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educators of BC

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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May is Child Care Month in BC Celebrate the Leadership of Early Childhood Educators

Vancouver – May is Child Care month in BC and The Early Childhood Educators of BC (ECEBC) is celebrating the impact that ECE Leaders are making throughout the province on a daily basis. As the membership-based provincial organization for these licensed professional educators, ECEBC plays an important role in supporting and developing healthy communities through development of Early Childhood Educators' leadership capacity. This week at the Radisson Hotel Vancouver Airport in Richmond, some moving examples of that leadership are being showcased through the 5th cohort of the ECEBC Leadership Initiative and at ECEBC's 43rd Annual Provincial Conference.

"When given the time and resources, it is absolutely amazing how participants in ECEBC's Leadership Initiative are able to make tangible and significant changes in how they are viewed in their communities and intense changes in their own personal development," says Emily Mliczko, Executive Director.

Since 2009, almost 100 emerging leaders in five cohorts have tackled issues such as children's rights, educating communities about the value of play based learning and advocating for accessible, affordable, high quality early childhood education. They are building broad community partnerships to bring about change. This new generation of early childhood leaders is directly affecting policy levers for improved early learning quality (OECD, 2012).

The ECEs who make up the ECEBC Leadership Initiative project teams work in a range of locations including licensed child care centres, school based StrongStart Centres, family daycares, afterschool programs and other settings, and have been selected from among many who apply, to participate in the Communities of Innovation Leadership Initiative.

Participants in the Leadership Initiative come from diverse backgrounds. Mostly female, and guided by a strong code of ethics, they are standing up for what they believe in. Please join us in celebrating the value these leaders offer to children, families and communities throughout our community.

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