



BC Aboriginal  
Child Care Society

# Caring for our Children newsletter

www.acc-society.bc.ca

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## CONTENTS

### FEATURE ARTICLES

Throne Speech Raises Multiple Issues Faced by Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Sector  
Page 1

Our Journey Together: Resilience, Innovation, and Hope  
Page 2

Continued Investment in Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Promised in Federal Fall Economic Plan  
Page 2

Introducing New BCACCS Staff  
Page 2

Resources that Celebrate Winter  
Page 3

Holiday wishes  
Page 3

BCACCS Launched a New Research Report to Celebrate National Child Day  
Page 4

Job Postings at BCACCS  
Page 4

Have a Heart Day  
Page 5

Donor Love  
Page 6

Save the Date March 12/13/14, 2021  
Page 7

Upcoming Events  
Page 8

### BCACCS HOLIDAY HOURS

Holiday closure begins at 4:00 pm on December 22, 2020.

The office re-opens at 9:00 am on January 4, 2021.

*“The extent of systemic racism identified by Dr. Turpel-Lafond is very disheartening. Every person in this province deserves to have access to the same level of quality healthcare regardless of race or colour. It is offensive to know that there are Indigenous people in BC that are afraid to seek medical treatment because of the racism they may face. Our healthcare system must be one based on equality and cultural inclusion. The recommendations Ms. Turpel-Lafond provides paint a clear path forward towards a more accountable, inclusive system that has no place for racist attitudes, actions and inactions.” Cheryl Casimer, First Nations Summit Political Executive*

## Throne Speech Raises Multiple Issues Faced by Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Sector

Here are some excerpts from the BCACCS News Release shared September 24, 2020.

This week’s Throne Speech reminded us that the last six months have shown us what glaring gaps exist in our society and hopefully now make it impossible to ignore the issues that have arisen. It has highlighted the importance of child care, women’s rights, wage enhancement for the social and service sectors, reconciliation, access to food and water, access to internet, and exposed existing systemic racism, the fragility of equality, the dangers of homelessness, and the list goes on.

“Early childhood educators and their support staff in Indigenous communities across BC, have inspired us with their courage, creativity and energy. They have found ways to connect with their children and continue to provide service and support families from afar. They figured out what they needed to do and got it done,” declared Karen Isaac, BCACCS Executive Director.

To read more visit [https://www.acc-society.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/NR\\_BCACCS-response-Throne-Speech-Sept-2020-Finalweb.pdf](https://www.acc-society.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/NR_BCACCS-response-Throne-Speech-Sept-2020-Finalweb.pdf)

## Our Journey Together: Resilience, Innovation, and Hope

BCACCS 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Provincial Training Conference: November 6-7, 2020

Due to the pandemic, the conference was held virtually. The success of our online conference depended on all of us working together and creating a common space – and purpose – to build a dynamic, interactive, and inclusive community. We were so thrilled by the ability of the presenters to create an engaging atmosphere despite the online venue and so thankful for the flexibility, curiosity, and energy of participants for remaining engaged and adapting.

We were honoured to be joined by keynote speakers Jo-Ann Archibald and Earl Lambert. They encouraged us and reminded us of the importance of working together.

We were also privileged to welcome special guests Te'ta-in (Shane Pointe) and Knowledge Keepers Eugene Harry and Wendy Harry who supported us with their knowledge and wisdom. We thank Al Lawrence, BCACCS board member, for providing us with a delightful Emcee.

Most of our delegates were professionals involved in Indigenous early learning and child care programs, and other ECE programs both on and off reserve, as well as related support programs and organizations.

Many thanks to all the delegates, presenters, exhibitors, volunteers and organizers for making the 2020 Provincial Training Conference a great success!

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

## Continued Investment in Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Promised in Federal Fall Economic Plan

For those working in the Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care (IELCC) Sector it has been an ever-evolving struggle dealing with COVID-19 emergency measures on top of staff shortages and retention issues, job insecurity, training limitations, low wages, and family and staff health and safety

“Indigenous-led initiatives are what will support our people to care for children in ways that reflect traditional child rearing practices that build confidence, strengthen a child’s physical, mental, emotional and spiritual well-being, and help them reach their goals,” Claims Mary Teegee, BCACCS Board President.

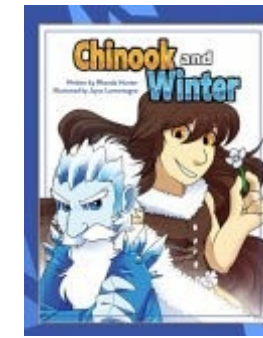
View full news release here [https://www.acc-society.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/BCACCS-NR\\_Indigenous-ELCC\\_Dec-1-2020-final.pdf](https://www.acc-society.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/BCACCS-NR_Indigenous-ELCC_Dec-1-2020-final.pdf)

## Resources that Celebrate Winter

With the holidays right around the corner and the weather getting colder, it is the perfect time to curl up with some winter-themed books! The BCACCS library carries several books that can be shared with your family during the holiday season.

Although the current restrictions prevent us from doing more commercial activities, there are still plenty of ways to stay connected with the land during lockdown if it can be done safely. Take your family to some of your favourite snowshoe trails or places to toboggan but be sure to check online to ensure they are open! If weather permits, go on a walk in the forest with your family and enjoy the snowy scenery.

While the current pandemic makes it a lot harder to be with all your family in person this Christmas, jump on Zoom, google hangouts or Facetime and enjoy some time together virtually.



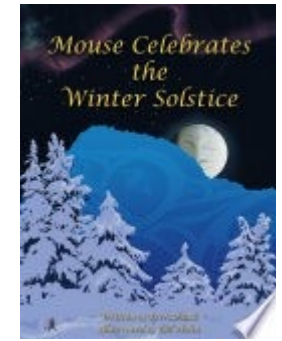
You can get together online and read a book. Here are some suggestions.

*Mouse Celebrates the Winter Solstice* by Terri Mack, illustrated by Bill Helin

A story of a very special Winter Solstice celebration.

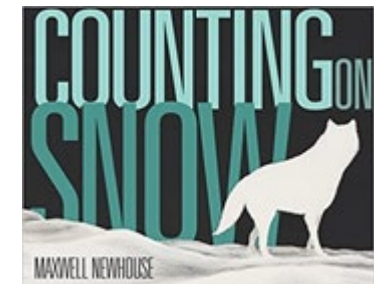
*Chinook and Winter* by Rhonda Hunter, illustrated by Jayce Lamontagne

A story about a tussle between the Chinook and old-man Winter. One year, this battle goes wrong and causes Kiaya to wonder if winter will ever end.



*Counting on Snow* by Maxwell Newhouse

A counting book that explores the isolation and beauty of northern winter.



## Introducing New BCACCS Staff

BCACCS has welcomes some amazing new staff.

Lenny LaRock is joining the Regional Community Capacity Developer (RCCD) team as the RCCD for the Interior/Lower Mainland/Fraser regions.

Joining the Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care (IELCC) Framework implementation team is Naga Chelle as Contract Administrator.

Stephen Van Os has joined BCACCS in finance as our new Book keeper.

20  
20

OUR JOURNEY TOGETHER:  
RESILIENCE, INNOVATION,  
AND HOPE

23<sup>rd</sup> BCACCS Annual Provincial Training Conference



A virtual conference to strengthen Indigenous early learning and child care



Wherever you are this holiday season,  
we send you warm wishes and hope for  
a healthy and joyful 2021!



BC Aboriginal  
Child Care Society

## BCACCS Launched a New Research Report to Celebrate National Child Day

The “Beyond Survival: A Review of the Literature on Positive Approaches to Understanding and Measuring Indigenous Child Well-Being” literature review is the first phase of an initiative of the BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (BCACCS) designed to develop positive approaches to understanding, fostering, measuring, and monitoring Indigenous child well-being.

### Summary

Kathleen Jamieson researched and wrote this report for BCACCS.

The focus is on reports about positive approaches to Indigenous child well-being from three countries with Indigenous populations (Canada, Australia, and New Zealand) that were under British colonial rule well into the 20th century. The rationale is that by exploring the literature on Indigenous child

well-being in three countries, we can provide some useful comparisons and insights for strengthening de-colonizing approaches to government policy and programs in Canada and provide some balance to current Canadian academic research on Indigenous child well-being focused on a bio-medical approach.

In striving to address inequities, the wealth of Indigenous and international knowledge on Indigenous child well-being has often been ignored and the evidence is that current Canadian government policies, which primarily address deficits, have not worked effectively in promoting the well-being of Indigenous children’s and their families.

Download the report here.

[https://www.acc-society.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Child-Well-Being-Report-Oct-9\\_Final.pdf](https://www.acc-society.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Child-Well-Being-Report-Oct-9_Final.pdf)

## Job Postings at BCACCS

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

### \* *Jordan’s Principle Service Coordinators*

BCACCS is currently seeking two qualified candidates for the position of Jordan’s Principle Service Coordinator. The Coordinator will work closely with and report to the Director of Operations to provide knowledgeable support to assist First Nations children and parents/guardians in navigating and accessing the full range of federal and provincial health, social and education services and supports to address their unique needs.

Metro Vancouver & Fraser/Salish Region, BC

Application deadline: February 12, 2021.

<https://www.acc-society.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Jordans-Principle-Coordinator-Jan-2021.pdf>

### \* *Early Childhood Educator*

(Maternity)  
BCACCS is seeking one (1) Early Childhood Educator to cover a Maternity Leave at Singing Frog Aboriginal Head Start Preschool, Vancouver, BC  
Apply as soon as possible

[https://www.acc-society.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/ECE\\_MatLeave\\_-Job-Posting-Oct13.2020-SF\\_final.pdf](https://www.acc-society.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/ECE_MatLeave_-Job-Posting-Oct13.2020-SF_final.pdf)

## Have a Heart Day

Have a Heart Day is a child and youth-led reconciliation event that brings together caring Canadians to help ensure First Nations children have the opportunity to grow up safely at home, get a good education, be healthy, and be proud of who they are.

We know that, because of COVID-19, we need to change how we celebrate Have a Heart Day this year. The national gathering on Parliament Hill has been canceled in keeping with local health restrictions and many people across Canada are following public health protocols that significantly limit gatherings. Instead, we are encouraging teachers, students, families and your household to celebrate the day in their classrooms, at home or online!

Even if we can’t gather as we usually do, we can still celebrate the spirit of Have a Heart Day and stand up for love and fairness. Here are some ideas:

- Send a Valentine’s Day card or letter supporting Have a Heart Day to the Prime Minister and your Member of Parliament. Create your own card or letter or get creative using the letter or colouring pages found below.
- Spread the word and post photos of your Have a Heart Day letter, cookies, snow bear or however you choose to celebrate on social media! Use the hashtag #HaveaHeartDay and/or #JourneeAyezUnCoeur.

- Get creative by completing our Snow Bears Activity (below) or making some Have a Heart Day cookies with your class, group, or family. Find Spirit Bear’s Bearcipe cards in the resources below!

- Host an online Valentine’s Day party to raise awareness in your school or community. Choose a day leading up to Valentine’s Day that makes sense for your class or community. Download and edit our Have A Heart Day poster to use for your event. Be sure to register your Have a Heart Day celebration!

- Bring reconciliation into the classroom to get your students ready. Do Project of Heart. For other great ideas, visit the Shannen’s Dream School Resources page.

Explore the Have a Heart Day website for more ideas and to download Have a Heart Day resources!

Click on this link to hear Senator Kim Pate make a statement on Have a Heart Day, commending the children and emphasizing the importance of their cause. You can read Senator Pate’s message for Have a Heart Day 2020 here.

Through activities like Have a Heart Day, we are creating a movement where the landscape of Canada is only one of honour and possibility for First Nations children.

<https://fncaringsociety.com/have-a-heart>

## Beyond Survival:

### A Review of the Literature on Positive Approaches to Understanding and Measuring Indigenous Child Well-Being



## Donor Thanks

The lives and future outcomes for children, their families and communities are shaped by access to enriching, culturally based, high quality Indigenous early learning and child care services.

Every year on February 14, BCACCS thanks the donors who have been generous and thought of our families and children. Donations like yours help BCACCS reach out to hundreds of families and child care programs in BC. Your dollars provide resources, training and networking initiatives that support culturally appropriate child care. You help nurture children, promote health and healing, and strengthen families.

This year has been an especially challenging one for many non-profits across the country. Your gifts are much appreciated.

Let's all make an effort to help where we can and share messages from your favourite non-profits.

Become part of our social media family.

Facebook @aboriginal.childcare

Twitter @BCACCS



## Save the Date March 12/13/14, 2021

Attend the BC Child Care Society (BCACCS) Spring training mini-conference ***Into the Wild: Supporting our Children on the Land.***

Due to the continued COVID-19 pandemic situation, our conference will be held on a virtual platform.

It will take place online (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday).

Cost will be \$25.00 per day.

Registration is scheduled to open on February 22, 2021.

Our spring training event will focus on Land-based experiences. Land-based programming assumes an environmental approach to learning that recognizes the deep connection and relationship of Indigenous peoples to the Land. It seeks to share the understanding of the Land

that is ground-ed within Indigenous knowledge and pedagogy through the cultivation and observation of the relationship between people and the Land. Work-shops will focus on the learning and the enhancement of well-being that occurs through connection with

storytelling, movement, natural materials and sensory experiences.

Visit the website for more information <https://www.acc-society.bc.ca/education-training/bcaccs-annual-provincial-training-conference/>



2021	INTO THE WILD: SUPPORTING OUR CHILDREN ON THE LAND		
START TIME	DAY ONE - MARCH 12	DAY TWO - MARCH 13	DAY THREE - MARCH 14
9:30 - 10:00 AM	Opening	Dancing: Will Visser Learning Pow Wow Dance Steps	Dancing: Chayenne Seary Learn the Steps the Jerusalem (Dance of Hope) Dance Challenge
10:00AM - 12:00 PM	Speaker 1: Gwen Point Storytelling	Speaker 3: TBA	Panel Presentation: Enid Elliot, Marlene Brussoni, Iris Berger ECE Outdoors: working towards a new licensing category
12:00 - 12:45 PM	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
12:45 - 1:00 PM	Door Prizes	Door Prizes	Door Prizes
1:00 - 3:00 PM	Speaker 2: Maggie Chow Inspiration and Invitations from a Living Classroom, Magic in the Wild Nature Journaling as a pedagogical tool and building relationships with our places	Speaker 4: Jenny Cross Everything depends on everything - Gina 'Waadlu'xan gual ad k'waag'id Our food is our medicine -- id l'isa ga laag'ay id Gen x'ila ya	Speaker 6: Kyla Bowes Aiken Supporting Neurodiverse Children in Land-based Learning Experiences
3:00 - 3:45 PM	Craft: Nicolas Making a Natural Door Wreath	Craft: Sheila Grieve and Autumn Fredrickson Creating a Nature Scene	Closing
3:45 - 4:00 PM	Door Prizes	Door Prizes	Door Prizes

*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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## 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

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

Nos enfants : notre richesse