



BC Aboriginal
Child Care Society

www.acc-society.bc.ca

Caring for our Children newsletter

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CONTENTS

FEATURE ARTICLES

Our Languages, Our Teachings,
Our Ways
Pages 1-2

Job postings at BCACCS
Page 2

Available Funding
Opportunities
Page 3

Upcoming Days of Interest
Page 3

Child Care Recognition Award
Winners
Page 4

Perry Shawana Award Winner
Page 5

Resource Highlight
Page 5

First Nations Pedagogist
Network
Page 6

Holiday wishes
Page 7

Workshop – Culturally Focused
Early Childhood Programs
Page 7

Upcoming Events
Page 8

BCACCS HOLIDAY HOURS

Our office will be closed for the
holiday starting Dec. 23, 2019
until we get back on Jan. 6,
2020.

"Meeting people from other communities, learning what types of programs they offered, understanding different ways of sharing information with our little ones and how they incorporate languages in their programs was a wonderful experience and such a valuable part of conference." Conference participant.

Our Languages, Our Teachings, Our Ways

Highlights from the BCACCS 22nd Provincial Training Conference, Oct. 25-27, 2019

As caregivers we work as partners to help families thrive. Our theme this year reminded us about the importance of recognizing how our cultures strengthen and support the important work we do. Workshops encouraged educators to explore ways Indigenous languages and teachings support culturally relevant, spiritually enriching Indigenous early learning and child care programs. When the strength of our cultures is woven into curriculum and responds to the needs of children, we help families and communities build strong foundations.

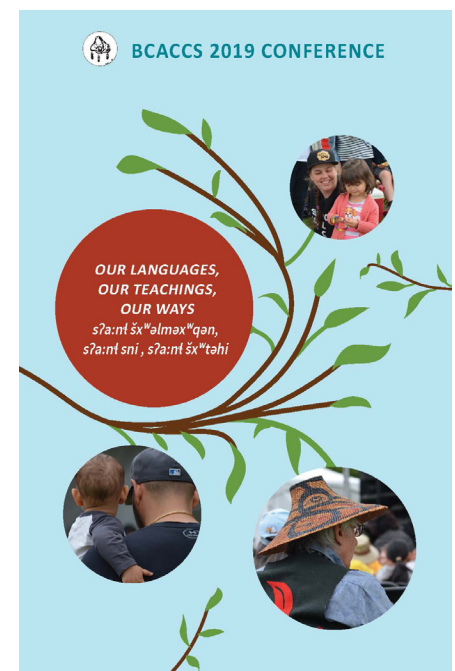
Our keynotes encouraged us with their own stories, perspective, and thoughtfulness. They helped honour the amazing work that our delegates do.

We were also privileged to welcome our special guests Victor Guerin, Knowledge Keeper Eugene Harry, and Elder Cheryl Gabriel who will encourage and support us with their knowledge and wisdom. As well, we applaud the wonderful job Emcees Yvette Bolduc and Al Lawrence did as they help us on this journey of sharing knowledge.

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 2019 Provincial Training Conference a great success! Over 355 delegates from throughout British Columbia, and as far away as Alberta, attended the three-day conference.

Our deep appreciation to the witnesses who shared their stories and their learning journey with us all. Their words were especially impactful.



Thanks to everyone who visited the Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care (IELCC) Framework implementation table at our annual conference.

Still hoping to find out more? Email framework@acc-society.bc.ca or call 604-913-9128.



**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/AHSMJFOXP1](https://flic.kr/s/AHSMJFOXP1)

Delegates, we thank you for your feedback on the workshops and conference. You help make the training opportunities at conference better!

We were delighted and amazed by the energetic and deeply moving cultural sharing of the dancers.



Job Postings at BCACCS

BCACCS has some amazing job opportunities for you! Apply soon so you don't miss out.

- * ***Moe the Mouse™* Project Coordinator**
West Vancouver, BC
Closing 11:59 pm on Sunday, January 5, 2020
- * **Provincial Aboriginal Child Care Advisor**
West Vancouver or various, BC
Open until position is filled
- * **IELCC Senior Planner/Policy Analyst**
West Vancouver, BC
Apply as soon as possible
- * **Regional Community Capacity Developer**
Term Contract Position – 21 hours per week
North Central, BC
Open until position is filled
- * **Regional Community Facilitator**
Interior BC Region
Open until position is filled
- * **Early Childhood Educator**
Monday-Thursday (16 hours per week)
Vancouver, BC
Apply as soon as possible

To learn more visit <https://www.acc-society.bc.ca/services/job-postings/>

Available Funding Opportunities

Childcare BC New Spaces Fund

Funding is available to support the creation, expansion and relocation of child care facilities proposing to create new licensed child care

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/caring-for-young-children/running-daycare-preschool/childcare-new-spaces-fund-spaces>

FPCC – Language Grants

Indigenous Languages Grant (ILG)

Applications are being accepted until January 31, 2020.

The objectives of ILG are to support community projects that preserve, revitalize and promote the revitalization of First Nations languages in B.C. Eligible strategies include participatory (language immersion) programming and resource development (archiving or documentation).

Language Gathering and Sharing Grants

Applications are being accepted until January 30, 2020.

The First Peoples' Cultural Council is offering grant funding to support B.C. First Nations communities and organizations to come together and share with each other about their current and future language revitalization goals and projects. The primary goal of this grant is the sharing of information and resources and forming positive relationships to support the work of language revitalization.

<http://www.fpcc.ca/Grants/Language/>

Early Childhood Educator Wage Enhancement

As part of Government's Early Care and Learning Recruitment and Retention Strategy, front-line Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) working in eligible licensed child care facilities receiving Child Care Operating Funding (CCOF) are eligible to receive a \$1 per hour wage enhancement.

Another \$1 per hour is scheduled for April 1, 2020, which will increase the total wage enhancement to \$2 per hour as part of Government's Childcare BC plan. Additional funding for statutory benefits will also be provided.

Child care providers need to apply in order to receive funding. Participation in the ECE Wage Enhancement is voluntary.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/caring-for-young-children/running-daycare-preschool/child-care-operating-funding/wage-enhancement>

Westcoast ECE Professional Development Bursary

In partnership with the Province of British Columbia - Ministry of Children & Family Development and The Government of Canada, Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre (WCCRC) has established a Professional Development Bursary Fund for early childhood educators and other child care providers in BC.

Applications for bursary funding are now open to individuals, communities of practice and CCRR agencies. Funding is available to early childhood educators and other child care providers for training by publicly-funded, non-profit organizations in B.C.

Visit <https://eceprodbursary.org> to apply.



Upcoming Days of Interest

Family Literacy Day

Family Literacy Day takes place every January 27th to raise awareness about the importance of reading and engaging in literacy activities as a family.

Family literacy focusses on parents, grandparents and other family members to improve the reading and writing skills of the whole family. For more information visit <https://abclifeliteracy.ca/family-literacy>

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://fncaringociety.com/have-a-heart>.

Family Day In B.C.

This year Family Day is February 17, 2020. This gives families an opportunity to schedule and spend more time with loved ones.

International Mother Language Day

International Mother Language Day has been observed every year on February 21st since 2000 to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism. Languages, with their complex implications for identity, communication, social integration, education and development, are of strategic importance for people and planet.

Three out of four of the 90 different living indigenous languages in Canada are said to be endangered.

[Http://www.unesco.org/new/en/international-mother-language-day/](http://www.unesco.org/new/en/international-mother-language-day/)

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 2019 recipients: Cheryl Sybil Tait, Angie Maitland, and Shauna Mae Alec.

Cheryl Sybil Tait is an Early Childhood Educator and member of the Laxgalts'ap [lax galt sap] community who has been working as a supported

child care consultant for Nisga'a Child and Family Services. She is passionate, compassionate and dedicated to all the children and families in the four communities she serves. Her commitment to learning has earned her a Bachelor of Art in Native Studies which has strengthened her confidence to teaching and promoting Nisga'a culture, language and traditions. Cheryl has worked diligently to create visual tools to assist in teaching the Nisga'a language to the children aged 0-6 of the Nisga'a Territory. Cheryl's commitment to the children and families of the Nisga'a Territory is evidence that she is fostering success..

Angie Maitland is an Early Childhood Education Coordinator for Haisla Nation Council. She received her Early Childhood Education certificate from Northern Lights College. Angie demonstrates strong leadership skills and works with many stakeholders and community partners to benefit the children and families of the Haisla Nation. She works hard to develop an atmosphere that embraces Haisla Culture. Angie has been an integral part of the planning

team that has received funding from the provincial government's New Spaces Fund to expand child care spaces in her community. Her colleagues say that Angie puts her heart into everything she does.

Shauna Mae Alec was born and raised in Burns Lake, BC, Shauna is a member of the Lake Babine Nation. She is an Early Childhood/ Special Needs Educator who works as an Early Years Program Director for her Nation. Not only has she organized the delivery of early learning care and services to two remote communities of her nation, she is a strong advocate for any child requiring extra support and has assisted families with navigating the process. Traditions and language are important to Shauna Mae. She models culture and language in her programs through singing and drumming, she ensures that there is a strong connection with Elders and Knowledge Keepers in the child care programs. Her dedication and best practice ensure children of her Nation continue to have access to quality care and services.



Perry Shawana Award Winner – Cheryl Casimer (?aq̓smaknik pičak pačkiy)

Perry Shawana, was 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 quality child care and early learning services for BC's Indigenous children.

This year we are pleased to announce **Cheryl Casimer** is the Perry Shawana Award winner. We are thrilled to have been able to present this award to someone who has been engaged in strengthening the future of our children, families, and communities for so long.

Cheryl Casimer is a Ktunaxa Nation citizen from the community of ?aq̓am, located near Cranbrook, BC. She is a longstanding advocate for First Nations issues and perspectives



and is committed to building better bridges of understanding between neighboring cultures.

Cheryl is a former Chief and Councillor of the ?aq̓am First Nation and was previously employed as the Director of Treaty, Lands & Resources for the Ktunaxa Treaty Council. She has worked tirelessly for the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

She has served on numerous boards and committees over the past 20 years and previously served as a board member and President of the Ktunaxa Kinbasket Child and Family Services Society. Cheryl has always advocated for the youngest of our community members. She knows how important they are to our future.

Resource Highlight

Supporting a New Culture of Educators using the revised BC Early Learning Framework (2019)

The concepts and language put forth by the ELF (2019) are not intended to scare or offend anyone. The purpose of new language is to inspire educators to consider “different ways of learning, different perspectives and engage with the complexities of practice” (p.12). By engaging in a complexity of practice we can create a new culture of professional educators and pedagogists that support the visions and principles of the ELF (2019).

<https://acc-society.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a74eaafbc72d669859e6453b&id=b38b92aa32&e=4e95798bb0>

Integrating Community-Based Values with a Rights-Integrative Approach to Early Learning Through Early Childhood Curricula

This chapter presents an application of the conceptual model of social justice that integrates community-based values with Di Santo and Kenneally's (Child Educ 90(6):395–406, 2014) “rights-integrative approach to early learning” (Caplan et al., J Child Stud 41:38–46, 2016). The conceptual model emerged from an analysis of the British Columbia Early Learning Framework.

<https://acc-society.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a74eaafbc72d669859e6453b&id=dd389db7cb&e=4e95798bb0>



First Nations Pedagogist Network (FNPN)

Innovation in the precursors of First Nations early care and learning was interrupted by colonization, but it has been a matter of concern in programs developed for and with First Nations communities since the 1990s. Since then it has been taken up in research and education at the BC Aboriginal Child Care Society, in the First Nations Partnerships Programs, and in many community-based initiatives.

By helping create the space and name(s) for the new role of First Nations 'pedagogists' within networks that support and inform them, First Nations 'pedagogists' will help realize and secure Indigenous rights on Indigenous terms within Indigenous early learning and child care.

This work flows from Indigenous communities' and First Nations leadership. Following the First Nations Early Learning and Child Care Framework, it upholds the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) with respect to Indigenous rights to distinct social and cultural institutions (Art. 5) and to the establishment and control of Indigenous education systems (Art. 14), and comprises a part of the fulfilment of state obligations to Indigenous rights more generally (Art. 39). It supports the Truth and Re-

conciliation Calls to Action, especially number 12 "We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to develop culturally appropriate early childhood education programs for Aboriginal families" and where the TRC Calls refer to UNDRIP as the "framework for reconciliation" (Art. 43) for all Canadian orders of government.

Members of the pilot FNPN cohort, FNPN leadership, FNPN Advisory Committee members, and key partners from the Early Childhood Pedagogies Network (ECPN) were welcomed at the initial FNPN gathering on December 13-14, 2019 on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded Indigenous territories of the *ᓄᓐᓄᓐᓄᓐ* (Musqueam), *ᓄᓐᓄᓐᓄᓐ* (Squamish), and *ᓄᓐᓄᓐᓄᓐ* (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

We gathered for cultural leadership in partnership and relationship, cultural engagement and innovation, language revitalization, cultural translation and documentation activities for self-determined and self-governed support, enhancement, sharing and extension of Indigenous early learning and child care.

This project builds on the existing BCACCS capabilities and leadership developed over 20 years. It is grounded

in pedagogical inquiry and development across cultures, and within specific and ongoing histories, careful deliberation, flexibility, reciprocity, respect and mutual support.

The 'pedagogist' is a new role in education in Canada; recently introduced in the 2018 revision of the British Columbia Early Learning Framework and currently being developed also in Ontario. FNPN members will work with First Nations communities to strengthen early learning and child care on Indigenous terms, throughout BC. They are part of the Early Childhood Pedagogies Network (ECPN), which is developing sister networks through Child Care Resource Referral programs as well as some public postsecondary institutions.

The work of this pilot group is critical in that it will carefully lay the groundwork for the network's expansion beyond. We are honored and grateful for the leadership, passion, and cultural strength that each member of this first cohort brings to this new endeavour.



PHOTO CREDIT: FNPN NETWORK





Happy Holidays!

We hope you enjoy the season, get to connect with family and friends, and find time to laugh and play.

Warm wishes from the BCACCS team!



Workshop – Culturally Focused Early Childhood Programs

Learn to develop and implement culturally focused curriculum and resources that draw upon local First Nations cultures.

Locally developed curriculum relies on input from parents, community members and knowledge keepers and is accepted and used more meaningfully by caregivers and child care centres.

Participants of this workshop will be introduced to some of the new cultural resources available through the BCACCS resource centre.

To find out more email kirsten@acc-society.bc.ca or call 604-913-9128.



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 (CCCCF). BCACCS membership also means membership with the CCCC, including automatic subscription to the CCCC *Interaction* magazine.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Listen Together, Learn Together, Act Together

January 30 - February 1, 2020

Hyatt Regency Vancouver, Vancouver, BC

Explore the complex factors impacting children's development and highlight many of the considerations and practices in our work with young children and their families.

Heart of the Matter

January 31, 2019 - February 1, 2020

Surrey, BC

The conference will be of interest to all persons who work with young children and families in early care and learning programs.

Healthy Mothers and Healthy Babies

February 21 - 22, 2020

The Hyatt Regency Vancouver, 655 Burrard Street, Vancouver, BC

This conference is an opportunity for health care professionals interested in the care of pregnant and postpartum women and their newborns to be updated on new research and innovative clinical best practices across the continuum, from preconception to postpartum and newborn care.

Engage, Reflect and Extend: Celebrating 28 Years of Learning Together

February 29, 2020

Justice Institute of BC, New Westminster, BC

This event was conceived as a way to bring together Early Childhood Educators, and all those involved in the care and education of young children in the hope of moving their practice forward, and we have planned for it to be an inspirational day in which you can learn from and grow on your personal journey to best practice.

BC Aboriginal Child Care Society

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We Value Children

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Fièvre d'être affiliée



CANADIAN
CHILD CARE
FEDERATION
FÉDÉRATION
CANADIENNE DES
SERVICES DE GARDE
À L'ENFANCE

Nos enfants : notre richesse