

MCEEC 2021



31st Yes I Can! Awards

The Manitoba Council for Exceptional Children

31st Annual Yes I Can! Awards



Sam is a young man who was diagnosed with Autism at the age of 3. Early on, it was thought that he would never be able to express himself verbally or through other formats. Hard work and determination allow Sam to learn in an inclusive classroom and he loves to talk to his friends and family. Sam has a great love for animation, which has proven to be an avenue for self expression. His artwork is showcased in the illustrations for *Exploring with Sam*, a colouring book about Winnipeg Beach, and his award-winning children's book "*I am Sam and Yes I Can*". One day Sam hopes to work for Disney and Pixar. In 2020, he received an MCEC Award in the Arts category, and is very proud to be asked to create this year's cover.



The Manitoba Council for Exceptional Children (MCEC) is a provincial unit of The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC). The CEC is a major professional organization dedicated to improving the quality of education for exceptional children and youth with a range of abilities and disabilities.

BELIEF STATEMENTS

We believe that...

- all individuals have a right to an education
- all individuals have the ability to learn and attain self-fulfillment
- participation of individuals with exceptionalities enriches all communities
- education is a collaborative process involving learners, educators, families, communities, governments, businesses, and industries
- qualified professionals are essential to meeting the diverse learning needs of all individuals
- all persons working in the field of education have a continuing responsibility to improve their practices
- governments have the responsibility to ensure the provision of a free and appropriate education for all individuals

We believe in...

- advocating for the advancement of education of individuals with exceptionalities
- equitable access to and meaningful participation in quality educational opportunities for all individuals
- the opportunity for lifelong education for all individuals with exceptionalities
- the development of preventative programs and services
- the process of collaboration to meet the diverse learning needs of all individuals
- supporting persons to improve their educational practices
- a provincial focus for professional activities

The Manitoba Council for Exceptional Children Presents: The 31st Annual MCEC Awards

P

**Welcome and
Opening Remarks**

Program Co-Chairs

- Teresa Hampton
- Carole Hebert

R

Greetings

Joanna Kaptein, President of MCEC

O

Awards MC

Glen Cassie
Public Affairs Specialist
Communications Services Manitoba
Government of Manitoba

G

Presentations

Yes / Can! Awards

- Self-Advocacy

Certificates of Recognition

Yes / Can! Awards

- Academics

Educational Assistant of the Year

Yes / Can! Awards

- Technology

Outstanding Educator of the Year

Yes / Can! Awards

- School and Community Activities

Transition Scholarships

Academic Scholarships

A

Closing Remarks

Program Co-Chairs

- Teresa Hampton
- Carole Hebert

M

Yes I Can! Awards

The MCEC *Yes I Can!* Awards are presented to exceptional children and/or youth to recognize their achievements in the following categories:

- School and Community Activities
- Academics
- Self-Advocacy
- Transition

SELF-ADVOCACY

SHOJA AMIN

**West St. Paul School
Seven Oaks School Division**

Shoja is a grade 8 student who attends West St. Paul School. Shoja has shown tremendous growth in his ability to communicate within the school environment. He takes great pride in learning new skills by delivering books to classrooms, mail to the office and participating in sports in gym, allowing him to become more independent in his school community. Shoja has developed communication skills that allow him to have increased independence in the school community. Previously, he would require adult support to communicate with peers and teachers, now he does this independently and with great confidence. Shoja's demonstrated progress makes him a well-deserving recipient of a Yes I Can Award in the area of Self-Advocacy.

ELAYSIA BANKS

**Cecil Rhodes School
Winnipeg School Division**

Elaysia is a grade 9 student who attends Cecil Rhodes School in Winnipeg School Division. Elaysia has made great strides in her journey of self-expression and self-advocacy through her involvement in the school's gymnastics club and within her classroom environments. She has learned to use various classroom tools to communicate effectively with teachers and classmates. Recently, she has been initiating interpersonal relationships, making her feel like part of the school community and helping her establish genuine connections with peers. Elaysia is an excellent candidate to receive a Yes I Can award for Self-Advocacy.

TOMMY MATEO

**General Byng School
Pembina Trails School Division**

Tommy is a grade 8 student who attends General Byng School in Pembina Trails School Division. Tommy has worked very hard to improve his communication which allows Tommy to better express his wants and needs to teachers, peers, and care providers. Tommy has become the school's lead for the recycling program and maintains the organization of the food labs by folding the laundry every day. He is also in charge of delivering printed materials to classrooms. Through developing his communication skills, he has increased his independence at school and at home. Tommy exemplifies the spirit of the Yes I Can Awards by improving his communication skills and developing self-advocacy.

**West St. Paul School
Seven Oaks School Division**

WYATT SNOW

Wyatt is a grade 8 student who attends West St. Paul School in Seven Oaks School Division. Wyatt struggled with a new school and new routines when first attending West St. Paul in September 2018. However, through creative, imaginative play, Wyatt found his voice and was able to communicate more effectively. He now spends his day learning alongside his peers. He shares answers and views in a clear, calm, and respectful manner as part of his classroom community. Wyatt is modelling behaviour that is expected in class and handles himself in a mature manner. Wyatt is an excellent candidate for a Yes I Can award in the category of Self-Advocacy.

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

**La Verendrye School
Portage la Prairie School Division**

JENNIFER BORGFJORD

In her 24 years working with students with a wide variety of needs, Jennifer has brought enthusiasm, humour, and a wide range of skills to various classrooms and schools. Her interest in applying technology to learning has recently led her to take on the role of Technology Consultant for the Portage la Prairie School Division. Jennifer has helped improve opportunities for accessibility and inclusivity through the use of such applications as speech-to-text, Google Classroom, sound systems for the classroom, and alternative methods for notetaking. She is constantly on the lookout for tools that will “hook” student engagement. Her leadership as an educator has extended to bringing together school team members, supporting positive transitions and modeling best practices. Her colleagues describe Jennifer as a “kind, caring and compassionate educator” who is there to empower students to take ownership of their learning. Jennifer Borgfjord truly embodies the spirit of a ‘Yes I Can’ Educator.

**Buchanan School
St. James-Assiniboia School Division**

KIM COLBERT

A ten-year veteran of Buchanan School, Kim has worked as an outstanding Educational Assistant supporting students with varied educational challenges. Skilled in the use of sign language and computer assisted technologies, she has enhanced students’ independence, self-esteem and classroom integration. Kim’s relationships with her students have been key in improving student confidence and safety. Her peers note that Kim always finds fun ways for students to acquire skills and celebrate community including running “Toasty Tuesdays”, a school-based social activity partnered with Harvest Manitoba. Kim Colbert is a most deserved recipient of a Yes I Can Certificate of Recognition.

**Dalhousie School
Pembina Trails School Division**

CHELSEA FRIESEN

A dedicated Educational Assistant at Dalhousie School in the Pembina Trails School Division, Chelsea has demonstrated both a strong empathy for students and remarkable leadership with her team. Through the use of a communication device, she has assisted her assigned student to ‘find his voice’. As well, Chelsea has helped a variety of students express themselves through the use of art as well as assisted students to find methods of self-regulation. On her own time, she has developed games and other arts & crafts activities that engage students. Chelsea has taken time from her busy schedule to teach fellow support staff these activities, enhancing their effectiveness. In her 10 years in the Pembina Trails School Division, Chelsea has had an impact on both students and staff. She is a most deserved recipient of a Yes I Can Certificate of Recognition.

Buchanan School

St. James-Assiniboia School Division

DANIELLE FUNK

Danielle has worked as an inspired Educational Assistant at Buchanan School. In her five years there, she has supported students with exceptional behavioural challenges. By patiently establishing working relationships with set boundaries, Danielle has been effective in channeling students' positive behaviours and closing learning gaps. Humour, game-playing and tailoring assignments are just a few of the skills she employs as tools for student success. Fellow staff also note that Danielle's collaborative skills have made her a valued member of the educational team at Buchanan School. All-in-all, a Certificate of Recognition winner who exemplified the "Yes I Can" spirit.

Electrician

Rolling River School Division

DARRELL GOTTFRIED

"Mr. Darrell" was the Electrician for the Rolling River School Division until his retirement in September, 2020. However, he was and is more than that. When working at a particular school he struck up a friendship with Dexter, a student who shared Darrell's interest in mechanics, tools & electricity. Darrell would always connect with Dexter, finding ways for the student to safely assist or engage with him. When Dexter was struggling with behaviour, a visit or talk with Darrell always seemed to help turn the day around. When this was pointed out to Darrell, his response was, "When I am having a rough day, I come to the school because Dexter makes my day better." The school identified Darrell as a valued part of Dexter's support team. This extended to Darrell participating in weekly TEAMS video calls when the school transitioned to remote learning. One could say Darrell's impact on Dexter was "electric!" Darrell Gottfried is a most deserved recipient of a Yes I Can Certificate of Recognition.

Westwood Collegiate

St. James-Assiniboia School Division

LYNNE STEWART

An Educational Assistant in the St. James-Assiniboia School Division with over thirteen years experience, Lynne has been a key member of the educational team at Westwood Collegiate. Her role has included implementing specific programs and supportive activities. However, where she has gone above and beyond her job description has been in advocating for students, supporting their independence, and initiating effective strategies for inclusion in school and the community. Colleagues have noted that students working with Lynne display greater confidence in socializing with peers and trying new activities. A model EA and mentor for others, Lynne is a most deserving recipient of a Yes I Can Certificate of Recognition.

**KILDONAN-EAST COLLEGIATE CULINARY
AND PASTRY PROGRAM**

**Kildonan-East Collegiate
River East Transcona School Division**

This school program has consistently provided meaningful opportunities for students with additional needs. No matter the accommodations, the Culinary and Pastry Arts team has allowed all students to develop purposeful life and employment skills that match individual educational outcomes. As such, the program has been a model of adaption and inclusionary practices. Students graduate from the program with specific cooking and baking techniques as well as broader, employability skills such as kitchen hygiene & safety as well as planning & working as part of a team. Within the Culinary Arts classrooms and kitchens, students are literally able to "taste success!" This Yes I Can Certificate of Recognition goes most deservedly to the entire team of the KEC Culinary & Pastry Arts program.

Student Services Unit

River East Transcona School Division

MARY LAPAGE LECLERC

A true pioneer in supporting students and their families in the field of educational inclusion, Mary has served as a home teacher (for medically challenged students), an elementary classroom teacher, a teacher of at-risk students, a teacher in a Middle School life skills program, a divisional Inclusion Teacher, a Student Services Consultant, and an Assistant Manager of Student Services. Throughout her 30-year career, she has been a tireless advocate for families to access appropriate programming. Divisional initiatives have included an aquatics program, P.A.T.H. facilitation and school-to-community transitions. She has also served as a Special Olympics coach. As an educational leader, Mary has partnered with families, divisional teams and outside agencies with the focus on students' individual goals. Throughout, Mary has emphasized students achieving their full potential and has worked tirelessly in this pursuit.

Mary LaPage Leclerc is an inspiring recipient of a Yes I Can Certificate of Recognition.

ACADEMICS

Polson School

River East Transcona School Division

CARTER HARPER

Carter is an extraordinary grade three student who attends Polson School in River East Transcona School Division. He excels in many areas including language, vocabulary, reading and mathematics. In addition to his extensive knowledge base, he has an innate understanding of the electronics that support video games and cell phones. The school is considering the inclusion of outcomes for the gifted and talented to encourage Carter's highly inquisitive mind to further flourish. Currently, he is working on goals for self-regulation and is developing a sense of social cues along with peer connections. Although Carter can get frustrated at times, he now uses his words and understands his challenges within the Zones of Regulation. He is aware of government and is an advocate for victims of the opioid crisis. Carter's demonstrated progress makes him a well-deserving recipient of a Yes I Can Award in the area of Academics.

EA OF THE YEAR

**Faith Academy
Independent School**

NELLI PETKAU

Nelli has touched the lives of so many children over the years demonstrating compassion, support and passion in her role as an educational assistant. For the past two years Nelli has helped and support in the implementation of an individual plan for a student who is visually impaired. She displayed initiative in learning braille as well as the new technology and at the end of June enrolled in a course in braille sponsored by Manitoba Education. As a result, countless hours were spent during the summer learning the braille code. Nelli regularly collaborates with teachers and spends her own time using the braille to provide braille for books with print and creating adapted learning materials that provide the student access to curricular topics. She constantly seeks out learning opportunities regarding assistive technology to broaden her skills and to support all aspects of the student's programming. Nelli maintains a strong rapport with her student and looks for every opportunity to promote independence. She looks forward to coming to work every day and for her it is more than a job. It's an opportunity and a sense of responsibility to make a difference in the lives of children. Nelli sees opportunities to make a difference not only with the student with whom she works but also with the students she comes into contact with every day. Nelli is a true inspiration and a reliable, self-motivated and positive contributing member of the school team!

**Dalhousie School
Pembina Trails School Division**

SOFIA RAZI

Sofia has been working with children for more than 16 years, first as a teacher in Pakistan, and for the past several years as an Educational Assistant supporting students with complex, challenging needs. She expertly navigates difficult situations with patience and understanding. She is flexible and self-motivated and when provided the opportunity to advance in her role, took the initiative to enrol in a variety of on-line courses to develop her skills and deepen her understanding of autism and other additional needs of students with whom she works with. Sofia values the importance of students being included in the classroom environment as much as possible and constantly seeks out and implements strategies and resources to support their meaningful participation within the classroom setting. Sofia's teaming and collaborative skills are evident through the assistance she provides other Educational Assistants in learning visual aids and communicative devices that she is well-versed in using. Sofia is involved in supporting many extra-curricular activities in the school community and is a driving force behind the school's breakfast program. In addition to providing a nourishing variety of meals for the many students who attend the program daily she creates a warm and welcoming environment that promotes relationship building and connectivity. Sofia has helped to provide many students with a successful start to their school day. Sofia is a valued member of the school team!

**Ecole Crescentview School
Portage la Prairie School Division**

CINDY SMITH

Cindy has displayed exceptional skills and talent in her role as a Speech and Language Assistant during the past 17 years. Her dedication and passion for helping students was contagious as was her work ethic and drive to help all students and fill their hearts with confidence, love and pride. Cindy believed that each of her students would and could accomplish great things and inspired her students to believe it as well. Students loved working with her and she was able to build positive, caring relationships and made learning fun through the use of materials and strategies that incorporated the interests of each child. Cindy had a wonderful way of making each child, whether they were in the speech program or not, feel special and heard. She arranged special lunch times or before school check ins for students who needed encouragement; helped to coordinate Hallowe'en costumes; sent home birthday cupcakes and braided numerous friendship bracelets for students as reminders of their goals in speech and in school. Cindy was a positive and valued member of the school team and a leader amongst her peers. She took advantage of training opportunities and was always willing to try new approaches in therapy. Her sense of humour was delightful; could light up a room; and turn anyone's day from bad to joyful. Cindy retired in August and is greatly missed by everyone!

**Brooklands School
St. James-Assiniboia School Division**

JOELLE SUZUKI

Joelle has demonstrated outstanding work in her role as an Educational Assistant at Brooklands School during the past 10 years. She brings a calm, clear and consistent demeanor to her work in supporting students who have behaviour challenges and exhibit aggressive and off task behaviours. Joelle is empathetic and kind and is able to readily redirect and refocus students and respond to their needs while maintaining their dignity and without escalating their behaviours. Difficult situations are handled with creativity and positivity and she always seem to find the "silver lining" in any situation. One of her strongest skills is her ability to naturally diffuse power struggles between students before they escalate into aggression. She works closely with the classroom teachers and student services department to implement behaviour and support plans and personally infuses each plan with love and compassion. With Joelle's support several students re-enter classrooms equipped with well practiced strategies and skills that have helped them navigate through formerly derailing stressors and triggers. Joelle's assets as an Educational Assistant have been recognized by The Winnipeg Jets Hockey Academy for the caring and helpful manner she displays with students involved in the hockey program and her ability to connect with students with challenges and to engage them in programming. Her "on ice" skills as an instructor are valued as well. She has gained the respect of parents, many who have commented on her positive attitude and her genuine appreciation of their children. Joelle actively pursues professional learning opportunities to gain further strategies for working with her students.

Not only has her work with individual students been exemplary, she has made a significant contribution to the school and the community at large. Within the school Joelle has demonstrated leadership in a number of initiatives including the Walking School Bus program; a school-wide active recess plan; Mighty Muscles, a lunch time exercise group; and a Bike/Walk/Roll school wide activity challenge in conjunction with Green Action to name a few. One of her major contributions has been the creation of the Brooklands Bike Fleet which provides eighty free bikes available for student use. Joelle has organized several bike repair stations and has volunteered her time to assist with bicycle maintenance and repair. In the community Joelle coaches and referee's ringette and sits on a number of boards.

Joelle's interpersonal skills, initiative, passion and commitment are recognized and valued and as one student so aptly said, "She is just the best!"

TECHNOLOGY

CARLYN RENAE BELOT

**Dr. F.W.L. Hamilton School
River East School Division**

Carlyn is a grade 5 student at Dr. F.W.L. Hamilton Elementary School in River East Transcona School Division. While she loves to listen to music, language and mimic sounds, she has been non-verbal in her communication. This changed when being provided with an iPad by the Open Access Resource Centre, when she was in grade 3. Carlyn has since been using ProLoquo 2 Go to help express her needs and wants, including basic requests and comments. She has also learned to engage with the device when supported by adults or modeled by peers and is also learning to communicate through sign language and picture communication symbols. When transitioning to middle school next year, Carlyn will continue these trends to build strong relationships with family, friends and engage in new social opportunities and experiences. Carlyn is an excellent candidate to receive a Yes I Can award for Technology.

MARK DRAPER

**Springfield Middle School
Sunrise School District**

"Mark is an amazing young man filled with a joyous spirit and never-ending determination." He is a grade 8 student at Springfield Middle School in the Sunrise School Division. Mark was a late talker and began school with only a few words and signs. He used an iPad as an assistive communication device to connect in the classroom and when playing with friends. During grade five and six when Mark was away from school undergoing medical procedures, his iPad became his voice. He used it to communicate wants and needs in the hospital and then back at home while he was recovering. When Mark returned to school in grade 7, he was able to jump right back into social interaction with teachers and peers, using his iPad to assist with interactions. Mark has made great progress and technology will continue to strengthen his voice so that he can really shine.

HARLEY ENGLISH

**Phoenix School
St. James Assiniboia School Division**

Harley is a grade 4 student who attends Phoenix School in St. James Assiniboia School Division. Harley enjoys listening and sharing stories, which he does with the use of Pictello. This year he has been working on increasing his communication with both his peers and adults. Harley has recently learned to use a jellybean switch to turn the pages of his stories on his own and turn on the classroom lighting. His friends are happy to see Harley achieving his goals. Harley's progress towards his goals through the use of technology makes him a well-deserving recipient for a Yes I Can Award in the category of Technology.

**Portage Collegiate Institute
Portage la Prairie School Division**

SCHUYLER PETERS

Schuyler is a twenty-year-old student in the Senior Life Skills Program at Portage Collegiate. He uses an iPad to communicate with others and participates in many classroom activities. Prior to having access to his communication system, Schuyler would become agitated and frequently leave the room when asked a question. Now he can interact with peers and teachers, as well as answer questions in class. Schuyler enjoys electronics and benefits from assistive technology to reach his goals. He loves going to school and has been much happier since “finding his voice”. For his successful achievements in the use of alternative and augmentative communication, Schuyler is an excellent candidate for a Yes I Can award in the category of Technology.

**La Verendrye School
Portage la Prairie School Division**

DYLAN WILSON

Dylan is a grade 6 student at La Verendrye School in Portage la Prairie. Dylan incorporates technology into his daily routine, and this has offered him a number of valuable learning tools to assist his growth and development. During remote learning, Dylan used Google Classroom and Wakelet to connect with and organize his educational opportunities. While he previously used an iPad, in middle years he has been introduced to a Chromebook on which he accesses applications to support his learning. Instead of struggling in the classroom, Dylan will actively choose technology options to engage in areas of learning that he enjoys. He enjoys several adaptive technology programs and has his own YouTube channel known as “DylanTube.” Overall, Dylan exemplifies the spirit of the Yes I Can Awards through his excellent use of technology.

EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

**George Waters Middle School
St. James Assiniboia School Division**

MYRIAME ORLOFF

Myriame’s work has been exemplary as a middle year’s teacher and most recently as a full-time counsellor at George Waters Middle School.

As a classroom teacher Myriame established strong, personal connections with her students and addressed their diverse needs through a strength-based approach that incorporated student interests in the overall lesson plan. Hands-on experiential learning activities were provided and a high level of student engagement maintained utilizing the Optimal Learning Model. An inviting, caring environment was created and a culture of acceptance and inclusion established in which all students felt welcomed and respected and were able to participate in every conversation and lesson.

Myriame has brought the same passion, innovation and creativity from the larger classroom setting to her work with smaller groups, individual students and in the classroom when working along side staff as a school counsellor. She uses research-based methods to approach her counselling and thinks and adapts quickly to meet the needs of her students. Myriame is caring, compassionate and exceedingly patient as she strives to help students navigate and problem solve difficult situations. She’s a life-long learner and sets high expectations for students and herself. In her short time in her role she also has provided mentorship for a few “school counsellors” in training.

Myriame’s contributions to the school community have been outstanding including the spearheading and planning of a creative and engaging school wide mental health program that is being implemented on a daily basis by all teachers. She trained her dog Lucy as a therapy dog, and Lucy has become an integral part of the school environment and in supporting students who have difficulty in self-regulating. Myriame created a calming space for students and initiated a Toasty Tuesday Breakfast Program which became an important part of the day for many students. She has been actively involved in numerous school committees and coaching over the years and initiated the GSA Diversity Alliance group along with two support staff which was a safe place for all students to come, talk and learn about the LGBTQ+ community. Myriame co-facilitated student participation in the Special Olympics Program; coached the School Improv team and Co-Directed the school play at the middle years and high school levels for many years.

Myriame has been described as a high energy, self-starter who embraces new challenges and situations. She is also compassionate, hard-working and totally dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of her students!

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Cecile Rhodes School Winnipeg School Division

ZACHARY MCKAY

Zachary is a grade 8 student who attends Cecile Rhodes School in Winnipeg School Division. He has been demonstrating his commitment to activities as part of the Cecile Rhodes' basketball team. His passion for basketball has led to Zachary giving pointers to his classmates as he believes anyone is capable of succeeding. Zachary demonstrates the qualities of Yes I Can through his participation in school activities.

TRANSITION SCHOLARSHIPS

YULIN HARLEY

Yulin has consistently challenged herself in new situations and developing the ability to become adaptable to other perspectives. Yulin is a talented creative writer and artist whose tenacity to continue to grow as an artist is evident by all of those around her. Within her school and community Yulin is an active volunteer: Folklorama, St. Amont Centre, Vacation Bible School and Victoria General Hospital. Through these experiences, those who know her have observed that she demonstrates a willing attitude and challenges herself to complete tasks and learn new things that are outside of her comfort zone. After high school, Yulin will be attending the Fine Arts Program at the University of Manitoba. Her dream is to pursue a career in arts creating assets for mobile apps, becoming a story board artist or developing her own animation.

ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

University of Brandon

KAIDYN BRASCH

Kaidyn is planning to pursue a career as Speech and Language Pathologist or a School Psychologist with the goal of helping others. Kaidyn is dedicated to pursuing a career in which she can support persons with exceptionalities achieve their goals. She will be attending Brandon University in the Faculty of Arts. Her volunteer experiences include Swim Ability, BOKS exercise program and a curling program. Through her school community, she has participated in leadership groups such as student council and social action groups that promote inclusiveness. Kaidyn's compassion and personality shine through as she takes the extra time throughout her day to talk to all her peers about their interests and experiences as witnessed by the people around her everyday.

ROHIT GUPTA

University of Manitoba

Rohit's dedication to understanding mental health through research and dedication to supporting child development is evident in all he does. He has career aspirations to obtain a Master and Ph. D. in developmental psychology and become an advocate for child development. He is dedicated to working to promote more inclusiveness for children and youth. Those who know him say he respects and acknowledges people and their experiences and has great potential in achieving excellence in promoting inclusiveness. Within the community he has volunteered in the Pass it On Program and Oheys Autism Program in addition to his passion for cricket. Rohit is currently attending the University of Manitoba in the Bachelor of Arts program pursuing a major in psychology.

MARIE-JOSÉE LEMOINE

Marie-Josée is attending Université St. Boniface completing her Bachelor of Education to pursue a career as a teacher. Her volunteer experience represents her commitment to supporting diverse populations: Best Buddies Program, Bear Clan Patrol and a classroom volunteer at St. Adolph School and Collège Regional Gabrielle-Roy. Those she knows say she values the importance of building relationships with students, understands student needs and adjusts her teaching. She is dedicated to developing the skills to support the diverse learners that she knows she will have in her classroom through inclusivity and sparking a love of learning for all.

Yes I Can!

I work a little harder every single day
It takes a little longer for me to find my way
I try a little harder
And I get a little farther
And now I just want to say...

Chorus:

I may not run as fast as you
I may not come in first it's true
But I believe in who I am
This voice inside my head speaks
Dreams...hopes and mountain peaks
I believe that *Yes I Can!*

I speak a little softer but I can still be heard
I'm like a baby robin among a flock of birds
But I can leave my nest
Spread these wings fly like the rest
And I won't settle for any less

Chorus:

I may not read as many words
And pages can become a blur
But I believe in who I am
This voice inside my head speaks
Dreams...hopes and mountain peaks
I believe that *Yes I Can!*

And you can see it in my eyes
This glow that comes from deep inside
Because I believe in who I am...
This voice inside my head speaks...
Dreams...hopes and mountain peaks
I believe in *Yes I Can!*

Yes I Can! Awards

A Special THANK YOU to:

CEREMONY MC

Glen Cassie
Communications Coordinator
Communications Services Manitoba
Government of Manitoba



GREETINGS AND PRESENTER

Joanna Kaptein, President of MCEC

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO:

- Administrators Association of Manitoba
- WorkerBeeTV
- MCEC Past Presidents
- Manitoba Education and Training
- Regehr's Printing
- SSAAM – Metro (Student Services)
- SSAAM – Provincial (Student Services Administrators Association of Manitoba)
- Numerous personal donations from MCEC Yes I Can! supporters

SPONSORSHIP

The Manitoba Council for Exceptional Children is a non-profit organization dedicated to advocating for students with special needs. The *Yes I Can!* Awards highlight the achievements of those students.

The MCEC and the *Yes I Can!* committee are seeking donations to continue the work they do as advocates for students, parents, and educators. All donations will be recognized in the newsletter, and all individuals or companies will receive receipts for amounts over \$10.00 for tax purposes. More information is available at www.manitobacec.ca or by contacting the MCEC Treasurer Georgina Dyck-Hacault at georgina.dyck-hacault@srsd.ca

Please send donations to Georgina Dyck-Hacault at PO Box 43035, 74-1555 Regent Avenue, Winnipeg, MB, R2C 4J2.

Thank you for supporting MCEC.