



For Immediate Release-April 10, 2015

BC Celebrates the Leadership of Early Childhood Educators

On April 30th, Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) from throughout British Columbia (BC) will come together in Richmond to focus on leadership as part of ECEBC's first leadership pre-conference day. With support from the Leadership Link committee (a group of ECEBC Leadership Alumni), a phenomenal day has been put together called *Building Leadership in Early Childhood Education*. The workshop is suited to leaders of all levels of expertise. The result is an exciting opportunity that will benefit even more ECEs who have an interest in growing their leadership. Activities will include an interactive panel discussion devoted to sharing the learning about what is impacting ECE's personally and professionally. Emily Mliczko, Executive Director, ECEBC and ECEBC Leadership Alumna, Cohort 1, will be kick off the day with her *Journey Through Leadership*. Success stories and personal journeys from leaders will enhance the dialogue. In addition, breakout sessions will explore more specific topics such as: advocacy styles, promoting excellence in our early learning environments, best practices in communication of key messages, financial sustainability, professionalism and a session on wellness for ECE leaders.

Scholarships are still available

ECEs have similar needs to participate in high quality learning opportunities as other professions. However access to professional development remains a challenge for ECEs who face a number of unique barriers to participation in learning activities. ECEs may be unable to leave their workplaces due to inability to find qualified replacement staff. We know that in many cases, ECEs do not receive paid education leave which further compounds financial pressures related to travel and registration fees on low wages often found in the sector. ECEBC has attempted to mediate that barrier by offering a scholarship program. At the time of this article scholarships for ECEs in BC are still available.

May is Child Care Month in BC.

If you can't join us at the Leadership Pre-Conference, we invite ECEs across the country to get involved as leaders. In BC, Leadership Alumni returning home from the ChildCare 2020 Conference in Winnipeg wanted to do something to make a difference and to help their communities become better informed. They also wanted to help ECEs get involved one step at a time, so that ECEs in their communities wouldn't feel overwhelmed. As a result, a group of Leadership Alumni compiled a list of resources they felt were of particular value. They hoped that each colleague would share the resources with at least one other person to help extend the wave of energy they were experiencing. Those resources include:

Canadian Child Care Federation (2012). *We Value Children.*” http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=StNsg6Fr3LE&feature=player_embedded

3 minute You Tube.

ChildCare 2020. (2014). Conference website: <http://childcare2020.ca/resources>.
ChildCare 2020 is a partnership of the Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada, the Canadian Child Care Federation and the Childcare Resource and Research Unit (Child care Canada). The press releases and discussion paper are particularly relevant and user friendly.

ChildCare 2020. (2014). Conference Power Point presentations.
<http://childcare2020.ca/power-point-slides>

Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC. (2014). \$10/day Child Care Plan (5th Edition) and fact sheets. Retrieved from <http://www.10aday.ca/resources>

Friendly, M. and Prentice, S. (2014). Child Care Shouldn't Be for Profit. *Winnipeg Free Press*. Retrieved from <http://www.childcarecanada.org/documents/child-care-news/14/12/child-care-shouldnt-be-profit>

Public Service Alliance of Canada. A Vision for Childcare.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t0Q51UQcDgI>
A 2.5 minute You Tube.

Young Advocates of Canada (YACAN). Facebook Group:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/youngadvocatescan/>.
Some leaders report that students are really excited by Lindsay Litvey's slides.

Since 2009, almost 100 emerging leaders, in five cohorts, have tackled issues of importance to their communities, such as: children's rights, educating communities about the value of play based learning and advocating for accessible, affordable, high quality early childhood education. They are building broad community partnerships to bring about change and their projects focus on: fair wages for ECEs, reclamation of Aboriginal culture and language, encouraging leadership in secondary school students, promoting ECE as a field of choice and highlighting the image of the child.

ECEBC's leadership alumni are sharing with a hope that others wouldn't need to reinvent the wheel. Our leaders created many tools including: YouTube clips, PowerPoint presentations, posters, stories and other materials that are available for use and for inspiration. We invite colleagues and friends across the country to visit ECEBC's lending library for ideas: <http://www.ecebc.ca/library/>.

The Early Childhood Educators of BC (ECEBC) is celebrating the impact that ECE Leaders are making throughout the province on a daily basis. As the membership organization for these licensed professional educators, ECEBC plays an important role in supporting and developing healthy communities through development of leadership capacity of ECEs.

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

The enthusiasm shown by the Leadership Alumni in planning the Leadership Pre-conference demonstrates dedication that is typical of our ECEBC leadership cohorts. These ECE leaders express a strong and consistent desire to help the next generation of ECEs and leaders.

Our registration deadline has been extended. For more information about the Leadership Pre-Conference Day please contact:

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or register on-line at online [here](http://www.ecebc.ca/leadership/index.html). (<http://www.ecebc.ca/leadership/index.html>).

For more information about the ECEBC Leadership Projects, please visit our Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Ecebc-Leadership/149155261824990>. Christine Buttkus is contracted to ECEBC’s Leadership Initiative: *Sharing the Learning and Continuing the Journey* and can be reached at 604.849.2252 or christine_buttkus@telus.net.