

## **Why Is a Student an important member of ECEBC?**

As our Vision states - The Early Childhood Educators of BC enhances early childhood educators' ability to be a strong voice for the profession. It influences society to value children and childhood and to respect the professionals who care for and educate children.

Our work is to advance early childhood education and educators in the province of British Columbia. We provide professional development opportunities, training, resources and connection for early childhood educators across the province. We support early childhood educators to inform the broader community about their work. We are dedicated to supporting and building respect for early childhood education and educators.

Being part of a professional organization is beneficial for students. ECEBC strives to support ECE students En route to their profession by providing leadership and professional support. We see students as an important part of the of the early care and learning sector as they bring new growth and energy. Also, as all ECE's do, students as having an important leadership role for our profession, children, families, and communities. In part with their education, we can complement the teaching you are providing.

### ***Components of the members service we provide are:***

#### **Supplemental training and educational resources.**

- Online professional development workshops throughout the year.
- ECEBC's annual conference provide educational development through workshops and inspiring keynote speakers. Conference now offers Leadership day, an event focused on supporting and sustaining leadership in early childhood education.
- 'The Early Childhood Educator' the journal of ECEBC is a publication with contributions from ECE's with multiple experiences in the sector. Students are welcomed and encouraged to contribute articles to the publication.
- All ECEBC memberships includes a membership with the Canadian Child Care Federation. The CCCF is committed to best practice in early childhood, providing practitioners in Canada with the very best in early learning and child care knowledge. As part of their educations offering students receive 4 issues annually of the professional

journal – *Interaction* and access to their Professional Development Resources in the Members Only section. Excellent resources to access for school assignments.

- Members receive reduced fees for ECEBC professional development.

### **Connections and Networking - Having people in our networks is incredibly helpful**

A network is a source of knowledge and experience that can be instrumental in helping students succeed in their career.

- Networks can be incredibly helpful in assisting with future career paths, mentorship and coaching,
- A place to exchange ideas such as pedagogical approaches and ways to advocate for their profession and families they work for.

*Some of the key ways we help facilitate this is as follows:*

#### **Branch Involvement**

- ECEBC has 19 branches throughout the province which act as an extension of ECEBC.
- Members are welcome to join their local branch to meet colleagues and network with professionals.
- By becoming a branch members student can connect with and work alongside other members in raising awareness of ECEs and their work in the community. Branches plan involvement in community activities such as Child Care Month and other events involving children, families, care givers and the broader community. It provides them with an opportunity to meet with other ECEs and encourages, empowers and support ECE students to become involved locally and/or provincially
- Meet members from across the province on Bi-monthly ECEBC Members only calls featuring guest speakers and news from ECEBC
- Newsletters and e-blast provide up to date information from the ECEBC provincial office.
- Members surveys – an opportunity to have open and direct contact with staff and board.

### **ECEBC Codes of Ethics.**

ECEBC recognizes its responsibility to promote ethical practices and attitudes on part of early child educators. The code of Ethic articulates the principles and standards of practice endorsed by ECEBC. Members of ECEBC undertake, as a condition of membership in the association, to incorporate them into their practice. The eight ethical principles presented are intended to guide Early Childhood educators in deciding what conduct is right and correct and are to be reflected in their ethical practice.

For the ECE student it is an opportunity to embed them into practice from the start of one's career. They are intended to both guide educators and protect the children's and families with whom they work.

### **Being informed**

Changes or a need of a change in policy including regulations and legislation can impact a profession. ECEBC is committed to update and notify members when changes occur. We also continue to be the voice of the profession by raising and disseminating research and questions arising in the sector. We work toward a respected and fairly compensated work force and a system of high quality, affordable early care and learning in BC.

### **ECE Student Bursary Program**

ECEBC receives funding from the Ministry of Children and Family Development to distribute bursary funds for students enrolled in early childhood educational programs. Eligible applicants must be enrolled at an approved educational institution in an ECE program, with priority given to Aboriginal students, or students enrolled in ECE programs with an Aboriginal focus, or working to achieve an infant/toddler educator designation, or working to achieve a special needs educator designation

### **ECEBC'S Sue Fraser Student Award**

The ECEBC Sue Fraser Student Award recognizes the importance of ECE students to the early care and learning sector. Students represent a fresh perspective and possess the energy and passion to be an integral part in the future of our sector. The award recognizes and honors a student who has demonstrated the ability to build strong relationships with their classroom peers, faculty, and community and a loving and respectful commitment to children and families. This award is presented annually at our conference.

### **Post-Secondary Advisory Committee**

In March of 2016, ECEBC called the first meeting of the Post-Secondary Committee with the goals of strengthening relationships and communication with post-secondary institutions; and determining how to increase student and faculty engagement with ECEBC. Committee members were recruited from the ECE Articulation Committee and via Facebook and the group also includes student members.