



BC Aboriginal
Child Care Society

www.acc-society.bc.ca

Caring for our Children newsletter

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Draft Mission Statement from the BC First Nations ELCC Framework,
"To support the development of high quality, culturally appropriate, sustainable programs, services and supports for children and families through ongoing community engagement, collaborations, partnerships and coordinated approaches to planning, implementation and governance."

Conference Save the Date



The BCACCS conference will be hosted in Richmond at the Sheraton® & Marriott® Vancouver Airport Hotel on **October 25 - 27, 2019** which is a Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Registration will open in August!
Check for updates
<https://www.acc-society.bc.ca/education-training/bcaccs-annual->



New Staff at BCACCS

Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Initiative Team

We would like to introduce you to our newest employees.



Bernard and Barbara will be working on the Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care (IELCC) Initiative.

Bernard Gilbert is of both Secwépemc & Nuu-chah-nulth nation ancestry. His education background consists of a Bachelor of Business Administration degree, a Master's of Business Administration (MBA) degree, and a Master's of Science in International Management (MScIM) degree. Bernard will be working with a small team, as the IELCC project manager, that will be implementing work contributing to the Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care (IELCC) 2018 Framework in British Columbia. He will be leveraging his project management expertise gained in the not-for-profit, post-secondary, private, and corporate sectors.



Barbara Stroud is fourth-generation Canadian, of European ancestry, and has lived most of her life in Metro Vancouver. She has completed her Bachelor's in Health Science and is passionate about improving population health by addressing health's social determinants. In her role as Project Assistant for the Early Learning and Child Care Initiative, she hopes to support the work undertaken by the BC Aboriginal Child Care Society to enhance the early childhood experiences of every Indigenous child in BC.

We look forward to sharing more about the IELCC Initiative at a future date.

Regional Community Capacity Developer (RCCD) team

The RCCDs are responsible for monitoring and implementing identified outcomes as outlined in the First Nations Community Capacity Development Early Learning and Child Care Plan. They are hard at work forging relationships and supporting communities.



Yalxwemult, Lenora Joe is Coast Salish from the Shishalh Nation in British Columbia. Lenora is happily married for 32 years and has two adult children and two grandchildren. She has been involved in Education since 1987 with the Shishalh Nation from an elected Councilor, School Board Trustee, Home school Coordinator, Post-Secondary Coordinator and then in 1995 Director of Education, Culture and Language and Recreation. Lenora has overseen the Shishalh Nation Mem7iman Child development center for the last 20 years.



Charmayne Nikal from Witset, BC located on Wit'suwit'en territory. She belongs to the Gitimt'en clan (Bear). Charmayne has three beautiful boys aged 8, 9 and 18 and is married to a very supportive husband. In 2000 she became an early childhood educator. In the past 19 years, she has had the privilege of working with amazing people and being guided by Elders. This has shaped who she is today and her work as a manager at the Wit'suwit'en Child and Family Center. She was recently involved with Language revitalization efforts in her community, is part of the development of immersion daycare programs and is also a language learner. When she is not at work she is at the ice rink, ball field and the mud pits.



Cathy Balatti is a member of the Haisla Nation who resides in Kamloops, BC. She is an Early Childhood/ Infant Toddler Educator with over 25 years' experience working with children and families in a variety of capacities. In 2014 Cathy opened a successful before and after school care pro-

gram. Her commitment to providing an exceptional program for those attending earned her the 2017 BC Aboriginal Business Award – "Outstanding Business Achievement" in the Business of the Year 3-10 person category. Cathy is passionate about children's advocacy and leadership for Early Childhood professionals.



Rachel West is from the We Wai Kai Nation (my mother, Trudy is the daughter of the late Mona Dick & Glen Johnson) and the Haida Nation (my Father, David Crosby is the son of Elizabeth Douglas and David Crosby). Rachel was born and raised in Haida Gwaii and is one of five children. She and her husband are proud parents of two teenagers, daughter Logan and son Haydn. Nine years ago the family moved to Campbell River and family of the We Wai Kai Nation on the Quinsam Reserve. Rachel has 20 years' experience in overseeing Early Childhood Programs. She received her ECE training in Malaspina University College. Rachel is passionate about Early Years Development and providing culturally, safe and quality programs for all children.



2018 Mary Thomas Memorial ECE Scholarship Winners



Each year, the Mary Thomas Memorial ECE Scholarship is awarded to two Aboriginal early

childhood education (ECE) students for highest overall achievement including; academic standing (at an approved educational institution and ECE program within BC), outstanding accomplishments, volunteer work, community involvement, references, history of the applicant, as well as their ongoing commitment to childcare.

We are always inspired by the many achievements and dedication of the students who apply for the scholarship. This year we are honoured to award three Post Basic ECE Scholarships to Stephanie Wright, Zoe Walker and Lucy Brown. You are all an inspiration to your community and to the early childhood education field. We wish you all the best.

Post Basic ECE Award

Stephanie Wright

Stephanie Wright comes from the Gitxaala Nation. She was born and raised in Prince Rupert, BC. In 2001 she moved to Vancouver, BC with her son Devin. Her education in the early childhood educator field began with getting her Adult basic education, at Native Education College back in 2001. While at school, after noticing her strengths, a college instructor mentioned that she might be great in the ECE field. This inspired her to take the ECE program at NEC the next year 2002/2003. Stephanie is so glad her instructor took the time to point out how her strengths would be



Photo: Stephanie Wright

a benefit in this field; she loves working with children. As her enthusiasm grew it only deepened the sense she had that she should take her Infant/Toddler and Special Needs. Even though it had been many years since she was in school, NEC always felt like a home away from home. Just as before, she took her schooling very seriously and worked hard to excel in her classes. She has a particular interest in working with the infants and hopes to one day own a daycare of her own.

Post Basic ECE Award

Zoe Walker

Zoe Walker has worked with children and their families in a range of occupations. Over the past 7 years she has been a full-time nanny, has coached youth sports, and is now proud to be a licensed Early Childhood Educator with her special needs and infant toddler certifications. Zoe currently works on the Katzie First Nations reserve in Pitt Meadows at their new Early Years Centre.



Photo: Zoe Walker

Post Basic ECE Award

Lucy Brown

Lucy Brown is from Gitxaala Nation. She is a proud and powerful Aboriginal woman who has overcome some major obstacles in her life including; a difficult childhood, the affects of intergenerational trauma of residential school, and homelessness while going to school at Native education College. Her strong spirit and family support helped her through the adversity and she has been working full-time in a daycare sharing her Indigenous culture in the classroom. One day Lucy hopes to work at an elementary school.



Photo: Lucy Brown

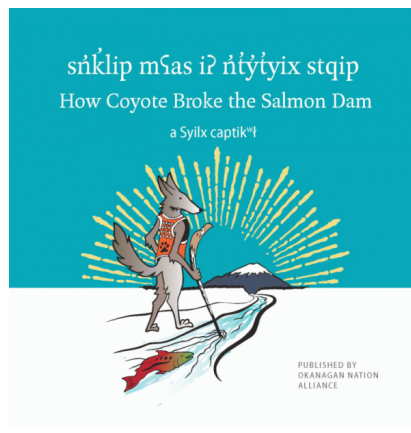
BCACCS Resource Centre Highlight: Language Revitalization

Did you know that UNESCO has declared 2019 the International Year of Indigenous Languages <https://en.iyl2019.org/>?

UNESCO tells us that about 40% of the estimated 6,700 languages spoken around the world are in danger of disappearing. Most of these are Indigenous languages, which puts the cultures and knowledge systems to which they belong at risk, for it is through language that we preserve our community's history, traditions, memory, unique modes of knowing, meaning and expression.

Passing on Indigenous languages to young children, then, is a cornerstone of Indigenous language revitalization and cultural continuance. Research has shown that early childhood is a crucial time for children to lay the foundation of sound making and language acquisition. So, the younger the speakers, the better chance a language has to survive and thrive. Everything points to the need to focus efforts on getting parents and young children involved in Indigenous language revitalization.

Check out the resources below for ideas on how to incorporate language learning into your early childhood programs.



How Coyote Broke the Salmon Dam

Online Resources

- First Peoples Cultural Council <http://www.fpcc.ca/language/>
- Promoting Indigenous Languages in Early Learning and Child Care http://www.cccf-fcsge.ca/wp-content/uploads/RS_101-e.pdf
- Indigenous Languages apps <https://play.google.com/store/apps/developer?id=shotgun.experiments>
- First Voices <https://www.firstvoices.com/>
- Indigenous languages and literacies <https://www.nwtliteracy.ca/literacy/indigenous-languages-and-literacies>

- How a Yukon daycare is passing on an Indigenous language <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/tlingit-bingo-language-carcross-daycare-1.4421726>

Children's Books

Click here https://bcaccs.kohacatalog.com/cgi-bin/koha/opac-search.pl?idx=su&q=bilingual&limit=itype%3ACHILD&offset=40&sort_by=relevance_desc to see a list of children's books in Indigenous languages available in our Resource Centre.

Has your community created early learning language resources you'd like to share? Let us know!

To borrow any of our materials, please contact the BCACCS Resource Centre at library@acc-society.bc.ca or 604-913-9128 ext 229.

Resource Centre Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 9:30 am - 4:30 pm.

BCACCS gratefully acknowledges funding support from the Ministry of Children and Family Development for the BCACCS Resource Centre.

The 2019 Scholarship is open! Check our website for more details <https://www.acc-society.bc.ca/services/scholarship-awards/how-to-apply-for-a-mary-thomas-memorial-ecce-scholarship/>

If you or someone you know has completed (or is about to complete) a Basic Early Childhood Education program or a Post-Basic Early Childhood Education program this school year (2018/2019), celebrate by applying, in honour and fond memory of a highly respected Neskonalith Elder, Mary Thomas.

Closing date for submissions is July 31, 2019.



**2019 | INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF
Indigenous Languages**

The Traveling Bears

BCACCS Curriculum Kits are designed to provide resources to educators and support learning and play for children. We were privileged that Liza Haldane from Ksi Xy'ans Daycare Head Start shared her program's journey with the BCACCS bear kit so that all our readers could get inspiration from their adventures.

The story below has been written by Liza Haldane. Pictures from the program have been provided by Ksi Xy'ans Daycare Head Start. Images of the bear kit are provided by BCACCS.

As we began unpacking the bag, instantly, the “oohing and aaahing” begins, as all the beautiful treasures are discovered. Lavita exclaims, “Wow! Someone took the time to carve these.”

(Referencing the wooden bears.)

Our ideas begins flooding through, an excitement that we both cannot contain – a bear den, our tree puppets, our faux bear rug, soft teddy bears!

We spend the afternoon, creatively setting up the space! We create a cozy ‘den’ by covering a climber, adding a faux rug with bear heads, teddy bears, a quilt and a few books! A perfect den for two preschool ‘bears’!

Our final touch, we add to the beautiful BCACCS collection of bear books throughout the space!

DAY ONE

During preschool programming, 3 year old Mallori settles herself onto the mats and immediately picks up the larger carved bear. She then starts collecting the smaller wooden bears and exclaims, “I was looking for you.” I ask, “The mamma was looking for her babies?” Mallori responds, “Nope, the babies. These are little cubs.” I confirm, “Those are little cubs?” “Uh huh. They



crawl.” Mallori responds as she climbs the smaller bears up a wood borough. “They crawl,” I repeat back to her. “And their mamas.” Mallori responds. I confirm, “They crawl with their mama.” “Uh huh. See,” says Mallori.

Mallori moves onto the BCACCS plastic bear family and begins a story of the mama, papa, baby bear and their “house”. Mallori “roars”. I ask aloud, “Bears make a ‘roar’ noise?” Five year old Jax chimes in, “Yep! Bears roar and they hibernate.” I wonder where Jaxon has learned about hibernation? “They hibernate Jaxon? What does that mean ‘they hibernate’?” I question loudly enough to catch the ears of the surrounding preschoolers. Jaxon informs everyone, “It means when they have babies, they dig a hole, and then they

go underground . . and . . and then they find a safe place and then they can keep their babies warm.” “Ooooh! They find a den,” I exclaim. “Bears sleep in dens Jaxon says,” I inform the preschoolers.

Later in the problems to solve area, Mallori begins using the design box that has red colored rocks, pink rock salts and deep red petals. Mallori declares, “I am using rock blocks.” I am curious what Mallori is thinking about as she describes the rocks as ‘blocks’? I clarify, “You are creating something with the rocks.” Mallori begins rearranging the rock salts. “It doesn’t look right,” she says. “It doesn’t look right?” I ask. Mallori frantically keeps rearranging. “Now



“What engaging materials! The children have had an opportunity to explore various natural concepts that they are already familiar with. This learning story demonstrates our children’s innate connection to their environment and their understanding of their world around them.”

Wanda Stevens – Licensed ECE Manager; Ksi Xy'ans Day-care Head Start

"I was mesmerized at how much our children already know about their natural environment. When I had time to reflect, I thought about Monique Gray Smith's concept of "blood memory" (epigenetics). Our Indigenous children are already embedded with our traditional knowledge and it's the environment and experiences we expose them to that will continually support their historical teachings to shine through."

Liza Haldane - Program Coordinator and ECE Practicum Student; Ksi Xy'ans Daycare Head Start

it looks right!" Mallori boasts with pride as she throws her arms up. Mallori leans over and peers closer at her creation. "It's looks like a paw. A bear paw!"



THE NEXT WEEK

In the following days, the preschoolers discover that bears eat fish! We decide to add a bubbling water fountain and the BCACCS plastic fish to the play space. One morning 3 preschoolers are playing by the fountain with the plastic bears and fish. I ask, "Are the bears catching fish?" "Uh huh," The 3 children chime



in. "What do bears eat?" I ask. "Fish!" Four year old Avi exclaims. The other two preschoolers copy Avi, "Fish!"

Marissa moves her bear strategically at the top of the rock just above the pool of water and jumps her fish up the bears' mouth. I'm amazed! I wonder if this is something she has seen before? Avi joins her bear with his bear and imitates the movement of the fish jumping up to the bear.

I ask, "Why are the fish jumping?" I am curious what the children are thinking. Marissa answers matter of factly, "Cause, they are swimming!" "Hmmm. The fish are jumping and swimming up?" I ask. Avi says, "Uh huh. And

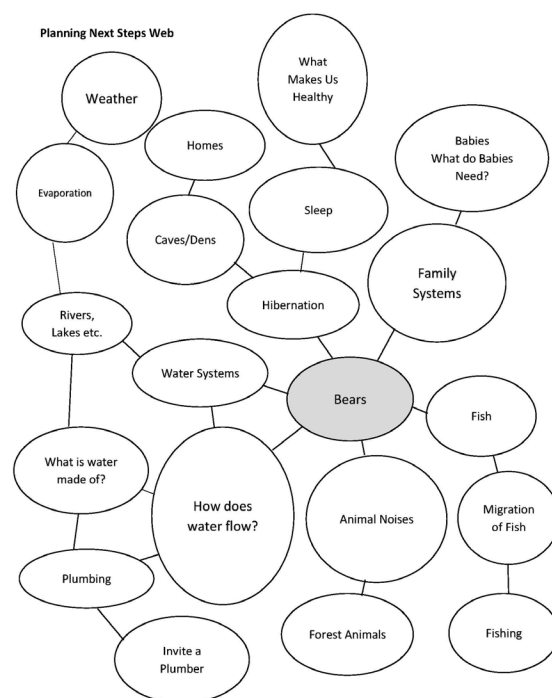
the bears are biting them with their mouth."

As they continue playing, I ask, "Where do you think the water comes from?" Avi exclaims, "The tap!" "Yes," I say, "Water does come from a tap." I probe a bit further, "Where does the water in the tap come from?" There is silence. "Hmmm? Do you guys want to find out where our water comes from?" The preschoolers nod their head enthusiastically.

"It's amazing how natural the knowledge comes to them! Mallori comes from a long line of fisherman and we are curious if this something she learned from spending her Ye'e or Dad? Or is this just common knowledge that comes to her from growing up in our environment?"

Chantelle Stephens

ECE Student; Ksi Xy'ans Daycare Head Start



BECOME A MEMBER

Membership at BCACCS provides a provincial forum to network and share ideas regarding Aboriginal child care and child development issues. Direct benefits and privileges of membership include:

- Free annual subscription to the Society's quarterly newsletter "Caring for Our Children"
- Resource Library borrowing privileges, with access to more than 1400 child-focused books, articles and videos, as well as BCACCS ECE curriculum boxes (including Moe the Mouse®)
- Discounted rate on BCACCS publications
- Discounted rate on registration for the BCACCS Annual Provincial Training Conference
- The ability to participate and vote on the business of the Society
- Membership with the Canadian Child Care Federation which includes receipt of their quarterly magazine, "Interaction"
- A voice in a professional Aboriginal organization dedicated to quality child care
- Opportunity to support, shape and influence Aboriginal child care policy, research and practice, both provincially and nationally

BCACCS is committed to supporting Aboriginal child care services that are responsive to the needs of communities and families and that ensure children develop fully as First Nations with a distinct culture, history and language.

To learn more visit our website <https://www.acc-society.bc.ca/about/become-a-member/> or contact library@acc-society.bc.ca 604-913-9128 ext. 229.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ECEBC Annual Conference

April 10 – 13, 2019

Hyatt Regency, Vancouver, BC

The conference streams include: a leadership stream, an infant toddler care stream, a stream on Indigenous early care and development, and a stream for instructors on dialogues on pedagogical documentation.

2019 East Kootenay Early Years Conference

April 26 – 27, 2019

St. Eugene Resort, 7777 Mission Road, Cranbrook, BC

Professional development for those who work with young children and families in child care settings, family resource programs, etc.

SPARK: The Early Years Conference

May 10 – 11, 2019

Ponderosa Commons, 6445 University Boulevard, Vancouver, BC

Bring together people interested and invested in the field of early childhood.

Let the Languages Live

June 24 - 26, 2019

Victoria, BC

An international conference for Indigenous People in celebration of the 2019 Year of Indigenous Languages to share knowledge and supporting each other in revitalizing our languages.

BC Aboriginal Child Care Society

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Cultural Advisor

Kirsten Bevelander,
Child Care Advisor/Program Manager

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Cultural Advisor

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Regional Community Capacity Developer

Cathy Balatti,
Regional Community Capacity Developer

Rachel West,
Regional Community Capacity Developer

Caring for Our Children is published by the BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (BCACCS). It is distributed to BCACCS members, on and off reserve child care centres, Head Start programs, Bands and Tribal Councils in BC and individuals interested in Indigenous early childhood education and care.

Readers are invited to reprint articles provided proper credit is given. We welcome the submission of articles, book reviews, artwork, photos, letters and poetry.

We acknowledge current funding support from The BC Ministry of Children and Family Development. BCACCS is a proud affiliate of the Canadian Child Care Federation (CCCF). BCACCS membership also means membership with the CCCF, including automatic subscription to the CCCF *Interaction* magazine.

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CHILD CARE
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À L'ENFANCE

Nos enfants : notre richesse