



# ECEBC LEADERSHIP

Featuring Alumni of the ECEBC Leadership Initiative

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## Tour de ECE

My family had been planning a trip to Terrace for about a year... my brother lives there and Nathan loves to go fishing for Steelhead... it's a beautiful area of BC.

During our second leadership institute I had the idea of visiting some of my fellow cohort 5 leaders on the trip, many were on the same route we planned to travel. By the third institute, I felt pretty connected to several of my fellow leaders and was happy to have a way to see them again after our leadership program would be over- I let them know that I'd get in touch when my trip was confirmed. I was able to reach a handful of people

through our ECEBC Cohort 5 facebook page and we hit the road. My main goal was to maintain a connection with these women I'd shared this leadership journey with and also to see some of their childcare centres. I love seeing and hearing what creative and fun things ECEs are doing in their programs- having these connections and inspirations helps me to stay engaged in my work. I made up a name for my journey after meeting Sarah and Jessica in Prince George- "Leadership Link/ Northern BC Tour de ECE". I appreciated hearing how Sarah, Jessica, and their team are re-establishing their childcare centre after it was almost closed a few months ago- at this point, Sarah had not been hired back to the centre until they had higher enrollment. Next, I met up with Terry at a coffee shop in Terrace to chat about advocacy, what we're up to professionally and personally, and also about environmental activism. I spoke with her about our quest in Salmon Arm to have our city council endorse the \$10/Day Plan, as Terrace had not yet endorsed the Plan either. A few days later, I visited Jessica and Liz in Kitwanga. They welcomed me at the camp where Jessica was working as a youth mentor and Liz showed me around the community, including their new childcare centre building and a poster their leadership team has been designing.

*"I believe that we are stronger, wiser, and more effective childcare advocates when we support each other and work as a team."*

*-Friday Bailey*



*Friday has been a member of ECEBC since March 14, 2013*

*Story submitted by Friday Bailey*

## TRUE in the Trees

A project designed to inspire residents to enjoy our natural environment with their children through family centered activity. By educating parents and caregivers of the value of learning and brain development that comes with outdoor play and social interaction between families and community we will enhance the knowledge of early childhood education while enhancing community capacity (Community of Innovation Project Report, 2014).

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We spoke about the challenges with getting the new building licensed, their new funding to have a Grandfather participate in their early care and learning program, and I got to see the children's garden and smokehouse. A long time ECE friend of mine, Marnie Grey, happened to be in Smithers on tour with her children's music band while we were in the area so I had an opportunity to meet up with her and tell her about our leadership program experiences. On a second stop in PG on our way home, I got to see the beautiful CNC Early Care and Learning Centre and meet their staff team. I was thrilled to learn that Sarah was now hired back to the centre! After each visit, I posted an update on our fb page in hopes of connecting the rest of our group to my journey. My visits showed me the diversity in all of our work, yet a common thread of building strong foundations for young children to become leaders, themselves. All the ECEs I met up with seemed very relaxed and fairly optimistic, which was great! I found myself wishing that I could stay with each of them longer, to spend time in their programs and be a part of their staff teams. I don't have a staff team when working with children so I felt a longing for some of the collaborations they have. I hope that my trip helped to solidify bonds with my fellow ECE professionals and that we can continue to stay in touch. ECEBC has provided me with the funding to attend the Childcare 20/20 Conference in Winnipeg this November- I will continue to connect with my ECE community there. I also ordered some ECE themed shirts and water bottles from Nova Scotia Childcare Association as a way of showing solidarity with an even larger ECE community. I believe that we are stronger, wiser, and more effective childcare advocates when we support each other and work as a team. I will continue to advocate for children's right to learn through play and for a better societal understanding and respect for Early Childhood Educators.

-Friday Bailey

