



BC Aboriginal  
Child Care Society

[www.acc-society.bc.ca](http://www.acc-society.bc.ca)

# Caring for our Children newsletter

September-November 2020 Vol. 23 No. 3

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*"Indigenous Nations and representative organizations, human rights groups, and faith communities urge the Minister of Justice to table legislation to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as soon as Parliament convenes this fall. This will be a timely, positive step toward upholding Canada's human rights obligations."* From Adoption of Federal Implementation Legislation Must Not Be Delayed News Release from BC AFN

## Working Together



Communities everywhere have been working together to support each other through the COVID-19 crisis. This week are so fortunate to be able to bring you another inspiring story. This time from Laxgalts'ap, BC.

Liza Haldane, Program Administrator, shared what she, her Manager, Wanda Stevens, and colleague, Lavita Tait at the Ksi Xy'ans Daycare Head Start have been doing to support children and families.



They began a “Teach My Preschooler” program mid-April. Each week, families receive a learning kit with various materials and resources to support each week’s topic of discovery! Each week is theme based. The first week was dedicated to Social and Emotional Wellness and included a COVID-19 resource kit. The weekly kits are filled with songs, hands on fun activities, a book, and an information page with a cheat sheet on how to support their child with each particular theme.

To keep children physically active and support the holistic development of possible vulnerable children, “Playground by Appointment” was created! The program was launched during the same week as the Physical Activity Learning Resource kit. The Ksi Xy’ans Daycare Head Start recognizes physical activity as being critical for optimal brain development, especially for young children. Playground by Appointment aims to support not only the physical, but the mental health and well-being for children and their caregivers during this uncertain time. Families from the same household with children ages zero to 5 years old can book a 30-minute time slot to use the preschool playground. Play times are limited to 30 minutes to ensure there is enough time for staff to wipe any necessary equipment and be ready for the next family.

Liza and her team have been very busy supporting families and finding creative ways to engage. We thank them for being such an inspiration.

Do you have an inspiring story like Liza’s? Please share what your community has been doing with us so our readers can also be encouraged by all the amazing work that is being done. Email [communications@acc-society.bc.ca](mailto:communications@acc-society.bc.ca).



Photos provided by Ksi Xy’ans Daycare Head Start

## BC Child Care Workforce Survey now open!

The BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (BCACCS) is sharing this survey invitation with you on behalf of Early Childhood Educators of BC (ECEBC).

You are invited to complete this year’s BC Child Care Workforce Survey – open to anyone who is part of the ECL sector in BC. We look forward to getting your feedback on how the BC government’s Early Care and Learning Recruitment and Retention (R&R) Strategy has impacted you including your working conditions in the COVID-19 era.

You can complete the survey by clicking on this survey link before November 23rd. The survey will take approximately 20 minutes.

[https://srdc.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_bJkxXrsPJmu-w08B](https://srdc.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bJkxXrsPJmu-w08B)

## In Loving Memory of Scott Nahanee

Sunrise April 12, 1955 - Sunset August 30, 2020

It is with deep sadness that we share the news that Scott Nahanee has passed into the spirit world.

Scott was more than a long-time colleague and part of the backbone of the Society, he was a vital member of the BCACCS family.

He was always so excited to meet the people he supported in person and welcome them.

Scott’s amazing ability to make guests feel comfortable and understand and support the needs of holding an important cultural training event was second to none. We will miss the warmth and love that always surrounded him.

Anyone who knew Scott could tell you he had a gift for making people feel welcome and at home, always quick with a smile or a joke.

We will always cherish how he found time every day to remind us about the good things in life; family, love, spiritual nourishment, and being grateful for our lives.

He took care of the staff and helped guide us in good ways. He was a gentle soul and will always remain in our hearts,

BCACCS Board and Staff

## BCACCS Conference Registration Open

The BCACCS conference theme this year is “*Our Journey Together: Resilience, Innovation, and Hope.*”

The event is scheduled to take place online between November 6-7, 2020.

Due to the current unprecedented situation of COVID-19 our 23rd conference will be held virtually.

Keynote speakers this year will be Jo-Ann Archibald (Friday) and Earl Lambert (Saturday). Both are sure to inspire and remind us of how special this journey that we take together is.

You can purchase a one day or two day ticket. The cost of the ticket will depend on how many days you choose to attend and whether you are a BCACCS member or not.

### COST

One Day member \$25.00  
Two Day member \$50.00

One day non-member \$60.00  
Two day non-member \$120.00

The success of our virtual conference will depend on all of us working together and creating a common space – and purpose – as we build a dynamic, interactive, and inclusive conference.

As always, should you have any suggestions for training please get in touch. Email [kirsten@acc-society.bc.ca](mailto:kirsten@acc-society.bc.ca).

Final registration deadline is 11:59 pm on October 21, 2020. This year’s registration closes early so we can send out delegate packages in advance with make’n’take materials and conference treats.

<https://www.acc-society.bc.ca/education-training/bcaccs-annual-provincial-training-conference/>

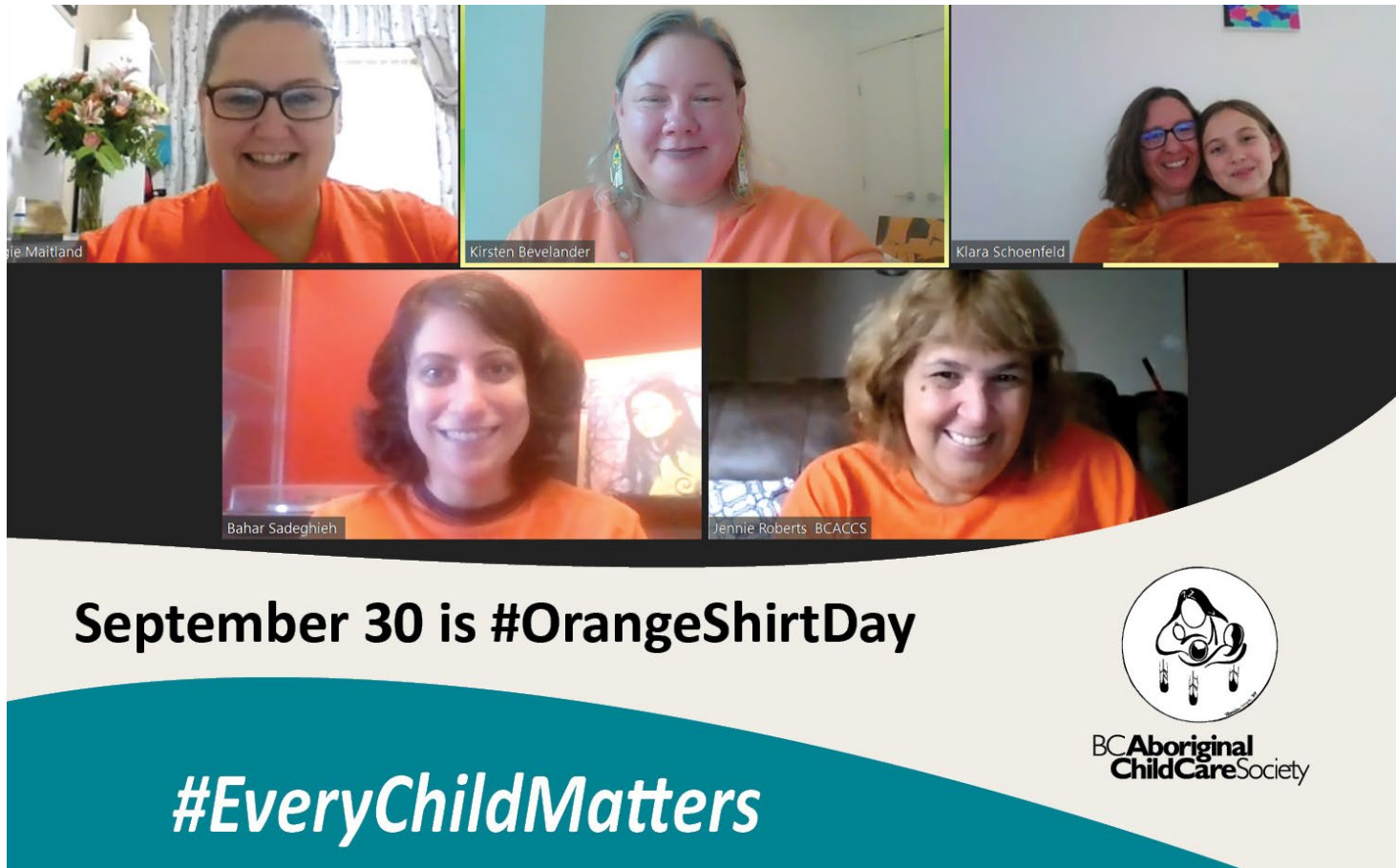
BCACCS Conference Vendor Invitation for the Virtual Vendor Alley

It’s that time again when artists and crafters, partner organizations, non-profits, and early years related companies show our conference delegates the information they have to share and how talented they are. Apply before October 18, 2020.

[https://www.acc-society.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Vendor\\_Exhibitor-Letter-and-Application-2020-BCACCS-Conference-web-1.doc](https://www.acc-society.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Vendor_Exhibitor-Letter-and-Application-2020-BCACCS-Conference-web-1.doc)







## BCACCS Shares COVID-19 Resources

Facing challenges such as coronavirus (COVID-19) is not new to Indigenous communities. We have responded to many different emergencies for many years. However, this will take all of us working together to keep us strong, safe and healthy.

The BCACCS COVID-19 webpage offers information for Indigenous early learning and child care (IELCC) programs and Indigenous families and communities about keeping safe, available funding, and other types of COVID-19 resources.

### BCACCS RESOURCES

BCACCS has developed templates and documents to support this programs and centres as they re-open or adapt to a new way of doing things during the pandemic.

To support Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care (IELCC) programs, BCACCS has created COVID-19 policy templates.

This document describes how to use the templates.

<https://www.acc-society.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Instructions-for-Template-FINAL.pdf>

Download Indigenous our newest resources now.

### Bus Cleaning and Disinfecting Chart Template

In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 the BCCDC and MoH recommend increased cleaning and disinfection. Here is a template you can use to track bus cleaning at your program.

[https://www.acc-society.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Bus-Cleaning-and-Disinfecting-Chart-Template-Aug-19\\_-final.docx](https://www.acc-society.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Bus-Cleaning-and-Disinfecting-Chart-Template-Aug-19_-final.docx)

### Bus Cleaning and Disinfection Schedule

In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 the BCCDC and MoH recommend increased cleaning and disinfection. Here is a resource to check bus cleaning.

<https://www.acc-society.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Bus-Cleaning-Schedule-Aug-18-1.2-final.pdf>

### Child Wellness Declaration

Use this template to help ensure the health and well-being of your child, family and community it is important to

communicate with child care staff about the health of your child by confirming their wellness each day at drop-off.

<https://www.acc-society.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Child-Wellness-Declaration-Dec1-final.docx>

### Staff Wellness Declaration

Use this template to help ensure the health and well-being of your staff.

<https://www.acc-society.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Staff-Wellness-Declaration-Dec1-final.docx>

### Child Wellness Declaration Quick Reference

This template has been created by BCACCS for programs who may need to provide quick reference tools to family for wellness declaration.

<https://www.acc-society.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/ChildWellnessDeclarationQuickReference-final.docx>

### Staff Wellness Declaration Quick Reference

This template has been created by BCACCS for programs who may need to provide quick reference tools to staff for wellness declaration.

<https://www.acc-society.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/StaffWellnessDeclarationQuickReference-final.docx>

BCACCS will be uploading new resources as they become available.

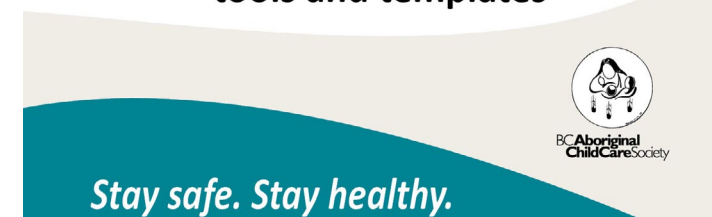
To get assistance from BCACCS Advisors please contact:

Jennie Roberts - Provincial Indigenous Child Care Advisor (Fraser/Vancouver Coastal)  
Email: [jennifer@acc-society.bc.ca](mailto:jennifer@acc-society.bc.ca)

Angie Maitland - Regional Child Care Advisor (Northern)  
Email: [angie@acc-society.bc.ca](mailto:angie@acc-society.bc.ca)

Kirsten Bevelander - ACCRR Manager (Vancouver Island/Interior)  
Email: [kirsten@acc-society.bc.ca](mailto:kirsten@acc-society.bc.ca)

## Download BCACCS COVID-19 Re-Opening tools and templates



## Funding Assistance for the Fall 2020 Semester

Indigenous early childhood education students are encouraged to apply now!

Please see the information below for more about eligibility criteria.

The BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (BCACCS) is sharing information about the Education Support Fund on behalf of the Early Childhood Educators of BC (ECEBC).

Please note that applications from students who self-identify as Indigenous will be prioritized.

The Early Childhood Educators of British Columbia and the B.C. Ministry of Children and Family Development are delighted to announce that the Education Support Fund are accepting applications once again for bursary funding.

Funding assistance for the Fall 2020 semester is made possible through the Canada-British Columbia Early Learning and Child Care Agreement, a partnership between the Province of B.C. and the Government of Canada.

Eligible applicants can continue to apply for one of two streams:

- Student Bursary: up to \$500 per course, to a maximum of 8 courses, for a total of \$4,000 per semester to assist with tuition and living expenses while studying
- Workforce Development Bursary: up to \$5,000 per semester to assist with tuition and other expenses such as loss of wages or travel. This funding will support ECEs, ECE Assistants, Responsible Adults (as defined in the Child Care Licensing Regulation) and StrongStart BC Facilitators who are currently working in the ECE field and would like to upgrade their credentials.

The amount of bursary funding available per semester will be limited in order to ensure that funding is available for the full academic year. As a result, not all students who apply will receive funding. Bursaries for the 2020/21 academic year will prioritize the following students:

- Students who self-identify as Indigenous.
- Students completing their final requirements for certification and/or upgrading their credentials to include their Infant Toddler and/or Special Needs Educator qualifications.

Bursary applications will be open from December 9, 2020 at 7:00am to December 24, 2020 at 4:00pm.

<https://www.ecebc.ca/ece-education-support-fund>



# BCACCS Fall/Winter Online Training Opportunities



As part of the BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (BCACCS) Indigenous early learning and child care training opportunities we are hosting online workshops throughout the summer to help support programs and provide training.

The BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (BCACCS) is an Aboriginal Resource & Referral & Support Services provider. BCACCS is proud to provide quality professional development to BC's Early Years Professionals with funding from the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development.

## Indigenous Early Learning And Child Care Community of Practice: Being Outside with the Children

Date: October 21, 2020  
Time: 4:00 - 5:30 PM  
Location: Online  
Cost: Free

In this community of practice we will share ideas about incorporating land based activities, outdoor play, setting up the environment and staying warm as the weather get colder.

Here is a link to the recordings of Advancing Early Childhood Education Outdoors Now: Virtual Round Tables to help you get inspired.

Sign up with this link  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUrcu2opjgJG9dE4LZT2vYtjVLPb\\_8ARNSJ](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUrcu2opjgJG9dE4LZT2vYtjVLPb_8ARNSJ)

## Indigenous Early Learning And Child Care Community of Practice: Supporting the Mental Health of Educators and Staff

Date: December 2, 2020  
Time: 4:00 - 5:30 PM  
Location: Online  
Cost: Free

The BCACCS Advisors are holding monthly community of practice meet-ings to support all Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care (IELCC) programs throughout the province. Together, we will consider various top-ics, respond to questions and share ideas, tips and concerns. Participants are invited to bring their questions and be ready to support each other with challenges related to the topic.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Sign up with this link  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0sceuqqzkjHNWbDkyMukb\\_8oxtlExyrmHr](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0sceuqqzkjHNWbDkyMukb_8oxtlExyrmHr)

## Indigenous Early Learning And Child Care Community Of Practice: Including and Supporting Elders During Pandemic Times

Date: January 27, 2020  
Time: 4:00 - 5:30 PM  
Location: Online  
Cost: Free

The BCACCS Advisors are holding monthly community of practice meetings to support Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care (IELCC) programs throughout the province. Together, we will consider various topic, respond to questions and share ideas, tips and concerns. Participants are invited to bring their questions and be ready to support each other with challenges related to the topic.

We invite you to come and share your thoughts and ideas on the important topic of Including and Supporting Elders During Pandemic Times. One of the many impacts of the pandemic is how it is limiting our ability to include Elders in our programs. Although many programs have found innovative ways to continue to connect and learn from them, it is not always possible. This change in access has been challenging and caused some Elders to feel hurt, or lonely, or in some cases, resulted in a loss of income. ECEs and program managers are struggling to find ways to keep Elders safe, respectfully limit access to the program or provide support to learn new technologies. We will be welcoming Elders to join our conversation and help to generate ideas about how to respond to this situation.

Sign up with this link  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAucuGvqzIpGNicjkfRb-GHGikfCgSI7wzPu](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAucuGvqzIpGNicjkfRb-GHGikfCgSI7wzPu)

**Bringing Tradition Home**  
Date: January 22, 2020  
Time: 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM  
Location: Online  
Cost: \$25.00

Bringing Tradition Home (BTH) is a parenting program designed upon traditional Indigenous values. This workshop is designed as a facilitator training and will work with participants to consider how best to deliver the BTH parenting program in their own community using the BTH manual. The training will review ways to provide support and guidance to parents as they gain skills for supporting the development of young children. Delivering BTH in your community will require the input and expertise of local knowledge keepers who can add their knowledge and cultural teachings to the course for the benefit of parents.

Sign up with this link  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0sceuqqzkjHNWbDkyMukb\\_8oxtlExyrmHr](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0sceuqqzkjHNWbDkyMukb_8oxtlExyrmHr)

It is recommended that you purchase the training manual if you don't already have one in your program. To order the manual visit the BCACCS purchasing page: <https://www.acc-society.bc.ca/resource-centre/purchasing-page/>.

**Making the Most of Moe® Workshop**  
Date: January 30, 2020  
Time: 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM  
Location: Online  
Cost: \$25.00

Making the Most of Moe® is a five-hour online workshop created, owned and facilitated by Anne Gardner and Margaret Chesterman, the Speech-Language Pathologists who developed Moe the Mouse® for BCACCS.

In this workshop educators are shown how to use the Moe the Mouse® Curriculum Box. The basics of speech and language development in young children, strategies for supporting children's speech and language development, and strategies for supporting children with speech and language delays in childcare, preschool, and home settings are reviewed.

Sign up with this link  
<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/making-the-most-of-moe-tickets-131120349495>

BCACCS is taking proactive measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace and community

The BCACCS West Vancouver Office will remain closed until further notice.

Employees will continue to work remotely.

Please bare with us. We are attempting to reply to all inquiries as fast as possible.

Both Aboriginal Head Start pre-schools (Singing Frog and Eagle's Nest) are open and in alignment with the Vancouver School Board and health authority policy.

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

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## 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

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

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We Value Children

Proud to be  
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CANADIAN  
CHILD CARE  
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FÉDÉRATION  
CANADIENNE DES  
SERVICES DE GARDE  
À L'ENFANCE

Nos enfants : notre richesse