



BC Aboriginal
Child Care Society

www.acc-society.bc.ca

Caring for our Children newsletter

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BCACCS HOLIDAY HOURS

Our office will be closed for the
holiday starting Dec. 22, 2018
until we get back on Jan. 2, 2019

"Everyone can learn from families who have accessed Jordan's Principle as well as from practitioners within health and education who use Jordan's Principle to ensure that all First Nations children in Canada receive necessary services without disruption," Regional Chief Hart, Jordan's Principle Summit.

Our Time, Our Stories, Our Children

Highlights from the BCACCS 21st Provincial Training Conference, Nov. 1-3, 2018

Strong connections and lively collaborations are at the heart of providing rich, culturally relevant programs for children, and families, and in empowering early years professional development opportunities for educators. Our stories shape our view of the world, help us experience the richness of our culture and language, teach us about our history and through them deepen our relationships and shape the future of Indigenous early learning and child care.

We believe that community involvement, leadership, and support are central to the healthy, holistic development of Aboriginal children. We seek to promote the capacity of ECE professionals to design and deliver programs and services that are immersed in our cultures and communities.

Our keynote and guests (Carleen Thomas, Shane Point, Eugene Harry, David Isaac, Paul Windsor, and witnesses) encouraged us with their own stories, perspective, and thoughtfulness. They helped honour the amazing work that our delegates do.

This year we were excited to present a panel on Indigenous early learning child development and child care. We thank Cheryl Casimer, ?aq?smaknik pi?ak pa?kiy (First Nations Summit Task Group Member), Honourable Katrina Chen (Minister of State for Child Care), Catherine Adam (Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, Public Policy, Employment and Social Development Canada) for spending time with us to answer some questions and talk about what the next steps are.

cont'd on page 2...





Most of our delegates were professionals involved in Aboriginal Head Start On-Reserve programs, other Aboriginal ECD programs both on and off reserve, as well as related programs and organizations.

Many thanks to all the delegates, presenters, exhibitors, volunteers and organizers for making the 2018 Provincial Training Conference a great success! Over 280 delegates from throughout British Columbia, and as far away as the Yukon, attended the three-day conference.

Delegates, we thank you for your feedback on the workshops and conference. You help make the training opportunities at conference better! Here are some comments, from participants, about the things you enjoyed the most:

“Appreciated the quality of the workshops, the helpfulness and patience of the staff and the overall organization of the event - well done!” – 2018 BCACCS Conference Participant



“I was really glad to be able to connect with the presenters, delegates and other volunteers. Also, the ball room was so beautifully arranged.” – 2018 BCACCS Conference Participant

“Being able to connect with other Indigenous voices, hear others voice similar concerns regarding regional funding tables from perspective of remote communities and urban voices.” – 2018 BCACCS Conference Participant

“I liked that there were more cultural workshops and stories to bring back to the classrooms.” – 2018 BCACCS Conference Participant

“I enjoyed the lovely food, being inspired, sharing successes, and seeing familiar faces.” – 2018 BCACCS Conference Participant

“The opening was a great way to set the tone of the conference, very empowering.” – 2018 BCACCS Conference Participant

**THIS EVENT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE
WITHOUT THE GENEROSITY
OF OUR SPONSORS.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT.**



VIEW MORE CONFERENCE PHOTOS: [HTTPS://FLIC.KR/S/AHSKJVAMKX](https://flic.kr/s/AHSKJVAMKX)

Thank you to everyone who visited the BCACCS Resource Centre table at conference and shared their ideas about what stories they like to share with the children in their programs!



Have a Heart Day

First Nations Child & Family Caring Society's Have a Heart Day — **February 14, 2018** — is a child and youth-led reconciliation event that brings together caring Canadians to help ensure First Nations children have the services they need to grow up safely at home, get a good education, be healthy, and be proud of who they are. To find out what you can do visit <https://fncaringsociety.com/have-a-heart>.

Knitting for a Better Future

Sheila Grieve and Autumn Frederiksen would like to thank everyone who purchased a knit basket or gave a donation during the BC Aboriginal Child Care Society conference #OUR-STORIES2018. You helped raise \$150.00 to help restore the sight of a child who will receive: cataract surgery, lens implants, and follow-up care along with glasses, medication, and transportation.

The money was donated to SEVA Canada. They are an organization based out of Vancouver, BC whose mission is to restore sight and prevent blindness in developing countries.

You can find out more about Seva's full reach (including training, screenings, glasses, empowering women and girls, etc.) in the Gift of Sight catalogue: <https://www.seva.ca/gift-sight-catalogue>.



BCACCS staff and board included in HuffPost Article about Indigenous ECE

This article "Culturally Specific Child Care Helps Instill Pride In Indigenous Kids" was recently published in HuffPost sharing the importance of Indigenous early childhood education. Sue Sterling-Bur, Dawn Westlands, and Carey McRae were featured.

"We need to invest in our kids. If we want healthy communities we need healthy kids." – Dawn Westlands, BCACCS Eagle's Nest AHS Coordinator

"My children know who they are and where they come from," said Sterling-Bur. "They can introduce themselves in the language, they know their clan system, they participate in potlatches and they know they belong."

https://m.huffingtonpost.ca/2018/12/19/indigenous-child-care-ahs_a_23611761/

Resource Highlight



First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition with the support of SPARC BC produces an annual report card with the latest statistics on child and family poverty in British Columbia.

This is done in conjunction with the release of the national child poverty report card by Campaign 2000. View the 2018 report card here <https://still1in5.ca/>

Child Care Recognition Award Winners!

The BCACCS Aboriginal Child Care Recognition Awards honour Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) acting as exceptional role models. Award recipients are the champions of our communities. Traditional First Nations and/or Métis language, culture, and practice are maintained through their hard work in child care environments around the province. Their passion inspires others to help create a promising future for our children.

Each year, professionals in the field of Indigenous Early Learning, Child Development and Child Care (IELCDCC) are asked to nominate ECEs who are deserving of this special recognition.

This year the BCACCS board presented the awards with Wintergreen rep and award sponsor, Harry De Boer.

Congratulations to the 2018 recipients: Mona Tronson, Anna Zanella, and Lucie Theoret.

Mona Tronson, retired from Snc'c'mala?tn Early Childhood Education Centre, Armstrong, BC

Mona has such a big heart for children and always will. She worked at Snc'c'amalatn for years. She was always the hardest worker and most energetic for the children when delivering their

cultural programs. Mona was a real team player and listened to what anyone had to say – the children, parents, families or the staff. She was always learning and putting it into practice in appropriate ways. Mona is such a big part of the community even though she is retired she has remained in the hearts of the children and families. Her honesty, loving heart and kindness will not be forgotten.

Mona was the mini van driver for head start for many years as well as a cultural support worker for the early years center. Every year she would bead regalia for each kindergarten student, so they could use it and take it with them as a gift. Every child left with their names personally beaded onto a belt. She was always giving, sharing language, cultural teachings and whatever the centre needed her to do. She has been a core person at the Okanagan Indian Band daycare and one of the reasons it has been so influential and vital in culture and language.

Lucie Theoret, Kermode Friendship Society ECE, Terrace, BC

Lucie is a proud Mother to her son, a Grandmother, Métis woman and Childcare advocate. Despite facing many challenges, like racism, she has

been a rock for her community. She has been working for Kermode Friendship Society for 15 years, being a stable and loving presence for the children and the program. She learned some basic Nisga'a language to promote language and culture for the Indigenous children in her centre. Lucie is a graduate of the ECE program at Coast Mountain College, formally known as the Northwest Community College. She regularly attends training across the Northwest and down South in Vancouver to advance her ECE knowledge. Completely committed to the children, she has turned down the offer of advancing her position within the Head Start program to remain with the children on the floor. She tirelessly works for each family that enters the building by giving supports, connecting with other resources and upholding the holistic approach to childcare important in Métis culture. She is a dedicated Early Childhood Educator and has dedicated her whole heart to the children and families she works so hard to support.

Anna Zanella, Friendship House association of Prince Rupert Executive Director, Prince Rupert, BC

Anna started her career as an Early Childhood Educator in 2004 at the Friendship House Preschool. At the time she also held a second job, and as a working single mom, was still able to complete her studies in ECE and work her way up to supervisor of the preschool. Her continued belief that communities must be child friendly has led her to advocate for the rights of the child. Anna is now Executive Director of the Friendship House Association of Prince Rupert. Anna is interested in creating safe spaces for women, children and families and has been involved with the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women movement. She even helped obtain a vehicle called the Friendship EAW (Ending Violence Against Women) to help provide a bus service for travel between communities. Anna continues to advocate for and find ways to help keep children and families safe, so that they can grow, develop, and become healthy young adults.



PHOTO CREDIT: CHARMINE ANDERSON

Perry Shawana Award Winners – Mabel Louie and VIU



Perry Shawana, an attorney who specialized in Aboriginal issues in the law, was an Anishnawbe from the Serpent River First Nation in Northern Ontario. Perry passed suddenly in June, 2005. Throughout his career Perry was a vital contributor to initiatives related to Aboriginal self determination and self government. He was a strong supporter of programs and services for Aboriginal children and played a key role in the founding of the BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (BCACCS).

Each year, as a tribute to Perry, The BCACCS Board of Directors presents the Perry Shawana Award to an individual who, through volunteerism, advocacy, policy-making, or research, has contributed to and advanced the notion of the need for safe, nurturing, and high-quality early learning child development and child care and services for BC's Indigenous children.

While typically the award is presented to one individual, this year BCACCS presented two awards. One to an individual and one to a post-secondary institute that has contributed in many important ways to the healthy, holistic learning and care of young Aboriginal children and their families.

Mabel Louie comes from Stellaten First Nation. Her mother is the late Mary Ann Luggi, and her father is the late Peter Luggi. She has three children and eight adorable grandchildren. She holds two hereditary names and is from the Frog Clan. Mabel is one of the founding members of the BC Aboriginal Child Care Society.

Many of her accomplishments demonstrate her determination to be fair, supportive and fearless. Mabel has experience as Executive Director for Carrier Sekani Family Services, Housing Coordinator for the Saikuz First Nation, Elected Chief for the Saikuz First Nation, an Executive Committee Member for Carrier Sekani Family Services, and for the past 17 years has held the position of Executive Director of Health Services at Carrier Sekani Family Services.

Mabel has worked tirelessly to create partnerships, forge relationships, learn and train, and advocate for families. She believes that education can support families to flourish and be healthy. She is passionate about her work and the role she plays in her family. The strength, thoughtfulness, and sense of humour she imparts to all aspects of her life make her an invaluable friend, deeply respected colleague, and much-loved role model. Mabel is a leader and advocate for families; she is always thinking of ways to improve lives.

Vancouver Island University (VIU)—formerly Malaspina University College—has a long history of working closely with local Aboriginal communities and agencies to provide education and services that enhance the learning experiences and opportunities for Aboriginal students in First Nation Studies, Child and Youth Care, and Early Childhood Education and Care as well as Aboriginal students attending other courses and programs across the campuses. Over the last three decades, VIU has undertaken many diverse initiatives to strengthen the presence of local First Nations culture and tradition. VIU's efforts and approaches show a commitment to and respect of Aboriginal students, faculty, and community and a vision of high quality, inclusive educational experiences for all.

Although VIU experiences many of the same constraints as other institutions they have shown willingness to work toward creating institutional practice and policy that acknowledges their partners as equals and that actively seeks culturally appropriate, relevant, and sensitive ways to accomplish this.

The early childhood initiatives and programs offered by the institution have shown strong leadership in their local communities and beyond to build programs and develop curricula that reflect the First Nation and Aboriginal communities in the region and that respond to the particular issues and interests of the organizations with whom they work. VIU and BCACCS partnerships have shown that we can create new ways and 'good' ways of working together that benefit students and early childhood practitioners, ultimately supporting Aboriginal early childhood practice that benefits the children and families of our communities.



Questions from Community About Jordan's Principle

In the past year we have received many questions about Jordan's Principle and how it can help children you know and care for. We are sharing some of the questions to help Indigenous families in BC access this support.

Q: What is it?

Answer: Jordan's Principle is a child-first principle named in memory of Jordan River Anderson, a First Nations boy from Norway House Cree Nation in Manitoba. Born with complex medical needs, Jordan spent more than two years unnecessarily in hospital while the provincial and federal governments argued over who would pay for his at-home care. Jordan passed away in the hospital at the age of five, never having spent a day at home.

Jordan's Principle is intended to ensure that First Nations children do not experience, delay, denial, or disruption of services that are normally available to all other children. Jordan's Principle is about ensuring First Nations receive the services they need when they need them. The First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) is responsible for administering Jordan's Principle resources in British Columbia.

Q: Is applying for the Jordan's Principle funding difficult?

Answer: It is a simple application process.

Q: How long does it usually take to process a successful application?

Answer: According to feedback, claims seem to be processed within a 24 hour period. Generally, response was very quick and the claims team was very professional and supportive in the whole process.

Q: If your claim is denied is there anything you can do?

Answer: An appeal process has been developed. You are encouraged to appeal. Generally, claims that are denied have not been able to show the need. Try to use language focused objectively on the need of service and how it would support the child.

Q: Can a third party apply? Is the application different? What things should, for example, a preschool or daycare keep in mind?

Answer: Yes, a third party can apply on behalf of a child. They would need to use the Federal intake sheet provided on the website. They need to be prepared to get consent from the parent/guardian before applying.

Q: What is some of the important information you need when you apply? What do I need to do before I call?

Answer: Check out the frequently asked question information posted by FNHA <http://www.fnha.ca/what-we-do/maternal-child-and-family-health/jordans-principle/faqs#11>

Q: When does this intake end?

Answer: March 31, 2019 for parent/guardian applications. If your application is under Education then your Jordan's Principle goes to end of June, 2019.

Q: What areas does Jordan's Principle support?

Answer:

- Health-Medical equipment/ transportation costs/ prescriptions/
- Education-Tutoring/ support needs
- Emotional-counselling/ psychiatry/ spirituality
- Physical-Occupational therapy/ physical therapy/ massage therapy

Here are a couple examples of how Jordan's Principle has helped families.

An Indigenous girl (status/on-reserve) needed braces. Her mom heard about Jordan's Principle and decided to apply. She called Jordan's Principle and an agent informed her she could apply for support and gave her a list of the information she would need to be able to provide. The claim, under Oral Health, was approved and the child had her braces on within a month!

An Indigenous youth (status/on-reserve) needed new glasses, because she broke her glasses playing indoor soccer. Her mother called and asked Jordan's Principle if the application age meant until they turn 19 or turn 20? The answer was until the child turns the age of 20, after which they are no longer are eligible. So, the Mother started the process and the Jordan's Principle contact supported her through it by helping connect her with an optometrist and organize visits and payments. Jordan's Principle contacted the optometrist and they dealt with the details on payments and costs. This application fell under Health (Vision).

Jordan's Principle Information and Resources:

- Applies to all First Nations children on- and off-reserve.
- Applies to all public services, including services that are beyond the normative standard of care to ensure substantive equality.
- Provides payment for needed services by the government or department that first receives the request.

Anyone who is aware of a First Nation child who is not receiving the services and supports they need, is encouraged to contact a worker through:

Jordan's Principle Implementation:

1.866.913.0033

Jordans.Principle@fnha.ca

First Nations Health Authority has helpful information on these sites:

<http://www.fnha.ca/what-we-do/maternal-child-and-family-health/jordans-principle/faqs>

<http://www.fnha.ca/Documents/FNHA-Jordans-Principle-Brochure.pdf>



BCACCS Annual Report Available

Visit our website to find out more:
https://www.acc-society.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/BCACCS-AR_Alt_websm.pdf

**BC Aboriginal Child Care Society**



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

The BC Aboriginal Child Care Society staff and board wish you and your family peace, love, and joy this holiday season.

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Important Reminder Wage Enhancement

In September 2018, the Province announced its Early Care and Learning Recruitment and Retention Strategy, which included access to wage enhancements for Early Childhood Educators (ECEs), student bursaries, and professional development opportunities. Providers can apply for the wage enhancement at any time.

Who is eligible to receive the ECE-WE? To be eligible, the organization (e.g. the contractor under CCOF), the organization's facility, and the staff working at the facility/organization must meet all the specific eligibility criteria.

For more information on eligibility for the ECE-WE, please refer to the ECE-WE Funding Guidelines

Have questions? Check out the Wage Enhancement Overview: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/family-and-social-supports/child-care/we-faqs.pdf>

Please note: the deadline for retroactive wage enhancement support has passed

UPCOMING EVENTS

Frog Hollow Learning Centre Annual Conference

February 22– 23, 2019

Century Plaza Hotel & Spa, Vancouver, BC

Lella Gandini, the co-editor of *The Hundred Languages of Children* will speak about the Reggio Emilia approach and its experiences with the Inquiry-Based practice. Lella will be sharing videos and stories from the project “An Amusement Park for Birds” (from the students of La Villetta School in Reggio Emilia) to walk us through the process of in-depth projects and the role of observation and documentation in facilitating them.

Vancouver Aboriginal Child and Family Services Society Conference

February 27– 28, 2019

Vancouver, BC

The conference will showcase innovative, culturally-based ways to support our Indigenous children and families through restorative child welfare practice. It will provide a unique opportunity for service providers, Indigenous communities, government, and academia to come together to explore ways to improve outcomes for Indigenous children and families.

2019 Indigenous Disability and Wellness Gathering

March 27 – 29, 2019

Victoria Conference Centre - Victoria, BC

The BCANDS 2019 Indigenous Disability and Wellness Gathering seeks to bring together a diverse representation of disability and health related stakeholders over a three-day period to learn, inform, share, collaborate and create new and expanded partnerships to assist in addressing the barriers facing Indigenous individuals and families living with a disability. This includes community and organizational leadership, government representatives, individuals and families living with a disability, service providers and others, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous.

SPARK: The Early Years Conference

May 10 – 11, 2019

Ponderosa Commons, 6445 University Boulevard, Vancouver, BC

This conference brings together people interested and invested in the field of early childhood.

BC Aboriginal Child Care Society

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Executive Director

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Cultural Advisor

Kirsten Bevelander,
Child Care Advisor/Program Manager

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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.

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Nos enfants : notre richesse