



Caring for our Children newsletter

BC Aboriginal
Child Care Society

www.acc-society.bc.ca

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BCACCS HOLIDAY HOURS

Our office will be closed starting Dec. 23, 2015 until we get back on Jan. 4, 2016.

"To be effective in the long term, ECD policies and programs must be part of a comprehensive strategy that recognizes and addresses the political, economic, and social contexts that continue to reproduce the poverty and grim living conditions in many Aboriginal communities. In other words, the real-life circumstances of Aboriginal children and their families need to be factored into the design, implementation, and funding of high-quality, culturally appropriate ECD programs." From Determinants of Indigenous Peoples Health in Canada, Chapter 16 - Aboriginal Early Childhood Development Policies and Programs in British Columbia - by Karen Isaac and Kathleen Jamieson

Footsteps Toward a Brighter Future: Encouraging Healthy Living Practices

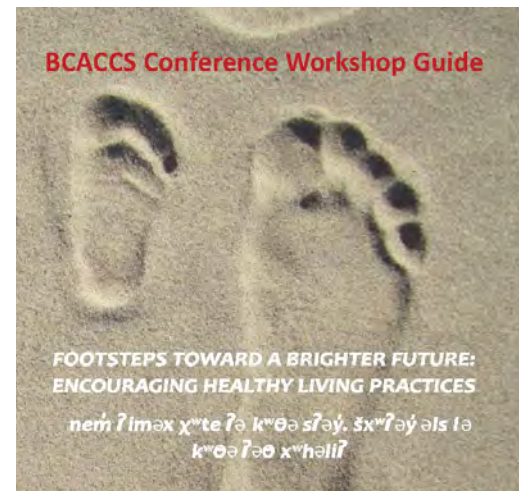
Highlights from our 18th Annual Provincial Training Conference, Nov. 5-7, 2015

At this year's conference we invited delegates to take cues from their cultures to promote the health and well-being of the children they care for.

We recognized that as child care providers it is important to remember our vital role in supporting and facilitating participation in physical activity. We can help strengthen a child's well-being through language, storytelling, outdoor activities, and sharing traditions.

Our speakers and guests (Dr. Art Hister, Melanie Mark, Elder Jeri Sparrow, Eugene Harry, and Elder Ellen Antoine encouraged us with their humour, stories and energy. They did a great job of motivating, re-energizing, and honouring the delegates. Alex Nelson (conference Emcee) was especially wonderful in his thoughtful, playful way of entertaining and smoothly steering us through the days.

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“Everything about the conference was amazing the vendors in which I bought several things, the workshops were very helpful and taught me a lot of new useful things as well as how helpful everyone there was.” – 2015 BCACCS Conference Participant

“Meeting new ece friends exchanging our experience about our kind of work we do in our communities.” – 2015 BCACCS Conference Participant

“The keynote speakers were very inspirational. Their attitudes were amazing and down to earth. I enjoyed the workshops as well. I definitely will be using the resources that were given and spoken about. Most of all the amazing new people I have met and getting to pick their brain for ideas to run my center. I’m excited” – 2015 BCACCS Conference Participant

The majority of our delegates were professionals involved in Aboriginal Head Start On-Reserve programs, other Aboriginal ECD programs both on and off reserve, as well as related programs and organizations.

BCACCS thanks all the delegates, presenters, exhibitors, volunteers and organizers for helping us make the 18th Annual Provincial Training Conference a great success! Over 275 delegates from throughout British Columbia attended our three day conference.

Participants were offered the opportunity to give feedback on the 45 individual workshops as well as on the conference as a whole. Thank you to everyone for your wonderful feedback!

Here are some comments from delegates about the things you enjoyed most:

“Seeing fellow ECEs, networking and bringing new ideas back to our workplace to enhance our environment for our children. Thank you!” – 2015 BCACCS Conference Participant

“Networking, seeing familiar faces and the great workshops” – 2015 BCACCS Conference Participant



Congratulations Child Care Recognition Award Winners

The BCACCS Aboriginal Child Care Recognition Awards aim to honour Early Childhood Educators who are exceptional role models. Award recipients are the champions of our communities. Traditional First Nations and/or Métis language, culture, and practice are maintained through their hard work in child care environments around the province. Their passion inspires others to strive for excellence.

Each year, professionals in the field of Aboriginal Early Childhood Development and Care (AECDC) are asked to nominate Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) who are deserving of this special recognition.



Congratulations to the 2015 recipients: Sharlene Wilson, Trena Haller, Tasha Sam, and Flo Lewis

Sharlene Wilson, Aboriginal Supported Child Development Consultant, Prince Rupert, BC

Sharlene Wilson has been married for 23 years and has two beautiful daughters, ages 13 and 22. Her traditional Indian name is Siwilaay'inlkw K'ubatk'inlkw (pronounce?), it means "Teaching the Children".

She has worked at the Friendship House Association in Prince Rupert as an Early Childhood Educator for 30 years. While working there she obtained her early childhood education diploma, became a certified Doula, and trained in a few of the "Partnerships" Train the Trainer modules. She continues to learn and has trained in "Roots of Empathy", "Handwriting Without Tears", "Positive Approaches to Behaviour", and many, many other related ECE workshops.

Sharlene is now a consultant for the Aboriginal Supported Child Development program. Every day she enjoys walking through the doors at work because she can make a difference in a person's life.

Trena Haller, Aboriginal Head Start Outreach Worker, Riske Creek, BC

Trena Haller is an Aboriginal Head Start Outreach Worker. She has worked with the Toosey Indian Band for the last six years.

After working as a hairdresser for 19 years Trena was inspired to change her career and become an early childhood educator.

She graduated with her ECE certificate in 2007. She first worked at Denisiqi (den-is-a-kai) for three years and then in 2010 got hired with the Toosey Indian Band.

She really enjoys her job and makes it a priority to visit each child twice a week. Knowing how important it is to learn through play Trena makes sure the activities she does with the children, parents, elders, and youth are fun. She teaches them everything from gardening, canning, and baking to beading and quilting.

Trena and her husband have been married for 21 years. They have three children; two girls and one boy, all grown now. She was especially pleased, last February 2015, when she became a first-time grandmother to her grandson Bryson.

Tasha Sam, Early Childhood Educator, Port Alberni, BC

Tasha Sam is from the Tseshahst First

Nation. She has been a committed worker and advocate in the child care field for the past eight years, primarily with the children in her home community in Port Alberni.

From the beginning she knew that she wanted to work with children, so she went to get her ECE Certificate after high school. After finishing school in 2007, she was hired at the Tseshahst Head Start Program in her community

In 2010, Tasha demonstrated her ongoing commitment to the health and well-being of all children by starting to work with Nuu-Chah-Nulth Child and Youth Services. She has taken on a greater challenge and is working with children showing moderate to severe health issues, and behaviour and developmental challenges

Tasha continues to challenge herself and build her skills demonstrating that she is a tremendous asset to the Tseshahst community, Nuu-Chah-Nulth children and most recently in her work with expecting mothers - all future generations of children in her community.

Flo Lewis, Team Leader for ASCD, Vancouver, BC

Flo Lewis is the Team Leader for the Vancouver Aboriginal Supported Child Development Program providing services to urban Aboriginal children with extra support needs. Flo originates from the We Wai Kai Nation at Cape Mudge, BC. She is actively involved on various Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal ECD committees and has worked with children and youth for more than 20 years.



Perry Shawana Award Winner: Hereditary Chief Maureen Chapman

Perry Shawana was an attorney who specialized in Aboriginal issues in the law. An Anishnawbe from the Serpent River First Nation in Northern Ontario, Perry worked tirelessly to advance Aboriginal self-determination and community-based child care programs. He played a key role in the founding of the BC Aboriginal Child Care Society in 1995.

Each year, as a tribute to Perry, our Board of Directors presents the Perry Shawana Award to an individual who, through volunteerism, advocacy, policy-making, or research, has contributed to the advancement of safe, nurturing and high quality child care and early learning services for British Columbia's Aboriginal children.

This year we have chosen Hereditary Chief Maureen Chapman as the recipient of this award.

Shxwetelemel-elhot (Shwi tall mol eth lot), also known as Hereditary Chief Maureen Chapman, was born in Clearwater, BC then moved to Washington State where she graduated from high school, and raised her family.

After returning to BC, Maureen studied at the University of the Fraser Valley and also began her Council work for Skawahlook First Nation, a member community of the Sto:lo Nation, who are the People of the River.

Skawahlook First Nation practices a matrilineal system and Maureen was handed the responsibility of being Hereditary Chief of her Nation in 1999.

In addition to her Council duties, she is the political Chair for the Aboriginal Children and Families Chiefs Coalition, which is comprised of 13 Chiefs as the Board members, who advocate for programs and services for children and families within their communities.

She is also involved with several committees and boards that



are committed to upholding First Nations Rights and Health issues.

Hereditary Chief Maureen Chapman's commitment to Aboriginal Early Childhood Development and Care and her tireless efforts in defense of Aboriginal Rights and support of First Nations communities, and our children's health and wellness are what make her this year's choice for the Perry Shawana Award.

BCACCS Welcomes a new Director to the Board

Dr. Margo Greenwood, Academic Leader of the National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health, is an Indigenous scholar of Cree ancestry with years of experience focused on the health and well-being of Indigenous children, families and communities. She is also Vice-President of Aboriginal Health for the Northern Health Authority in British Columbia and Professor in both the First Nations Studies and Education programs at the University of Northern British Columbia.

While her academic work crosses disciplines and sectors, she is particularly recognized regionally, provincially, nationally and internationally for her work in early childhood care and education of Indigenous children and for public health.

Margo has served on numerous national and provincial federations, committees and assemblies, and has undertaken work with UNICEF, the United Nations, the Canadian Council on Social Determinants of Health, Public Health Network of Canada, and the Canadian Institute of Health Research, specifically, the Institute for Aboriginal Peoples Health. In 2010, she was named 'Academic of the Year' by the Confederation of University Faculty Associations of British Columbia, and in the following year, she was honoured with the National Aboriginal Achievement Award for Education.

We are so pleased to welcome Dr. Margo Greenwood as a BCACCS Board Director and have her as part of our organization.

NEW Resource: *Introduction to Human Resources Management in First Nations' Early Childhood Development and Care Programs 2014*



The study of training and retention issues in early childhood programs revealed an urgent need for professional development on the topic of human resource management.

With the support of First Nations Early Childhood Development Council (FNECDC) BCACCS created

an *Introduction to Human Resources Management in First Nations' Early Childhood Development and Care Programs* to assist First Nations employers of early childhood personnel as well as the program managers of on and off-reserve early childhood programs.

This publication builds on earlier work by the First Nations Early Childhood Development Council (FNECDC), specifically; the *BC First Nations Early Childhood Development Framework* and research completed by BCACCS entitled *Training and Retention in the First Nations ECE Sector: A Report from the Frontlines*.

This report can be downloaded from our website: http://www.acc-society.bc.ca/files_2/accs-publications.php

Seasonal Play

Get outside even during the winter

Crucial Ways Playing Outdoors in Winter Benefits Children

During the warm spring and summer months, it seems natural that children play outside but when winter comes along, we may hesitate to send them outside. However, there are ways to make sure children stay safe and healthy outside in the winter, and many health benefits that accompany outdoor playtime.

Children Can Escape Indoor Germs, Bacteria

"It strengthens the immune system by allowing your child an escape from indoor germs and bacteria and helps form a resistance to allergies," the CDC said.

Promotion of Problem-Solving, Imagination

Winter presents a whole variety of new challenges for children to overcome, both physically and cognitively.

Winter Wellness Challenge

Once again we raise our hands to Kura Jack from Penelakut Island for her efforts in getting others active and showing us how to support our families, communities and Nations to lead healthy, active lifestyles, leading as wellness champions. What outdoor activities will you participate in this year?

Did you know that the FNHA Winter Wellness Challenges are underway! There are 104 challenges taking place across BC between now and December 21!

The challenges will cumulatively involve between 14,915 and 20,000 individuals across the province.

Regionally, Vancouver Coastal will host 13 challenges, Fraser 14, Interior 22, Island 28, and the North 27 challenges.

Take a look at the map of locations for Winter Wellness Challenges to see if you can participate in something near you. Get active!

<http://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/events/winter-wellness-challenge>



Opportunities for Better Exercise

According to the CDC, children should get 60 minutes of exercise every day, and exercising during the winter can be even more beneficial.

Increased exercise will help promote a better sleep cycle and can lead to children growing stronger and maintaining a healthy body weight.

Provides Essential Vitamin D

According to the National Institute of Health's Office of Dietary Supplements (ODS), Vitamin D promotes calcium absorption, prevents disease and can have a large impact on their mood.

International Mother Language Day

Sunday, February 21

Celebrate Indigenous languages on International Mother Language Day and support ongoing efforts to strengthen, promote and protect Indigenous languages around the world and in Canada.

There is an ongoing struggle for the survival of Indigenous languages in Canada, the original languages of this land.

Acknowledge the dedication of Indigenous language champions and Elders, who are the guardians and custodians of the many First Nations' languages.



Visited the BCACCS AECDC Knowledge Portal Lately?

NEW Leadership & Management Guide

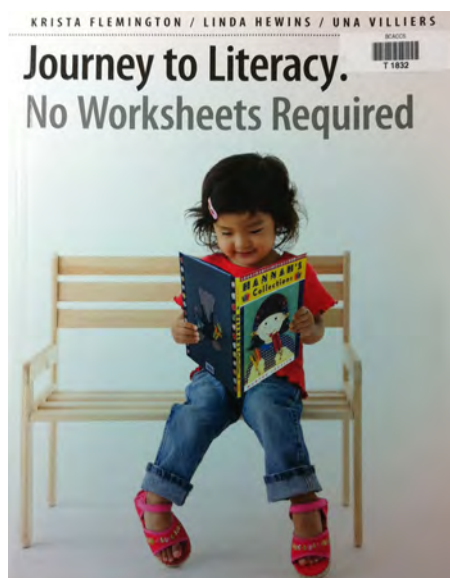
We have a brand new subject guide for you to explore in our AECDC Knowledge Portal. The "Leadership & Management" guide supports early childhood professionals with information on everything from how to manage a program, assessment guidance, and human resource tools to stress relief and initiating leadership.

Family Literacy Day

Family Literacy Day is a national awareness initiative created by ABC Life Literacy Canada in 1999 and held annually on **January 27** to raise awareness of the importance of reading and engaging in other literacy-related activities as a family.

Taking time every day to read or do a learning activity with children is crucial to a child's development. Even just 15 minutes a day can improve a child's literacy skills dramatically, and can help a parent improve their skills as well. Share what you do with your family **#FamilyLiteracyDay**.

Find more resources at: <http://abclifeliteracy.ca/family-literacy>.



Journey to Literacy

NEW BCACCS Resource

The play-based learning and individualized strategies in this practical book build on the use of traditional learning centres to give children real and authentic reasons to listen, speak, read, write, and view. Teachers will find a wealth of resources for creating meaningful learning experiences, including answers to often-asked questions; milestones to inform teaching instruction; activities and games for both individuals and groups; and much, much more.

If you have any suggestions for books, DVDs, research papers, curriculum material, etc. that you'd like to be able to borrow let us know. Contact Pepper Brewster at library@acc-society.bc.ca or call 604-913-9128 ext. 229.

Visit the portal website at <http://portal.acc-society.bc.ca/> in order to look through the contents.

Our collection is focused on materials with Aboriginal content and includes: curriculum development & teaching materials, children's stories & toys, child care administration & management resources, funding, regulations and licensing tools, child care worker training and certification materials, books, articles, reports, multimedia materials and online resources.

Resource Centre Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 9:30am - 4:30pm
(604) 913-9128 ext. 229 / library@acc-society.bc.ca

UPCOMING EVENTS

Children the Heart of the Matter Conference

January 15 – 16, 2016

Bell Performing Arts Center, Surrey, BC

Children the Heart of the Matter conference brings together all those involved in the care and education of young children. Our purpose is to raise the awareness and profile of child care and early childhood development services, family resource programs and others through professional development, networking, and sharing of information and resources.

The Early Years Conference 2016 - Nurturing Developmental Wellbeing, Strengthening Children and Families

January 28 – 30, 2016

The Hyatt Regency, Vancouver, BC

Celebrate 20 years of innovative professional development with our 10th conference in Canada for early childhood development and family support. Our success reflects the powerful partnerships that we have formed across many communities: University of British Columbia, Infant Development Program, Aboriginal Infant Development Program, Sunny Hill Health Centre, BC Children's Hospital, Family Support Institute and many more. These partnerships allow us to address diverse topics of evidence based practice and research. The 2016 conference will continue to lead the field to improve skill development, practice and systems.

Crosscurrents Conference

February 25 – 26, 2016

Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel, Richmond, BC

Attend the 41st Annual Crosscurrents Conference hosted by the Special Education Association of British Columbia. This year they have two Keynote Addresses - Mary

Ellen Turpel-Lafond & Rick Scott. Sessions designed for Regular and Special Education Teachers, Administrators, Teaching Assistants & Parents.

Healthy Mothers and Healthy Babies

March 11 – 12, 2016

Marriott Vancouver Pinnacle Downtown, Vancouver, BC

This conference is hosted by Perinatal Services BC, an agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority. It is an opportunity for health care professionals interested in the care of pregnant and postpartum women and their newborns to be updated on new research and clinical best practices across the continuum of perinatal and newborn care. This conference will engage health care professionals from a wide range of disciplines in knowledge transfer and interprofessional collaboration in order to provide the best care possible and ensure healthy mothers and babies.

The Ripple Effect: Continuing the Journey Through Our Ethical Practices

May 5 – 7, 2016

Radisson Hotel Vancouver Airport, Richmond, BC

Take part in ECEBC's 45th Annual Conference. Conference delegates include licensed early childhood educators, administrators, school age and family child care providers, students, ECEs from First Nations communities, instructors, research and policy analysts, and advocates.



BC Aboriginal Child Care Society

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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.

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We Value Children

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CANADIAN
CHILD CARE
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CANADIENNE DES
SERVICES DE GARDE
À L'ENFANCE

Nos enfants : notre richesse