

Ktunaxa Nation Binder

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Communities of Leadership Innovation – 2010 Call for Proposals

In 2010, ECEBC will support ten Communities of Leadership Innovation.

ECEBC and the Leadership Initiative Advisory Committee will select the ten Communities of Leadership Innovation based on the following criteria:

1. Diverse geographic and cultural communities are involved.
2. The Project builds the leadership capacity of ECEs to raise the profile of their work and value.
3. Two or three licensed-to-practice ECEs are actively involved in the development of the proposal, are able to attend all three Leadership Institutes and understand they will play a leadership role in implementing the project.
4. The sponsoring society is a non-profit society AND holds charitable tax status.

In order to be considered, complete this Call for Proposals and submit it to ECEBC by Jan. 15, 2010.

Proposals must be FAXED to ECEBC at (604)709-6077 - Attention: Maria Mejia

Communities will be informed as to whether or not they have been selected by February 28, 2010. Project work plans and budgets will be developed at the first Leadership Institute in early April 2010. Projects will report out at subsequent Leadership Institute (Nov. 2010 and May, 2011). Final project reports will be due June 30, 2011.

If you have questions about completing this Call for Proposal, please email the ECEBC Leadership Coordinator, Rita Chudnovsky at leadership.ecebc@look.ca

Key Proposal Contact Person

Name Charlene Sperling
 Position/Organization Pagimi Nuyjuk Aboriginal Early Years Services / Kituxaxa Kinbasket
 Child & Family Services.
 Phone number (Day) _____ (Evening) 6 _____
 Email _____
 Mailing Address _____
 City Cranbrook Province BC Postal Code _____

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 P 604 709 6063

Vancouver BC
 P 604 709 6077
www.ecebc.ca

V5M 1Y8
 TF 1 800 797 5602

ECE Project Leadership Team

Each proposal needs to be developed and submitted by a Project Leadership Team of two or three licensed to practice ECEs. We encourage communities to choose emerging leaders who may not have lots of experience in a leadership role but are ready, willing and able to be part of the leadership of the next generation of BC ECEs. All members of the Project Leadership Team will be expected to attend the 16 Leadership Institutes and to play a leadership role in implementing their project within the community. The Team can and is encouraged to work with a large community group that includes other ECEs and/or community members who care about young children.

Identify the licensed to practice ECEs who are your Project Leadership Team

Participant #1

Name Danette Fritz Phone number _____
Address _____ City Fort Steele Postal Code _____
E-mail address _____@net ECE License Number _____

Participant #2

Name Charlene Sperling Phone number _____
Address _____ City Cranbrook Postal Code _____
E-mail address _____@ ECE License Number _____
#

Participant #3

Name _____ Phone number _____
Address _____ City _____ Postal Code _____
E-mail address _____ ECE License Number _____

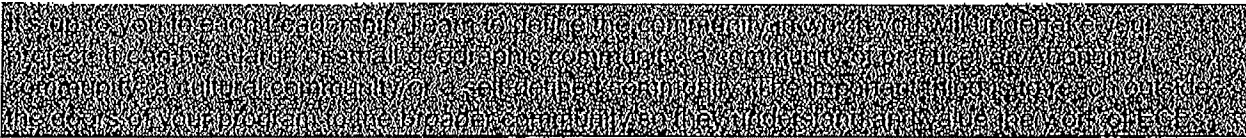
ECE Culture of Leadership



Please share your Project Leadership Team's motivation for being involved in this leadership program. How have you been involved in developing this proposal? Why do you want to develop your leadership capacity? How will you play a leadership role in implementing this proposal? (Please use a separate sheet of paper if necessary)

Please see attached page.

Community of Leadership Innovation



Please name and briefly describe the community you will involve in this project. (Please use a separate sheet of paper if necessary)

Please see attached page.

ECE Culture of Leadership

As manager of the Daycare, I have recognized that we as a center feel quite removed from the rest of the communities and their activities as well as our own community of Aq'am. With this initiative I feel that we may be able to close that gap and have the community feel like we are interested in them and their language and culture.

As coordinator of Aboriginal Early Years Services, I was excited to see a Leadership Initiative which would allow us to build on our strengths and recognize the value of the work we do. I believe that by connecting all the people involved in Early Childhood Education at the Daycare with the outreach staff, one hand will know what the other is doing and vice versa, allowing both hands to raise the importance of the Early Years in creating strong healthy communities.

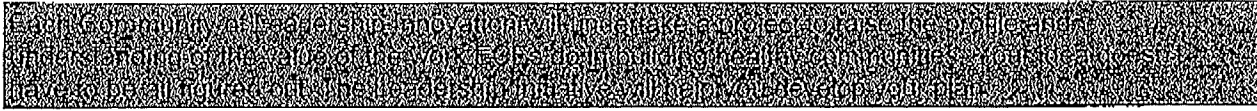
Community of Leadership Innovation

The Ktunaxa Community

Ktunaxa (pronounced 'k-too-nah-ha') people have occupied the lands adjacent to the Kootenay and Columbia Rivers and the Arrow Lakes of British Columbia, Canada for more than 10,000 years. The Traditional Territory of the Ktunaxa Nation covers approximately 70,000 square kilometres (27,000 square miles) within the Kootenay region of south-eastern British Columbia and historically included parts of Alberta, Montana, Washington and Idaho. Ktunaxa citizenship is comprised of Nation members from seven Bands located throughout historic traditional Ktunaxa territory. Five Bands are located in British Columbia, Canada and two are in the United States. Many Ktunaxa citizens also live in urban and rural areas "off reserve". Our proposal is for the Bands located in Canada only.

| | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| ?akisq̓nuk | Columbia Lake Band | Windermere, BC |
| ?aq̓am | St. Mary's Band | Cranbrook, BC |
| ?akink̓umʔasnuq̓iʔit | Tobacco Plains Band | Grasmere, BC |
| Yaq̓an nuʔkiy | Lower Kootenay Band | Creston, BC |
| Kyaknuq̓iʔit | Shuswap Band | Invermere, BC |

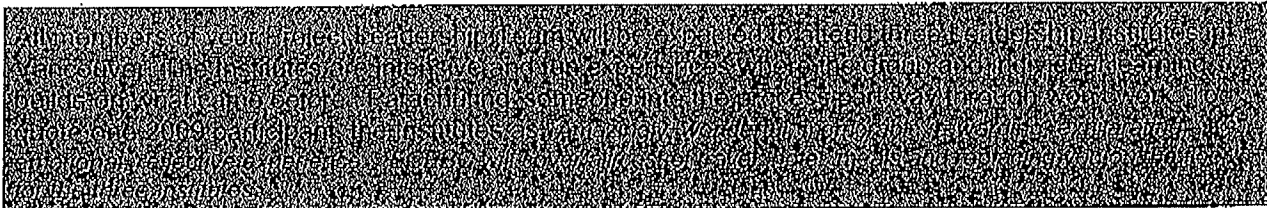
Community of Leadership Innovation Project



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 or change do you hope to achieve? (Please use a separate sheet of paper if necessary)

Please see attached page.

Leadership Institutes



*Please have each Project Leadership Team indicate that they understand they will be participating in the following Leadership Institutes. Here are the tentative dates for the 3 Institutes.
We will confirm them in early 2010.*

| Event | Leadership Institute # 1 | Leadership Institute # 2 | Leadership Institute # 3 |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Dates | Tuesday, April 6 to Saturday, April 10, 2010 | Sunday, Nov. 14 to Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2010 | To coincide with the ECEBC 2011 Conference in late May |
| Description | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants will travel to Vancouver on Monday April 5 for a Tuesday morning Institute start. They will return home Saturday late afternoon or early evening. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants will travel to Vancouver for a Sunday evening Institute start and will return home Wednesday evening or Thursday morning. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBA |

Yes, I will attend all three Leadership Institutes (Please have each participant initial below)

Team Member #1 C.S

Team Member #2 [Signature]

Team Member #3 _____

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Community of Leadership Innovation Project

Our project is to create a cohesive Early Childhood Team throughout the entire Ktunaxa Nation which unites Early Years Outreach Workers with the Daycare staff, and the Community Development Workers, and the Early Learning Center staff, and the four Band Communities. Our project is to coordinate Traditional Knowledge and Language (TKL) Initiatives and special events. TKL initiatives include: Ktunaxa words of the month, welcome signage for each community, etc.

Team members increase leadership capacity by gaining a better understanding of Early Childhood Programming available throughout the Nation in their varying forms and locations. Publicized special events will raise public awareness of who we are and what we do for Aboriginal children. We will reach out to local municipalities and regional ECD's when planning and publicizing annual events. Our outcomes are increased awareness, and increased participation in Early Learning Initiatives and parenting workshops.

Sponsoring Charitable Society

Through leadership initiative with a sponsor, we can provide early selected child and family support and public information to support developmentally appropriate learning and growth. We have the ability to apply for a grant from a charitable tax status to receive and administer the funds.

Please provide the following information about your sponsoring society

Organization Name Traditional Knowledge & Language Enrichment Society

Charitable Tax Number _____

Mailing Address _____

City Cranbrook Province BC Postal Code _____

Contact Person Name _____ Position Director

Contact Person Phone Number _____ Email _____

Contact Person signature 

Leadership Capacity

Please indicate the skills that will be required in your leadership role

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personal confidence & assertiveness building, | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public speaking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Framing the Message | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marketing/Communications |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Defining professional identity | <input type="checkbox"/> Addressing invisibility of the work |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gendered perceptions of the field | <input type="checkbox"/> Policy, legislation context |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The value of childhood (international perspectives) | <input type="checkbox"/> Community-based Research |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The economic impact of child care | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy plans, strategies & tools |

Other things you would like to learn about...

strategic plans, creating networks for communication, goal setting, event planning, workshop delivery

If you have questions or want to talk about your proposal, please contact Rita Chudnovsky, our Leadership Initiative Coordinator at leadership.ecebc@look.ca

Complete and submit this form by FAX to (604)709-6077

by January 15, 2010

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ECEBC Leadership Initiative

Community Project Work Plan #1 – April – November, 2010



Sponsoring Society's Name __Ktunaxa Nation Traditional Knowledge and Language_____

Community Name Ktunaxa Nation_____ Name of Project __Ktunaxa Nation ECE Team_____

Key Contact (From Sponsoring Society)

Name Don Maki_____ Position __Director_____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

Mailing address #_____ City Cranbrook Postal Code _____

Name of Lead ECE's

1. Charlene Sperling_____ 2. Danette Fritz_____ 3. _____

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

A project to build leadership capacity of ECEs by creating a cohesive ECE Team throughout the Ktunaxa Nation. Aqamnik Daycare and Paq'mi Nug'yuk in collaboration with ECE workers from the preschool programs will create a culture of leadership within the Nation. Our goal is to increase parental involvement and create opportunities for culture and language. Our hopes are to create a safe place to share success stories and best practices, and to increase public awareness of the importance of the Early Years through promoting Nation participation in Early Childhood Events.

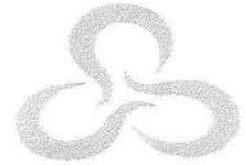
Three domains of change this project seeks to make are:

1. Creating a cohesive ECE Team throughout the Nation .

2. Raising the profile and respect for work of ECE's.

3. Increasing community involvement and awareness of the importance of the Early Years.

ECEBC Leadership Initiative



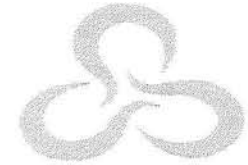
ECEBC | early childhood educators of BC

Community Project Work Plan #1 – April – November, 2010

The 3 or 4 key activities we will focus on from April to November 2010 are

| KEY ACTIVITIES | WHO | WHEN | DOMAIN OF CHANGE ACTIVITY ADDRESSES | HOPED FOR LEADERSHIP CAPACITY DEVELOPED |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Submit Work Plan #1 and Project Budget | Community ECE Team and Rep from Sponsoring Society (budget) | April 30, 2010 | Leadership Capacity | Project Development and Management Skills |
| 2. Prepare display for November Showcase | Community Team | Materials ready for Nov. Leadership Institute | Raising Profile of ECE work Leadership Capacity | Public education material development Public presentation skills |

ECEBC Leadership Initiative



Community Project Work Plan #1 – April – November, 2010

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| KEY ACTIVITIES | WHO | WHEN | DOMAIN OF CHANGE ACTIVITY ADDRESSES | HOPED FOR LEADERSHIP CAPACITY DEVELOPED |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 3. Facilitate Ktunaxa ECE's Retreat to identify events and needs. | Aqamnik Daycare Paq'mi Nuq'yuk Headstart Little Badgers Preschool Yakan Nukiy Preschool | Spring 2010 (May 27 th ?) | Culture of Leadership | Team building Development of Strategic Plans |
| 4. Celebrate preschoolers achievements at the annual Aqam awards day. | Aqam Community | End of June 2010 | Raise profile of ECE's | Public Speaking |
| 5. Start "Ktunaxa for Tots" in Aqamnik Daycare. | Paq'mi Nuq'yuk Aqamnik Daycare | July 2010 | Increase Community Involvement and opportunities for culture and language | Increasing cultural knowledge and language skills. |
| 6. "Grandparent's Day" at Aqamnik Daycare | Aqamnik Daycare | Summer 2010 | Increase Community involvement in ECE activities. | Public Relations Skills Community Involvement |

ECEBC Leadership Initiative

Community Project Report #1

April – November 2010



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Sponsoring Society's Name Ktunaxa Nation Traditional Knowledge and Language

Community Name Ktunaxa Nation Name of Project Ktunaxa Nation ECE Team

Key Contact (From Sponsoring Society)

Name _____ Position Director

E-mail _____ Phone _____

Mailing address _____ City Cranbrook Postal Code _____

Names of participating ECE's

1. Charlene Sperling 2. Danette Fritz 3. _____

Project Description (repeat of update the short description you are using to describe your project)

A project to build leadership capacity of ECEs by

Our project is to create a cohesive Early Childhood Development Team throughout the Ktunaxa Nation which unites the four band communities. Our project is to coordinate Traditional Knowledge and Language Initiatives at the preschool level. This has developed into the creation of Ktunaxa curriculum kits – Ktunaxa culture and language lessons themed by the months/seasons, approved by the elders, and available for use in each community.

Key domains of change your project focuses on

Creating a cohesive ECE Team throughout the Ktunaxa Nation, networking and sharing ideas and culture kits.

Raising the profile and respect for work of ECE's.

Increasing community involvement and awareness of the importance of the Early Years.

ECEBC Leadership Initiative

Community Project Report #1

April – November 2010



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Key project activities Update

List and comment on 3 key project activities & events from April – November 2010. Include key activities from Work Plan #1 and any new ones. In the last column, comment on the leadership capacities you used and developed through this activity.

| Key Activity/Event | Completed (or if not, why not) | Leadership Capacities Developed |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Initial Ktunaxa ECE Retreat to identify needs. | May 20 th , 2010 | Team building Development of Strategic Plans Group facilitation Public Speaking |
| Ktunaxa Kinbasket Child & Family Services Annual General Meeting Family Play Area | Oct. 22, 2010 | Public Relations Skills Community Involvement |
| Second Ktunaxa ECE Retreat to display culture Kits and seek input on ECE training needs. | Nov.10 2010 | Networking Strategies and Tools Increased Community Awareness. |

ECEBC Leadership Initiative

Community Project Report #1

April – November 2010



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educators of BC

Most Significant Change Story

From amongst the changes you are experiencing through the leadership project, share your most significant change story...

Nov 10th 2010 was the date of our second Ktunaxa Nation ECE Retreat. We had a much better turn out than our first ECE Retreat, and more communities were represented from across the Nation. Danette and I were pleased with responses we were getting after displaying our work on the culture kits. We were also pleased with the interest in attending a cultural ECE training event to be held in the Spring 2011. Our biggest joy came as a surprise later in the evening. As people were getting ready to leave, ECE's from the Lower Kootenay Band and ECE's from the Akisqnuk Band were staying behind and talking to each other. It turns out they were making plans to visit each other's sites, and share their success stories with each other. Everyone was very concerned with leaving their contact info so we could put everyone's info into an e-mail. Participants were asking for longer retreat sessions with more time devoted to sharing ideas, and wondering how to make these gatherings continue on a regular basis in the future. People are feeling connected, and they are excited about the opportunities open to them. "I get excited when I see what can happen in my centre".

ECEBC Leadership Initiative

Community Project Work Plan #2 – Dec 2010 – May 2011

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Sponsoring Society's Name _____ ktunaxa Nation Traditional Knowledge and Language _____

Community Name _____ Ktunaxa Nation Name of Project _____ Ktunaxa Nation ECE Team _____

Key Contact (From Sponsoring Society)

Name _____ Position _____ Director _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

Mailing address _____ City _____ Cranbrook _____ Postal Code _____

Name of Lead ECE's

1. _____ Danette Fritz _____ 2. _____ Charlene Sperling _____ 3. _____

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

A project to build leadership capacity of ECEs by _____
Our project is to create a cohesive Early Childhood Development Team throughout the Ktunaxa Nation which unites the four band communities. Our project is to coordinate Traditional Knowledge and Language Initiatives at the preschool level. This has developed into the creation of Ktunaxa curriculum kits – Ktunaxa culture and language lessons themed by the months/seasons, approved by the elders, and available for use in each community.

Three domains of change this project focused on are:

Creating a cohesive ECE Team throughout the Ktunaxa Nation, networking and sharing ideas and culture kits.

Raising the profile and respect for work of ECE's.

Increasing community involvement and awareness of the importance of the Early Years.

ECEBC Leadership Initiative

Community Project Work Plan #2 – Dec 2010 – May 2011



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Do you expect to have spent all of your Project Budget by June 30,2011? Yes No
 If not, please project when you expect to have spent your Project Budget _____

The 3 or 4 key activities we will focus on from December to May 2011 are

| KEY ACTIVITIES | WHO | WHEN | DOMAIN OF CHANGE ACTIVITY ADDRESSES | HOPED FOR LEADERSHIP CAPACITY DEVELOPED |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 1. Submit Community Project Report #1 | Community ECE Team and Rep from Sponsoring Society (budget) | Nov 30, 2010 | Leadership Capacity | Project Development and Management Skills |
| 2. Complete and submit Community Project Work Plan #2 | Community ECE Team | Nov. 30 2010 | Leadership Capacity | Project Development and Planning Skills |
| 3. Prepare submission/ proposal for ECEBC Conference | | | Sharing the Learning | Public presentation skills |

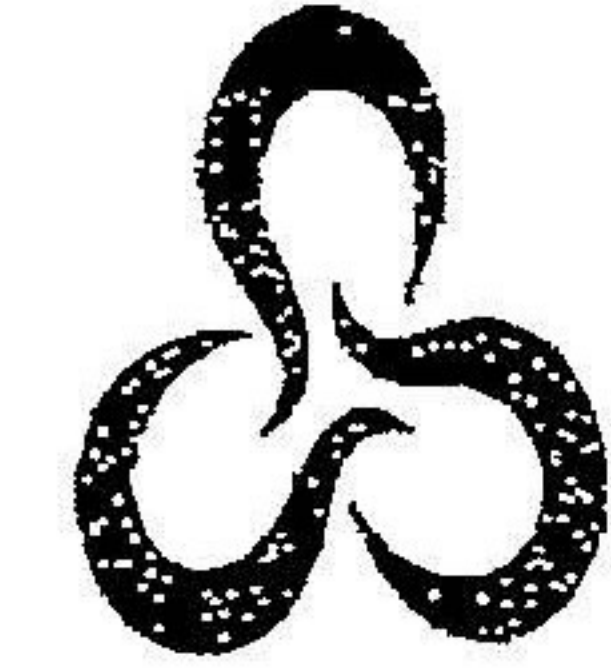
ECEBC Leadership Initiative



Community Project Work Plan #2 – Dec 2010 – May 2011

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| KEY ACTIVITIES | WHO | WHEN | DOMAIN OF CHANGE ACTIVITY ADDRESSES | HOPED FOR LEADERSHIP CAPACITY DEVELOPED |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4. Put Winter Ktunaxa Culture Kit into circulation | Ktunaxa ECE Team | Jan 2011 | Creating a cohesive Ktunaxa ECE Team | Increased cultural awareness Increased networking skills |
| 5. Spring Retreat/ Training Event for Ktunaxa Nation ECE Team | Ktunaxa ECE Team | March 5 2011 | Raise the profile and respect for work of the ECE's. | Team Building Increased Cultural Knowledge |
| 6. Spring parenting Fair | Aboriginal families, and Kinship Care families | June 4 2011 | Increased community involvement and awareness of the importance of the early years. | Increased community involvement Increases parental participation |
| 7. ECEBC Showcase | Danette Fritz and Charlene Sperling | May 2011 | Raise the profile and respect for work of the ECE's. | Sharing the learning Public Speaking |



**ECEBC Leadership Initiative
FINAL PROJECT REPORT
JUNE 2011**

Sponsoring Society's Name Ktunaxa Nation – Traditional Knowledge and Language Sector

Community Name Ktunaxa Nation Name of Project Ktunaxa Nation ECE Team

We have submitted a written request and plan to carry over unspent funds until Oct. 31, 2011 Yes ___ No

Key Contact (From Sponsoring Society)

Name _____ Position Director

E-mail _____ Phone _____

Mailing address _____

City Cranbrook Province BC Postal Code _____

Names of participating ECE's

1. Danette Fritz 2. Charlene Sperling 3. _____

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

This is a project to build leadership capacity of ECE's by creating a cohesive ECE Team throughout the Ktunaxa Nation. Aqamnik Daycare and Paq'mi Nuq'yuk in collaboration with ECE workers from the preschool programs will create a culture of leadership within the Nation. Our goal is to increase parental involvement and create opportunities for culture and language.

ECEBC Leadership Initiative

FINAL PROJECT REPORT

JUNE 2011



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Key project activities and events

Provide a summary of key project activities and events in each of the following 2 time periods.

Include comments about any significant differences between project plans and what actually happened.

March – December 2010

May 20 2010 – Initial Ktunaxa ECE Retreat at Bull River. Purpose: to identify needs. We had thought our project would be supporting cultural events already happening, instead we were told the needs of ECE's are to increase culture on a day to day basis with developmentally appropriate resources. This led us to the creation of the Ktunaxa Culture Kit lending library.

Nov.10 2010- Second Ktunaxa ECE Retreat at St. Eugene Mission. Purpose: to display culture kit and seed input on ECE training needs. The Team identified "creating cultural curriculum" as a theme and Danette and I started planning.

January – June 2011

March 26th 2011-Ktunaxa Nation Team Training Event. We hosted a day full of learning for ECE's throughout the Ktunaxa Nation, and opened it up to mainstream ECE's as well. The morning was spent on a workshop with Mary Burgaretta from BCACCS on designing culturally focussed early childhood curriculum. The afternoon session was presented by Jody Bauche from Success by Six. She introduced the new Granny/Grampa Connections Box resource.

May 2011 ECEBC Conference and Showcase of Culture Kits. We presented our work to ECE's throughout the province at this conference.

June 4th/5th. The Paq'mi Nuq'yuk Spring Extravaganza Event. We hosted a weekend full of outside play centers, meals, family cultural scavenger hunts, swimming, and a workshop on "parenting the energetic child" by Dr. Vanessa Lapointe. We brought together 20 families from throughout the Ktunaxa Nation for this event, and also hosted another workshop session for ECE's for an additional 30 people.

ECEBC Leadership Initiative

FINAL PROJECT REPORT

JUNE 2011



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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?

The Ktunaxa Language is critically endangered. It is a linguistic isolate, meaning there is no other language like it in the world. There are only a handful of fluent speakers left. Our most significant change story can be expressed through a quote from a co-worker in the Traditional Knowledge and Language Sector. While collaborating with us on the development of the Winter Theme Kit she remarked, "Now I feel like I am actually doing something for my people that will make a difference. I am doing something to help the children learn the language."

Sharing your Leadership Capacity

At the May 2011 Leadership Institute participants agreed to share their leadership capacity in their communities and beyond. The group agreed to (will be added in) Please share your plans...

| Activity | Date/Timeline | Responsibility | Hoped for outcome |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Host Ktunaxa Nation ECE Gatherings. | Fall 2011, Spring 2012 | To keep the ECE's connected and informed of the cultural resources out there. | Increased circulation of Ktunaxa culture kits Increased networking among Ktunaxa Nation ECE's Increased community engagement through culture. |

"The Bearer of News, Teller of Tales"

Official publication of the Ktunaxa Nation

Paq'mi Nuq'yuk hosts Early Childhood Development Training Event

April 18, 2011



On March 26th, Paq'mi Nuq'yuk Aboriginal Early Years Program co-hosted a training event for Early Childhood Educators from across the Ktunaxa Territory.

This event marked the third time that Paq'mi Nuq'yuk has hosted an event while participating in the ECEBC (Early Childhood Educators of British Columbia) Leadership Institute. The events have been designed to unite Early Childhood Educators throughout the Ktunaxa Nation and to help coordinate cultural initiatives. Over twenty Educators attended the day-long event, which focussed on new techniques to integrate culture into Early Childhood programs.

"It was inspiring and introduced new ideas in how we approach educating children," said Charlene Sperling, the

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[Michele Sam Challenges Aboriginal Research Techniques for Indigenous Peoples](#)

[Martina Shovar: A Disposable Life \(in France\)](#)

[Paq'mi Nuq'yuk hosts Early Childhood Development Training Event](#)

[Ktunaxa Running Club Participates in Vancouver Sun Run](#)

[Letter: Taking the High Road with Acknowledgement and Understanding](#)

[2011 Aboriginal Business Showcase](#)

[Home Energy Kits Helping Out](#)

[IMI Brokerage Unveils New Logo](#)

[Honour Your Health Challenge - April to June 2011](#)

[Social Governance Update](#)

[Letter: Errors in Reporting on Jumbo](#)

Paq'mi Nuq'yuk-Aboriginal-Early-Years-Coordinator: "In our role, we really try to promote the integration of culture and education at a very young age, so it can be part of the child's learning experience right from the beginning."

The event was held at St. Mary's Band Hall, and was facilitated in partnership with the East Kootenay Region's Success by Six Program. The day was highlighted by two presenters who shared new techniques for bridging the gaps that may exist between education and culture. The presentations were interactive, and allowed the participants to really get involved as they learned different techniques that they can take back with them to their respective agencies.

Mary Burgaretta from the BC Aboriginal Child Care Society presented on the subject of designing culturally focussed early childhood curriculum.

Jody Bauche from Success by Six who introduced the new Granny and Grampa Connections Box resource. Each box contains a circle blanket, an interchangeable Granny/Grampa puppet, a drum, rattle, paddle, and various stuffed animals of culturally significant local species.

"The Box is designed to engage families with their children," explained Sperling. "The puppets allow the child to connect to the teachings, legends and stories of their grandparents a little easier."

Paq'mi Nuq'yuk, has already taken great strides in coordinating culture and education together, and has been very successful with their "Ktunaxa for Tots" curriculum and a lending library of Ktunaxa Culture Kits for pre-schoolers. All of the language content has been approved by the Traditional Knowledge and Language (TKL) Sector of the Ktunaxa Nation Council.

The TKL is committed to preserving the Ktunaxa Language for future generations. The Ktunaxa language is an isolate, which means there are no other languages like it in the world. Currently there are only a handful of fluent speakers, and it is officially classified as critically endangered of becoming extinct.

"Paq'mi Nuq'yuk" means to blossom or burst from the ground in the Ktunaxa Language. This program is offered through Ktunaxa Kinbasket Child & Family Services Society, and provides services for all First Nation, Metis, and Inuit families with children 0-6.

If you would like to sign out a Ktunaxa Culture Kit or a Granny/Grampa Connections Box for your preschool program, or for more information on Paq'mi Nuq'yuk, please call Charlene Sperling at 250-489-4563 or email csperllng@ktunaxa.org

[Nation Rebuilding: Planning for Indigenous Government Program](#)

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LOCAL NEWS

THE LANGUAGE ARTS

Ktunaxa for the next generation

New early years curriculum helps to promote local language to youngsters

GARRY SLONOWSKI

For the Townsman/Bulletin

The 'Ktunaxa for Tots' curriculum is a new Ktunaxa language program designed by Paq'mi Nuq'yuk Aboriginal Early Years employee, Chelsea Nicholas. The program developed by Nicholas, in collaboration with the Little Badger's Learning Centre, was designed to help children under the age of six connect with their culture and language. It is at this age when children have the greatest capacity to learn something that they can carry with them the rest of their lives.

"I believe that every person in the world is entitled to an identity," said Nicholas. "Learning their traditional language is one of the many ways of providing Ktunaxa children a key piece towards developing their own identity. Having a role in that is both an honour and a privilege."

The Ktunaxa language is an isolate, which means there are no other languages like it in the world. Currently there are only a handful of fluent speakers, and it is officially classified as critically endangered of becoming extinct.

"It is vital that we do all that we can for our future generations," said Nicholas. "Many efforts have been put into language preservation, promotion and delivery over the years, and I am happy to be part of the collective effort."

Nicholas, a Ktunaxa Na-



Chelsea Nicholas, of Paq'mi Nuq'yuk Aboriginal Early Years, holding one of the many tools developed to support the Ktunaxa language.

cludes a craft or activity that enhances the learning by making it fun.

Feedback on the curriculum has been very positive and the sessions have been very well received from both students and teachers. It

"Many efforts have been put into language preservation, promotion and delivery over the years, and I am happy to be part of the

veloped as part of the services provided by the Paq'mi Nuq'yuk Aboriginal Early Years Program. Paq'mi Nuq'yuk itself means to blossom or burst from the ground in the Ktunaxa language, and was chosen to represent the potential

Although the curriculum developed was originally intended for youth, it has also been proven to be beneficial to learners of any age, with some beginning adults also starting to use it.

"I have had many interested parents following along with their child, which makes a better learning environment for everybody," continued Nicholas.



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ployee, Chelsea Nicholas. The program developed by Nicholas, in collaboration with the Little Badger's Learning Centre, was designed to help children under the age of six connect with their culture and language. It is at this age when children have the greatest capacity to learn something that they can carry with them the rest of their lives.

"I believe that every person in the world is entitled to an identity," said Nicholas. "Learning their traditional language is one of the many ways of providing Tunaxa children a key piece towards developing their own identity. Having a role in that is both an honour and a privilege."

The Ktunaxa language is an isolate, which means there are no other languages like it in the world. Currently there are only a handful of fluent speakers, and it is officially classified as critically endangered or becoming extinct.

"It is vital that we do all that we can for our future generations," said Nicholas. Many efforts have been put into language preservation, promotion and delivery over the years, and I am happy to be part of the collective effort."

Nicholas, a Ktunaxa Nation Member, has already seen the benefits in a very short period, with many children having already graduated from the eight session program. The curriculum covers topics such as body parts, colours, animals, numbers, songs and basic expressions. Each session also in-



Chelsea Nicholas, of Paq'mi Nuq'yuk Aboriginal Early Years, holding one of the many tools developed to support the Ktunaxa language.

cludes a craft or activity that enhances the learning by making it fun.

Feedback on the curriculum has been very positive and the sessions have been very well received from both students and teachers. It has now been successfully delivered in two early childhood centres, one in Kimberley and one in Invermere, and can also be delivered on a one-to-one basis by request.

The curriculum was de-

"Many efforts have been put into language preservation, promotion and delivery over the years, and I am happy to be part of the collective effort."

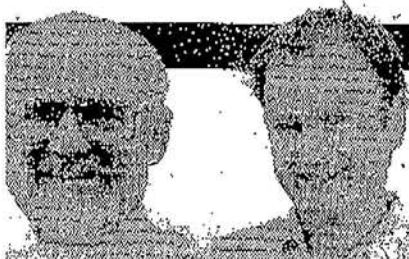
Chelsea Nicholas

veloped as part of the services provided by the Paq'mi Nuq'yuk Aboriginal Early Years Program. Paq'mi Nuq'yuk itself means to blossom or burst from the ground in the Ktunaxa language, and was chosen to represent the potential of all children to blossom into something special. The Paq'mi Nuq'yuk program offers a holistic approach while providing support and services in education, health, nutrition, as well as culture and language.

Although the curriculum developed was originally intended for youth, it has also been proven to be beneficial to learners of any age, with some beginning adults also starting to use it.

"I have had many interested parents following along with their child, which makes a better learning environment for everybody," continued Nicholas. "It shows you that it is never too late to start learning Ktunaxa!"

For more information on having the Ktunaxa for Tots program delivered or the Paq'mi Nuq'yuk Aboriginal Early Years Program, please contact Chelsea Nicholas or Charlene Sperling 250-489-4563.



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