

February 6, 2012 E-News

BC Aboriginal Child Care Society

“Your children will become what you are; so be what you want them to be.”

-David Bly

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- * Positions Available in Vancouver and Victoria

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

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

- * 19th Annual National Aboriginal Achievement Awards (Feb 24, 2012)
- * 14th Annual Every Child Belongs Conference (March 10, 2012)
- * Northern BC Aboriginal Health Webcast (Mar, 29, 2012)
- * 16th Annual First Nations Schools Association Conference (April 20-21)
- * ECEBC 2012 Conference “Playing it Forward: Discovering the Wonder and Value of Authentic Play” (May 3-5, 2012)
- * Child and Youth Mental Health Matters Conference (May 6-8)
- * 5th Annual Gathering Wisdom for a Shared Journey (May 15-17, 2012)
- * International Innovations in Early Childhood Education, A 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

*** 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 7th – Nanaimo

February 14th and 17th – Prince George

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](#).

RESOURCES

* **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren**

Parent Support Services of BC are pleased to announce that the Ministry of Children and Family Development will be providing funding for the launch of a new telephone support line for grandparents raising grandchildren.

Staff on the line will assist grandparents and other relatives raising children to navigate MCFD and other complex systems; find answers and the assistance and resources they need to prevent or solve problems, and to learn about benefits and other services that will support the whole family.

Call toll free anywhere in B.C. 1-855-474-9777

Grandparents and other care-givers can also send in questions via e-mail to:

GRGline@parentsupportbc.ca

For face-to-face conversations there are many Support Circles around the province for grandparents raising grandchildren (and other relatives who are the primary caregivers of grandchildren, nieces and nephews). [Click here for a listing of meetings in your area.](#)

Care-givers may also wish to learn more by [reading a pamphlet](#), a [legal guide](#) or a [resource booklet](#).

*** Marble Painting with Preschoolers**

Have you ever tried painting with marbles? This is a fun activity that all children will enjoy. The bonus is that it comes with very little to clean up! All you need is some tempera paint, a sheet of paper, a cardboard box and some marbles! Roll your way to painting masterpieces! [Click here](#) to find directions and to see pictures of the activity taken by educators who loved the idea!

*** Tips for Helping Babies Fall Asleep**

Remember that a baby spent close to nine months in a womb listening to its mother's heartbeat. Pure silence at bed time won't necessarily help! Babies are often comforted by rhythmic sounds. A clock that ticks, a fan that blows or even the soft beating of a drum, may provide the right kind of white noise your baby needs! Read more tips [here](#).

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** Open Longhouse Invitation**

The Native Education College offers Certificates and Diploma courses in Aboriginal Early Childhood Education. Explore everything that the Native Education College (NEC) has to offer! Free bannock, live cultural performances, painting with a local First Nations artist, and interact with current NEC students and teachers!

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

10am-2pm

NEC Longhouse: 285 East 5th Ave, Vancouver

Visit the [Native Education College website](#).

* Child Care Awards of Excellence

Do you work with an exceptional early childhood educator or know of a licensed family care provider who is amazing in every way? How about an individual or entire organization that does a great job at encouraging innovation in their child care programming? Does your local government show outstanding commitment to or leadership in, the development and support of community child care?

The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) would like to celebrate these individuals, governments, facilities and organizations who are delivering exceptional services to children and families. Two awards will be presented to Aboriginal ECEs, including the Lenora Pritchard Award of Excellence.

Nominations accepted until Monday, March 5, 2012.

For more information refer to the website by [clicking here](#).

MCFD Client Relations Branch: 1-877-387-7027 or email EarlyYears@gov.bc.ca

* 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 11th topic: Auntie; Can I tell you a secret?

Where: Native Education College, Vancouver BC

When: 9am-4pm

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

* Supported Child Development Meeting for Parents

Vancouver Coastal/North Fraser MCFD has recently completed a Supported Child Development Survey. Parents who are accessing or needing to access Supported Child Development are invited to a meeting to review the strengths as well as the challenges facing Supported Child Development in the Vancouver Coastal/ North Fraser area.

Date: Feb 13th, 2012

Time: 6:30pm-8:30 pm

Location: Burnaby Association for Community Inclusion (BACI)
2702 Norland Avenue, Burnaby

Please RSVP to 604-660-2433.

* 21st Annual Women's Memorial March

The February 14th Women's Memorial March is an opportunity to come together to grieve the loss of our beloved sisters in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver, and to dedicate ourselves to justice. This event is organized and led by women because women, especially Indigenous women, face physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual violence on a daily basis. All are welcome.

Date: Feb 14th, 2012

Time: 1pm

Location: March begins at the corner of Main and Hastings Streets, Vancouver.

RESEARCH AND NEWS

* Education Minister Visits A. E. Perry StrongStart BC

On February 3rd, 2012, Education Minister, George Abbott, celebrated the official opening of the A.E. Perry StrongStart BC centre by reading to kids and their parents from a book of First Nations stories called *Thanks to Animals* and presenting a copy of the book to the centre.

A.E. Perry StrongStart BC, located in Kamloops, was created with a First Nations focus which is reflected in its setting and activities. The centre has a carpet featuring First Nations motifs, in addition to First Nations dolls and a tepee for the children to play in. Activities have included moccasin-making, traditional First Nation snacks, as well as First Nations readings and songs.

While the centre has a strong First Nations focus, the current users come from many cultural backgrounds and bring aspects of their own culture to the centre to share with one another, promoting a diverse learning environment for children and parents.

Read more about the visit and watch a short video clip of the Minister reading the story by [clicking here](#).

* Province Announces Financial Help for Aboriginal College Students

On February 3rd, 2012 the province of British Columbia unveiled a draft strategy aimed at encouraging more First Nations students to enrol in colleges and universities. More

financial help for Aboriginal student and extra assistance for those taking teacher training are key elements of the plan.

“Support for the post-secondary education of the fastest-growing segment of the population is a wise investment in B.C.'s future,” says the draft policy framework.

The Times Colonist newspaper reported that Advanced Education Minister, Naomi Yamamoto is concerned that

Financial hardship, the need for cultural support - especially for students from rural reserves or tiny communities - and lack of aboriginal role models are among reasons that the number of First Nations post-secondary students lag behind non-aboriginals.

[Click here to read the full Times Colonist newspaper article.](#)

*** Starting Strong III Report – A Focus on Quality of Care**

The Organization for Economic Development and Cooperation (OECD) has published a report on the importance of Early Childhood Education and Care in strengthening our economy, among other things. “Starting Strong III: A quality toolbox for early childhood education and care”, focuses on increasing the quality of services provided to young children. Here is an excerpt:

A growing body of research recognizes that early childhood education and care (ECEC) brings a wide range of benefits, for example, better child well-being and learning outcomes as a foundation for lifelong learning; more equitable child outcomes and reduction of poverty; increased intergenerational social mobility; more female labour market participation; increased fertility rates; and better social and economic development for the society at large.

Expanding access to services without attention to quality will not deliver good outcomes for children or for society. Furthermore, research has shown that if quality is low, it can have long-lasting detrimental effects on child development, instead of bringing positive effects.

To read the full report [click here.](#)

*** Historic Federal Court Case - First Nations Children**

On February 13-15, 2012 a historic Federal Court case will test whether Canada can be found responsible for discrimination under the Canadian Human Rights Act for inequitable child welfare services on reserves. Join the over 9,000 people following the

case, read the court documents, listen to interviews of those who have observed the case and join supporters as they try to put an end to inequities for First Nations children.
www.fnwitness.ca

JOB POSTINGS

Resource Social Worker

Surrounded by Cedar Child and Family Services
Victoria, BC
Closing date: February 16, 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

*** 19th Annual National Aboriginal Achievement Awards**

When: February 24, 2012

Where: Queen Elizabeth Theatre, Vancouver

Contact: Visit the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation website for ticket sales

http://www.naaf.ca/ticket_sales or Toll Free: 1-800-329-9780 Ext.228

ticketsales@naaf.ca

Description: The Awards will be presented to recipients for their outstanding accomplishments in various disciplines. The Awards are the highest honour the community can bestow on its achievers. These 15 exceptional individuals will be

honoured and celebrated at the Gala, and subsequently broadcasted on Global Television and the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN) this March.

* **[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.

* **[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.

* **[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

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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

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