

February 20, 2012 E-News

BC Aboriginal Child Care Society

“A child is sacred. And when that child comes into the home, the family must welcome it. And if the child is happy and feels the want, he will come into this world very, very strong. And not to know this is to know nothing.”
-Blackfeet saying

BC ACCS NEWS

- * New Survey on ECE Training and Retention- Prizes to be Won!
- * Hummingbird Aboriginal Student Futures- Lillooet, Kelowna
- * *Moe the Mouse*® Workshop - Victoria

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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- * FASD Conference - Call for Abstracts

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- * Are Government Policies Assisting Parents of Young Children?
- * Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC Visit the United Nations

JOB POSTINGS

- * 2 Positions Available in Vancouver

All jobs are posted and updated regularly on the BC ACCS website:

http://www.acc-society.bc.ca/files_new/jobpostings.html

UPCOMING EVENTS

- * 14th Annual Every Child Belongs Conference (March 10, 2012)
- * Indigenous Women's Symposium (March 11-13, 2012)
- * Northern BC Aboriginal Health Webcast (Mar, 29, 2012)
- * 16th Annual First Nations Schools Association Conference (April 20-21, 2012)
- * 10th Annual Assessment Workshop (May 3, 2012)
- * ECEBC 2012 Conference "Playing it Forward" (May 3-5, 2012)
- * Child and Youth Mental Health Matters Conference (May 6-8, 2012)
- * 5th Annual Gathering Wisdom for a Shared Journey (May 15-17, 2012)
- * Canadian Forum on Early Childhood Frameworks (July 13-15, 2012)

ABOUT OUR E-NEWS

How to share your news and events with us!

BC ACCS NEWS

*** New Survey on ECE Training and Retention – Prizes to be Won!**

Are you satisfied with the training you received to become an Early Childhood Educator? Do you feel that your work is valued in your community? What challenges are you facing? These questions have never before been asked to all Early Childhood Educators working in on-reserve First Nations ECD centres in BC.

This week, BC ACCS will be launching a survey on behalf of the First Nations Early Childhood Development Council (FNECDC). Information will be gathered that relates to

training, retention and current challenges in First Nations ECD human resources. Data will be used to inform funding decisions and policy changes that are needed immediately, in order to see positive changes for First Nations children.

As a thank you for participating, BC ACCS will be offering respondents the opportunity to take part in a draw for several prizes. ALL staff members, supervisor managers currently working in on-reserve ECD programs/centres in BC are invited to complete this survey.

When: A password protected link to the survey will be sent to all on-reserve First Nations ECD centres by the end of this week. Keep an eye out and be sure to check your junk e-mail folder just in case!

Contact: For more information, please e-mail communications@acc-society.bc.ca

* **Hummingbird Aboriginal Student Futures**

Would you like to start saving for your child's university/college tuition? It's easier and cheaper than you think! Please consider joining us for our next *Hummingbird Aboriginal Student Futures* information and training sessions. We will talk about the benefits of registering First Nations children in Registered Education Savings Plans (RESPs). We will also share how families can receive government contributions. Join us for a free lunch and spread the word!

February 20th - Lillooet

February 27th - Kelowna

To register OR to book a session in your neck of the woods please contact:

Vanessa@hummingbirdasf.ca

* **Moe the Mouse® Workshop - Victoria, February 25th**

The *Moe the Mouse®* Speech and Language Development Program consists of two primary components:

1. The *Moe the Mouse®* Speech and Language Curriculum Box; and

2. Training workshops to train early childhood educators and parents how to use the *Moe the Mouse*® Speech and Language Curriculum Box.

The next workshop is scheduled for Victoria on February 25th.

To register please contact Belinda Macey, Program Coordinator, Victoria CCRR,

Phone: 250-382-7000 ext. 232 Toll Free: 1-800-750-1868

For more information on *Moe the Mouse*® visit the BC ACCS [website](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***Aboriginal Doula Training – Port Alberni**

Doula training will bring traditional birthing support practices back into the hands of women by helping families to have the best possible pregnancy and birth experience through emotional, physical and spiritual support. Training, travel, accommodations and resources will be provided.

Registration forms:

[PDF Download | Registration Form](#)

[Word Doc | Registration Form](#)

Registration Deadline: February 24th, 2012

When: March 4th from 4pm-8pm & March 5th- 8th from 7:30am–4pm

Where:

House of Gathering, Hupacasath First Nation

Box 211-5500 Ahahswinis (off Beaver Creek Rd), Port Alberni, BC

Contact: Lucy Barney lbarney@phsa.ca 604-877-2121 Ext. 223766

***Early Learning and Care- Online Workshops**

Northern Lights College is pleased to welcome all those interested in the world of early learning and care to join us online for Open Conversations 3, an online workshop series

covering topics including Proposal Writing, Self-Calming, Storytelling, How to Present a Workshop and many more.

When: March 4-18.

Registration and Information: Patricia McClelland pmcclelland@nlc.bc.ca 1-866-686-2169

*** Family Violence and Cultural Teaching Workshops**

These unique and FREE workshops include smudging, cultural teachings, and food!

Each workshop is guided by 2 Elders and will offer a holistic and traditional approach to teaching about important topics such as family violence, the medicine wheel, and relationship boundaries. There is a new topic every Saturday!

February 25th topic: What does it mean to be Aboriginal?

Where: Native Education College, Vancouver BC

When: 9am-4pm

More info and to RSVP to Naomi: nlinklater@necvancouver.org
604-873-3772, ext 340

*** FASD Conference – Call for Abstracts**

The 5th International Conference on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder will be taking place in 2013. This conference brings together experts from multiple disciplines to share international research, to discuss the implications of this research, and to promote scientific/community collaboration. It provides an opportunity to expand our understanding of the relationships between knowledge and research, and how this can apply to critical actions related to FASD. Current conference organizers are calling for abstracts.

Deadline: May 31, 2012

For more information contact Jo Nam, UBC Interprofessional Continuing Education

Phone: +1 604-822-2801, Fax: +1 604-822-4835 Email: jo.ipce@ubc.ca

RESEARCH AND NEWS

Health of First Nations Children Living Off Reserve

Over the years, research has continuously shown that Aboriginal children experience poorer health than do non-Aboriginal children. Statistics Canada has released a new article titled *"Health of First Nations children living off reserve and Métis children younger than age 6"*. It examines data gathered from the Aboriginal Children's Survey including general health, chronic conditions and physical limitations of First Nations children living off reserve and Métis children.

It reveals "substantial Aboriginal/non-Aboriginal health differences, including higher rates of injury, accidental death, and sudden infant death syndrome. Aboriginal children are at higher risk of chronic ear infection, respiratory tract infections, obesity, dental problems, and hospitalization due to asthma."

The report goes on to suggest that the health differences between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations are associated not with biological factors, but with family and social conditions like household income, parent education levels, smoking in the home and food security. The article also links child health to community characteristics such as housing and neighbourhood conditions.

[Read the full article here.](#)

Are Government Policies Assisting Parents of Young Children?

Parental leave and Early Childhood Education and Care policies in Canada are more generous than those in the United States but did you know that parents in Finland receive 38 months of paid parental leave time?!

The struggle to balance work responsibilities with a growing family is most difficult for working parents of children under five. Government policy changes designed to help families are usually controversial because they are expensive. But do the benefits outweigh the costs? An article by Christopher Ruhm looks at two interventions that are already publically funded in many countries across Europe: paid parental leave and free early childhood education and care (ECEC).

[Read the full article here.](#)

Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC Visit the United Nations

Last week Lynell Anderson and Susan Harney traveled to Geneva to appear before the United Nations and present their brief, [*A Tale of Two Canadas: Implementing Rights in Early Childhood*](#). Their presentation to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child will inform the committee's evaluation of Canada's compliance with the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*. Other Canadian groups presenting to the committee include the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society, The Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children, UNICEF Canada, and the Council of Provincial Child and Youth Advocates. Read a story on The Tyee about the child care advocates' concerns [here](#).

JOB POSTINGS

Aboriginal Infant Development Home Visitor Worker

Aboriginal Child and Family Support Services
Vancouver, BC
Closing date: March 2, 2012

Child Care Provider (6 hrs per week)

Helping Spirit Lodge Society
Vancouver, BC
Open until position filled

All jobs are posted and updated regularly on [the BC ACCS website](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

* **14th Annual "Every Child Belongs" Conference**

When: March 10, 2012 8:00 am-3:30pm

Where: The College of New Caledonia

Contact: Register at the Child Development Centre of Prince George District

Phone: 250-563-7168 ext. 205 Fax: 250-563-8039 Email: kima@cdcpq.org

Description: Topics for this conference include but are not limited to: Supporting children with trauma, mental health, reducing stress in children, drumming, storytelling, singing, learning to listen, sensory sensitivities, giving and receiving feedback, children and sexual behaviors.

* **Indigenous Women's Symposium**

When: March 11-13, 2012

Where: University of Northern BC, Prince George

Contact: Registration information available on the [conference website](#).

Phone: 250-960-5520 Fax: 250-960-5291 Email: conference@unbc.ca

Description: Women Warriors: Indigenous Voices is a multidisciplinary event celebrating the diversity of Indigenous women in leadership, while bringing into focus the unique contributions and perspectives of Indigenous women working in Northern British Columbia. The conference theme is "Diversity and Solidarity: Celebrating Indigenous Women Leaders." This event will bring together women and men from all walks of life to share a dialogue of strength and diversity in leadership.

* **Northern BC Aboriginal Health Webcast**

When: March 29, 2012 12:15pm-1:15pm

Where: By teleconference and webcast

Contact: E-mail for more details: idc@northernhealth.ca

Description: The recent formation of the First Nations Health Council has resulted in a flurry of activity and discussion on how to best close the gap in First Nations health. In

this presentation, Dr. Lavoie will focus on the First Nation on-reserve health care system in BC. Relevant research will be discussed to show that there is strength in the First Nation on-reserve health care system as it exists today. Results from the *Where to Invest Project* show that, communities with control over local health services and with access to community-based primary care have lower rates of avoidable hospitalization, especially for chronic diseases. Still gaps in knowledge of Northern Health remain. This presentation will conclude with the recommendations for additional work.

* **16th Annual First Nations Schools Association Conference**

When: April 20-21st, 2012

Where: Coast Plaza Hotel & Suites, Vancouver

Contact: Registration to begin in February 2012. Check the First Nations Schools Association website for more information <http://www.fnsa.ca/> or call 1-877-422-3672

Description: The First Nations Schools Association (FNSA) annual conference brings together staff from First Nations schools from across BC to learn about a wide range of effective practices in classroom instruction, school administration and other key professional growth areas.

* **10th Annual Assessment Workshop**

When: May 3rd, 2012

Where: Neville Scarfe Building, UBC, Vancouver

[Registration and Information package](#)

Contact: info@eventability.org or call 604-214-3490/604-272-9155

Description: Children's Right to a Fair Assessment. This full day workshop will celebrate a decade of innovative practice with Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond and Dr. Hillel Goelman.

* **ECEBC Conference "Playing it Forward: Discovering the Wonder and Value of Authentic Play"**

When: May 3-5th, 2012 (Registration begins mid-Feb, 2012)

Where: The Radisson Hotel Vancouver Airport, Richmond

Contact: Check the Early Childhood Educators of BC website for more information

<http://www.ecebc.ca/events/index.html>

Description: This is a professional development and networking conference. More information will be available in February, 2012.

* **[Child and Youth Mental Health Matters Conference](#)**

When: May 6-8th, 2012

Where: The Coast Plaza Hotel & Suites, Vancouver

Contact: UBC Interprofessional Continuing Education, (604) 827-3112 or

ian.ipce@ubc.ca

Description: This conference will provide a forum for focusing on the needs of young people and families as they struggle with issues related to mental health concerns across the generations. There are three themes woven through the conferences: Parental Mental Health, Children of Parents with Mental Illness and Young Carers.

* **[5th Annual Gathering Wisdom for a Shared Journey](#)**

When: May 15-17th, 2012

Where: To be announced

Contact: Check the First Nations Health Council website for more information in early 2012. <http://www.fnhc.ca/index.php/news/events/>

Description: Improving the Health of First Nations People in BC: A Dialogue on the Tripartite First Nations Health Plan. On-line registration details will be announced in early 2012.

* **[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 E-NEWS

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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**.

Download previous week's E-News at: http://acc-society.bc.ca/files_new/enews.html