



# ECEBC LEADERSHIP

Featuring Alumni of the ECEBC Leadership Initiative

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## “Pushed Out There”

I always thought I was as a follower, someone who went along with what others wanted, and avoided difficult conversations. I was disengaged: reluctant to give my opinion and reluctant to get feedback from others. I panicked with changes – a mere room re-arrangement at the daycare was stressful for me.

This is the story of how I became comfortable with

changes in my life. From the ECEBC Leadership Institutes, I brought home communication skills to help me through my real life challenges.

An opportunity to practice communicating at a Leadership Institute changed me. I seized the nerve-wracking and uncomfortable chance to be videotaped while doing an on-the-spot interview. I literally had to push myself in front of the camera. Through this, I learned that I can face challenges and stressful situations, and survive them.

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*“My work, and my voice, within our Leadership Initiative community project helped people in our community understand and value our work.”*

*Ashley Desormeau*



*Ashley has been a member of ECEBC since February 6, 2012 .*

*Interview by Bev Christian. Source: Context Research Evaluation Report, 2014.*

## Robson Valley: Promoting the ECE field

Through an interactive children’s fair, this project highlighted the importance of play and the role of play in children’s development. The project is increasing community awareness and promoting the ECE profession to Grade 11 and 12 students. (Community of Innovation Project Report, 2012).

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learned I had more confidence to be strong.

I later applied this learning through interaction, on my own, with a parent who was unhappy about an administration decision at our centre. The parent raised her voice and was very demanding, but I stood my ground. *Through the opportunity at the Leadership Institute, I had learned to stay calm, repeat what I had to say, and stayed with my message.* It turned out well and the parent later apologized for getting angry. From this, I learned I had the courage to voice my opinion, I learned I had more confidence to be strong.

Since that time, I've had many chances to apply my new confidence and strength in communication, both personally and professionally. During a staffing change, I was asked – *pushed* - to be the supervisor. I used my leadership training, and was a leader. Our new ED wanted to make many changes to our program. I spoke up about what was important to me and our team, explained about child care and licensing requirements and negotiated a lot of difficult conversations. My work, and my voice, within our Leadership Initiative community project helped people in our community understand and value our work. The community saw me as a professional, and I began to as well. This sense of professionalism defined my voice further, and helped me communicate with strength. All these experiences helped me own the fact that I know what I am doing, that I am a trained professional who is connected to many Early Childhood Educators, that I can step up to challenges.