

ECEBC ANNOUNCEMENT

May 25, 2007



The ECEBC board would like to announce a new partnership between Vancity Community Foundation and the Early Childhood Educators of BC.

Vancity Community Foundation has accepted funds from the Ministry of Children and Family Development and has asked ECEBC to administer two programs. We want you to know that we made this decision with ethical thought and consideration, and consulted with ECE advocates, the ECEBC Past President's Advisory Council and other individuals in the ECE field. After weighing both sides of the issue to accept or decline the opportunity to administer the programs, the board feels that it is better to work with the programs to advantage Early Childhood Educators and the ECE field in BC.

The two programs are:

1. The ECE Student Bursary Program – Ministry of Children and Family Development has placed \$1.5 million for an ECE bursary program with Vancity Community Foundation. This money can be disbursed over a number of years and with reasonable criteria and careful administration this bursary will provide needed support and continuity to ECCE students with financial need. With the extreme shortage of qualified Early Childhood Educators in our province, ECEBC believes this program to be vitally important.
2. Professional Development Program – Ministry of Children and Family Development has placed \$2 million with VanCity Foundation for Early Childhood Professional Development in the province. This money can also be disbursed over a number of years and with clearly identified priorities, careful administration and accountability this program will advantage ECEs and the Early Childhood field in BC.

Part of ECEBC's mandate is to increase the level of professionalism and to provide professional development opportunities to our members and the Early Childhood field. We feel that we are an appropriate organization to accept this responsibility and want you to know that apart from administration costs to hire staff to run these programs, ECEBC will not benefit financially.

ECEBC plans to meet with other Early Childhood organizations for a strategic planning session to identify criteria and priorities for these programs. Once the process has been determined, ECEBC will provide clear guidelines for application to both programs.

We are working hard to represent the interests of Early Childhood Educators in BC and welcome your feedback in response to this announcement.

Toni Hoyland
President, ECEBC