



Annual Report | **2005/2006**

BC Aboriginal Child Care Society

www.acc-society.bc.ca

BC Aboriginal Child Care Society

Promoting healthy growth and development among our children



**BC Aboriginal
Child Care Society**

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Front cover photo: Singing with Fred John at Eagle's Nest AHS Preschool, afternoon class.

Back cover photo: Eagle's Nest AHS Preschool, morning class, fieldtrip to the Museum of Anthropology

Reflections | Message from the President

This seems like an appropriate time to reflect upon what the BC Aboriginal Child Care Society is all about and what it sets out to accomplish each year. We believe that child care is an essential building block for the social fabric of our communities and strengthens Aboriginal children, families and communities. Our children have a right to high quality child care services that are culturally appropriate, affordable and comprehensive. We believe that our child care services must be community owned and directed, must involve parents, Elders, leaders and community members, and reaffirm their perspectives and teachings. To achieve these critically important goals, child care providers require teaching and learning materials that reflect the children's culture, history and traditions, and education and training that prepare them for their responsibilities in Aboriginal communities.



Warner Adam
ACCS President

ACCS occupies a unique and pivotal role in achieving these goals, as it is the only provincial Aboriginal organisation dedicated solely to supporting Aboriginal child care and early learning programs and services in rural, remote and urban/off-reserve communities. Because of our mandate, expertise, and increasing capacity, ACCS is well-positioned to guide and support the further development of the early learning and child care (ELCC) sector across the province. Currently, only a very small portion of First Nations children are able to access child care and early learning services. We are committed to the further development of the Aboriginal ELCC labour force and have the knowledge, experience, and expertise to deliver effective training initiatives to help build the capacity of communities to design and deliver culturally responsive ELCC services.

Research is particularly important to the creation of culturally responsive evidence-based programs. The majority of "evidence-based", "evidence-informed", and "best practices" have not been validated for our communities. Research funding for community-based and longitudinal research is essential to establishing the cultural validity of these approaches and for determining "evidence" in the cultural contexts of our communities. During 2005/2006, ACCS undertook a literature review on best practices in culture and language continuity in Aboriginal early childhood development contexts. That literature review will be published in 2006/2007, and ACCS will be pursuing other funding opportunities to continue this type of research with and for our communities.

I would like to end by thanking my fellow Board members and all the staff at ACCS for their dedication, passion, and hard work in promoting healthy growth and development among our children.

Sincerely,

Warner Adam
ACCS President

Year in review | Executive Director's Report

The past year has been a busy and productive one, full of accomplishments, successes, challenges and changes. In 2005, we welcomed and applauded the new federal child care funding initiative, and hosted numerous information sharing, dialogue, and planning sessions with early learning and child care (ELCC) stakeholders. This ELCC process helped First Nations in BC prepare an agenda for our children which is visionary, focuses on our cultural strengths and assets, and empowers families, children, and communities.

The federal child care funding initiative was full of promise for ELCC in BC, but the change of government in 2006 saw the demise of that initiative. Although the federal Harper government has a different agenda and we have lost some ground, we must continue to push all levels of government to provide funding and support which will help to reduce disparities and improve developmental outcomes for Aboriginal children in BC. Our collective goal in the next few months will be not only to convince the current federal government to protect existing ELCC investments, but to enhance them. The challenge will be to demonstrate a solid case for early learning and child care (ELCC) based on Aboriginal-specific evidence and to ensure that our leadership – at the local, regional and national levels – is informed about our children's needs for early learning and child care. To that end, the ACCS will continue to support and collaborate with all leadership, including the BC First Nations Leadership Council, to articulate ELCC goals and an action plan with clear, achievable benchmarks for First Nations/Aboriginal ELCC services.

This year I attended the Reggio Emilia Leadership Symposium in Italy. This Forum reconfirmed for me the importance of "quality" in child care, and underscored why we as Aboriginal people must define "quality" for ourselves. We have already made progress on this front, through the development of the Draft Quality Statement on Aboriginal Child Care, which articulates elements of quality child care from the perspective of Aboriginal Peoples in British Columbia. The Reggio Emilia approach holds significant promise for a more innovative way of providing early learning and child care services, a way that is much closer to our vision for culturally responsive services that will support the holistic development of our children. There may be some opportunities to move forward with an adapted model.

In the coming year, a priority focus for ACCS will be to build our capacity for research, policy development and the translation of knowledge into practice. We will follow up with our research and knowledge translation proposals to the Canadian Council on Learning, the Ministry of Children and Family Development, and Aboriginal Health (MOH), and pursue all available opportunities to build capacity in these areas. These proposals will also seek

funding to develop and deliver training and professional development programs for Aboriginal communities, because the development of our human resources, through accessible programs ideally at the community level, are key to strengthening local ELCC staff, programs and communities.

A primary focus of our research, policy work, training and professional development will be to translate our culturally rich traditions into effective early learning and child care programs and services. In part, that will require culturally validating the ECD evidence base and “best practices” to ensure that programs and services are informed by our cultural ways and effective in achieving community-determined goals and objectives. Primary goals will be to build both the awareness – of Government and other policy/decision-makers – that cultural and linguistic continuity is central to the healthy, holistic development of Aboriginal children, and the capacity to design and deliver ELCC programs and services that are immersed in our cultures and languages. Our Elders and other language speakers will be critical to the success of those efforts.

In closing, I extend my heartfelt thanks to the staff at ACCS, our Board of Directors, and to all the front-line ELCC service providers and advocates throughout BC, whose dedication and hard work are helping us to make our dream for Aboriginal early learning and child care become a reality.

Sincerely,

Karen Isaac
Executive Director



Karen Isaac
Executive Director

ACCS in Action | 2005/2006

At ACCS, our mission is to support and develop Aboriginal-specific early childhood resources and services that are of high quality, holistic, and reflective of Aboriginal communities, cultures, languages, and histories. The following list highlights some of the work we undertook last year in pursuing that mission.

ADVOCACY – SHAPING PUBLIC POLICY

ACCS continues to influence government and public policy on Aboriginal early learning and child care issues, through Board and staff participation in a number of federal, provincial and regional working groups, committees and councils, including the BC First Nations Chiefs Health Committee, the AFN National ELCC Advisory Committee, the First Nations Early Childhood Development Roundtable, the Canadian Child Care Federation, the North Shore ECD Network, the Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP), Healthy Child BC (Aboriginal Early Years Framework), Health Canada's Regional Maternal Child Health Advisory Committee, the Supported Child Development Advisory Committee, the Young Parent Partnership, the Provincial Child Care Council, and First Call – BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition.

ANNUAL CHILD CARE CONFERENCE

The ACCS 8th Annual Provincial Training Conference was held in November 2005 in Vancouver. The conference focus was Healthy Traditional Living, and consisted of 28 workshops attended by more than 180 participants representing all regions of the province.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

In November 2005, the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) engaged in community consultation to inform the BC government's Early Learning and Child Care Action Plan. ACCS advocated for Aboriginal-specific consultations as part of this process, resulting in two information sharing and dialogue sessions (in Prince George and Vancouver) with Aboriginal stakeholders; 100 participants attended these sessions. ACCS then prepared a report on the findings arising out of these sessions. Two of the key recommendations in this report are that a first priority for the Aboriginal strategy on early learning and child care (ELCC) must be supporting cultural and linguistic continuity, and that services must be both child-focused and family-centred. BC's Aboriginal ELCC strategy must include parent education and family support as well as centre/family-based child care, and must support the holistic development of the child, including cognitive, emotional, physical and spiritual development.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH, EDUCATION, AND TRAINING

Our Child Care Advisors delivered culturally specific training to 98 programs and communities throughout the province, covering topics such as Aboriginal Parenting, Protocol – Engaging Aboriginal Communities, FASD Community Asset Mapping, and Quality in Aboriginal ELCC. In addition, they had consultations with child care providers, child care resource and referral staff, and various other ELCC stakeholders, including 93 site visits in all regions of the province. This year, our Child Care Advisors developed several new training workshops: Team Building and Caring for the Caregiver; Engaging Aboriginal Communities; Learning from the Outdoors; and Establishing Parent and Elder Advisory Committees.

FAMILY CHILD CARE TRAINING PROGRAM

In 2004/2005, ACCS collaborated with the Esquimalt Nation and Camosun College Human Services to develop a Family Child Care course for First Nations communities, to provide people living on reserves with the skills and knowledge necessary for operating a licensed family child care program. In December 2005, the first graduates of that program completed the pilot course on Esquimalt Nation territory. In 2006, ACCS plans to offer this program to other communities and possibly to partner with other colleges.

PUBLICATIONS

ACCS continues to inform and educate the public about Aboriginal ELCC issues through the publication of regular E-newsletters and our bimonthly newsletter *Caring for our Children* (800 plus distribution), through its website (www.acc-society.bc.ca), and through the preparation and distribution of various working papers and reports. One of our projects this year related to the coordination and integration of Aboriginal Early Childhood Development (AECD) programs. Between April and September of 2005, we conducted four regional two-day workshops, a focus group, and interviews in Vancouver. The main purpose of this project was to ensure that in the ongoing federal and provincial restructuring of AECD programs and services, the voices of frontline AECD workers in BC have the opportunity to be heard, as they are uniquely qualified to advise about AECD in their communities. In November 2005, ACCS published the report (*Valuing the Community Voice: The Coordination and Integration of Aboriginal Early Childhood Development Programs*) arising out of this project. Another ACCS project which is currently underway is a literature review on best practices in culture and language continuity in AECD contexts. That literature review will be published in our 2006/2007 fiscal year.

REGGIO EMILIA LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM

In February 2006, a policy working group from BC conducted a study tour of the world-renowned early childhood education programs of Reggio Emilia in Italy. This working group included representatives from the BC Ministry of Education, the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development, the University of British Columbia, the Human Early Learning Project (HELP), the University of Victoria, and the BC Aboriginal Child Care Society. Our Executive Director, Karen Isaac, was the ACCS representative for this working group; she participated in the study tour and also assisted in the preparation of the resulting Working Paper entitled *Early Education in British Columbia – Engaging in Dialogue with Reggio Emilia’s Early Childhood Project*. As noted in that working paper, the “Reggio Emilia Approach fits well with how First Nations/Aboriginal communities want to develop systems of education and supports for young children. The Reggio Emilia experience confirms First Nations/Aboriginal understandings of the importance of looking within our families, communities and cultures to find our own visions.”

RESOURCE CENTRE – LIBRARY PROJECT

Our resource centre consists of over one thousand books, periodicals and videos related to Aboriginal children, parenting, child care and early childhood development. Our collection includes children’s stories and activity books, texts related to child development, and books for planning early childhood program curriculum. Our librarian has reorganized the complete collection and fully implemented a new Integrated Library System, including a conversion to automated circulation which increases access to our extensive resources and increases efficiency. People who wish to borrow resource materials from our Resource Centre can now search for and request materials online at www.acc-society.bc.ca – click on the link “Library and Resources”.

SPEECH & LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT – RESOURCES AND TRAINING

Moe the Mouse Theme Box is an innovative early speech and language curriculum box that uses Aboriginal toys and stories to enhance language development in children ages 3-5. This curriculum box can be borrowed from the ACCS lending library, or it can be purchased from ACCS. We also offer training workshops (*Making the Most of Moe*) facilitated by the speech and language pathologists who developed this resource for ACCS, to train early childhood educators and parents how to use Moe the Mouse Theme Box. This year, ACCS provided this training workshop to over 300 participants in 14 different communities throughout BC. In 2006/2007, sixteen Aboriginal Infant Development programs are scheduled to receive this training. Other interested programs and individuals are encouraged to contact ACCS and schedule a training workshop in advance.

Financials | 2005/2006

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES For The Year Ended March 31, 2006

Statement 1

	2006			2005
	Operations Budget \$ (Unaudited)	Actual \$ (Schedule 1)	Capital Actual \$	Total \$
REVENUE				
Donations	6,000	402	-	402
Assembly of First Nations – ELCC Dialogue	17,500	17,500	-	17,500
Handling fees	110,000	135,081	-	129,697
Health Canada	742,221	742,504	-	850,132
BC Gaming Commission	45,000	45,000	-	45,000
Membership	-	-	-	500
Miscellaneous revenue	18,200	45,774	-	31,256
Province of BC	598,351	670,857	-	522,470
Registration	36,000	44,610	-	35,920
Human Resources & Skills Development	3,319	-	-	3,319
Early Childhood Education scholarship	2,000	25,550	-	6,000
Child care subsidy	-	15,730	-	8,113
Grants	30,000	30,000	-	38,250
	1,608,591	1,772,956	-	1,772,956
EXPENDITURES				
Accounting	-	10,525	-	3,701
Advertising	1,000	1,046	-	16,248
Audit	7,250	8,250	-	10,209
Bank charges	1,200	3,259	-	1,595
Banquet and catering	22,000	25,107	-	-
Conference	10,500	-	-	7,430
Contracted services/workshops	146,836	179,460	-	169,724
Courier and postage	1,700	7,410	-	3,427
Depreciation	-	-	35,756	30,566
ECE Resource Box	-	-	-	288
ELCC Dialogue expenses	17,500	9,746	-	18,196
Equipment	9,790	16,139	-	8,037
Evaluation	7,703	8,429	-	4,000
Fundraising	-	-	-	3,952
Handling fee	109,500	109,500	-	127,922
Honoraria and presenters' fees	5,000	5,760	-	4,515
Insurance	4,400	9,108	-	6,899
Janitorial	-	2,542	-	1,736
Legal fees	-	164	-	-
Materials and supplies	63,060	42,105	-	36,724
Meeting rooms	6,500	10,000	-	6,697
Miscellaneous	285	16,324	-	16,646
Office supplies	19,705	31,413	-	15,114
Photocopying	4,000	(1,289)	-	8,497
Publications	8,000	8,287	-	13,826
Prior year surplus replacement	-	16,313	-	-
Reception services	-	131	-	5,374
Recruitment and replacement	-	-	-	2,000
Rent and utilities	115,932	67,876	-	64,394
Resource and curriculum/professional development	3,000	(924)	-	40,607
Salaries and benefits	844,428	793,290	-	736,224
Telephone	9,250	21,171	-	14,473
Training	58,313	68,053	-	35,828
Travel	152,500	154,120	-	219,345
	1,790,392	1,603,628	35,756	1,634,194
(DEFICIENCY) EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES	(20,761)	149,640	(35,756)	54,385
FUND BALANCE, BEGINNING OF THE YEAR	-	217,274	181,564	344,453
INVESTED IN CAPITAL ASSETS	-	(13,550)	13,550	-
FUND BALANCE, END OF THE YEAR	-	353,364	159,358	398,838

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
As of March 31, 2006

Statement 2

	2006		2005
	Operations \$	Capital \$	Total \$
CURRENT			
Cash	151,708	-	151,708
Short term investment	88,967	-	88,967
Accounts receivable	131,635	-	131,635
GST receivable	29,321	-	29,321
Prepaid expenses	9,972	-	9,972
	411,603	-	411,603
CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 2c & 3)	-	159,358	159,358
	411,603	159,358	570,961
			128,256
			111,684
			76,250
			42,095
			51,261
			409,546
			181,564
			591,110
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT			
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	19,239	-	19,239
Deferred revenue	39,000	-	39,000
	58,239	-	58,239
			68,670
			123,601
			192,271
FUND BALANCES			
Invested in capital assets	-	159,358	159,358
Unrestricted	353,364	-	353,364
	353,364	159,358	512,722
	411,603	159,358	570,961
			181,564
			217,275
			398,839
			591,110

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
For The Year Ended March 31, 2006

Statement 3

	2006 \$	2005 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Excess of revenue over expenditures	113,884	54,385
Add: Depreciation on capital assets	35,756	30,566
	14,640	84,951
(Decrease) increase in non-cash current assets	(1,323)	73,059
(Decrease) increase in non-cash current liabilities	(134,032)	21,775
	14,285	179,785
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Capital assets acquired	(13,550)	(68,626)
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH BALANCE	735	111,159
CASH - BEGINNING OF THE YEAR	239,940	128,781
CASH - END OF THE YEAR	240,675	239,940
AS REPRESENTED BY:		
Cash	151,708	128,256
Short term investments	88,967	111,684
	240,675	239,940

AUDITORS' REPORT

We have audited the statement of financial position of the BC Aboriginal Child Care Society as at March 31, 2006 and the statements of operations and changes in fund balances and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Society. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by the management of the Society, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Society as at March 31, 2006 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. As required by the Societies Act of BC, we report that, in our opinion, these principles have been applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

Reid Hurst Nagy, Certified General Accountants, June 13, 2006, Richmond, BC

Our People | Staff & Board

ACCS STAFF

Karen Isaac *Executive Director*

Mary Burgaretta *Aboriginal Child Care Advisor*

Alissa Cherry *Resource Librarian*

Denise Lacerte *Aboriginal Child Care Advisor*

Danielle Mashon *Project Assistant*

Lynn McBride *Researcher/Community Liaison*

Lynda McMillen *Administrative Assistant*



Denise Lacerte & Mary Burgaretta, Child Care Advisors

ACCS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The ACCS Board of Directors consists of volunteers representing different regions in BC. Each member has extensive experience with child care policy and service issues, and a strong commitment to promoting Aboriginal child care and early childhood development in this province. The Board meets at least quarterly to plan, monitor and evaluate ACCS activities.

Warner Adam *President*

Executive Director, Carrier Sekani Family Services
Member, Assembly of First Nations Health Committee

Margo Greenwood *Vice President*

Academic Leader, National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health, UNBC
Technical Advisor, First Nations Early Childhood Development Roundtable

Mabel Louie *Treasurer*

Director of Health Services, Carrier Sekani Family Services
Member, Provincial Child Care Council

Debra Foxcroft *Director (Honourary)*

Assistant Deputy Minister, Aboriginal Regional Services (Ministry of Children and Family Development)
Honourary Board Member, Vancouver Island Aboriginal Transition Team (VIATT)

Robert Lagasse *Director*

Director, Community & Economic Development, Chehalis First Nation
Volunteer, Sts'Ailes Holistic Healing Society

Al Lawrence *Director*

ECD Consultant (Aboriginal Supported Child Development & Aboriginal Head Start Programs)
Member, Provincial Advisory Committee on Early Childhood Development

Maurice Squires *Director*

Director, Nisga'a Lisims Government Child & Family Services
Founding Member, Northwest Band Social Workers Association

Deanna Leon-Cook *Director*

Coordinator, Splats'in Childcare Centre Society
North Okanagan Correspondent – CHBC TV Kelowna

Our Partners | Giving Thanks

The BC Aboriginal Child Care Society has many valued community partners and champions who help us fulfill our mission and who share our dream for Aboriginal early learning and child care. We want to thank the people and organizations who help us pursue that dream. **Mussi cho** to all our partners:

All the **people** in our different communities who supported us throughout the year

First Nations Summit Task Group and **First Nations Leadership Council** for their support of our goals and the addressing of children's issues

BC First Nations Chiefs Health Committee and **BC Assembly of First Nations Vice Chief** for trusting us to undertake the community consultations on ELCC

BC Gaming Commission for contributing to our annual caregiver training conference and Library and Resource Centre

Public Health Agency of Canada, for funding the Eagles Nest and Singing Frog Aboriginal Head Start Preschools in East Vancouver

Aboriginal Affairs Unit of **Human Resources and Skills Development Canada** (now Human Resources and Social Development Canada) for their donation towards our annual training conference

First Nations Inuit Health Branch of Health Canada for funding our video *"In Our Hands"*, an educational video about Parenting and Child Development targeting Aboriginal youth, and our research and training project on Developing Language and Culture Curriculum in ECE

Ministry of Children and Family Development, Child Care Branch, for funding the expansion of our Aboriginal Child Care Resources Project, our First Nations Family Child Care Training Initiative, our dialogue sessions on Aboriginal ELCC, and in particular for helping us establish a Scholarship for Studies in Early Childhood Education for Aboriginal students

Ministry of Children and Family Development, ECD Branch, for funding several ECD projects, including our Moe the Mouse Speech and Language Training, the Office of the Provincial Advisor for Aboriginal Infant Development, and our Early Intervention Therapy Research Project (for delivery in 2006)

United Way of the Lower Mainland, Success By 6, for funding the Mount Currie Indian Band Supported Child Development Project

The Vancouver Sun Raise-a-Reader for supporting our Early Authors Project

The Vancouver Foundation and **The Vancouver Sun Children's Fund** for funding our Art Therapy project, an art therapy program that supports Aboriginal families with children enrolled in Singing Frog Aboriginal Head Start preschool



Preschool fieldtrip to the Vancouver Aquarium



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