

**November 28, 2011 E-News
BC Aboriginal Child Care Society**

NOTE: We are now sending out our E-News on Mondays

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- * International Innovations in Early Childhood Education, A Canadian Forum on Early Childhood Frameworks (July 13-15, 2012)

ABOUT OUR ENEWS

BC ACCS NEWS

- * **Mary Thomas Memorial ECE 2011 Scholarship Recipients Announced**

Background:

The goal of our Scholarship is to recognize and reward two Aboriginal ECE students each year for the highest academic achievement in a Basic Early Childhood Education program and in a Post-Basic Early Childhood Education program at an approved educational institution and ECE program within British Columbia. The \$1000 Basic ECE Scholarship will be awarded to the eligible applicant with the highest overall academic standing of all the eligible applicants. The \$1500 Post-Basic ECE Scholarship will be awarded to the eligible applicant with the highest overall academic standing of all the eligible applicants.

RECIPIENTS FOR 2011

\$1000 Scholarship for Basic ECE students

Shawnee Swayze-Kristan, Siska First Nation, is attending the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology in Merritt. She completed her Basic ECE Certificate at NVIT in 2011 with a 4.05 GPA, and is currently in her second year doing her post-basic ECE training. She will obtain an ECE diploma once her post-basic training is completed.

\$1500 Scholarship for Post-Basic ECE students

Caroline Chandler, Squamish Nation, attended the Native Education College in Vancouver. She completed her Post-Basic ECE combined Infant/Toddler (IT) and Special Needs (SN) Diploma in 2011 with a 4.31 GPA. NOTE: Caroline Chandler applied for and received the 2010 Basic ECE scholarship of \$1000

*** Hummingbird Aboriginal Student Futures in the Community**

Hummingbird Aboriginal Student Futures Program Manager, Vanessa Mountain is holding an information session on November 29th, 1 pm at the North Cariboo Aboriginal Family Programs Society offices in Quesnel, BC.

EVENT: Hummingbird Aboriginal Student Futures Information Session

DATE: November 29, 2011

LOCATION: North Cariboo Aboriginal Family Programs Society offices, #2- 423 Elliot Street, Quesnel, BC

Tel: 250-992-9160

For more information about Hummingbird Aboriginal Student Futures participation at these events or to book a presentation in your community

Email: info@hummingbirdasf.ca

Tel: 604-913-9128

Web: www.hummingbirdasf.ca

Facebook: www.facebook.com/hummingbirdasf

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Early Childhood Education**

NOMINATION DEADLINE EXTENDED Until January 9, 2012

Do you know an outstanding educator? You now have six more weeks to nominate them for Canada's most prestigious teaching award. Awards are worth up to \$5000! Winners honoured by the Prime Minister. For 2011-2012: a new certificate will be awarded to a full-time Early Childhood Education Director. Please spread the word, and help ensure that more outstanding Canadian educators receive the recognition they deserve!

Guidelines and nomination forms for the 2011-2012 Prime Minister's Awards are now available. Download your nomination form today!

<http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/pmaece-ppmepe.nsf/eng/wy00408.html>

For more information visit www.pma.gc.ca or call 613-946-0651

*** BC Child Poverty Report Card Released by First Call**

[Download it now.](#)

The poverty rate for children under age six was 20.2%, or one in five young children.

Other key findings in the report include:

* In 2009, nearly half of the poor children in BC lived in families with at least one adult working full-time, full-year, pointing to the problem of jobs that pay low wages.

* The poverty rate for children of lone-parent mothers fell to a record low 24.2 percent, thanks to more mothers with better jobs and fewer families on welfare. The poverty rate for children in two-parent families, however, rose to 15 percent.

* Most poor families with children live many thousands of dollars below the poverty line. Poor two-parent families had incomes \$14,200 below the poverty line on average.

* Inequality remains a serious problem in BC and the rest of Canada. The poorest 50 percent of families with children in BC had less than one-quarter of all the personal income of families with children.

The report proposes a range of solutions that fall within the scope of both provincial and federal government policies.

First Call Website for more information: <http://www.firstcallbc.org/>

***Canadian Council of Child and Youth Advocates' Special Report, Aboriginal Children Canada Must Do Better: Today and Tomorrow**

Download Report: http://www.rcybc.ca/Images/PDFs/Reports/CCCYA_UN_Report-FINAL%20oct%2027.pdf

This special report was submitted to: UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Excerpt from the Introduction:

The Canadian Council of Child and Youth Advocates (the Council) submits this Special Report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (Committee) to highlight the critical circumstances facing Aboriginal children today. The Council is a national alliance of child advocates legally appointed by the Canadian provinces and territories. The Council members' mandates include promoting and protecting children's human rights, including the rights of Aboriginal children. In our role as advocates for Aboriginal children, and through their voices, we have identified critical systemic challenges impacting Aboriginal children's lives and requiring urgent attention. This awareness has led us to contribute to the Committee's review of Canada's 2009 report by submitting this Special Report. We ask the Committee to consider our report, including our recommendations directed at improving the lives of these, and all, children.

By focusing on Aboriginal children, we draw attention to the intertwining of circumstances affecting many vulnerable children within our jurisdictions. These vulnerable children include children with disabilities; trafficked and sexually exploited children; children requiring protection; homeless children; children in the justice system; and children whose families live in poverty. Refugee, unaccompanied and separated children also intersect with these groups. It is our belief that by highlighting factors relevant to Aboriginal children; we also emphasize what is pertinent to all groups of children. It is our belief that by promoting the realization of Aboriginal children's human rights, we promote the realization of human rights for all children.

RESOURCES

*** Aboriginal Sport, Recreation & Physical Activity Partners Council launching Regionally Based Equipment Grant Program**

DEADLINE: 5 pm, Friday December 16, 2011.

The Aboriginal Sport, Recreation and Physical Activity Partners Council (Partners Council) is launching a regionally based Equipment Grant Program that allows First Nations, Métis Chartered Communities and Aboriginal Friendships Centres across British Columbia to apply for funds to purchase sport, recreation and/or physical activity equipment. The equipment will be used by communities/organizations to promote healthy active lifestyles by reducing barriers and increasing access to sport, recreation and physical activity programs for the entire community – from children to elders.

The Equipment Grant Program will be delivered through each of the Partner Council's six Regional Committees, inclusive of the Northwest, Northeast, Interior, Fraser, Vancouver Coastal and Vancouver Island. The Regional Committees will be responsible for evaluating the applications submitted by communities/organizations from within their region and awarding the grants.

Guidelines for the 2011 Equipment Grant Program are as follows:

Eligibility

All First Nations, Métis Chartered Communities and Friendship Centres will be eligible to apply within their region. In addition, some provincial not-for-profit organizations that deliver Aboriginal health promotion programs may be eligible to receive a grant.

Grant

Grants of up to \$2500 are available. The funds must be used to purchase sport, recreation or physical activity equipment. Under the 2011 program, footwear and some types of apparel will be considered within the application evaluation process.

Application Deadline

All applications must be received on or before **5 pm, Friday December 16, 2011**. Applications Forms must be submitted by email or fax to the following coordinates:

Joe Akerman, Manager - Regional Engagement
Aboriginal Sport, Recreation and Physical Activity Partners
email: jakerman@bcaafc.com or Fax: 250.388.5502

NOTE: Successful applicants will be notified in January 2012

Website for more information: <http://www.bcaafc.com/initiatives/asrpa-partners-council>

* **Kids in Motion: Enhancing Movement Skills in your Child**

Source: <http://www.aboutkidshealth.ca/En/News/NewsAndFeatures/Pages/Kids-in-motion-enhancing-movement-skills-in-your-child.aspx>

“Sports come less easily to some kids, but that doesn’t mean they are destined to be inactive,” says Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) staff physiotherapist Jennifer Dermott. While it is true that some children are 'naturals' at sport, meaning they can develop movement skills easily on their own, there are many others who do not. This can lead to health and social consequences. These children need a little extra help from their parents.

Why are fundamental movement skills important?

Fundamental movement and sports skills – also called “physical literacy” – help a child learn to move with confidence and control. There are many benefits to learning movement skills. It enhances brain function in the early years. It improves motor skills, balance, strength, posture, coordination, and sleep patterns. It enhances confidence, social skills, and self-esteem.

Think of how important learning the alphabet and phonics are to eventually reading novels. In the same way, developing fundamental movement skills helps children to be successful in sports later on. Without these skills, children like Madeline tend to withdraw from physical activities and sports. Parents can do a lot to help foster their child’s movement skills.

Helping your toddler to six-year-old with movement

At this age, fundamental movements should be linked into play. The point is to make everything fun.

Here are some fundamental skills you can practise with your little one, from Canadian Sport for Life’s “Developing Physical Literacy”:

** Practice throwing a ball with your child. Start with a soft ball and have her throw with one hand, then the other. Let her throw as hard as she can and throw at targets.*

** To work on her balance, have your child stand on one foot. Try balancing on other body parts. Walk along a line on the ground. Jump from one foot to another. Make shapes while jumping in the air. Riding a tricycle or bike can also help with balance.*

There are many things you can do at the playground, says Dermott. “Have your child walk backwards and forwards on a balance beam (or curb). The zipline is fun and great for upper body strength. Encourage your child to do things she might never do. It is important for parents to be involved,” she says.

In terms of organized sports, choose activities that encompass the entire body, like gymnastics or swimming. “Gymnastics offers body awareness, which is an understanding of where you are in space. It is the ability to manipulate your body in space. Good body awareness enables you to judge speed and distance,” explains Dermott.

* **Free Toolkit- Nature Based Experiences to Nurture Parent-Child Relationships**

The American Based *Children and Nature Network (C& NN)* is delighted to announce the release of this new tool kit, free and downloadable from the C&NN web site. Research over the last forty years has shown that a

secure parent-child attachment is an important foundation for a child's later competence and well-being. C&NN adds the perspective of nature-based experiences as an especially rich opportunity for the kinds of parent-child interactions that promote and sustain good attachment at any age.

This tool kit begins with a clear and helpful overview of attachment research, and then offers a host of family-friendly, age-appropriate suggestions for things to do outdoors in nature to nurture parent-child relationships and support healthy child development. C&NN Chair and co-Founder, Dr. Martha Farrell Erickson is a developmental psychologist and says, "By following a prescription for more nature experience together, families will discover a win/win situation in which both children and adults benefit as individuals, even as they are strengthening those important family bonds that all children (and adults) need."

As this is the pilot version- your feedback and suggestions are greatly appreciated

Link to toolkit download and information:

http://childrenandnature.ning.com/group/natureclubsforfamilies/forum/topics/together-in-nature-pathways-to-a-stronger-closer-family?xg_source=facebookshare

*** SFU Children's Health Policy Centre Research Quarterly: Early Childhood Development & Mental Health**

SFU Children's Health Policy Centre's Research Quarterly focuses on Early Childhood Development & Mental Health. The Quarterly present summaries of the best available research evidence on children's mental health topics.

SFU Children's Health Policy Centre is an interdisciplinary research group in the Faculty of Health Sciences at Simon Fraser University. They aim to connect research and policy to improve children's social and emotional well-being, or children's mental health. They advocate the following public health strategy for children's mental health: addressing the determinants of health; preventing disorders in children at risk; promoting effective treatments for children with disorders; and monitoring outcomes for all children.

Website link to download Research Quarterly:

http://www.childhealthpolicy.sfu.ca/research_quarterly_08/rq-pdf/RQ-4-11-Fall.pdf

UPCOMING EVENTS

*** 15th Annual Children the Heart of the Matter Conference**

When: February 3-4, 2012

Where: Bell Performing Arts Center, Surrey

Contact: check the CCRR website closer to the date for more details:

<http://www.childcareoptions.ca/conferences.php>

Description: Early Care and Learning Conference

*** International Innovations in Early Childhood Education A Canadian Forum on Early Childhood Frameworks**

When: July 13-15, 2012

Where: Victoria, BC

Contact: uvicearlyyears@dearmondmanagement.com

Description: This conference, the first of its kind in Canada, brings renowned early childhood leaders from

Reggio Emilia Italy, New Zealand, and Australia to Victoria, British Columbia for learning, sharing, and planning ways forward for Canada's young children and families. The conference is hosted by the [Unit for Early Years Research and Development](#), located at the University of Victoria's School of Child & Youth Care. The conference builds on the ongoing Investigating Quality project initiated by the Unit in 2005, which explores the links from theory to policy to practice.

Website for more information: www.uvicearlyyears.ca

ABOUT OUR ENEWS...

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Send a blank email to aboriginalchildcare-subscribe@yahoogroups.com and the server will send you instructions that you need to follow-up on within 14 days.

Have news, job postings or events that you wish to share?

Send E-News items to communications@acc-society.bc.ca

Send us your:

- * Aboriginal ECE news/ announcements from your community
- * Job postings for your child care program
- * Special announcements

E-News is sent weekly on **MONDAYS**.

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