



**ANNUAL REPORT**

**DAVID PEIKOFF CHAIR OF DEAFNESS STUDIES**

**And**

**WESTERN CANADIAN CENTRE OF STUDIES IN DEAFNESS**

**July 01, 2006 to June 30, 2007**

**Dr. Debra Russell  
David Peikoff Chair of Deafness Studies  
WCCSD Director**



**August 15, 2007**

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The David Peikoff Chair of Deafness Studies (DPCDS) works in collaboration with the Western Canadian Centre of Studies in Deafness (WCCSD), bridging research and community development. This report summarizes the Centre's accomplishments over the period of July 01, 2006 to June 30, 2007.

The fiscal year ending March 31, 2007 saw continued growth within the Centre with increased research funding and the coordination of more programs and projects. The following are highlights of the past year.

WCCSD continues to play a coordinating role between Lakeland College and the University of Alberta in the area of courses in American Sign Language and the development of interpretation programs. An advisory committee comprised of representatives from Modern Languages and Cultural Studies, Connect Society, Alberta Association of the Deaf, Edmonton Public School Board, the Alberta Chapter of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, and Alberta Learning met three times over the year. Alberta Learning approved the Program of Sign Language Interpretation in August 2006. To date no government funding has been secured to offer the program.

The David Peikoff Chair of Deafness Studies and WCCSD have continued to offer research lectures, attracting large numbers of educators, academics, Deaf community members, and students from disciplines of education, linguistics, anthropology and modern languages. In September 2006, WCCSD co-sponsored a research lecture in Calgary, collaborating with the Calgary Board of Education and Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services. This lecture featured Dr. Lynn McQuarrie, and was in response to the requests from the Calgary community to make our lectures available to southern Alberta. During March 2007 Dr. Cathy Chovaz-McKinnon, of the University of Western Ontario and Laura Putnam, of the Mental Health Services for the Deaf in Ontario were our speakers. Dr. Chovaz-McKinnon provided us with a research lecture and both she and Laura offered their consultation services during a half-day stakeholders meeting. A small working group has emerged from that meeting and they continue to meet to address the mental health needs of Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf-Blind Albertans. In addition, WCCSD hosted the Jones Memorial Lecture in April 2007 with Dr. Kristin DiPerri of Boston University. In May 2007 we hosted a lecture by Dr. Svitlana Kulbida, from the Institute of Special Pedagogy in Kiev, Ukraine on the state of Deaf education in Ukraine. These lectures and workshops are an example of how our centre continues to reach out to the community, forging closer ties between those conducting the research and those who apply the research in the education of Deaf children. This year we made two of the lectures accessible to an international audience, by capturing the lectures on video and releasing them on the Internet through video-streaming technology.

WCCSD and the Alberta Cultural Society of the Deaf co-sponsored the second ASL Immersion in July 2006 with 116 participants in attendance. The event was very well received, with a staff compliment of 12 Deaf ASL instructors from Calgary and

Edmonton in order to offer this event. WCCSD, in collaboration with the Alberta Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf and Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services also offered a two-day Medical Interpreting Institute with 30 participants from Alberta, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan. This event took place in Sept. 2006.

In August 2006 WCCSD co-hosted two weeks of training for 16 American Sign Language Instructors. This program was offered in collaboration with Douglas College in New Westminster, BC and attracted Alberta, BC, and Saskatchewan participants. This program has not been available outside of BC prior to this event so the collaboration ensured greater numbers of Deaf teachers can begin to access the formal education required to teach ASL.

Two major commissioned research contracts were completed and reports published. The first contract was with University of Calgary and was focused on a review of the disability supports program. The second contract was with Grant MacEwan College and it was a process review of support services for students with disabilities.

In April 2007 we learned that our three-year SSHRC application for a study of Deaf children in inclusive settings was successful and project planning will occur over the summer months.

WCCSD was asked to consult with several organizations over the year. One of the consultations was with Dev Studios on the development of computer training programs that could be accessible for Deaf adults. Edmonton Public School Board also sought our consultation on classification issues for interpreters and assistants, addressing qualifications, training, assessment, and creating effective learning environments for deaf children.

As part of our youth commitment, we sponsored a hard of hearing youth delegate to attend the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association conference in Edmonton during May 2006.

Over the year, Dr. Russell was invited to deliver several presentations, including:

- Toronto, ON: *Appearance of access? Educational interpreting*. Paper given at the biennial conference of the Association of Visual Language Interpreters of Canada.
- Vancouver, BC: *Access to learning for deaf children*. Presentation given for the Faculty of Education, University of British Columbia.
- Edmonton, AB: *Inclusion or the illusion of inclusion?* Presentation given to the Alberta Teachers Association Special Education Conference.
- Parametta, Australia: *Access to the language of instruction for Deaf children*. Presentation given at the Critical Link 5 Conference.

- Parametta, Australia: *Creating a new values-based code of ethics – How did that happen?* Paper presented at the Critical Link 5 Conference
- Edmonton, Alberta: *Ukrainian Sign Language Project*. Address given at the 20th Anniversary Banquet of the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education.
- Segovia, Spain: *what do others think of our work? Perspectives on educational interpreting from Deaf students, teachers, administrators and parents*. Paper given at the World Association of Sign Language Interpreters.

Dr. Debra Russell and Dr. Sandra Hale have submitted the final manuscript for Gallaudet University Press. The book is to be published in 2008. The volume will focus on interpretation in legal settings and includes research from spoken and signed language scholars.

We continue to work closely with the Canadian Ukraine Research Team (CURT) and through those meetings have provided direct input to our Ukrainian colleagues based at the Institute of Special Pedagogy in Kiev. We were awarded a \$10,000 grant from Partnerships for Tomorrow Program to bring three of the Kiev research team to Edmonton. Dr. Svitlana Kulbida, Marina Liferova and Iryna Chepchyna were able to bring data from Ukraine and we completed some initial data analysis and training. While visiting in Alberta, the Ukrainian team gave five presentations and held a number of meetings with Grant MacEwan College – Ukrainian Resource Development Centre, University of Alberta, Edmonton Public School Board, Calgary School Board and Alberta Cultural Society of the Deaf. We also received other grants to sponsor our work in Ukraine, including \$3000.00 from the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education and \$1000.00 from the Canadian Ukraine Alliance for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons.

The David Peikoff Chair of Deafness Studies supported the Department of Educational Psychology by teaching two courses at the graduate levels over the 2006-07 periods. The courses were Studies in Sign Language and Deaf Culture, which was delivered through the University of British Columbia and available to our students through the Dean's Western Agreement. This course represented the spirit of collaboration across two universities and two Deafness Studies Programs. University of British Columbia will once again contract Dr. Russell to teach the course during the 2007-08 academic year and the same course will be offered in September 2007 at the University of Alberta. The David Peikoff Chair of Deafness Studies also supported the department by covering the costs of an extra section of EDPY 474 in the winter semester and Randy Dziwenka taught this course. These results have been tabulated and provided to the Department for their consideration. Dr. Russell supervised two independent studies with two graduate students, and served as the second reader on two capping projects. As well, Dr. Russell continues to serve on a Union University doctoral committee, travelling to Washington DC for the certification meetings. Dr. Russell taught two on-line graduate courses this year for Northeastern University in Boston. The courses were in the Masters in Interpreting Pedagogy program.

Over the year, WCCSD has supported the deaf and hard of hearing communities in Alberta through its coordination and leadership, building on strengths through multi-sectored partnerships, cooperation, and collaboration, and using community-based approaches. Coordination and support provided by the WCCSD helps strengthen the efforts, overall initiatives, and activities of the University of Alberta and community agencies, practitioners, and other key stakeholders throughout Canada and North America.

WCCSD carries out its activities in four core areas, which include: research, program support for training and educational access; leadership and liaison; and acting as a community resource. Recognizing that the needs of the deaf and hard of hearing communities are truly diverse in nature, priority setting is critical and has guided the Centre's activities over the past year. WCCSD's priority areas of focus are determined by a set of criteria to ensure capturing the needs of the entire province. Priority setting criteria take the following factors into consideration:

- Evidence and research results (i.e. potential for success, effectiveness of strategies).
- Community-identified needs and expressed interest to work with the WCCSD.
- Opportunities for partnership.
- Availability of human and financial resources.
- Ability to further WCCSD's goals and alignment with the priorities of the overall University.

In carrying out its vision and mission, WCCSD demonstrates excellence in the programs and services it provides by applying a relevant and ethical scientific approach in its research, education, and advocacy. WCCSD sets measurable objectives and monitors outcomes that result in effectiveness in all programs and services. An innovative and flexible approach to the work and development of partnerships allows the Centre to continue to grow and meet the needs of the communities it serves. WCCSD recognizes the contributions of its stakeholders and respects their views and approaches.

## **WCCSD and the David Peikoff Chair of Deafness Studies**

### **VISION AND VALUES**

The WCCSD and David Peikoff Chair of Deafness Studies Strategic Plan (2004-2006) identifies core activities that include support for conducting and disseminating research, training, enhancing educational access for deaf and hard of hearing students, leadership and liaison, and serving as a community resource. The vision and values that guide the work of the Centre are:

#### Vision and Values:

The David Peikoff Chair of Deafness Studies (DPCDS) works in collaboration with the Western Canadian Centre of Studies in Deafness (WCCSD), bridging research and community development. The vision is to demonstrate leadership in Canada in the areas of research and development in the area of hearing loss. By cooperating with the Deaf and hard of hearing communities, WCCSD will support the development of post-secondary opportunities for d/Deaf and hard of hearing learners and programs for these students throughout Western Canada. In addition WCCSD will cooperate with the Deaf and hard of hearing communities in order to support community capacity building.

We continue to do the following:

- function as a research and development base in the area of hearing loss;
- facilitate greater access into post-secondary areas for students with hearing loss;
- advocate for the accommodation the needs of these students;
- provide leadership in development of programs and services for deaf and hard of hearing people;
- evolve as a Centre that cooperates with the hard of hearing and deaf communities in order to support community capacity building.

The values that guide our work include:

- Respect for d/Deaf and hard of hearing people regardless of communication preferences.
- Incorporate current literature and research into strategic planning.
- Create professional and collegial relationships with all internal and external stakeholders, including within the University community and the external community.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROGRESS ON GOALS**

The following information is a summary of the activities of the David Peikoff Chair of Deafness Studies and the Western Canadian Centre of Studies in Deafness from July 01, 2006 to June 30, 2007, and how those activities supported the goals of the Centre.

### **CORE ACTIVITY 1: RESEARCH IN DEAFNESS STUDIES**

Strategic Initiative: To conduct and disseminate current research in deafness studies and to support research efforts of other institutions.

Activities that supported this core activity include:

#### **1. Research Projects**

- *University of Calgary – A Review of the Disability Resource Centre:* This study was a review of the services and supports offered at U of C for students with

disabilities. Results: A research report and two presentations. Total Award: \$5500.00

- *Grant MacEwan College – A Review of Services to Students with Disabilities.* This study examined the process and policies that create effective supports for students with disabilities. Results: A research report and presentation. Total award: \$6,600.00
- *Examination of Access to the Language of Instruction for Deaf Children:* This grant allows us to build on an on-going study that is in the data collection stage; it is a study of classroom interpretation provided to deaf students to determine impact and quality of inclusive learning environment on deaf students. Total Award: \$130, 200.00 from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC).
- *Ukrainian Signed Language Research Project:* Assisting the Institute of Special Pedagogy (Ukraine) in shaping their initial descriptive analysis of Ukrainian Sign Language and subsequent teacher training materials for using USL in the classroom. In April 2007 three Ukrainian researchers joined us at the U of A to collaborate on data analysis and planning for the next stages of data collection. Total Award: \$10,000.00 from Partnerships from Tomorrow; \$3000.00 from the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education, \$1000.00 from the Canadian Ukraine Alliance for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons.

## **2. David Peikoff Chair of Deafness Studies Research Support**

Through careful expenditure of the budget, we were able to support several research initiatives, thus expanding the pool of researchers working in the field of deafness and contributing to the goal of conducting and disseminating current research.

- \$500 awarded to Ihor Kobel to travel to Kiev to begin data collection for his doctoral study.
- Canadian Hard of Hearing Association: \$250.00 awarded to a hard of hearing student in order to attend the youth congress in Edmonton, AB during May 2006.

## **3. David Peikoff Chair of Deafness Studies Advanced Research Lectures**

- Sponsored two advanced research lectures. Presenters included: Dr. Cathy Chovaz-McKinnon, University of Western Ontario (March 2007) and Dr. Svitlana Kulbida, Institute of Special Pedagogy, Kiev, Ukraine(May 2007).
- Organized one professional development opportunity for teachers of the deaf in collaboration with Alberta School for the Deaf and Connect Society (March 2007).



- The Jones Memorial Lecture was hosted in March 2007 with Dr. Kristin DiPerri, Boston University.
- Co-sponsored, with the Calgary Board of Education and Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services, a lecture given by Dr. Lynn McQuarrie, September 2006.
- Of note, two lectures were videotaped and made available through the Internet via video-streaming technology.

#### **4. Publications in the past year**

##### Referred Publications:

Russell, D. and Hale, S. (Editors) (in press) *Studies in Interpretation, Volume 7: Issues in Legal Interpretation*. Gallaudet Press: Washington, DC.

##### Commissioned Research Reports:

Russell, D. & Demko, R. (2007). *Review of services to students with disabilities*. Edmonton, AB: Grant MacEwan College.

Russell, D. & Demko, R. (2007). *Operational review of the disability resource centre*. Calgary, AB: University of Calgary.

##### Curriculum and Testing Material:

Russell, D. & Demko, R. (2007). *EDPY 497/497: Studies in sign language and deaf culture*. Edmonton, AB: University of Alberta. [WebCT and face to face delivery course].

Russell, D. (2007). *Language studies 105: Becoming an ally*. Edmonton, Alberta. Lakeland College. [WebCT and face to face delivery course].

Russell, D. & Demko, R. (2007). *EPSE 525: Studies in sign language and deaf culture*. Vancouver, BC: University of British Columbia. [WebCT course].

#### **4. Presentations**

##### **International Presentations:**

Russell, D. (July 2007). *What do others think of our work? Perspectives on educational interpreting from Deaf students, teachers, administrators and parents*. Paper

given at the World Association of Sign Language Interpreters. Paper given at the World Association of Sign Language Interpreters, Segovia, Spain.

Russell, D. (April 2007). *A values based code of ethics*. Paper presented at the Critical Link Conference 2007, Sydney, Australia.

Russell, D. (April 2007). *Inclusion or the illusion of inclusion*. Paper presented at the Critical Link Conference 2007, Sydney, Australia.

McQuarrie, L., Russell, D., & Stratiy, A. (2007, February). *Sharing insights: Co-teaching at the post secondary level as a model of inclusiveness*. Paper presented at the ACE-DHH Conference, Pittsburgh, PA.

### **National Presentations:**

Russell, D. (2006, October). *Consultation on interpreter classification*. A presentation for the Edmonton Public School Board, Edmonton, AB.

Russell, D. (2006, October). *Inclusion or the illusion of inclusion*. Paper presented at the Alberta Special Education Conference, Edmonton, AB.

Russell, D. (2006, July). *Inclusion or the illusion of inclusion?* Paper presented at the Association of Visual Language Interpreters of Canada Annual General Meeting, Toronto, ON.

Russell, D. (2006, July). *Access to learning for Deaf children?* Paper presented at the Faculty of Education, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC.

## **CORE ACTIVITY 2: SUPPORT FOR TRAINING & EDUCATIONAL ACCESS**

Strategic Initiative: To provide support for on-going research, training, and educational access for Deaf and Hard of Hearing students.

Activities that supported this core activity include:

- During August 2006, WCCSD and the Alberta Cultural Society of the Deaf sponsored a 5 day ASL Immersion Program at the University of Alberta. This event promotes the university and also allows for people to learn more about American Sign Language and the Deaf community. Several teachers and teaching assistants participated in this event. This celebration of diversity and linguistic difference certainly contributes to awareness and greater educational access for Deaf students.

- During August 2006, WCCSD and the Alberta Cultural Society of the Deaf sponsored two courses for ASL instructors, focused on adult learning and curriculum planning, and Deaf culture and oppression. 16 Deaf instructors from three western provinces participated in the training, which is part of an ASL Instructor Certificate program offered by Douglas College in New Westminister, BC.
- During September 2006 WCCSD, in collaboration with ACRID and DHHS, hosted a Medical Interpreting Workshop in Calgary, AB. This three-day learning event attracted 30 participants from Alberta, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan.
- We continue to provide support to the Malaysian YMCA Mujudiri Foundation for the Deaf Project, consulting on the development of support services for deaf students in that country.
- By collaborating with Lakeland College and the Department of Modern Languages on the development of ASL courses and an Alberta based interpreter education program, we are ultimately creating awareness of the need for educational access for deaf and hard of hearing students, and potentially attracting students to the deaf studies area.

### **CORE ACTIVITY 3: LEADERSHIP AND LIAISON**

Strategic Initiative: To provide leadership and liaison in the field of deaf studies.

Activities that supported this core activity include:

**Lakeland College:** WCCSD has been working closely with Lakeland College over the past year on the development of a proposal for an Interpreter program. Over the past year we were able to further develop and refine the previous program review submission, which has now been approved by Alberta Learning. We have also supported Lakeland College in securing qualified ASL instructors for their courses delivered at the Sherwood Park campus. Finally, we hosted three advisory committee meetings. The Advisory Committee has representation from the Dept. of Modern Languages and Culture as well as community organizations.

**Canadian Ukraine Research Team:** Participated in the on-going meetings of CURT. In April 2007, three Ukrainian researchers working with the Signed Language Research Lab at the Institute of Special Pedagogy visited us. We have helped them examine potential computer analysis tools that may assist in data analysis, provided a full program on training, organized exchange visits with education sites in Alberta, and set a realistic and feasible plan for the next phase of the research project. The researchers made a number of presentations while in Alberta and made key contacts within the Ukrainian and Deaf

communities. Finally, we were able to arrange for the purchase of computer equipment through a donation from the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education.

**University of British Columbia:** One major highlight of the relationship between U of A and UBC was the opportunity to provide two days of interpreting services for the Dalai Lama during his visit to Vancouver in Sept. 2007. As well, we continue to collaborate and have increased communication with UBC about their Deafness Studies Programs. During Fall 2006, Dr. Russell taught one on-line course (EPSE 525) with students from both U of A and UBC taking the course.

**Northeastern University, Boston, MA:** We continue to provide on-going consultation to Northeastern University regarding the masters degree program in teaching ASL and interpreting (June 2007). Dr. Russell taught two courses for NEU (Fall 2006 and Winter 2007).

**World Association of Sign Language Interpreters:** Continue to provide support and consultation as the North American representative serving Canada, the United States, and Mexico.

#### **CORE ACTIVITY 4: COMMUNITY RESOURCE**

Strategic Initiative: To act as a community resource in the areas of deafness and hearing loss.

Activities that supported this core activity include:

**University of Alberta Community:** Provided two guest lectures on deafness to the senior classes of the Speech Language Pathology program and the Faculty of Education. Provide consultation to Modern Languages and Cultural Studies on their ASL course offerings.

**Calgary Catholic Family Services:** Have served the past two years on the Advisory Committee for the Butterfly Project, which serves Deaf and Hard of Hearing people.

**Additional Consultations** on a range of issues related to hearing loss and deafness were provided to the Dept of Justice, Government of NWT; Dev Communications; Mountain View School District; Government of Alberta, Alberta Learning; and Calgary Catholic Family Services.

This summary of progress on goals demonstrates how the activities have supported the core activities, goals, and objectives of the Centre during the period from July 01, 2006 to June 30, 2007.

## **ALIGNMENT WITH UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA PRIORITIES**

Our activities are congruent with the University of Alberta's cornerstones of talented people, learning, discovery and citizenship, connecting communities, and transformative organization and support, as demonstrated through the following examples.

**Talented People:** Our activities that support this cornerstone have included the recruitment of outstanding students and a focus on partnerships with organizations and colleges that serve non-traditional students. By virtue of language and culture, deaf and hard of hearing students are seen as non-traditional, and as a multi-cultural community of learners, they often face multiple barriers. We are building bridges between the University community and the larger community, ensuring that prospective deaf and hard of hearing students consider the University of Alberta as a welcoming learning environment that can accommodate their learning needs. Our centre celebrates and draws upon diversity by hiring Deaf employees who use American Sign Language and all of our research affiliates possess American Sign Language fluency. In addition, our research lectures focus on evidence based research in their field of Deaf Studies, and features scholars from Canada and from other countries.

**Learning, Discovery and Citizenship:** We support this cornerstone by creating national and international research collaborations. To date we have formed effective relationships with the University of British Columbia, Northeastern University in Boston, Institute of Special Pedagogy in Kiev, Ukraine, and Gallaudet University in Washington, DC. Finally, our centre has offered mentorship and learning opportunities to undergraduate and graduate students. As well, we serve as a work experience site for high school students from the Alberta School for the Deaf. By serving on the international board of directors for the World Association of Sign Language Interpreters, we are also building international relationships that create initiatives to foster mutual understanding, advance human rights agendas, and to further enhance the quality of life for all Deaf and hard of hearing citizens.

**Connecting Communities:** Our partnerships with school boards in Edmonton and Calgary, our collaboration with many community organizations such as the Canadian Cultural Society of the Deaf, the Alberta Cultural Society of the Deaf and the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association allow us to identify research challenges and to provide life-long learning opportunities. Teachers working with deaf and hard of hearing students are able to participate in our workshops, which provides access to new research outcomes and creates a bridge between research and teaching practice. Our ASL immersion experiences offer opportunities to learn American Sign Language and to learn how to meaningfully engage with this distinct linguistic minority. Our research lectures invite intellectual openness and opportunities for ongoing dialogue and discussion about areas of importance to the deaf and hard of hearing community. This year we also made the lectures accessible to all Canadians who have access to the Internet, through video - streaming technology.

**Transformation Organization and Support:** Our past record of providing two doctoral fellowships and one undergraduate fellowship support the University of Alberta's goal of increasing financial assistance to attract outstanding students. We have also maintained good stewardship of the David Peikoff Endowment Fund, ensuring the financial resources will continue to be available in the future. This will allow the University of Alberta to attract outstanding scholars to serve as the David Peikoff Chair of Deafness Studies. Finally, we have increased our ability to communicate among both the internal and external university community by producing regular newsletters, bi-monthly written reports to Peikoff Trustees, Dean Snart, and Dr. Everall, and maintaining a current web and electronic presence.

## **PLANS AND PRIORITIES FOR 2007-2008**

The following activities highlight some of the major plans and priorities for 2007-2008:

- Co-sponsor, with the Alberta Cultural Society of the Deaf, a one-week ASL immersion program for parents, teachers, interpreters, teaching assistants and faculty to be held in July 2008.
- Offer two advanced research lectures, and make them available on the World Wide Web through video technology.
- Offer the Jones Memorial lecture.
- Complete year one of the SSHRC grant work and plan for year two.
- Continue to work with University of Alberta and University of British Columbia on shared courses and collaborative efforts in delivering a Deaf Studies Program.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I wish to thank the following people for their continued support, encouragement, wisdom and guidance:

The Peikoff Trustees: Dr. Marc Arnal, Dr. Bill Maynes, and Martin Coutts  
Dr. Robin Everall, Chair of the Department of Educational Psychology  
Dr. Rob Short, Acting Chair of the Department of Educational Psychology  
Dr. Fern Snart, Dean of Education

I am also grateful for the support that I have enjoyed assistance from Deena Martin who has been an exceptional research assistant. To Robin Demko, my administrative assistant, my sincere thanks for her exceptional work that continues to ensure our activities are carried out efficiently and effectively. Questions or feedback about the work conducted in our area, can be directed to [debra.russell@ualberta.ca](mailto:debra.russell@ualberta.ca) or telephone: 780-492-1156.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debra Russell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D' and 'R'.

Debra Russell

David Peikoff Chair of Deafness Studies & WCCSD Director