

# A word from The BC Aboriginal Child Care Society's President, Mary Teegee

A study on Indigenous poverty by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA) hit the headlines in June 2013. It found that half of all First Nations children live in “crushing poverty” and noted that Aboriginal children are 2½ times more likely than other children to live in poverty and that they “trail the rest of Canada’s children on practically every measure of wellbeing.”



While this may be news for some people and may also serve to shame our governments internationally, it is not news for most of us who work with young Aboriginal children and their families. We see the effects of poverty and the destructive impact of the residential school system and the damages of colonization on our families every day.

But we also see hope for a better future for our children through education and through creating a strong foundation for success in school and in life through high quality Aboriginal Early Childhood Development and Care (AECDC) programs. AECDC programs, such as Aboriginal Head Start, have been shown internationally to be extremely effective, if they are of high quality, in improving the well-being and life chances of vulnerable young children. However, quality is key.

So we see a compelling need for permanent funding solutions and more high quality, culturally relevant AECDC. Really no one disagrees and we have heard many promises from governments. But the reality is that there is currently a lack of political will to address the serious issues facing Aboriginal children and their families that we and CCPA and other researchers continually raise.

Despite all the apathy of those in a position to make change, BC ACCS has continued to work, as it has for the last fifteen years, on behalf of Aboriginal children 0 - 6 and Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) to safeguard existing achievements and to build solid foundations for the future. New ventures this year include strategies to address the future financial wellbeing of Aboriginal children and their parents in BC through the Hummingbird program, and building on partnerships with local and regional organizations as advocates for affordable childcare. Our organization has also lobbied at both federal and provincial levels for adequate stable funding for new and continuing AECDC programs and increased wages for ECEs.

BC ACCS supporters continue to look to BC ACCS for value-added member services. This year we offered an expanded roster of resources that included updated additions to our on-site library, practical guides and handbooks, newsletters, e-Alerts, information sheets and new training workshops. These resources were widely used and got high ratings from our members. Our research projects explored community needs and recommended strategies and solutions based on information gathered from surveys, interviews and group discussion.

BC ACCS members and champions are dedicated to building a strong and diverse AECDC sector. Each year, many contribute enormous effort and vision to BC ACCS programs, projects and initiatives. We want to thank members, champions and staff for their energy and commitment that contributed to our many achievements this year.

## Our Funders / Giving Thanks

- First Nations Early Childhood Development Council** for their funding support of AECD Licensing Project and ECD Occupational Standards Project
- First Nations & Urban Aboriginal Early Childhood Development Steering Committee** for their funding support of Moe the Mouse, From Seed to Cedar, and AECD Mapping Project
- First Nations Inuit Health Branch** and **First Nations Health Council** for their financial support of our 15th annual training conference and regional training sessions, November 2012
- Human Resources Development Canada**, for funding our Hummingbird Aboriginal Student Futures (HASF) Project
- Ministry of Child & Family Development**, Child Care Branch, for funding our Aboriginal Child Care Resources & Referral Project. The Northern regional office of MCFD also provided funding support for a Regional AECD Research Project
- National Collaborating Centre on Aboriginal Health (NCCAH)**, for funding our 15th annual conference, and our conference brochure in November 2012 and for providing funding support to develop a literature review on Child Screening and Assessment Issues
- Public Health Agency of Canada**, for funding the operations of Eagles Nest and Singing Frog Aboriginal Head Start Pre-Schools in East Vancouver, AHS Community Outreach Project, and Child Screening and Assessment Curriculum Project
- United Way of Vancouver Lower Mainland**, for their financial support of our ECD Policy Project
- Vancouver Foundation**, for funding our Bringing Tradition Home Adaptation Project, a research collaboration with Carrier Sekani Family Services of Northern BC



## Who We Are

BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (BC ACCS) was established in 1996 to help BC First Nations establish Aboriginal Early Childhood Development and Care (AECDC) programs and services which meet the needs of First Nations children and families, on-reserve and off-reserve. We are committed to ensuring that communities are able to meet standards of care through the offering of high quality AECDC programs and services that are culturally and linguistically valid, as well as affordable, accessible and holistic. It is through this commitment that BC ACCS has developed a variety of culturally-based resources and training workshops, as well as considerable policy expertise and research experience in the field of Aboriginal ECDC.

### VITAL SIGNS: Statistical Summary of Program Activities 2012-13

- 12,204** Hits received by the BCACCS website
- 750** Facebook Likes
- 300** Delegates attended the 15th Annual BC ACCS Training Conference
- 5** *Caring for Our Children* newsletters published
- 6,100** *Caring for Our Children* newsletters distributed throughout 600 communities and programs
- 44** E-newsletters circulated weekly to more than 500 contacts
- 5** Special e-bulletins published
- 1,250** Books, periodicals and videos in the BCACCS library
- 45** Communities that accessed the BCACCS library and ECE curriculum boxes
- 46** Communities visited by BCACCS staff
- 405** Participants in the Moe the Mouse Theme Box Workshops
- 2,846** Telephone and email consults by BCACCS staff

## Report to the Community 2012-2013 BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (BC ACCS)

Today's children, tomorrow's hope  
Building a comprehensive framework for the early years

## Our Mission

We are committed to nurturing excellence through community outreach, education, training, research and advocacy, to ensure every Aboriginal child in BC has access to spiritually enriching, culturally relevant, high quality early childhood development and care services.

We believe in supporting communities, programs and services to ensure every Aboriginal child has a healthy, happy start in life so they thrive within their families, communities and nations.

Because we value children, we work with all our partners to ensure that Aboriginal ECDC services across the province are delivered with the highest quality of current and promising practice.

Don't forget, we moved to a new office. Come visit us!



**BC Aboriginal  
Child Care Society**

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# Highlights of the Year

## BC ACCS in Action 2012-2013

### Resource Creation and Research

#### Ensuring safe, quality and culturally relevant care for our children

With support from the BC First Nations Early Childhood Development Council (BCFNECD), BC ACCS undertook a research project that examined the dynamic between First Nations child care providers, the BC Child Care Licensing Regulations (CCLR), and individual Licensing Officers who work directly with First Nations child care programs.

Program managers in on-reserve child care and Head Starts from the First Nations child care community and the Licensing Officers who monitor the First Nations programs were surveyed. The resulting report, Licensing First Nations’ Early Childhood Programs, will be released in Sept. of 2013.

Key findings were:  
Barriers to cultural programming; Difficulty to maintaining fully qualified staff; First Nations cultural sensitivity training important; Overlapping jurisdictions of Federal and Provincial policies and regulations confusing; Relationships with licensing officers positive and regulations help provide quality programs.

BC ACCS will work with BCFNECD and other partners to advocate for solutions as directed by strategic first steps recommended in the BC ACCS report to ensure the continued pursuit of quality care. The BC ACCS full report will be available on our website (www.acc-society.bc.ca) and we will communicate our findings publicly.

### Child screening and assessment

Supported by National Strategic Fund of the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), this project will deliver a pilot-tested curriculum that incorporates family centred, reflective practice; and culturally safe and sensitive content relevant to the use of child screening and assessment tools and resources.

Funding was provided by National Collaborating Centre on Aboriginal Health (NCCAH) to create a Literature Review (in partnership with the BC Regional Innovation Chair for Aboriginal ECD hosted by Vancouver Island University), develop and distribute a survey tool, and set up an advisory committee.

BC ACCS continued to work with the advisory committee to incorporate requirements of the National Strategic Fund and ensure quality as well as garner partnerships with NCCAH and VIU. Roll out of the screening and assessment curriculum is scheduled for March 2014.

### Community Outreach, Education and Support

#### A secure future with RESPs

Hummingbird Aboriginal Student Futures (HASF) continues to assist First Nations and Métis families throughout BC to obtain a better understanding of the benefits of opening a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP). Funded by Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRDC) since 2010, HASF staff work with families and organizations in our communities to open RESPs, learn about applying for the Canada Learning Bond and other federal government incentives to support children’s education after high school.

HASF, the only Aboriginal RESP initiative in Canada, has become more established in the province since being introduced in 2011 and this year we have expanded workshop content to include financial planning and literacy. Nurturing relationships with community champions and financial institutions is the key to success. Staff visited over 30 First Nation communities in BC in 2012/13. We have given information to over 1500 individuals by working with our families in urban, rural and remote areas through: promotional events, workshops, attendance at cultural events, and meetings with First Nation community members not to mention the 2,313 visits (80 % unique) to our website, www.hummingbirdasf.ca.

### A holistic approach

In partnership with First Nations Inuit Health (FNIH) close to 275 delegates from more than 200 programs throughout the province participated in the BCACCS’s 15th annual training conference in November 2012.

Called Stepping Stones to Well-being, we chose the theme of holistic development to open dialogue between early childhood educators and others to consider the many ways in which we can support young children as they grow and learn.

Participants listened to the presentation of our opening keynote speaker, Provincial Health Officer Dr. Perry Kendall; an Aboriginal ECD Trail Blazers

panel discussion; and closing comments by Ta’kaiya Blaney, child Environmental Activist. Eugene Harry, BC ACCS’s Knowledge Keeper, was present to welcome delegates and keep them grounded throughout the conference.

The three-day conference included more than 40 workshops and 6 pre-conference

full day workshops on spirituality and holistic approaches to early childhood development and care, as well as ways for delegates to promote their own health and well-being. This was the first year we used the new online registration system and offered a post-conference online evaluation survey to gather feedback from participants. We received a good response rate, 39%.

As a follow up to the conference, with support from FNIH and in partnership with Community Health Associates of BC, BC ACCS was able to deliver Regional Head Start training in March 2013 to: Nanaimo, Kelowna, and Prince George for delegates unable to attend.

### Tradition remains vital

With the support of the Public Health Agency of Canada, Bringing Tradition Home (BTH), a tool for Aboriginal parents on traditional ways of parenting, continues to help communities increase parents’ knowledge of their own culture and enhance their understanding of healthy child development stages. As of March 2013 more than 200 people have participated in training and the program has been applied in many communities with positive feedback.

To demonstrate how BTH curriculum could be adapted to local culture and values BC ACCS initiated a demonstration project with Carrier Sekani Child and Family Services (CSFS). This community partnership with CSFS proved that BTH curriculum could be locally developed

and adapted to cultural values and traditions. A huge success, several other organizations have expressed interest and BC ACCS is fielding requests for manuals from BC, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Nova Scotia. The Facilitator’s Guide is available for purchase through the BC ACCS website (www.acc-society.bc.ca)

### Making connections

BC ACCS actively engages educational institutions and organizations with research, disseminating information about Aboriginal ECDC, and building their ECE network.

We were honoured to share research and information at the University of Victoria with a presentation at the *International Innovations in ECE Conference*; and at Vancouver Island University where we part of a partnership to produce a literature review for the Screening and Assessment project. We also continue to enhance our relationship with NCCAH through resource building and consultation. Our relationship with Early Childhood Educators of BC (ECEBC) was strengthened when we participated in the training to become a guide for Best Choices: the Ethical Journey and continued to develop as we supported them in their efforts.

Staff continued to be present in the education landscape and did informational workshops at Douglas College, Nicola Valley Institute of Technology, Sprott Shaw, Burnaby Continuing Education and Capilano University.

## Our People /Staff & Board

### BC ACCS Staff

Karen Isaac, Executive Director  
Mary Burgaretta, Program Manager / Aboriginal Child Care Advisor  
Kirsten Bevelander, Child Care Advisor  
Jennifer Fox, Communications / Research  
Scott (Iax-Iya7) Nahanee, Accounts Payable / Administration  
Eugene Harry, (XiQulem), Cultural Advisor  
Pepper Brewster, Librarian  
Gloria Cardinal, HASF Program Manager  
Jen Thomas, HASF Community Outreach Coordinator  
Leona Antoine, Program Coordinator, Singing Frog Pre-school  
Dawn Westland, Program Coordinator, Eagles Nest Pre-school

### BC ACCS Board

Mary Teegee, President  
*Director, Carrier Sekani Family Services*  
*Member, Minister’s Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women*  
Maurice Squires, Vice-President  
*Director, Nisga’a Child and Family Services*  
Sue Sterling, Tre asurer  
*Aboriginal ECD Consultant*  
*Member, HELP Aboriginal Advisory Committee*  
Al Lawrence, Secretary  
*Owner/Operator Kidsco*  
Robert Lagasse, Director  
*Chief Operations Officer, Sts’alles Development Corporation*  
Allen Cummings, Director  
*Executive Director, Nenan Dane zaa Deh Zona Child & Family Services*  
Warner Adam, Director  
*Executive Director, Carrier Sekani Family Services*  
*Co-Chair, First Nations Health Council*

#### INDEPENDENT AUDITORS’ REPORT | BC ABORIGINAL CHILD CARE SOCIETY | Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of BC Aboriginal Child Care Society, which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2013, and the statements of operations and changes in fund balances, and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

**Management’s responsibility for the financial statements**  
Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

**Auditors’ responsibility**  
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 comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors’ judgment, including the assessment of the risks of

material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditors consider internal controls relevant to the entity’s preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity’s internal controls.

An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

**Opinion**  
In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of BC Aboriginal Child Care Society as at March 31, 2013, and its financial performance audits cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles for not-for-profit organizations.

REID HURST NAGY INC.  
CERTIFIED GENERAL ACCOUNTANTS  
RICHMOND, BC JULY 8, 2013

## Financials

#### Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund Balances for the year ended March 31, 2013

	2013		Capital Actual \$	Total \$	2012 Total \$
	Budget \$ (Unaudited)	Actual \$ (Schedule 1)			
<b>REVENUE</b>					
Donations	35,000	25,820	-	25,820	8,063
Speech and Language Resource (Moe)	44,000	63,916	-	63,916	41,517
Handling fees	98,000	143,203	-	143,203	108,007
Public Health Agency of Canada	728,542	728,542	-	728,542	664,436
Health Canada (FNIHB)	350,000	350,000	-	350,000	15,600
Membership	4,500	4,047	-	4,047	5,725
Special Projects	35,000	249,751	-	249,751	117,225
Province of BC (MCFD)	330,000	360,000	-	360,000	330,000
Registration	30,000	49,260	-	49,260	74,745
United Way Champ Grant	-	85,000	-	85,000	50,000
Human Resources & Skills Development Canada	246,937	160,382	-	160,382	282,399
ECE scholarship	2,000	3,495	-	3,495	1,186
Province of BC (CCOF)	-	10,549	-	10,549	15,193
Interest	-	133	-	133	618
Miscellaneous	6,200	42,960	-	42,960	50,829
	1,910,179	2,277,058	-	2,277,058	1,765,543

<b>EXPENDITURES</b>					
AECD service planning (CSFS)	-	48,162	-	48,162	1,483
Accounting	9,000	14,939	-	14,939	21,037
Advertising	6,500	26	-	26	11,293
Audit	14,701	8,636	-	8,636	17,504
Bank charges	800	1,040	-	1,040	331
Banquet and catering	75,000	58,918	-	58,918	44,140
Conference coordinator	16,600	18,858	-	18,858	7,303
Contracted services/workshops	42,390	126,157	-	126,157	177,943
Courier and postage	3,055	6,322	-	6,322	6,626
Depreciation	-	-	35,137	35,137	63,026
ECE Scholarship	2,000	-	-	-	-
Speech and Language Resource (Moe)	39,000	31,788	-	31,788	29,659
Equipment	8,088	19,833	-	19,833	18,969
Evaluation	2,000	3,600	-	3,600	-
Handling fee	134,496	140,820	-	140,820	108,007
Honoraria and presenters’ fees	16,575	8,525	-	8,525	10,534
Insurance	8,501	10,891	-	10,891	12,888
Janitorial	-	-	-	-	2,945
Legal fees	-	-	-	-	50
Materials and supplies	46,932	34,273	-	34,273	36,499
Meeting rooms	7,500	3,049	-	3,049	-
Miscellaneous	4,106	18,542	-	18,542	19,513
Office supplies	4,692	10,718	-	10,718	16,723
Photocopying and printing	4,095	2,365	-	2,365	2,903
Publications	-	11,751	-	11,751	16,543
Recognition awards	2,500	-	-	-	-
Registration fees (FNIH)	-	23,400	-	23,400	-
Renovations	-	21,628	-	21,628	35,517
Rent and utilities	95,519	105,455	-	105,455	99,089
Salaries and benefits	949,485	927,426	-	927,426	948,320
Special projects	-	108,791	-	108,791	3,705
Telephone/internet	7,600	29,324	-	29,324	39,461
Training	8,750	5,519	-	5,519	9,894
Travel	400,294	175,466	-	175,466	115,423
	1,910,179	1,976,222	35,137	2,011,359	1,877,328

EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES	-	300,836	(35,137)	265,699	(111,785)
FUND BALANCE, BEGINNING OF THE YEAR		168,074	121,534	289,608	401,941
PRIOR YEAR SURPLUS (RECOVERY)		(8,857)	-	(8,857)	(548)
INVESTED IN CAPITAL ASSETS		(7,311)	7,311	-	-
FUND BALANCE, END OF THE YEAR		452,742	93,708	546,450	289,608

#### Statement of Financial Position March 31, 2013

	2013	2013	2012	2011
	Operations \$	Capital \$	Total \$	Total \$
<b>ASSETS</b>				
<b>CURRENT</b>				
Cash and cash equivalents	415,154	-	415,154	94,572
Accounts receivable	144,586	-	144,586	112,767
GST/HST receivable	23,352	-	23,352	23,920
Prepaid expenses	12,788	-	12,788	10,778
	595,880	-	595,880	242,037
<b>INVESTMENTS</b>	5,000	-	5,000	5,000
<b>TANGIBLE CAPITAL</b>	-	93,708	93,708	121,534
	600,880	93,708	694,588	368,571

#### LIABILITIES

<b>CURRENT</b>				
Accounts payable & accrued liabilities	30,317	-	30,317	19,944
Payroll liabilities	110,398	-	110,398	59,019
Donation proceeds payable	7,423	-	7,423	-
	148,138	-	148,138	78,963

<b>FUND BALANCES</b>				
Invested in capital assets	-	93,708	93,708	121,534
Unrestricted	452,742	-	452,742	168,074
	452,742	93,708	546,450	289,608
	600,880	93,708	694,588	368,571

#### Statement Of Cash Flows For the Year Ended March 31, 2013

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	265,699	(111,785)
Prior year surplus repayment	(8,857)	(548)
Add: Depreciation on capital assets	35,137	63,026
	291,979	(49,307)

Increase (decrease) in non-cash current assets	(33,261)	(4,988)
Increase in non-cash current liabilities	69,175	24,043
	327,893	(30,252)

#### CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES

Tangible capital assets acquired	(7,311)	(32,747)
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NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	320,582	(62,999)
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CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - BEGINNING OF THE YEAR	94,572	157,571
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - END OF THE YEAR	415,154	94,572

AS REPRESENTED BY:		
Cash	415,154	81,187
Short-term investment	-	13,385
	415,154	94,572