



BC Aboriginal
Child Care Society

Caring for our Children newsletter

www.acc-society.bc.ca

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“Prayers and kind thoughts are not enough. These children died without family, respect or dignity. There needs to be a sincere commitment to the immediate implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous peoples by the federal government and funding made available to uphold the Truth and Reconciliation calls to action to provide justice and accountability for all children and families,” said Karen Isaac, BCACCS Executive Director.

COVID-19 Emergency Funding for Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care

To support emerging needs and priorities during this emergency period, the IELCC Terms and Conditions of the Government of Canada have temporarily extended eligible spending to encompass activities that provide assistance to Indigenous children and families impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (BCACCS), through the Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care (IELCC) Framework, invites First Nations and Urban Indigenous IELCC Programs to apply for funding to support children birth to six years of age and their families during the COVID-19 pandemic.

How much is available?

The total amount of Emergency COVID-19 Funding available is \$20,000. Nations and organizations who have previously received Emergency COVID-19 Funding (up to \$10,000 for period of June 1, 2020 – September 30, 2020) are invited to apply for additional Emergency COVID-19 Funding up to a combined maximum of \$20,000. New applicants can receive up to \$20,000 for the period of June 20, 2020 – December 31, 2021.

Who can apply?

- All First Nations communities in BC
- Urban IELCC programs and services (Aboriginal Friendship Centres, Head Start Programs, Aboriginal Infant Development, Aboriginal Supported Child Development, Aboriginal Child Care, etc.)

What is eligible?

This funding stream is flexible and could support a number of measures to respond to priorities for children and families during the pandemic. Nations can apply to recover costs incurred beginning June 20, 2020 and for projected costs until December 31, 2021.

Suggestions include, but are not limited to:

- Continuing or re-opening child care;
- Pandemic pay for regular/existing staff;
- Providing activity kits to families;
- Providing food security to families;
- Implementing technology supports;
- Purchasing health and safety supplies;
- Temporary support staff; and
- Professional development for early years staff.

Application Information

How do I apply?

In order to apply for funding, applicants need to be registered in the BCACCS online application portal. For registration information, please contact your Regional Community Facilitator.

a) If you have already registered in the BCACCS online application portal, you should receive an emailed invitation to apply with a link to the application for the Emergency COVID-19 Funding.

b) If you are not registered in the BCACCS online application portal, please contact your Regional Community Facilitator for more information.

Who is the facilitator in my region?

The Regional Community Facilitators' information is listed on the bottom of this page.

Important Dates

What is the deadline to apply?

Deadline to apply has been extended to July 31, 2021. All funds must be spent by December 31, 2021.

When do communities receive the funding?

There are several steps to the funding process:

1. Invitations are sent out.
2. Application forms are reviewed.

3. Once approved, a funding agreement will be sent for signature. If your Nation/organization already has a funding agreement in place, an updated schedule will be sent for signature instead.

We will do our best to get funding to you as quickly as possible once a funding agreement is in place.

Other Questions

Why is this funding available?

To support emerging needs and priorities during this emergency period, the Government of Canada made funding available for activities that provide assistance to Indigenous children and families impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

What if we have more than one program?

Please contact your Regional Community Facilitator to determine whether each program is eligible to submit an application.

If you have any questions, please reach out to your Regional Community Facilitator or download the info sheet https://www.acc-society.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/2021-COVID-19-Funding-Info-Sheet_Jul5.2021.pdf

REGIONAL COMMUNITY FACILITATORS:

NORTHERN: Mary Disney

mary@acc-society.bc.ca

INTERIOR: Lisa Fenton

lisa@acc-society.bc.ca

VANCOUVER ISLAND: Rachel West

rachelw@acc-society.bc.ca

VANCOUVER COASTAL & FRASER SALISH:

Jeanne Leeson

jeanne@acc-society.bc.ca

Visit the COVID-19 Emergency Funding webpage now!

<https://www.acc-society.bc.ca/emergency-covid-19-indigenous-early-learning-and-child-care-funding/>

Danielle Alphonse: BC Regional Innovation Chair in Early Childhood Development at Vancouver Island University

We recently had the honour to interview Danielle Alphonse. Danielle's First Nations name is ---. A name she is privileged to share with her late grandmother, Philomena Alphonse. She is --- on her Mother's side and Irish/Scottish on her father's side. Danielle is in her eighth year as the BC Regional Innovation Chair for

Aboriginal Early Childhood Development. She shares her thoughts on the importance of considering research in a holistic and long-term way. She also answers some questions we had about how she brings her authentic self to her work and what core learnings she has observed while conducting research and working in the Indigenous

early learning and child care field. Check out the full video at the link provided.

https://prezi.com/v/79yu7_5ce97f/bc-regional-innovation-chair-in-early-childhood-development-at-vancouver-island-university/

Mary Thomas Memorial Scholarship Closes July 31, 2021



Elder Mary Thomas was a highly respected Neskonalith Elder of the Secwepmec (Shuswap) Nation in the Southern Interior of British Columbia. We have named our early childhood education (ECE) scholarship in honour of her lifetime of commitment to the health and well-being of Indigenous children.

Each year we recognize two Indigenous ECE students for highest overall achievement including; academic standing (at an approved educational institution and ECE program within British Columbia), outstanding accomplishments, volunteer work, community involvement, references,

history of the applicant, as well as their ongoing commitment to child care.

Last year, due to the pandemic, applications for the 2020 year were postponed until now. The scholarship is available for 2020 graduates and 2021 graduates!

Apply now! Contact jennie@acc-society.bc.ca or call 604-799-5309 for more information.

<https://www.acc-society.bc.ca/services/scholarship-awards/how-to-apply-for-a-mary-thomas-memorial-ece-scholarship/>

BCACCS Conference Save the Date

The Fall online conference is scheduled to take place between September 30, 2021 and November 2, 2021.

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

We look forward to giving you more information in the weeks to come.

We are working hard to build an engaging and fun-filled event.

Registration is scheduled to open in August. Updates will be shared through our weekly e-news, social media, and our website.

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

BCACCS continues to take 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) will re-open for summer term in alignment with the Vancouver School Board and health authority policy.

BCACCS Summer Online Training Opportunities

The Aboriginal Child Care Resource and Referral team at BCACCS is hosting Indigenous early learning and child care online training opportunities throughout the summer to help support programs.

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.

Dialogue of Sharing and Storytelling with Elder Norman Leach and Pedagogist Leona Antoine

Date: July 22, 2021

Time: 6:00 - 8:00 PM (PST)

Cost: \$15

Professional Development Hours: 2

Sign up now by using this link:

<https://register.acc-society.bc.ca/code/register.php?event=23>

An Aboriginal Perspective to Supporting Children & Families with Special Needs including Autism

Date: August 6, 2021

Time: 2:00 - 4:00 PM (PST)

Cost: \$25

Professional Development Hours: 2

Sign up now by using this link:

<https://register.acc-society.bc.ca/code/register.php?event=21>

Community of Practice: Sharing Cultural Curriculum Ideas

Date: August 11, 2021

Time: 4:00 – 5:30 PM (PST)

Location: Online

Cost: Free

Professional Development Hours: 1.5

Sign up now by using this link:

<https://register.acc-society.bc.ca/code/register.php?event=22>

Making Willow Dreamcatchers with Knowledge Keeper and Wet'suwet'en Artist Charrine Lace

Date: August 19, 2021

Time: 6:00 – 7:30 PM (PST)

Location: Online

Cost: \$30.00 (includes materials)

Professional Development Hours: 1.5

Sign up now by using this link:

<https://register.acc-society.bc.ca/code/register.php?event=24>

Community of Practice: Reopening "Back to Normal?"

Date: September 8, 2021

Time: 4:00 – 5:30 PM (PST)

Location: Online

Cost: Free

Professional Development Hours: 1.5

Sign up now by using this link:

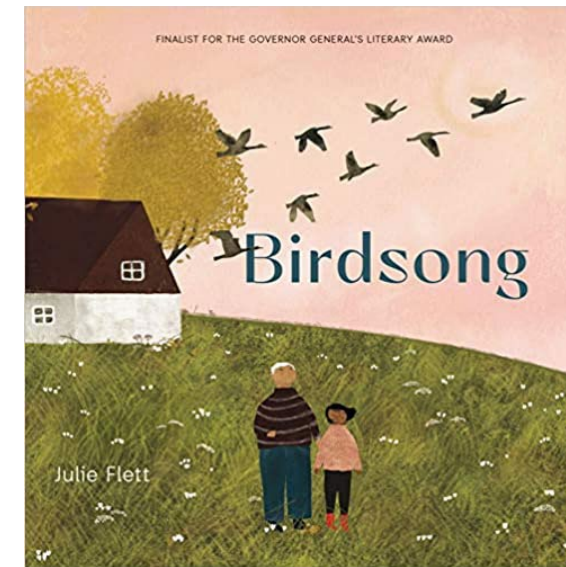
<https://register.acc-society.bc.ca/code/register.php?event=25>



BCACCS Resource Centre Highlight

Check out these new story books that the BCACCS Resource Centre has welcomed in 2021 and incorporate them into your programs!

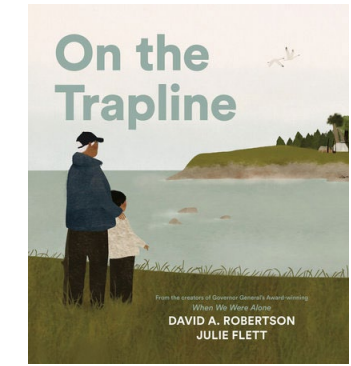
The BCACCS library is open and is able to ship resources for loan every Wednesday to members. If you have any questions about membership or borrowing books, please contact library@acc-society.bc.ca.



Birdsong by Julie Flett

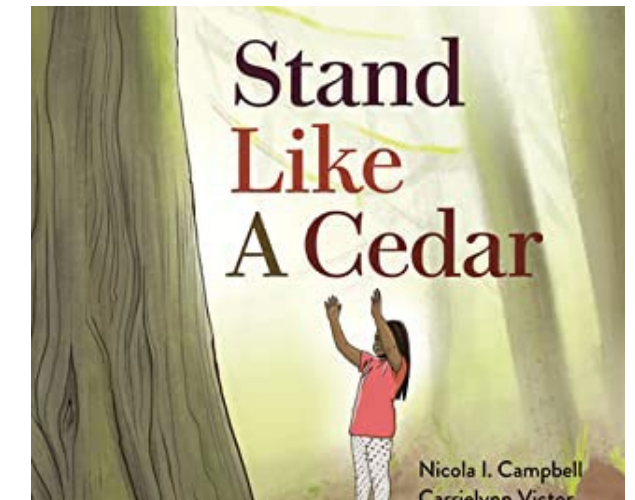
This beautifully illustrated storybook conveys the power of intergenerational friendships between two female protagonists. Julie Flett also highlights the value of spending time outdoors with people you love. A young girl named Katherena feels lonely and disconnected when she moves to a new town with her mother. Her feelings of loneliness subside when she befriends her neighbour, an elderly woman named Agnes, who has the same passion for art, crafts, birds, and nature. Agnes' health begins to fail as the seasons change, which means this Katherena has to navigate their evolving relationship in a new way. Julie Flett captures the complexity of growth and loss, with connection to seasonal changes and creating, in a delicate and warm way.

This book includes a glossary and pronunciation guide to Cree words.



On the Trapline by David A. Robertson; Illustrated by Julie Flett

David A. Robertson tells the story of an intergenerational connection between a grandson and his grandfather, Moshom. The young child hears stories and goes to places that are of great importance to his family, causing his imagination to ignite when thinking about what life would be like two generations ago. In this story, the grandson and grandfather go on a trip up North to a trapline in an area where Moshom grew up. As the young child asks questions about the trapline, he learns more about his family. As well, he begins to recognize the similarities and differences between life in the present and past.



Stand Like A Cedar by Nicola L. Campbell; Illustrated by Carrielyn Victor

This story unravels through a journey in the wilderness while giving readers the opportunity to learn the names of animals in Nl̓e7kepmxcín or Halq'emeylem languages. Nicola L. Campbell expresses the meaning of "standing like a cedar" and celebrates connection to the land and sustainability.

Celebrate National Indigenous Peoples Day in Reflection

National Indigenous History Month was established in June 2009, as a way to educate, connect and promote reconciliation in Canada.

In cooperation with Indigenous organizations, the Government of Canada chose June 21, the summer solstice, for National Aboriginal Day, now known as National Indigenous Peoples Day.

Both events invite us to not only to celebrate Indigenous culture, but also to reflect on the rich history of Indigenous peoples in BC. National Indigenous Peoples Day 2021 celebrations are among the many events that have been cancelled due to the pandemic.

This year BCACCS acknowledged National Indigenous History Month by inviting reflection on the history and rights of Indigenous Peoples in Canada. This provided the opportunity to consider our roles in the ongoing process of reconciliation and recognize our collective responsibility to identify and challenge the systemic oppression of Indigenous peoples and seek to change harmful mindsets rooted in colonial attitudes. Some resources:

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada
<https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1450124405592/1529106060525>
Truth and Reconciliation Commission Reports
<https://nctr.ca/records/reports/>
United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
<https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenous-peoples/declaration-on-the-rights-of-indigenous-peoples.html>
Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act
<https://www.bcdripa.org/>
Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Framework
<https://www.acc-society.bc.ca/resource/indigenous-early-learning-and-child-care-framework/>
The First Nations Principles of OCAP®
<https://fnigc.ca/ocap-training/>

Coming Together to Remember our Lost Children

June 21, 2021, National Indigenous Peoples Day, was acknowledged by the BCACCS team online this year. We are so thankful to Qi7men (Nicholas Louie) for guiding us through this beautiful beading project.



If you are a former residential school student in distress, or have been affected by the residential school system and need support please connect with one of the resources listed below.

24-hour Indian Residential Schools Crisis Line
1-866-925-4419

Indian Residential School Survivors Society toll free line
1-800-721-0066

Tsow-Tun-Le-Lum Society
1-888-403-3123

Aboriginal Wellness Program
604-675-2551 or 1-866-884-0888

First Nations and Inuit Hope for Wellness Help Line
1-855-242-3310

Tk'emlups te Secwépemc is accepting donations that will automatically be deposited into a separate account set up for the initiative of reconciliation. The email is: donations@kib.ca

The devastating news from Tk'emlups te Secwépemc First Nation, that ground-penetrating radar had confirmed 215 bodies of children buried at the former Kamloops Indian Residential school weighs heavily on the hearts, minds and spirits of the BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (BCACCS) staff and board.

We hold our hands up to Tk'emlups te Secwépemc for never giving up. We honour the stolen children and all the ancestors who have been lost to murder and violence. We walk with you along the path to healing.

BCACCS is sharing some of the supportive information and resources that have surfaced in the last couple weeks. They include statements from other organizations, resources for mental health and wellness, and information about how to support Tk'emlups te Secwépemc First Nation going forward.

Statements and News Releases

Tk'emlups te Secwépemc Nation News Release

It is with a heavy heart that Tk'emlups te Secwépemc Kukpi7 (Chief) Rosanne Casimir confirms an unthinkable loss that was spoken about but never documented by the Kamloops Indian Residential School. This past weekend, with the help of a ground penetrating radar specialist, the stark truth of the preliminary findings came to light – the confirmation of the remains of 215 children who were students of the Kamloops Indian Residential School.

<https://tkemlups.ca/wp-content/uploads/05-May-27-2021-TteS-MEDIA-RELEASE.pdf>

Standing in grief with Tk'emlups te Secwépemc Nation

"Prayers and kind thoughts are not enough. These children died without family, respect, or dignity. There needs to be a sincere commitment to the immediate implementation of the United Nations

Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous peoples by the federal government and funding made available to uphold the Truth and Reconciliation calls to action to provide justice and accountability for all children and families," said Karen Isaac, BCACCS Executive Director.

https://www.acc-society.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/NR_BCACCS-Stands-in-Grief-with-Tkemlups-te-Secwe%CC%81pemc-final.pdf

The impacts of the residential schools are still alive

This morning Mary Teegee, Chair of the Indigenous Child & Family Services Directors, spoke on CBC Radio's Early Edition about the legacy of residential schools within today's child welfare system.

<https://www.acc-society.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/2021-Jun-02-News-Release-Indigenous-Child-Family-Services-Directors-IMPACTS-OF-RESIDENTIAL-SCHOOL-ARE-STILL-ALIVE-Mary-Teegee.pdf>

'No road map' for grieving or healing after B.C. residential school finding; chief

The stories from elders about death and mistreatment at a former British Columbia residential school are finally being heard by Canadians, says Chief Rosanne Casimir of the Tk'emlups te Secwépemc First Nation.

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/no-road-map-for-grieving-or-healing-after-b-c-residential-school-finding-chief-1.5457382>

Indigenous Directors Forum Stand in Grief with Tk'emlups te Secwépemc

We stand in grief with the Tk'emlups te Secwépemc and with all the families of stolen children. The children buried at Kamloops Indian Residential School remind us that these horrifying events are still with us: these children still have parents and siblings alive today. Their grief and loss is as sharp today as it was the day they lost their children.

<https://www.acc-society.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/2021-May-28-News-Release-Directors-Forum-Stand-in-Grief-Tkemlups-te-Secwe%CC%81pemc.pdf>

Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs mourns with Tk'emlups te Secwépemc over finding of bodies

Kukpi7 Chief Judy Wilson, the Union's Secretary-Treasurer and Kukpi7 of the Neskonlith Band says the discovery brings a particular heaviness to the hearts of everyone. She says "I hold my hands up to Kukpi7 Rosanne Casimir to the people of Tk'emlups for undertaking this difficult but critical work to identify and honour each of the spirits who were lost to this institution.

<https://cfjctoday.com/2021/05/28/union-of-b-c-indian-chiefs-mourns-with-tkemlups-te-secwepemc-over-finding-of-bodies/>

UBCIC Mourns with the Tk'emlups te Secwépemc, Residential School Survivors and all First Nations

Kukpi7 Judy Wilson, UBCIC Secretary-Treasurer and Kukpi7 of the Neskonlith Indian Band stated: "As Secwépemc we are grieving our relatives, and all of the stmemelt, whose lives were lost to the Kamloops Indian Residential School. Though we knew that many children never returned home, and their families were left without answers, this confirmation brings a particular heaviness to our hearts and our spirits all throughout Secwépemc-ulecw. I hold my hands up to Kukpi7 Rosanne Casimir, and to the people of Tk'emlups, for undertaking this difficult but critical work to identify and honour each of the spirits who were lost to this institution of state sanctioned genocide, and the ongoing work to bring closure and healing to their families and communities. We stand beside you in prayer, and in honouring each and every one of them".

https://www.ubcic.bc.ca/ubcic_mourns_with_the_tk_eml_ps_te_secwepemc_residential_school_survivors_and_all_first_nations

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.

Contact us:

BC Aboriginal Child Care Society
102-100 Park Royal South
West Vancouver, BC V7T 1A2

T: 604.913.9128

F: 604.913.9129

reception@acc-society.bc.ca

www.acc-society.bc.ca



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 604-913-9128 ext. 229.

BC Aboriginal Child Care Society

Karen Isaac,
Executive Director

Eugene Harry (XiQuelem),
Cultural Advisor

Stephen VanOs
Book keeper

Kirsten Bevelander,
Child Care Advisor/Program
Manager

Jennie Roberts,
Provincial Aboriginal Child Care
Advisor

Angie Maitland
Regional Child Care Advisor (North)

Rowena Koh,
Library Consultant

Bahar Sadeghieh,
Library Assistant

Fionn Yaxley,
Communications Officer

Barbara Stroud,
IELCC Project Coordinator

Mary Disney,
IELCC Regional Facilitator (Northern)

Lisa Fenton,
IELCC Regional Facilitator
(Vancouver Island)

Jeanne Leeson,
IELCC Regional Facilitator
(Vancouver Coastal/Fraser)

Klara Schoenfeld,
Project Coordinator

Charmayne Nikal,
Regional Community Capacity
Developer

Rachel West,
Regional Community Capacity
Developer

Leona Antoine,
Coordinator Singing Frog AHS
Preschool

Dawn Westlands,
Coordinator Eagle's Nest AHS
Preschool

Writer/Editor: Fionn Yaxley

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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