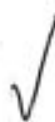


West Kootenay Binder

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left message



Each community needs to identify 2 or 3 Licensed Early Childhood Educators who will participate in your community project and attend the Leadership Scheduled Events.

Participant #1

Name Natalie Lucas Phone number _____

Address _____ City South Slocan Postal Code _____

E-mail address _____ ECE License Number _____

Participant #2

Name Sharon Nazaroff Phone number _____

Address _____ City Crescent Valley Postal Code _____

E-mail address _____ ECE License Number _____

Participant #3

Name Romana → Phone number _____

Address _____ City _____ Postal Code _____

E-mail address _____ ECE License Number _____

It's up to you to define the community in which you will undertake your project. It can be a large or small geographic community, a community of practice, an Aboriginal community, a cultural community or a self-defined community.

LICENSE #

Please name and describe the community you have defined for this project. **West Kootenay Early Childhood Educators Diversity Group is a community of educators from all over the West Kootenays. We are committed to supporting diversity in regards to cultures, families, and communities. We are teachers, instructors, ECEs who feel that we need to take the initiative to support projects that will benefit our communities' children and assist educators to do their jobs more effectively. Some of us, Doukhobors whose families experienced persecution and assimilation, value the importance of respectfully supporting a strong cultural identity and that includes children and ECEs.**

The Leadership Initiative is about supporting an ECE culture of leadership - so that ECEs have the confidence to take our ways of knowing and doing out the door of our practice to the larger community.

Please share your motivations for being involved in this leadership program. **Our interest is rooted to an activity that began in our daycare center. A discussion began with the children about the plight of the salmon. They used to travel from the ocean all the way up to the lakes in our area but the dam construction halted their journey. When the children realized that the salmon were unable to get to their birth place, some children voiced sadness and others said they were mad. They wanted to do something to help the salmon and asked me to write a letter to the dam builders. I wrote down their words but I could not send the letter to the dam builders. I asked if they would like to send their words to the newspapers. Their parents thought this was an awesome idea. They were impressed with their children's activism. Being part of the IQ project, I wanted to support the childrens' decision but I also wanted their community to value their youngest members as important part of their community.**

Each Community of Innovation Team will work on a project or initiative that affirms and strengthens ECE leadership in your community. Your idea doesn't have to be all figured out. The Leadership Initiative will help you develop your plan.

Please briefly describe your project. How will it build ECE leadership capacity? How will it help increase public understanding of ECEs work?

What community groups will you work with or reach out to? What outcome do you hope for?

What if we began a regular (biweekly?) newspaper story with the children sharing their perspectives on the communities' issues? Like the salmon story? The ECEs would have an opportunity to discuss important issues like democracy, pedagogical documentation and quality in childcare. This could expand to include other caregivers throughout the West Kootenays.

The ECEs could take further steps to connect with city and town councils, school boards, community tables, PAC meetings, non-profit organizations in the communities and explain the importance of hearing the children which in turn will help explain the work of ECEs. Outcomes? Not simply doing things for children because they think it will benefit them but actually learning to listen to children and letting them have a say in their quality of life. We would hope for a change in the view of children as "innocents" to that of important members of their community. The ECE's work would be more visible, they have an opportunity to raise public awareness of the value of ECE work, a positive impact on the children and more collaboration with the parents.

The leadership Initiative will provide financial support for 2 or 3 licensed ECEs to attend the Leadership Scheduled Events in 2009. We will cover all financial costs – including replacing you on the floor.

Leadership Scheduled Events for 2009

Event	Leadership Institute	University of Victoria Summer Institute	Fall 2009 meeting
Dates	January 28 to February 1, 2009	May 24 to 26, 2009	To be announced

 X Yes, the same 2 or 3 participants from our Community Team will attend these events on our behalf.

The Leadership Initiative will also provide funds to support your project in your community. The exact amounts will depend on the needs of each community and our financial ability, but we anticipate financial support in

the range of \$5,000.00 - \$10,000.00 per community. You will need to identify a registered, charitable society that is prepared to receive and administer these funds.

Please provide the following information about your sponsoring society

Organization Name
W.E.Graham Community Service Society

Charitable tax number

Mailing Address_

City **Slocan** Province **B.C.**
Postal Code _____

Contact Name _____ Position **Coordinator**

Contact Phone Number _____
Email _____

Contact Person Signature _____
Date **Nov.17, 2008**

Please indicate whether a contribution of up to \$10,000 is enough for you to get started and make progress on your project.
yes

Please think about the abilities that will help your team find and nurture your leadership gifts. Here are a few ideas to get you started but please add your own.

- Personal confidence & assertiveness building
- Framing the message
- Marketing/Communications
- Public speaking

Defining professional identity
invisibility of the work

Gendered perceptions of the field
context

The value of childhood (international perspectives)
research

The economic impact of child care
strategies & tools

Addressing

Policy, legislation

Community-based

Advocacy plans,

Other things you would like to learn about...

**If you have questions or want to talk about your proposal,
call Rita Chudnovsky, our Leadership Initiative Coordinator
at (604) 709-6063 ext.5 or
Toll Free 1-800-797-5602**



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ECEBC Leadership Initiative

Community Project Work Plan - February 1 - May 31, 2009

Sponsoring Society's Name W.E. Graham Community Service Society
 Community Name West Kootenay
 Name of Project "The Salmon Speaks"
 Key Contact (From Sponsoring Society)

Name _____
 Position Coordinators
 E-mail _____
 Phone _____
 Mailing address _____
 City SLOCAN, B.C. Postal Code _____

Name of Lead ECE's
 1. Natalie Lucas
 2. Sharon Nazarovff
 3. Romina Perman

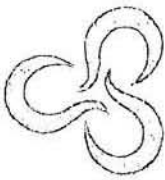
Project Description (1 paragraph that affirms or refines the 1 sentence project description from the ECEBC website and adds a bit more detail)

To support the leadership capacity of ECE's by sharing children's perspectives on community issues in the hope of changing the community's views of children as innocents to that of important members of community

A year from now, we expect that increased leadership capacity of participating ECEs in our community will be evident through...

- increased ability to create and circulate pedagogical narratives/leadership skills
- increased ability to engage others
- capturing successes in story form (including feedback from community about our work)





ECEBC Leadership Initiative

Community Project Work Plan - February 1 - May 31, 2009

West Kootenay's "The Salmon Speaks"

The 3 or 4 key activities we will focus on from February 1 to May 31/09

KEY ACTIVITIES	WHO	WHEN	PLANNED OUTCOME/RESULT	HOPED FOR LEADERSHIP CAPACITY DEVELOPED
1. Develop and submit Budget and Work Plan to ECEBC.	Natalie Sharon Romina Carol Hockley	Before Feb. 28/09	Cheque from VanCity Community Foundation and contract to sponsoring society by March 15.	confidence/pride in profession resourcefulness 'initiative'ness collaboration
2. Develop and print resources: brochure, graffiti boards, logo, place mats, business cards	Natalie Sharon Romina	by: May 15/09	Various resources created to use and placed. Contacted community (restaurants, bus stops, etc)	Accomplishment Successful collaboration pride in accomplishments.
3. Contact newspapers, publishers, Family Magazine for articles.	Natalie, Sharon Romina,	by: May 31/09	Increase the visibility of children's learning and ECE's role in their learning.	Community collaboration ECE's are active leaders in community as professionals and diplomats for children's voices.
4.				

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ECEBC Leadership Initiative

Community Project Work Plan #2 – June 1 – Dec. 31, 2009

Sponsoring Society's Name W.E. Graham Community Service Society

Community Name West Kootenay Name of Project "The Salmon Speaks"

Key Contact (From Sponsoring Society) _____ Position Coordinator

Name _____ Phone _____

E-mail _____ City Slocan, B.C. Postal Code _____

Mailing address _____

Name of Lead ECE's
1. Natalie Lucas 2. Sharon Nazaroff 3. Romina Perman

Project Updated Description (1 paragraph that updates the short project description you initially submitted)

Media resources have been created and are being used to publicize the pedagogical narration, "The Salmon Speaks", illustrating the professional work that Early Childhood Educators do.

Based on our work to day, we NOW expect that increased leadership capacity of participating ECEs in our community will be evident through...

Display of posters, graffiti boards, placemats, brochures and business cards - shared information, children speaking, parents speaking, ECE's speaking, Contacts created and community dialogue initiated



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Community Project Work Plan #2 – June 1 – Dec. 31, 2009

The 3 or 4 key activities we will focus on from June 1 to Dec. 31/09

KEY ACTIVITIES	WHO	WHEN	PLANNED OUTCOME/RESULT	HOPED FOR LEADERSHIP CAPACITY DEVELOPED
1. Participate on Early Childhood Councils Attend ECE Staff meetings	Sharon Natalie	June	created subcommittee for childcare focus - getting facts out	Speaking to childcare issues & organizing planning
2. Festivals a) Froggy Fest b) BC Rivers Day Fest c) Karmarket Music Fest d) Garlic Festival	Natalie Romina Patricia	June - August	involve more ECE's larger exposure	Public Speaking New leader given opportunity
3. ECE Conference workshop development - Present to ECE College Students	Natalie Sharon Romina	Oct 15-17	Increase ECE's skills, awareness and motivation in pedagogical narration	Mentorship Inspiration
4. Share Hard-copy Resources Children's Story Book	Natalie Sharon Romin	?	Book for Everyone to share. Children + ECE's	Confidence Creativity Validation

5. Produce small film interview on snow Cable
6. Publish in Nelson + Rossland papers

Natalie
Sharon
Romina
Romina

July
July

Opportunity to express
Increase exposure

Confidence
Public Writing

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Community Project Work Plan #3 - Jan. 1 - June 30, 2010

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Sponsoring Society's Name W.E. Graham Community Service Society

Community Name West Kootenay Name of Project The Salmon Speaks

Key Contact (From Sponsoring Society) Position Coordinator

Name _____ Phone _____

E-mail _____ City Slocan, B.C. Postal Code _____

Mailing address _____

Name of Lead ECE's

1. Natalie Lucas 2. Sharon Nazaroff 3. Romina Perman

Project Updated Description (1 paragraph that updates the short project description you initially submitted)

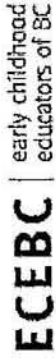
Children's voices have been recognized in the Slocan Valley. Their thoughts have been shared via "Salmon Speaks". Through public events more children and families have become involved. We will continue to share children's perspectives and build the leadership of ECE's.

Based on our work to day, the domain of change we will focus on during the final phase of our project is...

"The language." We are learning to communicate our message more effectively. We will try to be more media affective.

ECEBC Leadership Initiative

Community Project Work Plan #3 – Jan. 1 – June 30, 2010



The end date for our project is June 30, 2010

The 3 or 4 key activities we will focus on from Jan until that date are...

KEY ACTIVITIES	WHO	WHEN	PLANNED OUTCOME/RESULT	HOPED FOR LEADERSHIP CAPACITY DEVELOPED
1. Send a letter to B.C. Hydro (Bob Elton C.E.O.)	Natalie Sharon Romina	Feb 2010	connect with Dam Builders	Showcase ECE's as professionals
2. Attend ECE Staff meetings	Natalie Sharon Romina	Jan-April as scheduled	build capacity + confidence	many ECE's will be exposed to project Our learning shared
3. CCR workshop on emergent curriculum process of "Salmon speaks" shared	Natalie	Feb	Reach a wider audience about ECE work. - parents - other caregivers	build capacity see how far the profession can take you
4. Do work shops in other areas of B.C. (Seabird, Kelowna have shown interest)	Natalie Sharon Romina	Jan - June	Reach a wider audience	inspire other ECE about our profession

5. Look for funding for "Salmon speaks" for "Salmon speaks" for "Salmon speaks"



ECEBC Leadership Initiative

Community Project Work Plan #3 – Jan. 1 – Oct 31, 2010

Sponsoring Society's Name ___ W.E.Graham Community Service Society _____

Community Name ___ West Kootenay/Slocan Valley ___ Name of Project ___ Salmon Speaks _____

Key Contact (From Sponsoring Society)

Name ___ _____ Position ___ coordinator _____

E-mail ___ _____ Phone ___ _____

Mailing address ___ _____ City ___ Slocan _____ Postal Code _____

Name of Lead ECE's

1. ___ Natalie Lucas _____
2. ___ Sharon Nazaroff _____
3. ___ Romina Perman _____

Project Updated Description (1 paragraph that **updates** the short project description you initially submitted)

We will create a website to showcase "Salmon Speaks" project and share other projects/issues that the children are involved in. This "project" form of documentation will show the work of ECE to the global community and provide an opportunity for others to share theirs.. We will try to reach a larger audience that we were unable to interest through regular media.

Based on our work to day, the domain of change we will focus on during the final phase of our project is...

To raise the profile of and respect for early childhood educators in the global community.



ECEBC Leadership Initiative

Community Project Work Plan #3 – Jan. 1 – Oct 31, 2010

The end date for our project is _October 31, 2010 with a web launch on Dec. 2, 2010

The 3 or 4 key activities we will focus on from Jan until that date are...

KEY ACTIVITIES	WHO	WHEN	PLANNED OUTCOME/RESULT	HOPED FOR LEADERSHIP CAPACITY DEVELOPED
1. website: salmonspeaks.ca	Natalie	Summer/fall 2010	Our "Salmon Speaks" project will be available to share with a global community. People can look into it at their leisure, and become informed about the work ECEs do on an everyday basis and share their thoughts and projects. To connect with others to link and invite to launch: David Suzuki Foundation, BC Hydro representatives, newspaper reporters, school trustee, ECEBC representatives. To provide a way that the children can contribute to the website as was our original plan. When Raffi would not let us use the tune, we created our own.	Collaboration with other professionals (website designer) ECE community building Public speaking confidence on telephone and by writing. Persistence, collaboration creativity and problem solving.
2. website launch				
3. Children's Story and Song	Romina, Natalie, & children			
4. Kindergarten Conference	Sharon	July 5,6 2010	To be a strong voice for ECE and pedagogical narrations	Confidence in workshop discussions Confidence courage in public speaking and being a leader, inspiring and training others (mentoring). Using insight into human nature to present material effectively.
5. ECEBC West Kootenay conference	Natalie	October 21, 22, 2010	Provide inspiration to other ECEs and Kindergarten teachers and assist them to further their professional development.	

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Community Project Work Plan #3 – Jan. 1 – Oct 31, 2010

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6. Staff Meetings	Natalie	September 2010	To support other ECE's in their learning to implement pedagogical narrations by sharing Salmon Speaks project et al	Being a mentor ECE community building



Leadership Initiative
2009 Communities of Innovation
Project Reflection Form #1 (Feb 1 - May 31, 2009)

This Project Reflection Form is designed to let you do two things at once.

1. Complete your first Project Report
2. Prepare to share your Community Project Story at our Leadership Institute on May 22.

Please complete and bring copies of this Form with you for our morning session on May 22. Also bring materials for a 'show and tell' table display about your project and one extra copy of these materials to go along with this report. We will ask you to leave a completed Form and a package of materials with us. If you have any questions – please contact Rita Chudnovsky at leadership.ecebc@look.ca. Thanks....

Name of Community Project "The Salmon Speaks"
Name of community West Kootenay
Sponsoring Society W.E. Grahame Community Service Society

Names of Lead ECs
1. Natalie Lucas
2. Sharon Nazarovff
3. Romina Permen



As a team, please complete the following statements based on your community experiences over the last 5 months.

1. The key leadership challenge we faced was... *not having enough time. Living in a rural community you need to travel a great deal to connect with people.*

2. The toughest issue, situation or question we faced was....
*One of the questions was from parents asking, who is running this project? ~~New team that~~
We needed to clarify that children were not being manipulated*

3. The most helpful lessons from the first Leadership Institute were... *helping to frame the message - learning how to develop a work plan and then following through. We learned that we are not alone - feel confident in proceeding without hesitancy. Confidence is built because we are being financially supported. We learned that we are all leaders*

4. The key leadership success we experienced was ... *hearing feedback that we speak with passion, we were published in a newspaper and magazine - asked to do a workshop at ECE conference.*



For each of the 3 or 4 key activities outlined in your Feb. 1 – May 31 Work Plan, please complete the following chart.

KEY ACTIVITY	PROGRESS OR RESULTS	LEADERSHIP CAPACITY DEVELOPED
1. Develop and submit Budget and work plan to ECEBC	Cheque received from VanCity	confidence that what we are doing has <u>value</u> .
2. Develop and Print resources: brochure, graffiti boards, logo, placemats, business cards	Resources have been developed	accomplishment Successful collaboration pride
3. Contact Newspapers publishers, Family Magazine	Increase the visibility of Children's learning and ECE's role in their learning	confidence that our message is being understood ECE's are active leaders in community as professionals and diplomats for children's voices

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Sponsoring Society's Name _W.E. Graham Community Service Society_____

Community Name _West Kootenay_____ Name of Project _"The Salmon Speaks"_____

We have submitted a written request and plan to carry over unspent funds until Oct. 31, 2010 Yes _

Key Contact (From Sponsoring Society)

Name _____ Position _____
Coordinator _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

Mailing address _____ City _____ Postal Code _____

Names of participating ECE's

- 1. _____ Natalie Lucas _____
- 2. _____ Sharon Nazaroff _____
- 3. _____ Romina Perman _____

Initial Project Description (the paragraph that you used to describe your project)

To support the leadership capacity of ECE's by sharing children's perspectives on community issues in the hope of changing the community's views of children as innocents to that of important members of community.

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FINAL PROJECT REPORT

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Key project activities and events

*Provide a summary of key project activities and events in each of the following 3 time periods.
Include comments about any significant differences between project plans and what actually happened.*

February – May 31, 2009

Our key activity was to develop and print resources to showcase “The Salmon Speaks” project: a logo to identify all aspects of the project (the salmon speaks for the children’s voice as the children speak for the plight of the salmon); business cards for the children themselves to carry and share with those they spoke to; brochures, graffiti boards, placemats to provide information and gather feedback to and from their community.

The second important part we planned was to contact media and have “The Salmon Speaks” story published. The story was published in a local newspaper, The Valley Voice and The West Kootenay Family Magazine. The larger newspapers were not interested.

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June 1- Dec. 31 2009

In the second phase of our project we planned to reach out directly to the community and ECE'S in the West Kootenays. We planned to set up displays at festivals, participate on the Slokan Valley Early Childhood Advisory Council, present to Child Care Director's, develop a workshop for the West Kootenay ECE Conference and present to Selkirk College students.

We successfully met all of these goals.

In order to refocus back to the children and their interests, we also hoped to produce a small film to be aired on Shaw Cable and again make efforts to approach the larger newspapers to publish "The Salmon Speaks. We put together a song that the children began to sing constantly (Great Wild Salmon that was sung to Raffi's Baby Beluga).

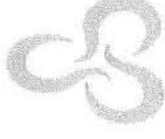
Again we were not successful with persuading the larger media to take an interest in this story. When we contacted Raffi and told his organization about our project and asked permission for the children to sing our song to his tune, he refused to give us permission. So Romina made up our own tune

Another goal was to publish a children's story. This continues to be a goal. We have the written story but the illustrations are yet to be done.

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Key project activities and events cont'd.

January 1 – June 30, 2010

Because some of the children have moved on to Kindergarten and on into their communities, we felt they needed an acknowledgement of their efforts, we designed and made Tshirts for them to wear. This way whenever they wore their shirts, they would be identified as part of their Salmon Speaks project and people could approach them. We also wanted a way to include other children that we met at our displays and events, who wanted to be a part of this, we gave them Tshirts to wear and spread their own message about the salmon.

The tshirts also had a slogan: “Educators supporting learning moments”. Again we wanted some attention given to the ECCE professionals and their work with children.

In the last few months of our project we planned to write a letter to B.C. Hydro, attend ECE staff meetings, present a workshop at the CRRR, and do workshops in other areas of B.C.

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We have not yet written the letter to B.C. Hydro. Instead we contacted a representative of B.C. Hydro who was in our area doing some presentations of projects that they were involved in. The project was explained but when we asked if we could set up a Salmon Speaks display at their gathering, we were told that every minute of the event had been planned out already and there was no room for us.

We have partnered with another ECE from the Kootenays, Cathy Patton and have presented a comprehensive workshop on pedagogical narration to Child Care Director's. This was very successful and we are discussing ways to expand this presentation to a larger ECE community.

We have decided to develop a website that will showcase "The Salmon Speaks" project and other projects where children discuss their important issues. It could be a place where other children and their projects could be added. The "project" form of pedagogical documentations can be viewed because part of our intent was to show people the work of professional ECCEs.

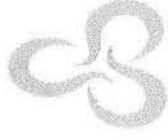
We are hoping to have opportunities to do workshops in other areas of B.C.

We would like to be in contact with this years leadership group from Kaslo and assist them in any way to help them meet their project goals.

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Most Significant Change Story

From among all the significant changes you experienced during this leadership project, what was the most significant change of all?

Many people were amazed at the wisdom shared by the children and voiced their respect for the ECE professionals and the parents were so proud that their children were part of such an important global issue. But with others, mainly the media, we encountered apathy and non interest of children's valid concerns. We wanted to spread the message beyond cute pictures of children in media. However, if we did not present this message in a sensationalized way, the media was not interested. We had to think about how far we would go to compromise children's sincerity. It was disheartening to think about this project fizzling out because of the disinterest of the media. We were in this to change attitudes and maybe our focus on the media was premature? But taking a lesson from the salmon it self, in order to stay true to our initial goals to support children's views, we do not give up. We have changed direction. We are now working on developing a website that will showcase "The Salmon Speaks" project and other projects where children discuss their important issues. The "Salmon Speaks" project is only an example of the depth and sincerity of children's concern for their planet's well-being. We will invite all children to be part of this website and everyone else to learn from the youngest members of this global community. ECECE professionals are not just babysitters. Their work can significantly impact in a positive way the well being of our future. Like the salmon, little by little if we do not give up, we will move forward.

Sharing your Leadership Capacity

At the May 2010 Leadership Institute participants agreed to share their leadership capacity in their communities and beyond. The group agreed to regular on-line conversations (see chart) and to specific activities they will undertake. Please share your plans...

Activity	Date/Timeline	Responsibility	Hoped for outcome
Participate in on-line message board	July 5 August 5 Sept. 5	- Tammy to set July topic - Natalie to set Aug. topic - Liz to set Sept. topic - Rita to contact Avi about	Staying connected Sharing ideas and developments Connecting with 2010 Leadership participants

ECEBC Leadership Initiative

FINAL PROJECT REPORT

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		message board and reminders - Everyone to participate	
Participate in on-line message board	On the 5 th of every month	To be an active participant Sharon	Stay connected. Share, learn
Attend conference with kindergarten teachers	July 5 th & 6th	Sharon To be a strong voice for ECE's,	Raise the profile of ECE's
Collaborate with web designer to create a website Contact BC Hydro	July August and September Through summer	Natalie will make sure the project includes the Salmon Speaks story/documentation, the online story called Sammy the Salmon, the song, links to Leadership Project, etc	To achieve our project goals. To establish a site for others to join To highlight the children's capacity to participate in community issues To inform the public about pedagogical documentation To educate the public about ECCE work To inform BC Hydro of our website

ECEBC Leadership Initiative

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West Kootenay ECE Conference on Teachers Pro- d day	October 22, 23	We will present a workshop on pedagogical documentation and highlight the Salmon Speaks project	To highlight the work of ECCE and explain the value of documentation of children's learning in their play
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**ECEBC Leadership Initiative
FINAL PROJECT REPORT
OCTOBER 31, 2010**

July 1 to October 31, 2010

Looking back at our goals, some of the projects we hoped to pursue included a small animated film. When we looked into the cost, the money seemed better spent on other goals and the father who offered to help with this, moved out of the area. We adjusted our thinking to include an animated logo on our website.

The website goal was to reach out to the global community, it seemed appropriate when one thinks about the ripples in a pool widening out further and further from the center. The website would be accessible to children and their families, other ECEs and community. We also hoped we could put our “Adventures of Sammy the Salmon” on there as well as the song Great Wild Salmon. Because our main goal was to highlight the work of ECEs we needed to create a place for “project work” on the website.

Natalie contacted the website designer to begin the process. He told us that the \$3000.00 would not include any animation, of course that would cost us quite a bit more. At about this exact time we were given a name of a person in Slocan who did websites. At the beginning of July, Natalie met with him, saw his work, and got an estimate that was much lower. At this point, it seemed like the animation was going to be put on hold. It did not seem as important as the content.

During the children’s Froggy Fest this year, our presentation focused on the professional work of ECEs. Our display attracted the children, they embraced the work of helping the salmon and the parents went away with an understanding of what “Educators Supporting Learning Moments” meant.

Because of her connection with Strong Start, Sharon attended the Kindergarten teachers conference on July 5,6, 2010. She had an opportunity to share her knowledge about pedagogical narrations, “supporting learning moments”. The teachers responded with curiosity and interest. Sharon felt that the profile of ECEs was definitely raised.

The website designer and Natalie met five times to discuss the content of the website and how things would be presented. An important aspect of these meetings was to educate him about ECE work. He was a young father of two children and he, like many other young parents in the Slocan Valley, was very skeptical about the value of childcare programs. His input into the content became very valuable not only because of his website expertise but also because of his parent perspective as well as his Slocan Valley community perspective. There were also challenges with working with him. He was a very dedicated father and his time with his children was never compromised so when any one of them got sick, was teething, etc., his work was put on hold. That was also the reason he did not attend the website launch.

Another goal that needed to be worked on, was to contact BC Hydro. Our requests/attempts to display “Salmon Speaks” at the community open houses were refused. When researching the corporation, we found that the CEO was no longer Bob Elton. Another letter was needed and this letter would be sent after the website was running, sometime in October, 2010.

In September, Natalie received a call from a caregiver in Kaslo requesting information on fees, philosophy, and policies. She also received lots of information on programming, pedagogical narration, and the Salmon Speaks project. The communication door was opened between the two ECE communities and a possibility of a workshop in their community could be a possibility after the conference in October.

Natalie was invited to do a workshop for a staff meeting at Salmo Children’s Center. The director, Cathy Paton had been a third ECE who was part of the pedagogical presentation Sharon and Natalie did for the directors’ meeting. She needed another person to inspire her staff about documentation and social justice and “Salmon Speaks” project fit the bill.

The children and Natalie had been talking about the field trip we went on at the beginning of September, to see the salmon spawning at Kokanee Creek Park. They were also told the story of Fish Lake and specifically that the mining company wanted to use it as a tailings pond. Their very logical response was that “those people should put their garbage into the garbage can not into the fish’s home”. Contact was

made with some Aboriginal people who were protesting the destruction of Fish Lake by Tseko Mining and the children's message was shared. We rejoiced when we heard that the federal government would not let the miners proceed. People were now also contacting Natalie about organizations to contact. One person took information to "Friends of Klayoquat Sound" and they wanted to hear more. A phone call was made and they heard about our journey to bring back the salmon to the Slocan Valley.

The website's focus on documentation of project, made us rethink the format of the children's story. We offered the illustrating to the children and they accepted the proposal. The Adventures of Super Sammy the Salmon is not only a story but a documentation in reverse. The song "Great Wild Salmon" is being sung with its new tune. We still are not ready to broadly sing it. When the time comes, we will have help from Adham Shaik (a local music choreographer) to record it and put it on the website.

The West Kootenay ECEBC conference, scheduled for October 21, 2010, was rescheduled for April, 2011. We have two workshops scheduled to facilitate. One is a two-part workshop that will focus on pedagogical narration and applying the Early Learning Framework specifically targeting Kindergarten teachers. The other workshop will focus on "project" documentation and highlight outdoor programming by using "Salmon Speaks" website. This second workshop has also been sent to the ECEBC Conference committee as a possible workshop for May 2011 in Vancouver. Although there had been initial interest from different parts of the province to bring our Salmon Speaks workshop to their communities, these workshops were not scheduled and did not occur.

When the website was ready, the designer said we needed a party! Why not? We needed an official grand opening without the ribbon, we would have cake. We spoke to and invited ECEBC representatives, a local public relations representative from BC Hydro, reporters from two area newspapers (ValleyVoice and Express), a school trustee, representative from Success by Six, David Suzuki Foundation, a Sinixt elder, the chair of the Slocan Valley Community Table and of course the children and parents of both programs. The principal of the school offered his

technical expertise to set up a link to the website. We had confirmations from most of the people of their attendance, we were hopeful.

Sadly, the expression “if you build it they will come” did not occur in our case. We had a great cake, the kids got a fix of sugar and besides parents and children, only the school trustee and the representative from Success by Six came. It took a lot of energy to show a positive spirit when in reality, it felt very disheartening. I found myself telling myself “why should I be surprised? We fight to be heard, and still nothing”. But it is not the way of the salmon, when people presume they are disappearing, they surprise everyone by coming back ten times stronger. So where do we go from here?

Think of what actually occurred. We had many opportunities to apply our leadership skills during this amazing project. Our message traveled throughout BC and even to parts of Washington state and Montana. We have received messages from David Suzuki Foundation congratulating us on our educating children to support their environmental concerns. We had conversations with Fred Penner and he praises our efforts with children. Parents’ attitudes towards their children have changed forever. Some parents after seeing the website have begun to do more research so they too can share informed opinions about children’s capacities, environmental issues and helping the salmon come back to the Slocan Valley. We have had parents call to ask to bring their children to our programs because of the program content they have seen on the website. A free lance reporter from the area contacted the website to congratulate us and has offered to write a story.

It feels that we need to go back and reconnect with those that did not come. Their positive response to wanting to come to the launch has to be looked into more. We will make updates to our website throughout the year. We will explore other sources of funding. We will continue to present workshops at conferences and possibly other parts of BC. We still have not heard from the CEO of BC Hydro. I think there is a need to contact the Aboriginal people who have been immersed in their fight to preserve their territory and applaud their efforts. We as ECEs can appreciate their struggle against a large giant of ignorance. Finally, the strength and persistence we found inside of us to do this project has left us feeling motivated to continue, to take advantage of any opportunity

to speak about our profession to who ever we can. Romina is in the process of writing a book she plans to publish and speak through words on a page. Sharon is busy supporting her Doukhobour community to create childcare services for their own community and through Strong Start keep taking advantage of the connection she has with the school system. Which leaves the keeper of the project, Natalie, determined to follow it through to maybe one day speaking about the salmon's return to a conference audience in New Zealand.

Sincere thanks for this opportunity!

Natalie Lucas

Sharon Nazaroff

Romina Perman

Valhalla and Wee Ones children and parents

Salmon Speaks

It's hard to swim upstream; whether it's salmon struggling to overcome environmental obstacles, or preschoolers overcoming pre-conceived notions about their own limitations. A group of children from the Slocan valley are proof that understanding environmental consequences can begin at a very early age.

In the Salmon Speaks project, children roles have been reversed from victim to advocate. The Director of Valhalla Children's Center Natalie Lucas says the interest of her group of preschoolers peaked, when an aquarium was set up at the center. The imaginations of the children, transformed the entire center into an underwater adventure. Tuna fish and salmon sandwiches at lunch time prompted discussions about where the fish came from. Pointing to the Slocan River, Lucas informed the children of how it once was flowing with salmon, but not anymore. The children responded with questions like "How come?" or "Maybe they all got eaten." As a result, Lucas began drawing a map along with the explanation of what once was the Salmon's migratory route in the Slocan River.

"As I drew this map, I told the children of how the salmon used to travel from the Pacific Ocean up the Columbia river through Castlegar and on to Slocan Lake to lay their eggs, but how that stopped once the dams were built on the Columbia."

Many might think this subject matter too advanced for children aged 3 to 5 years-old. Not so. Lucas says the children began showing immediate concern. One child thought the fish could maybe swim around the dam. But Lucas explained the dam was built between two mountains, to which another child exclaimed, "Fish can't jump over mountains!"

The look on the children's faces revealed not only concern, but a comprehension of the immensity of the salmon's plight.

Another child upset with the destruction of the salmon's habitat requested Lucas urge the people who built the dam to take care of the fish and animals by writing them a letter which read,

"Dear Power Companies,

We feel that you do not try to care for the animals and fish in their home land.

We're angry that you build structures and don't care what happens later. You need to dig places around the dams for the water to flow so the fish can go up and down the rivers. They were here before you were, remember that.

Yours truly,

The Children from Valhalla Center, Slocan, BC

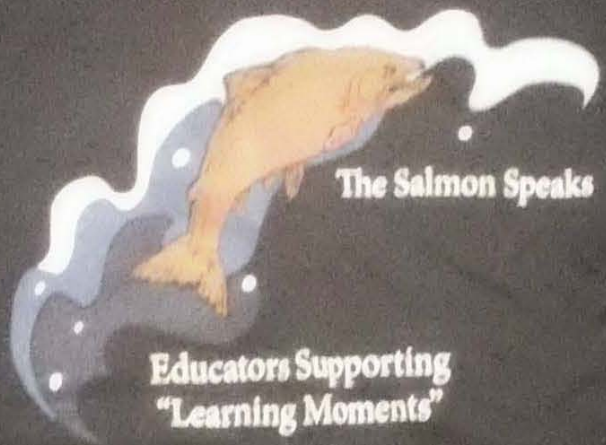
The lobbying efforts of these mini activists doesn't end there.

The Early Childhood Educators of BC (E.C.E.B.C) has selected the 'Salmon Speaks' proposal for a Leadership Initiative Community Project in the West Kootenays. The purpose of this effort is to support the leadership capacity of early childhood educators in sharing children's perspectives of community issues. As Lucas maintains, "It is an attempt to change the community's view of children as not just innocents, but as important and contributing members of society.

Pedagogical narrative is the new catch phrase amongst early childhood educator circles. It means documenting everyday events like setting up an aquarium, and informing family, friends, and community then following up with actions such as

lobbying the power companies. As evidenced in the actions of this group of children, once an ordinary moment is documented, there's a realization of just how extra-ordinary the moment becomes.

It also illustrates when a voice is given to the meek, it's volume can be overwhelming.



The Salmon Speaks

**Educators Supporting
"Learning Moments"**

Children from the Valhalla Centre speak on behalf of salmon

submitted

It's hard to swim upstream, whether it's salmon struggling to overcome environmental obstacles, or preschoolers overcoming preconceived notions about their own limitations. A group of children from the Slokan Valley are proof that understanding environmental consequences can begin at a very early age.

In the *Salmon Speaks* project, children's usual roles have been reversed, from victim to advocate. The director of Valhalla Children's Centre, Natalie Lucas, says the

preschoolers' interest was piqued when an aquarium was set up at the centre. The children's imaginations transformed the entire centre into an underwater adventure. Tuna and salmon sandwiches at lunchtime prompted discussions about where the fish came from. Pointing to the Slokan River, Lucas told the children how it once was flowing with salmon, but not anymore. The children asked why.

"As I drew this map, I told the children how the salmon used to travel from the Pacific Ocean up the

Columbia river through Castlegar and on to Slokan Lake to lay their eggs, but how that stopped once the dams were built on the Columbia."

Many might think this subject matter too advanced for children aged three to five years old, but Lucas says the children immediately became concerned. One child thought the fish could maybe swim around the dam. But Lucas explained the dam was built between two mountains, to which another child exclaimed, "Fish can't jump over mountains!"

The look on the children's faces revealed not only concern, but a comprehension of the immensity of the salmon's plight.

They asked her to write a letter: "Dear Power Companies,

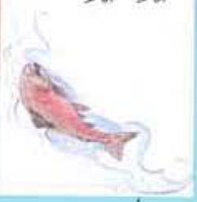
We feel that you do not try to care for the animals and fish in their home land. We're angry that you build structures and don't care what happens later. You need to dig places around the dams for the water to flow so the fish can go up and down the rivers. They were here before you

were, remember that. Yours truly, The Children from Valhalla Centre"

The Early Childhood Educators of BC has selected the *Salmon Speaks* proposal for a Leadership Initiative Community Project in the West Kootenays.

"It is an attempt to change the community's view of children as not just innocents, but as important and contributing members of society," says Lucas. "When a voice is given to the meek, its volume can be overwhelming."

THE SALMON SPEAKS:



"SALMON SPEAKS"

Valhalla Children's Center
Slocan, B.C. 250 355-2222

Wee Ones Daycare
South Slocan, B.C. 250 355-7404

Once upon a time...

From a story about the remarkable journey of the salmon, to a need to have their hearts heard, the children at Valhalla Children's Center and Wee Ones began their own journey.

A dam stopped the salmon's return home? The children's faces showed their concern for the salmon's dilemma.

"It is not nice! The people did not try to care for the fish in their home."

"You have to tell somebody to help them."

"Who?"

"The people that built the dam. They have to take care of the fish."

"How?"

"You have to write them a letter."

Environmentalists?
Advocates for those without a voice?
Our community's children.



The Salmon Speaks

Educators Supporting
“Learning Moments”



Coming Soon

Periwinkle Childrens Centre

All day Child Care

Preregister - children 2.5-5 years:

Phone: 250 - 353-2222



Kaslo and District Public Library
Story hour - Summer Reading Club

Phone: : 250 - 353-2942



Langham Gallery

Drop in Children with adults arts prog.....
on the last Sunday of month 1:30 to 3:30
p.m. - free for members

\$2.00 donation asked of non members

Kaslo Primary Health Services

673,A Ave. Kaslo Public Health Baby Clinics
first (a.m.) and 3rd p.m. Tuesday each month
Phone: 250-353-2291



North Lake Family Resource Centre
Jewett School (Meadow Creek)

Strong Start Parent and Child Time - Drop in
Parent and Child free play, circle time, story telling
exploration activities, gym time, snack

Tuesdays - 8:45 - 11:45 a.m.

Thursdays - 8:45 - 11:45 a.m.

Phone Sarah Evans - 250-353-7691

MotherCare Pregnancy Support - host NKLCCSS
4th Tuesday of each month during Strong Start
9:30 - 11:30 am. - Information
referrals,resources



Meadow Creek Hall

Leap Learn and Play group - drop in

Monday - a.m. drop in

Wednesday - a.m. Cooking and Pooh's Corner

Friday - a.m. drop in

Kaslo Family Resouce Centre
JVH School - Room B120

Parent Child Mother Goose - hosts CBAL and NKLCCSS
Parents learn songs, rhymes and stories with children
No cost - childcare and snack provided
Registration Required - Dates TBA
Phone Barb Cyr - 250-353-7691

Guest Speaker Series for Parents - host NKLCCSS
One Tuesday a Month - 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Free Childcare and snack provided
Topics chosen in consultation with parents
Registration required
Phone Barb Cyr- 250 - 353-7691



Parent Circle -host NKLCCSS
Thursday - 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
Drop in formate - Child care and snacks provided
Facilitated by community counsellor Laura Watt
Phone: Laura Watt - 250 - 353-7691

Mothercare Pregnancy Support - host NKLCCSS
11:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.
Group support, information, Referrals and resources for
expecting parents and parents with babies to six
months
Free childcare and lunch provided
1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month
Phone Barb Cyr - 250 - 353-7691



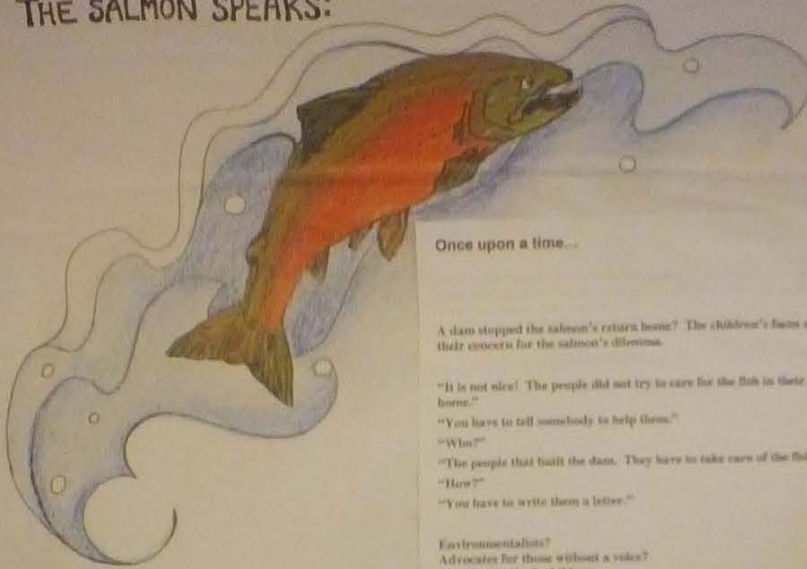
Strong Start Parent and Child Time - Drop In
Parent and Child Free Play, circle time, storytelling,
exploration activities,gym time
Free Snack provided
Monday - 8:45 - 11:45 a.m.
Wednesday - 8:45 - 11:45 a.m.
Thursday - 1:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Phone Sarah Evans - 250 - 353-7691



ESL - English as a Second language - CBAL
Wednesdays - 1:00 - 2:45 p.m.
Activities for families who want to improve English skills
Phone Barb Szuta - 250-353-7691

Children Succeeding at JVH Fridays - free to register
April 9 to May 14 - 9:30 -11:30 A.m.
Parent Child activities and disclussion about how to
support your child's early learning
Phone: Barb Szuta: 250 - 353-7691

THE SALMON SPEAKS:



Once upon a time...

A dam stopped the salmon's return home? The children's faces showed their concern for the salmon's dilemma.

"It is not nice! The people did not try to care for the fish in their home."

"You have to tell somebody to help them."

"Who?"

"The people that built the dam. They have to take care of the fish."

"How?"

"You have to write them a letter."

Environmentalists?
Advocates for those without a voice?
Our community's children.



From a story about the salmon's remarkable journey to a need to have their hearts heard, the children of Valhalla Children's Center and Wee Ones Daycare began their own journey as advocates for those without a voice.

Dear Power Companies,
We feel that you do not try to care for the animals and fish in their home land. We are angry that you build dams and don't care what happens later. You need to dig places around the dams for the water to flow so the fish can go up and down the rivers. They were here before you were here.

Yours truly,
The Children
Valhalla Center and Wee Ones
Slocan Valley, B.C.







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the people that want to know a way that to make use of the water

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SALMON

voice?

ey



SALMON'S STORY

