ven	Sam
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Activités globales  
Activités de groupe  
Activités du cours  
Activités de l'utilisateur

Dernières nouvelles

Ajouter un nouveau sujet de discussion...

5 sept., 21:39  
Bernard POIRIER  
On recommence? quand? plus...

12 juil., 23:38  
Rodelyn Stoeber  
Experiences - bac de compostage plus...

19 juin, 23:33  
Bernard POIRIER  
Infiniment petit plus...

17 mai, 03:34  
Rodelyn Stoeber  
Amélioration du projet plus...

17 mai, 03:34  
Rodelyn Stoeber  
Amélioration de la communication entre les partenaires plus...  
Sujets antérieurs ...

Activités à venir

Atelier #1 - PromoSciences  
vendredi, 21 septembre (22:55)

Aller au calendrier...  
Nouvelle activité...

# **Elluminate - Synchronous web casting software**

- **meet virtually for regularly scheduled classes, group projects, and ad hoc sessions**

- **blended learning approach**
  - **possibilities: guest presenters, student group project meetings, online tutorial/lab sessions, peer-based tutoring, exam review, virtual office hours, mentoring**

- **real-time discussions with students supported with PowerPoint slides, web sites, whiteboard mark-up capability and shared applications.**

- **communication tool for research collaboration and meetings**

# **Online Community of Professional Learners**

