

# ECEBC Branch E-Newsletter



ECEBC | early childhood  
educators of BC

December 2012

Volume 3, Issue 4

## ECEBC...

Is the association for advancing early childhood education and educators in British Columbia.

Promotes professional development and high standards of education and practice in the field.

Participates in developing ECE training programs and liaises with other early childhood associations.

Advocates for all ECE practitioners, young children and families.

Is supported and directed by its members.

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## ECEBC's Code of Ethics in Action

As someone who has always felt very strongly about my values and prides herself on work ethics, having the opportunity to embark on the "Best Choices: The Ethical Journey" in late October, seemed like a natural fit.

Upon arriving in Richmond from Campbell River, I was greeted with professionalism at its peak, from the moment I stepped forward in this process. The birth mothers of our Early Childhood guiding principals (known as the Code of Ethics) Sandra Griffin and Frances Ricks, with fellow facilitator Bev Christian, expertly guided us on our personal ethics journeys while simultaneously supporting the cultivation of our inner

guides. 19 ECEs from across the province came together for four and a half life-altering days and found camaraderie and unity despite our diverse origins. After mere hours of knowing each other, came the first of many "ah ha" moments experienced over the week. Never before have I been so humbled by the genius and depth of the work we do as it relates benefiting children and families to the benefit of ourselves as professionals and human beings. This work is not a job, but instead a calling.

So now, a week after completing the guide training, I find myself saturated in the learning and clarity of experiencing my ethical journey and reflecting on how

my new understandings are shifting my reality. The ever evolving practices in my work are continually being influenced by new information and understanding of myself. I am thrilled to have the fortune of guiding other practitioners' journeys in the near future, as this opportunity is offered in Campbell River and surrounding areas.

*Submitted by Rhonda Teramura,  
Member-at-Large  
ECEBC Campbell River Branch*

## ECEBC Prince Rupert Branch

Prince Rupert hosted a successful child care conference, "Under the Umbrella", on October 12 and 13, 2012.

The conference committee included Katie Wahl, Kristal Le and Kim Williams from the ECEBC Prince Rupert Branch; Chantal Cornwall, a family child care provider; Judy Riddell from The Berry Patch Child Care Resource and Referral; Jessica Hrechka Fee of Northwest Community

College; and Anne Falvo from Community Enrichment Society.

The conference gave participants an opportunity to network and engage in a cross-section of workshops that will further enhance and foster relationships with the children they work with, as well as provide valuable learning.

The conference was well attended, and fully supported by ECEs, students, teachers,

licensed family child care providers, School District #52, and parents.

We would like to thank our sponsors: ECEBC, The Port Authority, Ridley Terminals, The Berry Patch Child Care Resource and Referral, Success by 6, Make Children First, Northwest Community College and Supported Child Development.

*Submitted by Katie Wahl, Co-Chair  
ECEBC Prince Rupert Branch*



Danielle Davis,  
presenting at  
Conference 2012  
Photo by Shawn Nygren

*“The focus of the  
book club is to  
allow ECEs to  
engage in  
professional  
readings and  
discussions linking  
our readings to  
practice.”*

## ECEBC Victoria Branch

We have had a busy few months here in Victoria. In response to our increased membership, the Victoria Branch decided to hold a strategic planning session, facilitated by Gyda Chud. Gyda helped the executive set priorities for our Branch over the coming years. During that planning session we came up with three projects to focus our efforts. We followed up strategic planning with our AGM where we voted in new executive members Erin Beattie (Co-Chair), Daunine

Burbank (Membership), and Stephan Butler (Student Representative). Meagan Brame, our past Communications chair, provided the professional development component to our evening by sharing a presentation on communities and children.

On October 10, we held our first general meeting of the year. After members enjoyed a healthy meal, we shared current projects, encouraged members to join our committees and finally we shared

pedagogical narrations.

On October 20, we partnered with OPEN to host the second annual OPEN the Door to Possibilities Conference, which was sold out, with delegates from across the province. In the afternoon, we had international speaker Ken Finch share the benefits of Outdoor Play.

We are now busy working and planning on our Winter Workshop in February 2013.

*Submitted by Danielle Davis, Co-Chair  
ECEBC Victoria Branch*

## ECEBC North Okanagan Branch

In September, we held a Welcome wine and cheese night where we wanted to give members a chance to meet and greet, and draw for a gift card from our local Teach and Learn shop which carries wonderful early childhood materials. All that attended had a great time, and appreciated the contact with one another.

In October, we had our first book club night, which has 11 members so far. The first

book was chosen by facilitator Lynne Reside, called “*Last Child in the Woods*”, by Richard Louvre. The focus of the book club is to allow ECEs to engage in professional readings and discussions linking our readings to practice. The book club is called ECD Investigative Reading group. Most of the group is going to see the author’s presentation in Kelowna on November 17, 2012.

In November, we are having a Membership meeting with a

mini workshop on pedagogical narrations. We will be giving away a membership to ECEBC at that time.

In December, we will be putting on a workshop called “*From Trauma to Resiliency*”, in collaboration with community partners.

*Submitted by Susan Miller,  
Member-at-Large  
ECEBC North Okanagan Branch*

MOVING TO A SYSTEM OF  
integrated early care & learning IN BC



COALITION OF  
child care  
advocates  
OF BC

## Community Plan for a System of Integrated Early Care and Learning

*Have you and your Branch endorsed the “Plan”?*

Go to [http://www.ecebc.ca/news/integrated\\_project.html](http://www.ecebc.ca/news/integrated_project.html)  
where you can find useful information to engage and  
share with your community.

## ECEBC Central Okanagan Branch

National Child Care Month is here and we will be having an ECEBC display table at the Richard Louv conference in Kelowna on November 17. We will be handing out provincial brochures, information about our local Branch and NCD ribbons to wear.

It's been a busy fall season as our Branch gets back into the swing of things. We had our AGM in September and voted in our new executive board. We have chosen to change our membership year from September to August, to April to March, to lessen some of the commitments needed for both local and provincial by having the same finan-

cial year end.

The local Okanagan College second year ECE students did advocacy assignments and one of the groups held a presentation at our last Branch meeting. The group presenting chose to do their assignment about ECEBC's provincial membership. They gave an interesting presentation with some ideas on how to potentially increase membership. It is definitely food for thought and they will hopefully pass this information on to the provincial office.

We are hoping to have Barb Duffy, past ECEBC Board member, give a presentation on the \$10/day plan

within the next few months.

We are also looking at some workshop ideas that we can present to our local ECE community to help our members receive training hours, resource materials and ideas for their programs.

We try to hold our monthly meetings in various centres so that our members and others within the ECE community have the opportunity to see other centres and network with others within our community. We will most likely have a New Year's potluck, as we did last year, for our winter social.

*Submitted by Cindy Menghini, Chair  
ECEBC Central Okanagan Branch*

## ECEBC Powell River Branch

Harnessing the energy of Branch members, the ECEBC Powell River Branch had its first meeting in mid-September by hosting a presentation of The Community Plan For a Public System of Integrated Early Care & Learning with Emily Mlieczko, executive director of ECEBC. 45 passionate community partners and child care practitioners, including MLA Nicholas Simmons and school board members were in attendance. The discussion that took place following the presentation was enlightening and united all in attendance.

At the Branch's October meeting, child care practitioners gathered for our first annual \$2 Buck Pizza



and Beverage strategic planning night. Branch members brought forward fantastic ideas for Branch meetings and how we can be active

in the community to bring focus to our profession.

### Upcoming Events:

- \*Monday, December 17: Care for the Caregiver Event
- \*Saturday, January 26: Indoor Beach Party (Our friends from Comox have been invited to attend.)

*Photos by  
Carla Hees*



## ECEBC West Kootenay Branch

The ECEBC West Kootenay Branch is in the beginning stages of becoming an active Branch once again. We had a very informal meeting in July to discuss with a few members how we can move forward with the Branch. It was

decided to call a meeting in November and begin this process.

Our next meeting has been scheduled for November 14, where we will be offering membership and information about our Branch and

what educators would be interested in for the future.

*Submitted by Lynn Proulx, Chair  
ECEBC West Kootenay Branch*



**ECEBC** | early childhood  
educators of BC

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The ECEBC Branch E-Newsletter, relaunched in September 2010, is published quarterly. We welcome and encourage submissions from Branches regarding news and updates about Branch activities and issues in your communities!

For more information, or for assistance in writing an article, please contact Executive Director, Emily Mliczko or Membership Administrator/Conference Coordinator, Yasmin Irani.

### E-Newsletter Issue:

February 2013

May 2013

September 2013

December 2013

### Articles Due:

January 14, 2013

April 12, 2013

August 16, 2013

November 7, 2013

# ECEBC Surrey and Williams Lake Branches

Earlier this Fall, the provincial office was informed that the ECEBC Surrey and Williams Lake Branches had disbanded. In response to this news, ECEBC President Denise Marshall along with ECEBC provincial board members and Executive Director Emily Mliczko spoke with representatives from both Branches and others that had indicated they'd been having trouble keeping their respective Branches active, over a conference call in October to gain a in-depth understanding of the local issues. Though we are saddened to hear that two Branches have ceased activities in their region, the ECEBC board was pleased to listen and gather information to support other Branches, and to be a support if the Surrey and Williams Lake Branches do decide to start up again.

During the conference call, it became clear that there is an "information gap" between Branch executive members as to who to go to for help and/or support, and what to do if their Branch must be disbanded after rea-

sonable efforts have been made to keep it active.

Certainly, the first things to do are to refer to your Branch manuals for information and ideas (Section 14), ensure that all Branch executive members have access to the manual and have read it thoroughly, brainstorming with Branch members regarding how to recruit Branch



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members and make meetings interesting and engaging, as well as contacting the ECEBC provincial office for support.

ECEBC's Board has also appointed two of its members to engage in membership outreach and Branch support. Members-at-Large Carla Hees and Lyndsay Spencer are available to Branches across the province to make connections and offer support where needed. If you are a Branch member in need of assistance, please contact Carla Hees at [hees.carla@shaw.ca](mailto:hees.carla@shaw.ca) or Lyndsay Spencer at [lyndsay\\_spencer@hotmail.com](mailto:lyndsay_spencer@hotmail.com).

A series of conference calls will be set up with all remaining ECEBC Branches to hear the success and struggles facing local executive members; the ECEBC Board is looking forward to using the information gathered to strengthen resources and support for existing Branches.