



**First Nations
Early Childhood
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**



March 14, 2013 (Issue #2)

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Welcome!

Welcome to the second edition of the First Nations Early Childhood Development Council Newsletter. This newsletter is to inform Council members of any upcoming events, news or meetings and to also streamline the amount of information that is distributed to the Council members. The information within the newsletter is shareable, so, please feel free to distribute to your communities.

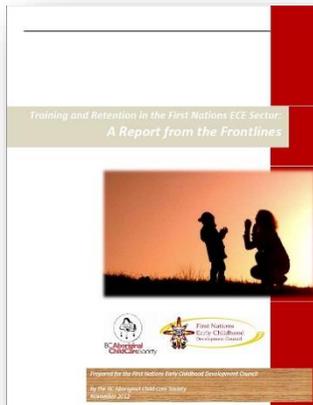
If you would like to offer some feedback on the e-newsletter, please feel free to contact me any time: vanessab@fnesc.ca T: (604) 925-6087.

About the FNECDC

The First Nations Early Childhood Development Council (FNECDC) was created in 2007, by organizations that were determined to work together to create a province-wide strategy for improving the well-being of First Nations children from prenatal to six years. On March 24,

2010, representatives from over 40 organizations signed a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) and since that time the FNECDC has grown to 60 [members](#). Read more about the FNECDC at <http://fnecdc.ca/>

News Release



In honour of the first Family Day in British Columbia, the FNECDC presents the report, *Training and Retention in the First Nations ECE Sector: A Report from the Frontlines*. The research intent was to look into the training that First Nation Early Childhood Educators (ECE) received, their employment and issues that they may have in their current line of employment.

The First Nations Early Childhood Development Council looks towards the *Families First Agenda for BC*: www.familiesfirstbc.ca to assist us with achieving our goals. There are two key points from the Agenda that support our report on the First Nations

ECE Sector:

- “Strengthening supports for children is a key element of our government’s commitment to families. By providing children with supports, we can help ensure that they have every opportunity to build the future of their dreams (pg. 16).”
- “A key element of our families focused agenda is improving supports for children and their parents (pg. 16).”

As you will notice in the *Training and Retention in the First Nations ECE Sector* report, there is a need to strengthen the supports for children, starting with the First Nations ECE’s that work with our children as there are disparities that are taking place in ECD to provide quality education for our children. The First Nation ECD educators need to feel supported, trained and compensated for the work that they do with our children. This will then in turn improve early learning for our children and have positive impacts on our families.

We call to action, to improve First Nations Early Childhood Development training and support for ECD educators to improve education for our children and families. Let’s support our children and families by finding ways to work together to improve the learning foundation for our children ages 0 – 6 to ensure their success in early learning. The work to improve ECD is to start with the FN Early Childhood Educators that work with our children. Let’s ensure that they have the opportunity to receive adequate training, ongoing training, earning a living wage and feel supported in the work that they do to care and educate our children.

Meeting Updates

On January 8, 2013, the FNECDC had a meeting in Vancouver, BC. The Council members discussed the DRAFT Amendments to their Terms of Reference and Communications Plan to release an important report on ECE for Family Day. Discussion also included reviewing the work plan for 2013-2014 and sharing updates from our First Nations communities. Karen Isaac provided the Council with an update on her organizations research including licensing and their mapping project.

On March 5, 2012, the FNECDC had their last meeting for this fiscal in Vancouver, BC. The Council members continued discussion on the DRAFT Amendments to their Terms of Reference and made some decisions that will contribute to the work that has been done on the TOR so far. The Council also reflected on their hard work that they did for First Nations Communities in the ECD sector to contribute to their Annual Report. There were also some great presentations on research that is being conducted in regards licensing, K3/K4 and Special Needs.

The next meeting is August 21, 2013. Meeting information will be posted on our Council page sooner to the date.

Website Update

The website is being updated regularly. Announcements and upcoming funding opportunities are posted on our site: <http://fnecdc.ca>

Funding Opportunities

A request for applications for funding through the Reinvestment Initiative has been **DELAYED**. The **deadline for submissions has been POSTPONED** for the two funding streams, *Language and Culture* and *Service Improvements & Quality* and has not been released. So, please be sure to share this news with your community and pass on the information. An update on the Funding opportunities will be posted onto our site: <http://fnecdc.ca/funding-opportunities/> as soon as we have further information.

Important Information

Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Early Childhood Education:
2013 Guidelines and Nomination Form

The early years of children's lives are critical. The educators who teach and nurture young children have an impact that will last for the rest of their lives.

For most children, at least one educator will stand out as someone who encouraged, enabled and inspired them to be their very best when they were very young. The Prime Minister's Awards (PMA) for Excellence in Early Childhood Education (ECE) honour outstanding and innovative early childhood educators who excel at fostering the early development and socialization of the children in their care, and at helping build the foundation children need to make the best possible start in life.

If you know someone in your community that has made a positive impact in ECD in your community, please see the following link for the nomination process:

<http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/pmaece-ppmepe.nsf/eng/home>

New School Toolkit

FNESC and the FNSA are developing a new resource called the New School Toolkit to support First Nations communities with the process of building a new school or undertaking a major renovation/expansion project.

Bringing a school or addition to an existing school from a concept into a fully operational building is a complicated task involving the dedicated work and expertise of many individuals. The purpose of this toolkit is to provide First Nation communities with a roadmap for getting a project underway and interacting with the various professionals and community people who are essential for building and maintaining a school facility.

The guide is organized according to the five main phases of school development and operations. The five phases of the toolkit include: 1. Conception, 2. Feasibility, 3. Pre-Construction, 4. Construction and 5. Operations and Maintenance.

The toolkit represents the collective first-hand knowledge of over 25 First Nation educators and leaders as well as officials from both Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada and the Government of British Columbia. Various project managers, architects and other professionals with years of experience building First Nations schools also contributed to the toolkit. It is not intended as legal advice.

New School Toolkit meeting: <http://www.fnesc.ca/new-school-toolkit-regional-workshops>

Community based Partnerships

The Aboriginal Community-Based Delivery Partnerships Program focuses on building partnerships between Aboriginal communities and public post-secondary institutions to increase access to employment-related training and education in Aboriginal communities. This Program is funded by both the Federal and Provincial Governments and is managed by the BC Ministry of Advanced Education in partnership with the BC Region of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada.

This funding application guide provides detailed information about the program, including instructions for preparing and submitting an application.

Aboriginal communities in partnership with public post-secondary institutions are invited to submit proposals to deliver Training Programs during the period September, 2012 to March 31, 2014.

Information about the community based partnerships:

[http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/aboriginal/docs/Aboriginal Community Based Delivery Application Guide.pdf](http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/aboriginal/docs/Aboriginal_Community_Based_Delivery_Application_Guide.pdf)

Post-Secondary Education Partnership Agreement Tool Kit

Beginning in 2007, the BC Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development began providing multi-year funding to support eleven public post-secondary institutions to develop, implement and evaluate Aboriginal Service Plans (ASPs). In response, the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology (NVIT), the University of Victoria (UVIC), and the Indigenous Adult & Higher Learning Association (IAHLA) initiated dialogue regarding how they could work together to facilitate the most effective possible use of the ASP funding in a way that would reflect their respective needs and common goals.

This Tool Kit provides background information, suggestions, and sample wording for the creation of agreements that reflect equitable and collaborative partnerships between post-secondary institutions, including Aboriginal, public and private institutions, and also including private industry organizations, and also including private industry organizations involved with training.

To read more about the Tool Kit and view the document, [click here](#).

Member Corner:

Meetings, minutes and more!

- **August 21, 2013** is the next **Full Council Meeting**
- Meeting information will be shared sooner to the date

Events & Opportunities

- March 5, 2013 - The next Full Council in person meeting. Council members, at the next meeting, we are gathering any suggestions or editing changes to the Framework, so please review the document and bring any suggestions or feedback as we are going to

be producing more copies for distribution and we want to ensure the accuracy of the Framework.

- April 7, 2013 – The First Nations Education Steering Committee and First Nations Schools Association will hold a workshop for BC First Nations communities that are interested in learning more about the process of building/planning a new school, or undertaking a major addition/renovation project to an existing school. The workshop will review the highlights of the New School Toolkit and provide opportunities for questions and discussion about local plans. If you would like a notice when the registration information is available, please email info@fnesc.ca with New School Toolkit in the subject line. <http://www.fnesc.ca/new-school-toolkit-regional-workshops>
- April 19 – 20 – The First Nations Schools Association Conference: Shaping Our Future, A Community of Learners <http://www.fnsa.ca/conference>
- April 24 – 25, 2013 – Champions for Children and Youth 2013 BC Summit: A National conference on Keeping Kids Safe and Connected in Vancouver <http://www.rcy2013summit.com/>
- The 3rd Annual child Health Policy Mowafaghian visiting Scholar Event. Mosquito Advocacy: Effective Strategies for tackling structural risks affecting First Nations Children. The event features a talk by noted Aboriginal scholar, Dr. Cindy Blackstock. We encourage you to bring your questions and comments to help make this a real dialogue. The event will be held at the Wosk Centre for Dialogue in downtown Vancouver. **When** Wednesday May 8, 2013 from 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM **Where Morris J Wosk Centre for Dialogue** 580 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC Click here to register: <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?llr=yjxosffab&oeidk=a07e75esnzw042b6ab6&oseq=a021krhd29r8qy>