



Winter 2017

BC Family Child Care Association

Caregiver E-Connection



Suggestions for keeping more than your tree green this holiday season

- ◇ *Have children make their own wrapping paper by recycling newsprint, paper or paper bags...a great way to highlight their artwork!*
- ◇ *Reuse last years Christmas cards by creating new gift tags for this year*
- ◇ *If you can, buy a potted tree which you can plant when the holiday season is over.*
- ◇ *Save on energy consumption..make sure your holiday lights are LED. Less energy coming in and less money going out.*

BC Family Record Keeping Calendar for Child Care Professionals 2017 are here!

Our 2017 calendar is now better than ever before! As always, it has space to keep attendance and record expenses and emergency drills, which help to keep your licensor happy. Date blocks are conveniently large enough to add your daily activities. To make it even better, we've added pages that answer parents' questions about what their children are learning while they seem to be "only playing". You'll also find useful activity suggestions and links to more information.

Remember, BCFCCA Members save \$5! [Order yours today!](#)



Stay connected with us:



"Joining the Conversation"

Don't miss out on the opportunity for great conversations and interactions with other Child Care Providers on our

[Members only page](#)

Notable News

Take Action On Radon

November was Take Action On Radon Month. The **Canadian Child Care Federation** hosted a webinar to inform us on the dangers of radon and what we should be doing to protect ourselves and the children in our care.

Radon is produced naturally by the breakdown of uranium into a radioactive gas. It is everywhere and is odorless colourless, and tasteless.

It poses a health risk as it has a cumulative effect on the body. There is no way of knowing if your building has radon gas without testing. There is currently no mandate for testing of radon in Child Care Facilities but there are recommendations that it be a requirement for Child Care Licensing.

For more information on Radon please see:

<http://www.takeactiononradon.ca/radon-basics>

<http://www.radonaware.ca/>



To download this poster and more...

<http://www.healthyenvironmentforkids.ca/>



Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Early Childhood Education 2016-2017

"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."

Nomination forms and guidelines are now available. [Read more](#)

Nominations must be submitted by January 7th, 2017 to be considered.



Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada (CCAAC)

United Nations expert Committee asks Canada to make child care affordable and accessible.....[More details](#)



Workshop Funding Available

BC Family Child Care Association, the professional organization for Family Child Care providers is pleased to be requesting proposals from partnering organizations and non-profit organizations to conduct Family Child Care workshops. Workshop bursary funds are available to partnering organizations and/or non-profit organizations to assist them in the development of workshops for Family Child Care providers so that they have access to quality workshops and training related to their field.

[Workshop Funding Application](#)



Holiday Alert!

Deadline Dec. 14th to send your letters to Santa to Canada Post! Check out:

<https://www.canadapost.ca/cpo/mc/personal/campaigns/holiday/default.jsf#santa>

Visit www.northpole.com to look at the hundreds of activities happening at the North Pole



BCFCCA Chair Report

Carmen Barclay

December 2016

Greetings Members,

We are in the final month of 2016, days are shorter and nights longer. We can now make time to reflect upon the past year and learn from it then create a plan for 2017. The past is always a good teacher and motivator, but it is prudent to plan for the future and healthy to practice living in the present.

As the BC Family Child Care (BCFCCA) representative at the Child Care Federation (CCCF) table, I can see that change is on the way for child care in Canada. Unfortunately we are not clear on what that looks like. We only know there is \$500 million, of which \$100 million goes to Aboriginal Child Care, coming to the provinces from the federal government.

When I reflect back on 2016 for BCFCCA, I see a lot of work has been done:

- ♦ *revision of Good Beginnings Family Child Care Training was started and is now in the pilot stage*
- ♦ *presented a balanced budget*
- ♦ *wrote 2 proposals (sadly did not secure either)*
- ♦ *represented Family Child Care at the National level (CCCF)*
- ♦ *co-hosted a successful Conference with our partners Vancouver Family Child Care Association*
- ♦ *the Annual General Meeting was planned and held, we welcomed two new Directors Rosangela Giacobetti and Vida Shahghabi, plus one new Committee member Hanieh Amirinezhad and a retiring Director, Joanne Cruickshank remained on as a Committee member and past chair Rena Laberge will remain on the Board of BCFCCA as will Shauna Lockhart, Suzanne Schlechte and Carmen Barclay.*
- ♦ *selected a new Chair, Carmen Barclay and Vice Chair, Suzanne Schlechte*
- ♦ *solidified committees and the skills and work required for each*
- ♦ *reviewed BCFCCA Constitution and Bylaws to be in alignment with new Society Act changes*

BCFCCA Board 2016-2017

Carmen Barclay (Chair)
chair@bcfcca.ca

Rena Laberge
rena@bcfcca.ca

Shauna Lockhart
shauna@bcfcca.ca

Suzanne Schlechte (Vice Chair)
suzanne@bcfcca.ca

Vida Shahghabi
vida@bcfcca.ca

Rosangela Giacobetti
rosangela@bcfcca.ca

The above list is only a snapshot of what happened so far in 2016, it reminds me that we have done a lot and shows me we still have more to do.

What I wish for and will plan for in 2017 is more Family Child Care providers realize BCFCCA is the vehicle to bring their voice regarding the very important work each of you do. You are a special kind of child care, independent, isolated (working alone from home), family oriented, entrepreneur, teacher, counsellor, first aid attendant, cook, social planner, bookkeeper, and the list goes on. The point is, you need us and we need you!

Together we can be ready for whatever changes are on the way. Our mindset should be on how we work together to meet the needs of children, families, Family Child Care Providers, BCFCCA and Government. We must not ask what can BCFCCA do for us, but what can we do for BCFCCA. After all, you are BCFCCA and we are you.

By building on the number of BCFCCA members, we will have a stronger voice and prominent response to the changes happening in child care. As BCFCCA members, we can all work together to advocate for all family child care providers in our province

I hope I have inspired you to start the process of reflection and planning for your family child care business, or even for your personal life. I invite you to help out on your BCFCCA leadership teams for the planning of our future in 2017 and beyond. Please let me know if you are able to give 4-8 hours per month, or contact the office and ask for the application form.

Wishing everyone a healthy, happy, winter and all the best for the holiday celebrations of your culture!

Warm Regards, Carmen Barclay
Chair, BCFCCA



What My Grandchildren Taught Me About Being a Child Care Provider

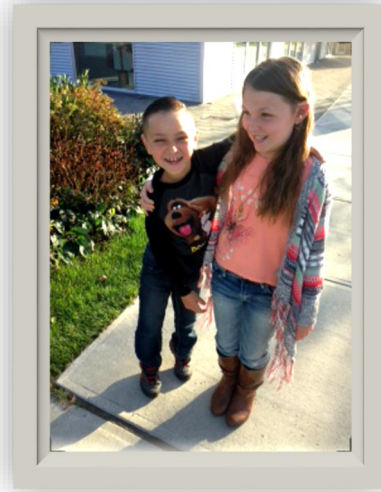
Suzanne Schlechte

There's a famous quote that says, "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." Maya Angelou was responsible for this quote and I'd read it and heard it many times without ever putting much consideration into it.

The quote only developed real meaning for me after my grandchildren were born. As they got older, every time they would come to visit me or I would go to visit them, their excited cries of "Grandma! Grandma!" the minute they saw me, completely overwhelmed me, totally melting my heart. Suddenly, it felt like I was a VIP, knowing my mere presence was enough to bring joy to these children. This was an amazingly powerful feeling.

I started to reflect on how the children in my care would greet me in the morning.... and then at how I usually greeted them in return. I realized that I was doing them a real disservice every time I greeted them with anything less than a big, genuine smile that told them I was truly happy to see them. I'm not a morning person by nature, and though I am usually pleasant enough in the morning, *pleasant enough* wasn't what I was striving for. These little ones deserved to feel that they were special and VIPs in my eyes.

My lifestyle had to change. I had to ensure that I was getting enough sleep so I could do my best impression of a morning person. (I'm a realist, and I know I'm never going to *be* a morning person.) I had to get up just a little earlier so that I was more mentally prepared for my day, to be conscious of each arrival and my greeting each time. It wasn't the easiest thing I've ever done, but the rewards were definitely worth the effort.



Family Child Care is all about connections; connections with the children, and connections with their families. I have found no better way to begin to make that connection than by making my morning greeting a really good one. I will admit it might be more of a struggle some days, but it is more than worthwhile.

The effect goes far beyond just the children, too. You never know what kind of struggles parents are facing, but you can be certain that greeting them and their children in a way that lifts their mood just a little before they head off to work has the possibility of impacting their entire work day, too. I've always found that the easiest parents to work with are the ones who are happy and satisfied with their careers, and sending them in to work in a good mood might just help in that department. Remember, making one person smile can change the world. Maybe not the whole world, but their world. And yours too!



As your professional organization, BCFCCA would like to hear from you. What experiences have you had with people around you that have made you think about your profession and maybe changed the way you operate your business?

Tell us: What do you see going forward as challenges or successes that you have had on a daily basis? How have these influenced your child care program to make it unique?

When we share our stories, we can grow as a community and become stronger. Please consider sharing your story with us and all our members!

Email your thoughts to the board at: office@bcfcca.ca



BC Family Child Care Chair Carmen Barclay, affiliate representative to the Canadian Child Care Federation (CCCF)

attended a National Child Care meeting in Ottawa September 21, 2016. Affiliate members (31 plus 3 staff) of CCCF from across the nation gathered to discuss child care issues in Canada. Some of the needs discussed are listed below:

- Knowing where we are going, and have a road map to get there
- Take a look at the work force, affordability, accessibility and have a big bold vision
- Have a strong shared commitment
- Have a better relationship with the Federal Government
- Be more proactive on issues
- Speak face to face with our local MP and MLA members, clearly indicate we want to be engaged and how we can help them to move forward to meet their objectives
- We need to ask for clarity on what it is the Federal Government wants us to do as per their policies, principals and visions
- System Development & Framework
- Communication, staying connected and building a national strategy
- More membership engagement across the country

Terry Duguid, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, attended the meeting and spoke to everyone; he said they met in January 2016 to map out a child care and early learning plan. They want to build a strong middle class and he recognized that only 1/4 of children have access to high quality child care. There is still an issue with Access, Affordability, Quality and Inclusivity. Terry's job is to help the Minister meet his mandate and said they are committed to making Canada a better place to raise children.

The Federal Government will be putting 500 Million into child care in 2017. Of that 100 Million will be going to Aboriginal child care, the remaining 400 Million will be divided among the provinces. At this time, we understand the money is a onetime only commitment.

Let us all work together to build a better Canada for our children!

Please share your comments on BC Family Child Care Facebook page or send us an email office@bcfcca.ca



Don Giesbrecht, CEO of CCCF (left) with Terry Duguid, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Families, Children and Social Development

An Early Learning and Child Care Framework for Canada's Children: #TogetherWeCan



The Election Promise: In its election platform, Canada's federal government promised to meet with provinces, territories, and Indigenous communities to begin work on a new National Early Learning and Child Care Framework, to deliver affordable, high-quality, flexible, and fully inclusive child care for Canadian families.

The Budget Commitment: In the 2016/2017 federal budget, \$500 million was earmarked for the federal government's investment in child care for fiscal 2017/18, of which \$100 million is for Indigenous child care.

\$500 Million: Is it Enough?

It's a start, but when transferred over 10 provinces, 3 territories and to Indigenous nations, it's not a lot.

To move forward, a multi-year funding framework starting in fiscal 2018/19 with a further \$1.6 billion investment, moving up to a \$2.6 billion investment in 2019/20 is needed.

Affordability

A child care space in Toronto can cost up to \$20,832/year

Undergraduate students in Canada paid \$5,959 in tuition fees on average in 2014/2015.

According to the OECD, Canadian families spend almost one-quarter of their income on child care, a ratio that is much higher than in other parts of the world.

Canada ranks last among 25 OECD nations in ELCC spending.

The public supports investment in early learning and child care. An overwhelming majority of Canadians agree that Canada should have a nationally-coordinated child care plan.

The CCCF respects and supports that Indigenous communities may choose unique approaches and content as it pertains to early learning and child care and that The Truth and Reconciliation Commission has called on federal, provincial, territorial and Indigenous governments to develop culturally appropriate early childhood education programs for Indigenous families as a part of healing and reconciliation.

Quality Child Care and Development

Quality, quantity, and reliability are pressing needs across the country which are inextricably linked. Without attention to quality, we compromise our children's development; without quantity and reliability, we leave families with no options.

In order to enhance early learning and child care systems, meet growing demands and ensure quality, we need adequate financial, physical and human resources to ensure:

- adequate wages and working conditions for early learning and child care practitioners
- ongoing education and professional development for early learning and child care professionals and practitioners
- appropriate infrastructure support for early learning and child care facilities, programming, curriculum development, data gathering and child care associations



Canadian Child Care Federation

www.cccf-fcsge.ca

Canada's Provinces and Territories

Canada's provinces and territories have been building their respective child care policy and programs, but many long-standing national issues, such as the recruitment and retention of the child care workforce, remain as prevalent today as they have always been. There are some very encouraging developments as of late, such as the Province of Ontario committing to building 100,000 spaces over the next 5 years; the Province of New Brunswick's Child Care Review Task Force Report; Valuing Children, Families and Childcare; and the Province of Manitoba's Early Learning and Child Care Commission Final Report. However, the federal government has outlined its policy principles that the national framework is to be based on: Quality, Affordability, Inclusivity and Flexibility. The question is will these policy principles be enough to create a high quality, inclusive, affordable and accessible child care system for all Canadian families that need it?



To download these documents and learn more on CCCF's An Early Learning and Child Care Framework for Canada's Children: **TogetherWeCan**

<http://www.cccf-fcsge.ca/2016/11/15/an-early-learning-and-child-care-framework-for-canadas-children-togetherwecan/>

CCCF believes that a national early learning and child care system should:

- support a vision of the child at the center, surrounded by the family and the community and education system
- include a broad range of supports and services including preschool, family child care, centre-based care for children up to age 12 and after school programs.
- support parental choice
- be regulated and licensed
- be inclusive, including ALL children
- provide child-centered, play-based learning appropriate for young children
- be based on current research on early learning
- meet the needs of families living in rural, remote and northern communities as well as urban and suburban areas
- meet the needs of cultural and linguistic communities

The Federal Action Taken by CCCF and National Partners

In partnership with the Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada (CCAAC), the Childcare Resource and Research Unit (CRRU) and Campaign 2000, the CCCF has presented the federal government with recommendations for moving towards a national early learning and child care system called the Shared framework for building an early childhood education and care (ECEC) system for all:

Common federal/provincial/territorial policy frameworks: A commitment to build accessible, affordable, inclusive, high-quality child care systems across Canada for all who need it.

Planning for long-term sustained funding: A commitment to provide long-term sustained federal funding to ensure affordable, high-quality services together with a planned expansion of child care programs so that, by 2020, child care can become accessible to every child whose family chooses it

System-building and policy development shared by federal/provincial/territorial and local governments, with the participation of key stakeholder groups such as educators, researchers, and parents: An agreement to share child care initiatives, such as a strategy to strengthen the child care workforce, and a shared data system and research agenda along with a commitment to use data and policy research to make evidence-based child care policy decisions.

What you can do?

Reach out to your Member of Parliament and ask
Have there been any discussions or consultations about the national early learning and child care framework in your community yet?

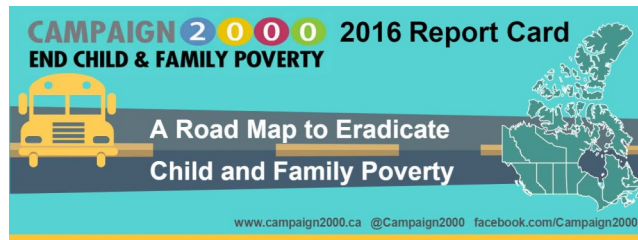
Reach out to your provincial/territorial Minister responsible for child care and ask
How they see the national framework working towards building a strong provincial/territorial child care system?

Reach out to other early learning and child care leaders in your community and
Invite them to participate in a joint outreach (in person meetings, emails etc.) to local MPs to inform them about the development of the National Framework.

Reach out to media
You can copy and paste the key messages from this or develop some of your own and place them into online media forums, news story feedback pages, story suggestion pages, news tip areas and Letters to the Editor of your local and national news (radio, television, print and web-based media) right from your computer, tablet or smart phone.

Reach out on social media...
Let others know what is happening, using the hashtags #cdnchildcare #wevaluechildren #TogetherWeCan

Campaign 2000



www.campaign2000.ca @Campaign2000 facebook.com/Campaign2000

2016 Report Card to End Child and Family Poverty

Up and Coming

CHILDREN
the Heart of the
MATTER 20 years



February 17 & 18, 2017
Sheraton Guildford Hotel
15269 104 Ave, Surrey, BC

options COMMUNITY SERVICES  Child Care Options
Resource & Referral

"Join us in celebrating our 20th annual Children the Heart of the Matter Conference! The conference will take place on February 17 & 18, 2017 at the Sheraton Guildford Hotel in Surrey. We're excited by our great lineup of keynote speakers and workshop presenters including Denita Dinger, Dr. Deborah MacNamara, Diane Kashin and more!"

"Also, this year for the first time we're able to offer a pre-conference day in partnership with The Dalai Lama Centre for Peace and Education, The Psychology Foundation of Canada, Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre and The City of Surrey. Be sure to check out the extra training opportunities available to you."

Physical Literacy

Presenter: Paula Milbradt

Date: Thursday January 19, 2017

Time: 7:00-9:00 pm

Location: BNW (Burnaby)

Fee: \$18.00 members \$22.00 non-members



Tax Tips for Family Child Care Providers Presenter

Thomas Chimick

Date: Wednesday, February 8, 2017

Time: 7:00-9:00 pm Location: TRI (Coquitlam)

Fee: \$18.00 members \$22.00 non-members

[For more info and workshops](#)

January-March 2017 Workshops

Creating Artful, Generative Conversations with Young Children Saturday

January 28, 2017

Time: 10:30 am – 3:00 pm

Is Time-Out Outdated?

Saturday February 18, 2017

Time: 10:30 am – 3:00 pm

[For more workshops and registration](#)



Gingerbread Man or Reindeer Cookies Recipe

- 3 cups flour (for gluten free use 3 cups of gf recipe below)
- 2 teaspoons Ginger, Ground
- 1 teaspoon Cinnamon, Ground
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon Nutmeg, Ground
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 cup butter, softened
- 3/4 cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 1/2 cup molasses
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon Pure Vanilla Extract



Reindeer Cookies Images & Recipe ideas from

<http://thewhoot.com.au/whoot-news/recipes/gingerbread-reindeer-cookies>

1. Mix flour, ginger, cinnamon, baking soda, nutmeg and salt in large bowl. Set aside. Mix remaining ingredients then add dry and mix.
2. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Roll out dough to 1/4-inch thickness on lightly floured work surface Tip: use parchment paper for ease of removing. Also, if you are making with children remember to identify who's cookie belongs to whom to avoid upset when they come out of the oven.
3. Bake 8 to 10 minutes or until edges of cookies are set and just begin to brown

Gluten-Free Flour Mix (All-Purpose, makes 12 cups)

- 8 cups rice flour (preferably brown)
- 2 2/3 cups potato starch
- 1 1/3 cups tapioca flour



BC Family Child Care Association
wishes you all the best for you and
your family in the coming year!

Happy New Year!

“May your coming year be filled with magic and dreams and good madness. I hope you read some fine books and kiss someone who thinks you're wonderful, and don't forget to make some art -- write or draw or build or sing or live as only you can.

And I hope, somewhere in the next year, you surprise yourself.”

— Neil Gaiman

In order to best represent you, BC Family Child Care Association (“BCFCCA”) needs members to promote and talk about the need for a strong voice in the field and to promote the unique and valuable contributions family child care providers make everyday. The more members we represent the more influence we'll have to ensure that family child care remains a viable option for parents



nfcca@hotmail.com

MANY THANKS

We would like to thank our member groups for another year of their generous support of BC Family Child Care Association.

May 2017 bring you continued success in your life and your commitment to quality child care!



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Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the contributor, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the BC Family Child Care Association (BCFCCA).

The Caregiver E-Connection reserves the right to review and edit submitted material as necessary for

inclusion in any issue.

Please direct all comments, submissions,

and inquiries to:

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