



## Mission

The Early Childhood Educators of B.C. (ECEBC) represents the early childhood care and education profession throughout the province.

## Vision

The Early Childhood Educators of B.C. envisions a society in which early childhood educators thrive in a supportive community that values childhood and education.

ECEBC will strive to articulate positions that can sometimes be controversial; however, these positions will always be consistent with the organization's mission and vision.

Since 1969 ECEBC has worked to advance the quality and professionalism of early care and learning. As part of our ethical responsibility to the profession, we strategically commit our time and resources to educating the sector and community by investigating and promoting the development of strong public policies and best practices that are based in research and evidence.

ECEBC is a strong voice for BC Early Childhood Educators. We represent the membership and the ece sector interests in the following ways:

- close collaboration with early years sector organizations, seeking opportunities to jointly inform and influence change;
- constructive relationships with ministers and government officials
- representation on education advisory groups; and
- strong articulation through multiple media forms and submissions on policy proposals.



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## Title:

# Clarifying the scope of the work of ECEBC

## Introduction:

The purpose of this position paper is to clarify the scope of the work of ECEBC.

## Backgrounder:

Over the last decade, many changes have occurred in the sector. ECEBC has been involved in a variety of initiatives that highlight and advance the position of the early childhood educator as the backbone and steward of quality early care and learning.

### *These initiatives include, but are not limited to:*

- **2008** BC Early Learning Framework "The primary purpose of this document is to support adults to create rich learning experiences and environments that reflect the latest knowledge on how best to support young children's early learning and development." ECEBC has been engaged on the developmental and the current revision of this document.
- **2008** The ECE Student Bursary Program began and continues to facilitate funds to break down barriers for students to access Early Child Education post secondary programs across the Province.
- **2009** ECEBC Leadership Initiative helps ECE's to develop their capacity. Central to this initiative is supporting a culture of leadership that is consistent with the values and culture of the field. ECEBC provides both online and face-to-face experiences for the participants that facilitate leadership growth.
- **2011** ECEBC introduced the Community Plan for a Public System of Integrated Early Care and Learning/\$10aDay Plan, (in collaboration with the CCCABC). The Plan offers a concrete, innovative and ambitious way forward for BC to build a child care system.
- **2011** Revised and expanded Best Choices: Ethical Journey Training. ECEBC recognizes its responsibility to promote ethical practices and attitudes on the part of Early Care & Learning professionals. This four-part series guides participants on a journey of ethical discovery and awareness. Participants will have the opportunity to explore personal values, beliefs, and assumptions, and examine the complexities in ethical decision making.
- **2016** Ongoing updates to the "Let's Talk" program. Let's Talk is an inclusive child sexual abuse prevention program for children aged 4 to 6 years.

- **2017** Truth and Reconciliation: Calls to Action. ECEBC acknowledges that it has a unique capacity to influence and role-model culturally appropriate practices in the sector. Within our Code of Ethics, ECEs are strongly positioned to advocate for children and families and to promote intercultural understanding and change. ECEBC commits to helping ensure this is done in an appropriate manner with active and visible Indigenous participation. Acknowledging the depth of this undertaking and recognizing the expertise and leadership of BC Aboriginal Child Care Society we continue to work closely with them on this activity.
- **2018** Sector Labour Market Partnership- The purpose of the Phase 1 component of the Sector LMP was to engage childcare sector stakeholders in order to build a shared understanding of key sector labour market issues, to produce a preliminary BC specific sector research synthesis, and to develop preliminary research questions ECEB also is providing leadership and governance structures to support a Phase 2 Sector LMP project.

## Government Action and Commitment

Early childhood care and education has become part of the political platform both provincially and federally.

In the Summer of 2017 the Canadian Government committed to a Multilateral Early Learning and Child Care Framework with funding of 7.5 billion over 11 years. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/early-learning-child-care/reports/2017-multilateral-framework.html>

On Feb 20, 2018 the Government of BC made an historical commitment of \$1 billion towards early care and learning. Through Child Care BC (<https://childcare.gov.bc.ca/>), the government has introduced new and expanded funding and supports over the past several months such as:

- Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative,
- Capitol funding for new child care spaces,
- ECE student bursary and ECE workforce initiatives,
- Support to move unlicensed child care to move to licensed, and
- Child Care Maintenance Fund.

These initiatives have opened the door for important conversations about how children, families and early childhood educators are best served.

## **PUBLICLY FUNDED AND PUBLICLY ACCOUNTABLE**

Quality child care depends on quality educators. BC's early childhood educators are highly skilled and have specialized education. They are equipped to provide the high quality, play-based child care that is critical for children's social, emotional and cognitive development during their early years.

By supporting a publicly funded system, all children in BC will have equitable access to quality early childhood educators.

ECEBC supports a publicly funded system which includes a range of service delivery models, all of which must be publicly accountable for the funds they receive. This includes fair compensation and working conditions for all early childhood educators.

ECEBC represents and supports early childhood educators who work in a variety of settings including, but not limited to childcare programs, preschools, post secondary institutions, StrongStart BC programs, supported child development, family child care, multi-age child care and public schools all of which operate under different auspices.

In order to advance the quality and professionalism of the early care and learning sector, ECEBC remains committed:

- a) To advance education by providing scholarships, bursaries, awards and other forms of financial assistance to students undertaking post secondary studies in early childhood education and care.
- b) To advance and provide professional development opportunities in early childhood education across the province through workshops, conferences and seminars.
- c) To educate and inform the public about early childhood education and care.
- d) To engage in the research, development and dissemination of educational resources in early childhood education.

***“We value our members’ input to inform the development of our position on issues affecting the ECE sector.”***

If you have comments, questions and/or suggestions we want to hear from you.  
Please contact Emily Gawlick, ECEBC Executive Director. [egawlick@ecebc.ca](mailto:egawlick@ecebc.ca)