

## Fostering Community-School Relationships in Toronto's Model Schools

**Elizabeth Schaeffer, Harpreet Ghuman,  
Kenneth Slater, Yvonne Davis, & Jeff Kugler**

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**Community Development Collaborative Program  
Seminar Series & the Centre for Urban Schooling**

**April 1, 2008, 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.  
OISE, 252 Bloor Street West, Room 8-214**

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School-community relationships can have a profound impact on the social and economic development of a community. As a major neighbourhood facility – in some areas, the only one – and a core component of the community fabric, public schools determine, to some degree, the quality of life of a neighbourhood. When schools are regarded as community hubs, students and their families gain in educational outcomes, and all residents benefit from improved neighbourhood safety, a higher level of social and cultural capital, and more active civic engagement. Yet, in most under-served neighbourhoods in Toronto, the inherent capital in community-school relationships is unrealized.

This forum will discuss three designated “Model Schools for Inner Cities” in Regent Park, the Jane and Finch community, and West-Hill–Scarborough East, which are tapping into this potential. The Toronto District School Board has provided these schools with special resources to address the pressing challenges of urban poverty, racism, and marginalization in their communities.

*Speakers:* Elizabeth Schaeffer, Nelson Mandela Park Public School in Regent Park; Harpreet Ghuman, Firgrove P.S in the Jane and Finch community; Kenneth Slater, Dixon Hall youth worker; Yvonne Davis, Facilitator for the Ministry-funded On-Track Pre-Employment Program in the Jane and Finch community; and Jeff Kugler, Executive Director of the Centre for Urban Schooling at OISE/UT.

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