

### Learning Guide - Creating Welcoming and Supportive Learning Environments



Alberta Regional Consortia

Participants in the video were asked a series of questions. Take some time in small groups or as one large group to answer these questions before watching the video.

- Question 1: “How can teachers and administrators create welcoming and supportive learning environments for *all* students, including students with disabilities?”
- Question 2: “What level of commitment is required from teachers and administrators when building an inclusive learning environment?”

#### **Watch Video 2: Creating inclusive environments**

The video discusses three ***shifts in thinking***:

- From *only* special education teachers being responsible for students with learning difficulties to *all* teachers being responsible for teaching *all* students.
- From focusing on the *diagnosis* of a disability to understanding students’ *strengths and needs*.
- From focusing on what students *can’t do* to focusing on what students *can do*.

Refer to the Tip Sheet for a more detailed explanation of each ***shift in thinking***.

As a large group or in smaller groups, answer the following questions related to ***shifts in thinking***:

- Which of the three shifts in thinking would be the most difficult to establish at your school? Why?
- What supports and resources would be necessary to establish all three shifts in thinking?

**Acknowledgement:** This guide was developed through the leadership of CPFPP and is freely provided in support of improved teaching and learning under the following Creative Commons license.

