

The Early Childhood Educators of BC Leadership Initiative

Join us in creating an ECE Culture of Leadership



ECEBC | early childhood educators of BC

The Early Childhood Educators of BC (ECEBC) is happy to announce that our new and evolving Leadership Initiative is off and running.

Our work on the Leadership Initiative began in 2007 when we entered into a partnership with Vancity Community Foundation. With funds the Foundation received from BC's Ministry of Children and Family Development, we agreed to work with VanCity to develop a 'Professional Development' Program.

From the start, we wanted to make sure that the funds were used to make a unique and creative contribution to 'professional development'. And, we wanted to make sure that our work would leave a legacy for Early Childhood Educators for years to come.

So, after a year of listening, reflecting and learning from and with others – we agreed that it was time to focus on 'leadership'. We heard that, as important as the leadership we demonstrate in our practice with children and staff is, our field is ready to create the collective leadership we need to take a strong and confident message about our professional value and worth to the broader community.

For us, this is not simply about learning 'leadership skills'. It is not about training ourselves to look like leaders from other fields. Rather – it is about, together, constructing a culture of ECE leadership that

- Comes from the ground up
- Is grounded in our values
- Builds on our image as empowered practitioners
- Uses the strengths of our practice
- Enables us to raise public respect for and valuing of our work

In short – it is about learning to trust that the 'core' of our ECE practice gives us a unique and significant leadership capacity and developing ways that work for us to take our way of knowing and being to the broader community.

We are in for an exciting and challenging journey that will evolve over time. We invite you to join us.

This year, the Leadership Initiative is beginning with 2 related activities

1. **Communities of Innovation** – Working with teams from 10 diverse BC communities to develop and implement local leadership projects that strengthen professional identity; build a leadership culture and/or raise public awareness about the value of ECE work.
2. **Professional Leadership Institute** - A 5 day Institute in early 2009 with participants from the Communities of Innovation to work on creating our leadership culture; building our leadership capacity and planning for community based leadership projects.

Watch this website for more details.