



BC Aboriginal  
Child Care Society

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

# Caring for Our Children Newsletter

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*"We have to learn how to talk to, and about, each other, with greater respect than has been the case in the past," Chancellor Sinclair says. "We may not achieve reconciliation within my lifetime, or within the lifetime of my children, but we will be able to achieve it if we all commit to working towards it properly. Part of that commitment is that every year [on September 30<sup>th</sup>] we will stand up together and we will say never again. What we did in this country was wrong, and we will never allow that to happen again."*

-Honourable Justice Murray Sinclair

## How the Jordan's Principle Enhanced Service Coordination Hub Helps Children Thrive

BCACCS operates the only provincial Jordan's Principle Enhanced Service Coordination Hub (The Hub) program in BC. The Hub program supports peer professionals known as Service Coordinators in their roles throughout the province and provides support directly to Indigenous families through the Hub's own Service Coordinators.

For Service Coordinators the Hub provides mentorship, professional training, policy guidance, access to a best practices document archive, and access to a community of practice. The Hub team has supported the development of delivery process and policy at a regional level. Additionally, the Hub acts as a partnership facilitator for Service Coordinators, their managers, and Indigenous Service Canada (ISC).

For Indigenous families the Hub's Service Coordinators provide start-to-end support in accessing funding through Jordan's Principle. This involves kind and respectful detailed case management, developing relationships with community professionals to provide needed services, and working with ISC to ensure funding in a timely and appropriate manner.

Our Hub staff work in partnership with a broad diversity of professionals to support the health and well-being of Indigenous children throughout the province. Our goal is to increase access to Jordan's Principle funding throughout the province. We strive to be adaptable, responsive, inclusive, culturally responsive, and progressive in the application of Jordan's Principle funding.

Each year, the Hub team develops new training and resources based on the interests and needs of Service Coordinators. This year we offered online training opportunities and have started planning to offer in-person training opportunities in the new year as requested by Service Coordinators.

This year the Hub has been working with ARMS (Accountability and Resource Management Systems) and Service Coordinators to develop a client management database specifically designed to capture relevant data for the purposes of understanding Jordan's Principle delivery in BC. This is a pilot project allowing partnered communities to collect their own data around Jordan's Principle delivery for their purposes and share aggregated data with the Hub. The hope is that through this project partnered communities will be able to better understand service gaps, delivery challenges, and the wellness needs of their families, and it is our intention that the Hub will be able to provide those communities regional and provincial level data analysis.

The Hub would like to acknowledge the gift of Jordan's name by his family. This gift and its legal principle has positively impacted Indigenous children throughout Canada.

## BCACCS Resource Centre Highlight

October is Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) Awareness Month. According to the BC Children's Hospital Kelty Mental Health Resource Centre, ADHD is a common brain-based disorder in children and youth. It affects the way people act and interact with the world around them.

ADHD Awareness Month aims to highlight the experiences of those with ADHD, particularly with respect to diagnoses, lifestyle, and treatment. Although there has been progress around our knowledge about ADHD, there is still a lot of work to be done. Misconceptions and a lack of understanding can still cause issues.

Common characteristics of ADHD include challenges with focus, challenges with memory, poor executive functioning skills, and struggles with impulse control. As well, children with ADHD tend to have overlapping differences regarding anxiety/mental health and giftedness.

Strategies that can be implemented in classrooms to support children with ADHD include deepening the relationship with students identified as having ADHD, operating in smaller groups, reducing distractions, and providing an organized environment.

The more we know about ADHD, the more support we can offer those who are affected by it.

If you would like access to articles or resources about ADHD, please contact [library@acc-society.bc.ca](mailto:library@acc-society.bc.ca). The ACCRR team can also provide workshops on ADHD for early learning programs, if requested.



**DIRECTLY  
SUPPORTED  
38 CHILDREN**





## ***We Are One: Highlights from the BCACCS 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Provincial Training Conference, Sept. 29 – Oct. 1, 2022***

We thank you for joining us, whether it was in-person or online, at our first hybrid conference to imagine a new future together. We dreamed, laughed, danced, cried, and sang; joyful to be gathered as one.

Our keynote speakers: Dr. Evan Adams, Dr. Cheryl Ward, Minister Chen, and Ray Thunderchild, encouraged us with their own stories, perspectives, and thoughtfulness. They helped honour the amazing work that our delegates do. We were also privileged to welcome special guests Victor Guerin, Lawrence Roberts, Verl Ferguson, and Sam Casey who tended to cultural ceremony and supported our delegates with spiritual well-being. We raise our hands to the Witnesses who shared their journey with us all.

This year, workshops inspired educators to explore ways Indigenous languages support culturally based, spiritually enriching Indigenous early learning and child care programs and weave Indigenous knowledge into everyday practice.

We stood together to recognize Orange Shirt Day and the second National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and consider what is needed to create a better future for our children. As we acknowledged the impacts of a colonial past, we also considered what is needed to move forward, together, in a good way.

*“Reconciliation is about atonement. It’s about making amends. It’s about apology. It’s about recognizing responsibility. It’s about accounting for what has gone on. But ultimately, it’s about commitment to maintaining that mutually respectful relationship throughout, recognizing that, even when you establish it, there will be challenges to it.”*

-Honourable Justice Murray Sinclair







## Perry Shawana Award Winner

Perry Shawana was Anishnabe/Ojibway from the Serpent River First Nation in Northern Ontario. He was a lawyer and an educator who specialized in Indigenous issues in the law and was a passionate advocate of First Nations rights. Perry passed suddenly in June 2005. Throughout his career Perry was a vital contributor to initiatives related to Indigenous self-determination and self-government. He was a strong supporter of programs and services for Indigenous children and played a key role in founding 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, leadership, 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 Dr. Cheryl Ward, EdD, MSW, RSW as the winner of the Perry Shawana Award. Dr. Cheryl Ward is Kwakwaka'wakw from northern Vancouver Island and a member of the 'Namgis First Nation. She is the former Executive Director, Indigenous Health, Provincial Health Services Authority, and the developer of the San'yas Indigenous Cultural Safety Training Program. Dr. Ward has more than twenty-five years of experience working on initiatives focusing on Indigenous cultural safety (ICS) and anti-Indigenous racism. Dr. Ward has dedicated her career to addressing stereotyping and discrimination in BC's health care system and to improving quality of care by responding to racism towards Indigenous people on both individual and structural levels. Her inspiring leadership, and her commitment to social justice and equity, make her a champion for improving care for Indigenous children across BC.



## Child Care Recognition Award Winner

The BCACCS Child Care Recognition Award honours Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) acting as outstanding role models, who support First Nations, Inuit, and/or Métis language, culture, and traditions. This award recognizes exceptional educators working in the Indigenous early learning and child care field throughout BC. Their passion inspires others to help create a promising future for our children. Each year, professionals in the field of Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care (IELCC) are asked to nominate ECEs who are deserving of this special recognition. Congratulations to the 2022 recipient, Charmayne Nikal.

Charmayne Nikal is from Witset, BC located on Wit'suwit'en territory. She belongs to the Gitimt'en clan. Charmayne is a manager at the Wit'suwit'en Child and Family Centre and started her career in 1999 as an Early Childhood Educator. Over the past 23 years, she has ensured that language and culture have been imbedded into early childhood educational practice. Teamwork is the part of education that Charmayne values the most. She believes that teamwork helps to inspire other educators to become the best versions of themselves. Charmayne strives to find balance in her work and in her life and always looks on the bright side of things. She has been told that she provides compassion, knowledge, and professionalism in her field. Charmayne believes that shifting with the times in the field of ECE and the early learning community is important to move forward for the betterment of our families and children.





## Orange Shirt Day and National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Over the last years, September 30<sup>th</sup> has traditionally been recognized as Orange Shirt Day. In 2021, the Government of Canada legislated September 30<sup>th</sup> as a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. This federal statutory holiday was created to ensure that the history of residential schools is not forgotten.

Orange Shirt Day was created during the St. Joseph Mission Residential School Commemoration Project in Williams Lake, BC, in May 2013. Former student, Phyllis (Jack) Webstad, told her story of her first day at residential school when her new orange shirt was taken from her as a six-year-old girl. This prompted the realization that many survivors have similar stories. This orange shirt taken from one child is a symbol of the many losses experienced by thousands of students, families, and communities, over several generations. The date was chosen because

children are back in school and it is a timely opportunity for Indigenous partners (First Nation, Métis, and Inuit), local governments, schools, and community agencies to come together in the spirit of reconciliation, honour the memory of lost children and the survivors, and to convey hope for generations of children to come. The theme for 2022 Orange Shirt Day and National Day of Truth and Reconciliation is “Remembering the Children”.





# Celebrating National Child Day

On November 20, we celebrate National Child Day in Canada. This special day recognizes our country's commitment to upholding the rights of children and two historic events: the 1959 signing of the UN Declaration of the Rights of the Child and the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989. Globally, the day is known as World Children's Day. First celebrated in 1993, National Child Day provides an opportunity for educators, parents, and caregivers to teach children about their right to be treated with dignity and respect, and to have access to the tools they need to reach their full potential.

On this day we celebrate the role that children play in our communities and acknowledge that we all have a role to play in making things better for future generations. National Child Day promotes togetherness, awareness of children's rights, and the initiative to continually improve the welfare of all children in Canada and around the world. The theme for this year's National Child Day is **'The Right to Participate'**.

BCACCS is committed to ensuring that every Indigenous child in BC has access to spiritually enriching, culturally based, high quality early learning and child care services. BCACCS hosts two Aboriginal Head Start (AHS) Preschools for children ages 3-5 years old. Singing Frog and Eagles Nest Preschools are based on the AHS holistic approach to early childhood experiences which emphasize the needs of the child within the family, school, and community. We celebrate National Child Day this year by recognizing the unique rights of First Nations children – honouring the past, acknowledging the present, and sharing the creative spirit of the children.



*Courtesy of the children at Singing Frog AHS preschool*



*Courtesy of the children at Singing Frog AHS preschool*



*Courtesy of the children at Eagles Nest AHS preschool*



*Courtesy of the children at Eagles Nest AHS preschool*





## A Follow Up to How Wit'suwit'en Child and Family Centre Brought the Community Together

The totem pole is now complete, so we reached out to Charmayne Nikal to provide you with an update. *"James Madam, our Master carver, spent his time carving at the center of the pole. The children would join him from time to time."* James and the children would eat lunch together every day, sharing stories and getting to know each other.

Charmayne explained that they are waiting to raise the pole for when the new child care centre is complete. The pole raising and grand opening of the new child care centre will take place in the Spring. *"The date will be determined later, after we have time to be in conversation with the Chiefs and leaders of the Liksilyu clan."*



In the BCACCS Fall 2021 newsletter we highlighted the Wit'suwit'en Child and Family Centre and how they were able to bring their community together during the pandemic.

Wit'suwit'en Child and Family Centre were able to access land-based funding to do several culturally supportive events with land-based items. Together, with the input of

Elders and community members, they decided to engage families and their Indigenous early learning and child care program to work on the totem pole project.





## FNPN III: New Beginnings, Shared Dreams

The First Nations Pedagogies Network (FNPN or Network) welcomes the Fall in gratitude and celebration of the new connections made at the BCACCS Annual Conference, and is proud to share with our diverse Indigenous early childhood education community the dreams of new FNPN members.

All of the fourteen members of the FNPN work together and within each of their communities and networks of relations to document, enhance, expand, share, transform and celebrate the singular ways in which Indigenous cultures care for their children, families, traditions and communities. Each of their trajectories is a testament of the powerful ways in which Indigenous early childhood educators are deeply committed, and how they bring forward their heart into the important work they do.

The following paragraphs offer new FNPN members' dreams and experiences in their own voices, and provide glimpses into the different ways in which each engages their unique contexts, honouring the different cultural authorities that inform, and speak through, their work.

Some of their names may be familiar to you, so we hope you will feel inspired to connect with them to learn more about their work, as well as about that of [our continuing members](#). We invite you to also share about yourself and the important ways in which you are contributing to all of our work as well. May we grow stronger in the feeling that we are all in this important time together!

[Get to know the new FNPN members by reading the detailed article which includes their bios and hopes for the future.](#)

The work of weaving together continuing and new members of FNPN is rich with sharing, dreamwork, song and seeking/study—as the “way of the talk” extends alongside network Pathways, continuing and new, or the “way of the walk.” This work does not happen without important linkages and partnerships.

BCACCS' leadership and support of FNPN has been instrumental to its creation and ongoing growth, and is visionary in realizing Indigenous leadership in ECE. Following BCACCS' lead, FNPN works to document (or story), revitalize and extend practices and processes that create more just and new possibilities for First Nations children, families, and communities in British Columbia.

The FNPN is grateful as well for the partnership between BCACCS/FNPN and the [Early Childhood Pedagogy Network \(ECPN\)](#), which continues to be exemplary. With the passage of [Bill C-41](#), such partnerships of reciprocal accountability are hoped to become more common among First Nations and non-Indigenous organizations and initiatives. The leadership of ECPN continues to be a beacon in the uneven struggles of becoming worthy of reconciliation in partnership with First Nations, and we raise hands to them in looking forward to continue walking forward together in a good way.

Please visit [fnpn.ca](http://fnpn.ca) for more on our members, on their Pathways, and for the stories we are honoured to share, through them and with each other.



# How the Arkansas Rose (rosa arkansana) Supports Wellness



*Photos by Sne kal yëgh,  
Charrine Lace*

Wild roses grow on bushes about 3-4 feet tall. The flowers are light pink and have five petals each and the buds come out in the early spring between March and July, depending on where you live in the world. Just keep checking on your patch. Notice too, that each branch has three buds starting. The foremost bud ripens first and opens first too. The closer to the stock of the bush the later the buds grow and bloom. This is how the bush keeps pollinators attracted to it.

This process happens fast each day. So, you must watch them closely.

The buds come in the morning and bloom in the afternoon when the sun is highest in the sky. Let the first few buds go to flower as they are the first food for our life-giving pollinators. Once the third bud on the branch is ready you can pick them first thing in the morning. If you wait too long for the bloom, then you must wait until the next morning to try again.

To tell they are ready for picking, you can see more pink showing than green. Too green says they are not ready.

Once the buds and petals are spent you will see the hips (fruit) grow in their place. You need to let these ripen for the rest of the summer. Then after all the summer heat has ripened them, the fruit is ready to pick AFTER the first frost of fall. They are not good once they are mushy and have dark spots. It's like other fruit that has gone bad! As you can guess, being patient and observing every day will help you understand your patch and its many stages of growth.

So now that we understand the growth, we can learn about the many ways to use this amazing plant.



The buds are amazing as tea. The petals are eatable in many ways and can be turned into perfume or dried for potpourri. The hips are used in many, many recipes as they are sweet with a hint of rose taste.

When you dry any of these parts, please make sure to dry them for a long time before packaging them. They tend to hold a ton of moisture even if you think they are dried, they might not be! Rose hips have threadlike hairs inside and around the seeds that can be irritating to the throat and stomach if ingested. These can be scooped out and strained when you cut the fruit in half for jams and cooking recipes.

Every part of this plant contains a ton of vitamin C and antioxidants. Most of all, they are high in flavonoids. This plant is an amazing immune booster. Just make sure that you do your homework with recipes and drying methods before heading out. My grandmother called it female medicine. It is safe for children. Enjoy your foraging this Fall.

Tabih masih my friends!

*Article by Sne kal yëgh, Charrine Lace / Wet'suwet'en Native Arts*



# Event and Early Years Professional Development Links

- Our Children Our Way: A Forum for Indigenous Child & Family Well-Being  
*November 21 - 23, 2022*
- How to Talk to Parents about Their Child's Behaviour  
*December 5, 2022 | 6:30 - 8:30 PM*
- Children the Heart of the Matter Conference!  
*February 3 - 4, 2023*
- ECEBC 2023 Conference – “Power of Story”  
*May 11 - 13, 2023*

- [earlyyearsbc.ca/events](http://earlyyearsbc.ca/events)
- [bcfcc.ca/events](http://bcfcc.ca/events)
- [www.childcareoptions.ca/child-care-providerstraining-and-workshops](http://www.childcareoptions.ca/child-care-providerstraining-and-workshops)
- [www.ecebc.ca/professional-development](http://www.ecebc.ca/professional-development)
- <https://www.gv.ymca.ca/training>



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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Our provincial office is located on the unceded ancestral lands of the (X<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səliwətaʔ/səlilwiltulh (Tsleil-Waututh).

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