



PROF. ALAN PENCE,

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PROFILE

Prof Alan Pence's professional work with children began in 1970 as a teacher at an alternative, inner city high school. During that time, he became concerned that high school was too late to have a maximally positive impact on a child's development. Throughout the rest of the 1970s he focused on early childhood: providing direct care for 3 & 4 year olds; establishing a high school based ECD Center and student parenting program; serving as a field trainer for a five-county rural area that included migrant and First Nations programs; and establishing a 7-site After-School Care program while completing his PhD.

In 1981 he began his academic career focusing his research on implementing an ecological approach to understanding child care in Canada. Studies undertaken in Victoria and Vancouver led to a large-scale national study of child care led by Pence and colleagues from three other universities across Canada. His first book, *Ecological Research with Children and Families: From Concepts to Methodology* (1988) featured a Foreword by ecological theory founder, Professor Urie Bronfenbrenner.

In 1989 Pence was invited by a large Indigenous Tribal Council in northern Canada to co- envision, and then develop and deliver, an undergraduate program that would incorporate their communities' values and knowledge. The success of that externally evaluated program led to nine additional Tribal organizations co-implementing the program with UVic over the next 16 years.

The program also attracted the interest of the lead for ECD at UNICEF Headquarters, followed by support as well from The World Bank and other international donors. That support led to a set of complementary Capacity-Building and Leadership Initiatives including: the Sub-Saharan Africa International ECD Conference series (1999, 2003, 2005, 2009); launch of the Early Childhood Development Virtual University (2001-present); African Scholars and Institutions initiative; and the UNESCO Chairs for ECD (Africa). Those initiatives, plus others, are described in some detail at ecdinafrica.org.



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SANKOFA BOOK CANADIAN LAUNCH

On Monday April 15, 2024 Sankofa Appreciating the past in planning the future of early childhood education, care and development in Africa, celebrated its Canadian Launch at the University of Victoria (UVic) in Canada. In the photo above from left to right, UVic President Kevin Hall, co-editor Dr. Patrick Makokoro, UNESCO Global ECCE Specialist Ms. Rokhaya Diawara, co-editor Prof. Alan Pence, ECDAN Executive Director Ms Elizabeth Lule and UVic Centre for Global Studies Director, Dr. Oliver Schimdtke.



UVic President Kevin Hall engages in discussion with co-editors Prof. Pence and Dr. Makokoro at the April 15 Sankofa Launch event



- Sankofa Lead editor, Prof. Emeritus Alan Pence, discusses the book with history professor Prof. Elizabeth Vibert and Ms. Tricia Best, Director of International Center for Students at UVic.



- Prof. Emeritus Alan Pence presents at the Sankofa Launch.



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