



Caring for our Children newsletter

BC Aboriginal
Child Care Society

www.acc-society.bc.ca

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"If we provide our children with opportunities for success today, it will reap dividends in our communities in the future." Grand Chief Edward John

Language can Help our Children Thrive

March 31, 2015 is National Aboriginal Languages Day.

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) established the day in 1989 in the hopes of increasing awareness across Canada of the languages of the First Peoples, and to build support for their preservation.

Share your stories with us so other communities can get inspired. Indigenous languages convey culturally based ways of interpreting the world and experiences within it (Battiste, 2000). How does your program or organization contribute to the development and delivery of language and culture-based resources that support your community?

Learning their Indigenous language allows children to participate and grow within their culture, and to develop a positive sense of cultural identity. Language is the foundation of a culture, an essential component of self-determination. With it, a culture can thrive.

"The degradation of children's languages and cultures in residential schools instilled a belief among many of today's Indigenous parents and grandparents that their language was inferior and their forms of social interaction and spiritual practice were unspeakably demonic (Wesley-Esquimaux & Smoleski, 2004). In most residential schools, children were forced to stop speaking their home language, to stop communicating with their siblings, to repudiate their cultures and to relinquish their Indian names (Miller, 1996). As a result, many of today's Indigenous parents and grandparents lost not only their capacity to speak their languages but also their confidence in using any language effectively (Lafrance & Collins, 2003). Even more fundamentally, many lost confidence in their capacity to engage in the kinds of care-giving social interactions that promote attachment in families (Chrisjohn, Young, & Maraun, 1997)." *Jessica Ball & Onowa McIvor from Language Issues in Comparative Education*

...continued on page 2



Building the resources to support a program's curriculum around traditional language can seem like an insurmountable task. BCACCS has resources to help you in this journey. Our friendly library staff can assist you in finding out what resources might be best for what you are trying to achieve at your program.

Contact library@acc-society.bc.ca 604-913-9128 ext. 229 for more information.

Language and Literacy subject guide in the AECDC Portal

Our knowledge portal houses a guide that contains resources and information concerned with promoting literacy and language development in Aboriginal young children. Visit <http://portal.acc-society.bc.ca/literacy> to find out more.

Language and Literacy curriculum box for loan

The BCACCS Resource Centre has curriculum boxes to support your program as you find ways to introduce traditional language into your programs. Visit http://www.acc-society.bc.ca/files_2/ece-curriculum-boxes.php to view the variety all the available boxes.

Need some funding to make it happen?

The First Peoples' Cultural Council is now accepting applications. Deadline for applications varies. For more information and to apply, visit this link <http://www.fpcc.ca/Grants/Language/default.aspx>

The following First Peoples' Cultural Council language program applications are now open:

The B.C. Language Initiative (BCLI)

Deadline not announced yet, please contact Barb Matilpi: barb@fpcc.ca

The Aboriginal Languages Initiative (ALI)

Deadline not announced yet, please contact Barb Matilpi: barb@fpcc.ca

FirstVoices

Deadline not announced yet, please contact Alex Wadsworth: alex@fpcc.ca.

Mentor-Apprentice Program

Deadline to Apply: March 18, 2015 at 4:00pm

Language Nest Program

Deadline to Apply: May 6, 2015 at 4:00pm

Language Revitalization Planning Program

Deadline to Apply: June 10, 2015 at 4:00pm



CURRICULUM BOX - Language and Literacy: Alphabet puzzles, Northern Learning to Read Book Series, CDs, wordless books, bannock bingo and poster, Connect-the-Letter tracing activity, The Spirit of Learning CD, Bear Snores On book and activity bag, puppets, Zoe and the Fawn book and Activity Bag, DVDs, magnetic letters, picture books.

Exciting Language Projects

Michif Language Legacy Project in Williams Lake/Surrey
<http://bcmetis.com/2015/01/michif-language-legacy-project-in-williams-lake/>

Skwomesh Language Academy <http://squamishlanguage.com/>

Chief Atahm Elementary School <http://www.chiefatahm.com/>

More Resources

The Aboriginal Language Program Planning Workbook and Handbook. www.fnesc.ca/publications/pdf/language%20workbook2.pdf

The First Nations Language Program (FNLG) at the University of British Columbia offers courses in a number of First Nations languages, as well as methodology classes on language documentation, conservation and revitalization. <http://fnlg.arts.ubc.ca/FNLG1.htm>

Certificate in Aboriginal Language Revitalization is offered by the University of Victoria's Department of Linguistics and the Division of Continuing Studies in partnership with the En'owkin Centre. <http://www.enowkincentre.ca/>

Report on the Status of B.C. First Nations Languages. <http://fpcf.ca/learn-more/>

Language in Head Start Programs. <http://www.ahsabc.com/index.php/tips-tools/for-language-activities>

“LANGUAGE is the life blood of a people, carrying the spirit of the past to the children of the present.” National Aboriginal Head Start

BCACCS Workshops

We offer early childhood development training workshops throughout BC. Workshops are offered by request and are provided on-site at both on and off-reserve communities. Training is designed to help parents, volunteers, early childhood educators and other staff members enhance the services they provide for Aboriginal children and families.

Things to know about our workshops:

- Professional Development Certificates are provided to all participants who complete a workshop, and can be used toward ECE licence renewal within BC.
- For a workshop to be presented in a medium to large community, we normally require at least 10 participants per workshop. For small and/or remote communities, we can arrange to present to smaller groups; please call us to discuss details.
- We offer daytime, evening or weekend workshops to fit your schedule.

Some of our workshops can be shortened or lengthened to fit your schedule; others require a set amount of time to deliver all the content; please call us to discuss details.

Mary Burgaretta, Program Manager and Aboriginal Child Care Advisor

604-913-9128 ext. 225 or mary@acc-society.bc.ca

Mary is a member of Rama First Nation and has 20 years of experience working with Aboriginal children, families and organizations. Her professional training includes a MA in Child and Youth Care from the University of Victoria.

Lani Billon, Aboriginal Child Care Advisor

604-913-9128 ext. 227 or lani@acc-society.bc.ca



Bringing Tradition Home participants photo courtesy of Langley Children's Society

society.bc.ca

Lani has been working in the early childhood education field for over 20 years; the majority of which has been spent working with children with special needs. She has many years of experience facilitating training workshops in the ECE community and has recently completed her Masters of Education in Curriculum and Instruction at SFU.

To see a list of workshop choices visit our website http://www.acc-society.bc.ca/files_2/accs-workshops.php or contact our Aboriginal Child Care Advisors.

Bringing Tradition Home: Aboriginal Parenting in Today's World

We recently delivered the facilitator training for *Bringing Tradition Home* at the Langley Children's Society.

After receiving the training facilitators invited participants in their community to take part. They had such a great group and deeply moving, bonding experience that they shared some of the comments from participants with us.

"What stands out for me is that real connections are made between traditional ways of parenting and honouring culture."

"It's powerful to realize that you don't have to be a perfect parent and that the community can help support me."

"I realized that everyone can be a

teacher, from Elders to babies, everyone has something to teach and learn."

Langley Children's Society, thank you for sharing your experience with us.

We invite other communities that have participated in our workshops to share their experiences.

Reminder: Canadian Child Care Federation's Award for Excel- lence in Child Care

The Award for Excellence in Child Care recognizes accomplishments of individuals who work in all areas of child care, including those who work directly with children. Nominees must have given their time, talent and energy to enhance child care in Canada.

Nominations must be received by **March 31st, 2015**. Information and nomination guidelines are available at <http://www.cccf-fcsge.ca/archives/the-canadian-child-care-federations-award-for-excellence-in-child-care/>

Healthy Eating and Traditional Foods

“Food will be what brings the people together”. Secwepemc Elder, Jones Ignace.

Food is a basis for health and cultural integrity. Healthy, sustainable food gathering and procurement systems protect and enhance the quality of land, air and water for future generations. We already know that children grow healthier, wiser, and more content when they are connected to the natural environment. Shouldn't the food they eat support their growth, development, and future too?



Traditional food activities like: hunting, gathering and eating traditional foods can help prevent chronic disease because they keep us active, grounded, and we get the benefits of the nutrients offered by the plants and animals that we eat. However, fewer children are learning about traditional food and participating in activities. “Changed patterns of consumption are increasing the risk amongst Aboriginal peoples of developing cardiovascular disease, diabetes and cancer.” http://www.nccah-ccnsa.ca/265/Traditional_Aboriginal_Diets_and_Health.nccah#sthash.zkH3Sybm.dpuf



CURRICULUM BOX - Food and Nutrition: Traditional food matching game and posters, food puzzles, Little Trapper video, a Smoking Salmon video, fun food manipulatives, a berry book, foods from the sea book, and a short unit to teach children about diabetes.

Not everyone has access to traditional foods so it is important to know what is in your food. Make sure you read labels and choose foods with fewer additives and sugar. Get involved with community garden initiatives in your area to increase the amount of fresh produce you have access to and reconnect to nature by growing food. “Food insecurity is the lack of access to food that is affordable, safe, and healthy” *Loppie-Reading, C. & Wien, F. (2009). Health inequalities and social determinants of Aboriginal Peoples' health. Prince George, BC: NCCAH*

Some communities are working together to improve health and wellness by reconnecting to traditional foods, medicines and practices. What's happening in your community?

Health & Well-Being subject guide in the AECD Portal

Our knowledge portal houses a guide that contains information to support the health and well-being of Aboriginal children and families. Visit <http://portal.acc-society.bc.ca/health/nutrition> to find out more.

Food and Nutrition curriculum box for loan

The BCACCS Resource Centre has a curriculum box to support your program's nutrition/traditional food curriculum. Visit http://www.acc-society.bc.ca/files_2/ece-curriculum-boxes.php to view the variety all the available boxes.

More Resources

Traditional Foods & Nutrition http://www.acc-society.bc.ca/files_2/links.php

First Nations Health Council http://www.fnhc.ca/pdf/Traditional_Food_Facts_Sheets.pdf

National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health <http://www.nccah-ccnsa.ca/>

Indigenous Food Systems Network <http://www.indigenous-foodsystems.org/>

Centre for Sustainable Food Systems at UBC Farm <http://ubcfarm.ubc.ca/community/indigenous-initiatives/>

National Aboriginal Diabetes Assoc. http://www.nada.ca/Metis_Cookbook_and_Guide_to_Healthy_Eating_2nd_Edition
http://www.naho.ca/documents/metiscentre/english/Cookbook_SecondEdition.pdf

Reminder: Prime Minister's Awards

The Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Early Childhood Education honour outstanding and innovative early childhood educators who excel at fostering the early development and socialization of the children in their care, and at helping build the foundation children need to make the best possible start in life. Deadline for nominations is **April 30th**. Guidelines and nomination forms are available at <http://pma.gc.ca/eic/site/pmaece-ppmepe.nsf/eng/home>.

From Seed to Cedar AECDC Awareness Campaign Renewal

May is Child Care Month

We are renewing our From Seed to Cedar Aboriginal Early Childhood Development and Care (AECDC) Awareness Campaign this May.

All our children deserve an opportunity for a healthy start in life. Join us in calling on leaders to make investments in quality AECDC a priority.

With the right conditions the smallest seeds can become the tallest cedars. Like seeds, our children hold incredible potential. AECDC programs play a central role in creating the conditions that nurture the potential of our children and unlock the spirit of our communities.

Learn more about crucial issues and get involved. Help us celebrate the hard work of Early Childhood Educators in your community. Join the campaign to help raise awareness about AECDC in your community. We've made great progress but there is so much more to do.

Since the launch last year we've had 140 people declare that they are champions for this cause. Help us double that number.

Wondering how to become part of the cause? Here's a list of a few ways to connect with us, get involved, and spread the word.



Visit our website, seedtocedar.com to find resources and share the message with your community, co-workers, and family.

- Take a look at the videos on the home page, share them.
- Sign the declaration; ask friends, colleagues, and family to sign too.

Join our campaign on social media.

- Like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Seedtocedar>
- Follow us on Twitter <https://twitter.com/SeedtoCedar>
- Download the Facebook Badge and change your profile picture for the Month of May



The goal of the campaign is to increase awareness in communities and to ask our leaders to make AECDC a priority.

We'll need everyone's help to make this campaign a success. If you are interested in helping out as a community champion please email: communications@acc-society.bc.ca

The campaign will re-launch in May 2015 so stay tuned for event notices and other ways to participate and spread the word about how important AECDC is to the future of our children.

Wear a **green ribbon** on May 19th to show that you support the call for reliable funding and resources to ensure quality, culturally relevant AECDC!



Clam collecting photo courtesy of NCCAH

Tasty Tidbits

Historically, and central to our culture and way of life, traditional foods were highly nutritious and sustained Aboriginal peoples successfully for generations. Healthy eating plays a fundamental role in human health and development from the prenatal and early childhood years to adulthood and later life stages. Here is a delicious recipe to inspire healthy food choices:

Steamed Clams with Seaweed

This recipe serves as a glimpse into "A Feast for all Seasons", a cook book in our Resource Centre.

Chef Andrew George Jr. invites readers to try foods that have nourished and fed the First Nations peoples.

- 1 lbs (1 kg) butter clams, steamed and shelled, juices reserved
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) eulachon butter
- 2 shallots, finely diced
- 1 clove of garlic, minced
- 2 tsp (10 ml) chopped dry seaweed
- 2 tsp (10 ml) fish stock or cold water
- Salt and pepper to taste

Chop clams; set aside.

In a large skillet over medium heat, heat eulachon grease. Sauté shallots and garlic until shallots are transparent. Add clams and 2 more minutes. Add seaweed, fish stock, and reserved juices from clams. Simmer just until heated through. Season to taste. Serve with rice.

BCACCS Member Advantages

Do you know what they are? Let us help you with a list:

Membership at BCACCS provides a provincial forum to network and share ideas regarding Aboriginal child care and child development issues. Direct benefits and privileges of membership include:

- Free annual subscription to the Society's quarterly newsletter "Caring for Our Children"
- Resource Library borrowing privileges, with access to more than 900 child-focused books, articles and videos, as well as BCACCS ECE curriculum boxes (including Moe the Mouse®)
- Discounted rate on registration for the BCACCS Annual Provincial Training Conference
- Discounted rate on BCACCS publications

- The ability to participate and vote on the business of the Society
- Membership with the Canadian Child Care Federation which includes receipt of their quarterly magazine, "Interaction".
- A voice in a professional Aboriginal organization dedicated to quality child care;
- Opportunity to support, shape and influence Aboriginal child care policy, research and practice, both provincially and nationally

To learn more visit our website http://www.acc-society.bc.ca/files_2/accs-membership.php or contact our librarian library@acc-society.bc.ca 604-913-9128 ext. 229

Singing Frog AHS Preschool is Open

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the "Singing Frog AHS Preschool Emergency Repair Fund". The Singing Frog Preschool is now open again. Family, staff, and stakeholders gathered at the blessing in December.

We gratefully acknowledge the generous contribution of the Central City Foundation to complete this project.



"Thank you everyone who put in time to finish our building and support our families. We are very grateful." Singing Frog Staff



Save the Date for the 18th BCACCS Annual Provincial Training Conference

This year's conference will be hosted in Richmond at the Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel. The event will take place **November 5th, 6th, and 7th**, which is a Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. This conference fills up fast so be ready to register as soon as it opens in August.

The theme and call for proposal announcement will come out soon so make sure to check our website often http://www.acc-society.bc.ca/files_2/annual-conference.php.

The BCACCS Annual Conference brings together hundreds of delegates from across the province. It is a vibrant gathering of highly-skilled and rigorously-trained AECDC professionals, dedicated to providing quality care to young children and supporting their parents and families in Aboriginal and First Nations communities.

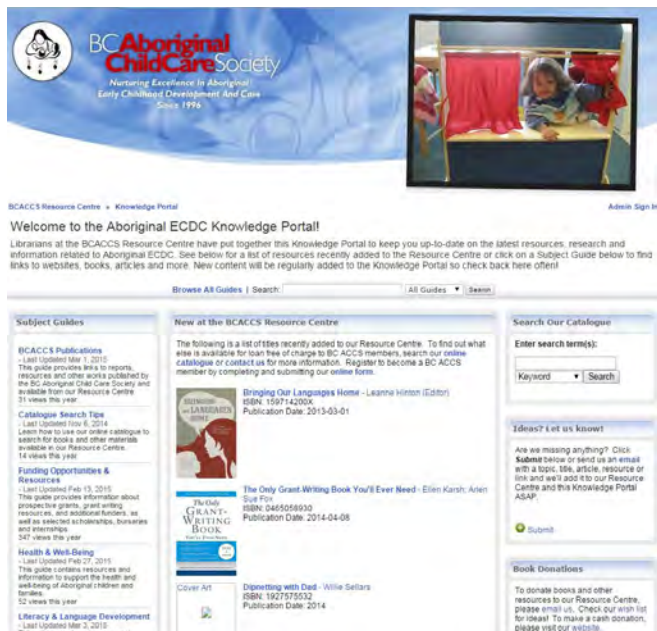
In addition to offering inspirational speakers and a wide range of timely topics, the conference provides a valuable opportunity for delegates and partner organizations to network with colleagues and friends, discuss ideas, share best practices, build knowledge, honour innovation and celebrate excellence.

Reminder: Past Delegates

If you haven't received your certificate from last year please login to your online profile on our website to download it. <https://www.acc-societybc.com/code/>

If you have any problems please contact reception@acc-society.bc.ca or call 604-913-9128.

Did you know that we've updated our Resource Centre!



The BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (BCACC'S) Resource Centre currently holds over 1,200 print, multimedia, and digital resources concerning Aboriginal Early Childhood Development and Care (AECDC) with a focus on:

- Child Health and Well-being.
- Children's Stories and Games.
- Culture and Language.
- Curriculum Development and Teaching Materials.
- Early Childhood Educator Training and Resources.
- Research and Policy Development.

Use the new KOHA online catalogue to find materials in our Resource Centre. <http://bcaccs.kohacatalog.com/>

The BCACC'S Resource Centre lends out materials for a minimal cost (return postage + handling) to members throughout British Columbia. If you would like to become a member contact library@acc-society.bc.ca or call 604-913-9128 ext. 229.

Want support researching topics? Explore the new additions to our AECDC Knowledge Portal. <http://portal.acc-society.bc.ca/> Try out subject guides on topics including Health & Well-being, Parenting & Child Rearing, Special Needs, Literacy & Language Development, Funding Opportunities

& Resources, and more. These guides provide access to book titles, online resources, practical tools and up-to-date research on topics relevant to AECDC. All resources included in the AECDC Knowledge Portal are available online or in our Resource Centre.

Want more information? Have questions? Please Contact our librarian Pepper Brewster by email library@acc-society.bc.ca or phone (604) 913-9128 ext. 229.

Resource Centre Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30 am - 4:30 pm.

BCACC'S is a provincial Aboriginal non-profit organization dedicated to supporting AECDC programs and services in BC. Our services are provided to Aboriginal children, families and communities in rural, remote and urban locations on and off reserve. We develop and share spiritually enriching, culturally relevant, high quality early childhood tools, resources, and services in order to ensure every Aboriginal child in BC has access to quality care.

BCACC'S gratefully acknowledges funding support from the Ministry of Children and Family Development for the AECDC Knowledge Portal and BCACC'S Resource Centre.

2015 Mary Thomas Memorial ECE Scholarships



Each year, the Mary Thomas Memorial ECE Scholarship is awarded to two Aboriginal ECE students with the highest overall academic standing of all eligible applicants enrolled in approved Early Childhood Education and Post-Basic Early Childhood Education programs.

If you or someone you know has completed (or is about to complete) a Basic Early Childhood Education program or a Post-Basic Early Childhood Education program with flying colors this school year (2014/2015), celebrate by applying for the Mary Thomas Memorial ECE Scholarship, in honour and fond memory of a highly respected Neskonalith Elder, Mary Thomas.

Closing date for entries is July 31, 2015. Application forms will be available on our website by the end of March http://www.acc-society.bc.ca/files_2/ece-scholarship.php or by calling 604-913-9128 ext. 227

UPCOMING EVENTS

2nd Social Emotional Enhancement and Development (S.E.E.D.) Conference for children and youth with special needs

April 20 – 21, 2015

Marriot Vancouver Pinnacle Hotel, Vancouver, BC

More than ever before, we know it matters – profoundly – how our children learn to manage their feelings, make friends, solve problems, and collaborate. In fact, social emotional learning (SEL), the process of acquiring these competencies, is key to developing a healthy, happy and resilient life.

Research shows that children and youth with special needs who develop strong social emotional competencies have more satisfying relationships, greater school success, and participate more in community activities.

Strengthening Connections through Our Cultures and Practices - ECEBC

April 30 – May 2, 2015

Radisson Hotel Vancouver Airport, Richmond, BC

This conference is full of opportunities to learn more about each other's cultures and innovative practices to make our ECE culture and our own practice stronger. We are excited to offer workshops that give a First Nations perspective, examine how best to support newcomer families and integrate diversity into your program, and focus on pedagogical documentation, Reggio Emilia, and nature/forest preschools—to name just a few!

2015 East Kootenay Early Years Conference

May 1 – 2, 2015

St. Eugene Golf Resort, Cranbrook, BC

This Early Years Conference offers a unique opportunity to build relationships and share knowledge with community leaders, professionals, and organizations committed to improving the quality of early childhood educational environments. Our organizing committee is made up of regional service providers that work directly with children and families. Committee members have worked to ensure this to be an educational yet fun conference.

The goal for the conference is to empower, educate and connect participants. We have collectively put together a program that will provide opportunities for professional development for those who work with young children and families in the Early Years sector and Early Childhood Education (ECE) settings, family resource programs, primary school grade educators, community development and other community programs.

Gathering Wisdom for a Shared Journey VII

May 6 – 7, 2015

Hyatt Regency Vancouver hotel, Vancouver, BC

Gathering Wisdom for a Shared Journey brings together delegates and participants from over 200 BC First Nations communities, including Chiefs, health leaders, front-line workers, 6 Health Authorities, our Federal and Provincial partners, and professional associations.

This unique forum is the largest First Nations health conference in BC, and the only one of its kind in Canada. In its seventh year of operation, the 2015 forum will welcome over 850 delegates from across British Columbia, Canada and internationally.

BC Aboriginal Child Care Society

Karen Isaac,
Executive Director

Eugene Harry (XiQuelem),
Cultural Advisor

Mary Burgaretta,
Program Manager/Aboriginal Child Care Advisor

Lani Billon,
Aboriginal Child Care Advisor

Pepper Brewster,
Resource Librarian

Fionn Yaxley,
Communications Officer

Scott Nahanee,
Administrative Assistant/
Accounts Payable

Writer/Editor: Fionn Yaxley

Printing: Initial Print

Caring for Our Children is published by the BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (BCACCS). It is distributed to BCACCS members, on and off reserve child care centres, Head Start programs, Bands and Tribal Councils in BC and individuals interested in early childhood education and care from a First Nations perspective.

Readers are invited to reprint articles provided proper credit is given. We welcome the submission of articles, book reviews, artwork, photos, letters and poetry.

We acknowledge current funding support from The BC Ministry of Children and Family Development. BCACCS is a proud affiliate of the Canadian Child Care Federation (CCCCF). BCACCS membership also means membership with the CCCC, including automatic subscription to the CCCC *Interaction* magazine.

Contact us:

BC Aboriginal Child Care Society
102-100 Park Royal South
West Vancouver, BC V7T 1A2

T: 604.913.9128

F: 604.913.9129

reception@acc-society.bc.ca

www.acc-society.bc.ca

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