



PEER MENTORING

HINTS OF WINTER WONDER: A SHORT SEASONAL SUMMARY

This fall and winter, we witnessed a diversity of ideas across our peer mentoring groups, with each community forging its own learning pathway based on the interests of the educators involved. Through thoughtful discussions, hands-on activities, and shared reflections, educators incorporated best practices while engaging in experiences that fostered relationships, a growing sense of belonging, and a strengthened professional identity. What emerged was a focus on educator well-being and mentor interactions that sustain us. What we see are spaces of learning and growth centered on care and support alongside shared creativity and wisdom. The rich conversations and sometimes playful collaborations continue to inspire and shape our collective journey forward as early childhood educators.

BELOW PHOTOS: A SAMPLE OF THE PEER MENTOR INSPIRATION SPREADING ACROSS THE PROVINCE.

Want to share your Mentor Magic?

Submit your photos (with consent to share) to peermentoring@ecebc.ca



KAMLOOPS: OUTDOOR CONNECTIONS



NORTH VANCOUVER: FELT STORIES



ABBOTSFORD: MAZE ADVENTURES



WEST KELOWNA: LEARNING ON THE LAND



BULKLEY VALLEY: BRAIN DANCE MOVEMENT



WEST KOOTENAY: GIFTING BREAD



PMP gathering on the unceded traditional territories of the WSÁNEĆ people, who are part of the Coast Salish First Nations.



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Tammy had the honour of joining the Southern Gulf Islands Peer Mentoring CoP for a team-building drumming workshop, guided by David Fierro and Susheela from landbasedhealing.com. The interconnections between collective drum-making, our roles as Early Childhood Educators and peer mentors, and our ethical and ecological responsibilities were deeply felt.

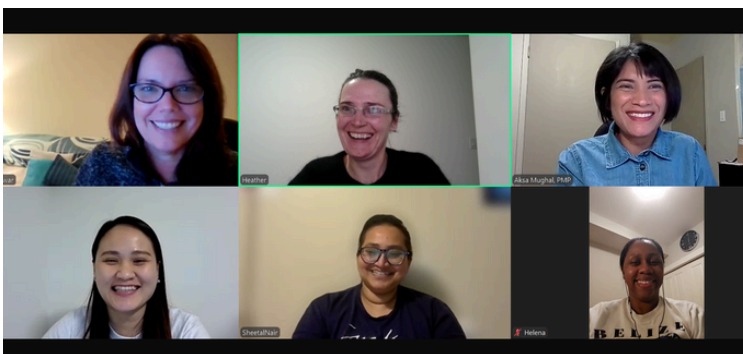
As Laura, one of the local peer mentoring co-facilitators, shared:

"Making a drum as a peer mentoring group was a beautiful experience. As we wove the drum together, we were both challenged and excited by the privilege of sharing this ancient practice as a group. Since the workshop, our drum has begun its journey between our childcare centres. Watching the children's faces light up as the drum's sound resonates has been an enormous joy."

Furthermore, co-facilitator, Pam, summarized the experience:

"Connecting us to Indigenous knowledge, building relationships with our Gulf Island neighbours, and creating beautiful rhythm and sound with the children—it doesn't get much better than that!"

MEET THE PEER MENTOR TEAM



From top left to right: Tammy Dewar-Program Manager, Heather MacKay - Systems Coordinator, Aksha Mughal - Primary Researcher. From bottom left to right: Nhy Phan -Research Assistant, Sheetal Nair - Research Assistant, Helena Lynch -Program Support.

ECEBC has the deepest respect and gratitude for the privilege of living, growing, and learning from First Peoples who have stewarded and cared for ancestral traditional lands, waters, and communities since time immemorial. We also recognize and respect the enduring presence of the Métis people in British Columbia. We acknowledge that this comes with a responsibility, at an individual and collective level, to work towards Truth, and then Reconciliation.



SHARED JOURNEYS

"When I first joined the Peer Mentoring Program, I thought I would primarily be offering guidance. **What I didn't anticipate was how much I would learn from my peers.** Peer mentoring is a two-way street; while you guide others, you uncover new perspectives about yourself. **It's a constant reminder that growth happens best in collaboration.**"

- Rosa Barcotti, Peer Mentor: Sea to Sky South. Photo: Rosa Barcotti (left) with Lisa McIntosh(Center) and Carolina B. Veri (right)

YOUR REFLECTIONS MATTER

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHARE A QUOTE OR STORY ON YOUR EXPERIENCE IN THE PEER MENTORING PROGRAM? HAVE QUESTIONS, IDEAS, OR INSIGHTS ABOUT THE PROGRAM?

WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!
PEERMENTORING@ECEBC.CA

AS WELL, YOUR MONTHLY MENTOR REFLECTIONS PROVIDE MUCH INSIGHT INTO EDUCATOR NEEDS AND EVIDENCE ABOUT THE IMPACT OF PEER MENTORING!

NOT ONLY IS THIS PART OF YOUR REFLECTIVE PRACTICE - IT'S COLLECTIVE VOICE!