



52nd Annual  
Early Childhood Educators of BC  
*Power of Story*  
In-person and Online Conference

#ECEBC2023



May 11 - 13, 2023 Radisson Hotel, Vancouver Airport

# Welcome

## ECEBC invites you to attend our 52nd Annual Conference in May!

ECEBC is honoured to be in relation with the unceded traditional lands of the Coast Salish Peoples, specifically the xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), selíwíwítlh (Tsleil-Waututh) and skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) Nations. We acknowledge the Urban First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples in the region. Many nations across the province collaborate in our shared work of supporting children, families, educators and communities and we thank them for this continued relationship.

ECEBC recognizes our obligations to ensure our work is infused and activated through the following lenses:

- BC Early Learning Framework
- Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act
- ECEBC Code of Ethics
- Indigenous Early Learning and Childcare Framework
- Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

It's with extreme gratitude that we welcome each and every one of you to explore the ECEBC conference brochure. You will find the conference committee has listened to you and has brought many worthwhile and engaging opportunities to further your professional development.



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### ECEBC 2023 Conference Planning Committee

Annie Charker  
Annette Maglieri  
Emily Mliczko  
Jaqui Sloan  
Nancy Van Groll  
Shawn Nygren  
Sue Irwin  
Sonia Tavares



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Power of Story  
May 11-13, 2023

# At-a-Glance Conference Schedule

For those who can not attend in-person, we have something for you too! On page 20 you will find details about our online conference.

## THURSDAY MAY 11

8:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Exhibitor Fair open  
Registration Desk open

9:00 am - 10:00 am  
Welcome/Opening

10:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Keynote Address  
All delegate discussion

12:00 pm to 12:30 pm  
Networking

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm  
Lunch Buffet

1:30 pm - 2:00 pm  
Networking

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
Session A Workshops

6:00 pm - 8:30 pm  
Centre Tours

## FRIDAY MAY 12

8:30 am - 5:00 pm  
Exhibitor Fair open  
Registration Desk Open

9:00 am - 10:00 am  
Welcome

10:00 am - 11:45 am  
Plenary-Workforce  
Panel Discussion  
Q&A

11:45 am - 12:15 pm  
Networking

12:15 pm - 1:00 pm  
Lunch Buffet  
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm  
Open Discussion

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
Session B Workshops

6:30 pm - Awards Gala

## SATURDAY MAY 13

8:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Exhibitor Fair open  
Registration Desk Open

8:45 am  
Welcome

9:00 am - 10:00 am  
Keynote Address

10:15 am - 12:15 pm  
Session C Workshops

12:30 pm - 1:15 pm  
Lunch buffet

1:15 pm - 3:15 pm  
Session D Workshops

3:30 pm - 4:30 pm  
Closing

**Note: to see online  
schedule go to page 20.**



# Keynote

Thursday May 11, 2023  
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

## Pathways of Truth with Cathy Balatti



**Cathy Balatti**, a member of the Haisla Nation is an uninvited guest residing on the unceded, unsurrendered lands of the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc. She is an Indigenous early years professional with over three decades of experience, who is working toward a Bachelor of Child and Youth Care.

In Canada, we are all too familiar with the word reconciliation and what it hopes to achieve. However, much like the relationship it seeks to restore, some are skeptical of the notion of reconciliation. If reconciliation is working to repair a good relationship, we must first consider if there was ever a good relationship between First Nations Peoples and Canada.

Informed by her own unreconciled pathways, Cathy will share the journey of reclaiming her identity, and invites early years professionals to step into the discomfort of the truth in order to develop a deeper understanding of our shared history.

There will be opportunity for table discussions, small group work, and a question and answer period during the keynote address.



# Plenary

Friday May 12, 2023

10:00 AM

## Canada's Early Learning and Child Care Workforce and The Canada-wide Plan

with Don Giesbrecht

On April 19, 2021 Canada entered a new era for Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) with the announcement of the Canada-wide child care plan. Canada's ELCC workforce is central to the success of the plan, so what is happening across Canada specific to the workforce? What do the provincial and territorial agreements have to say about the workforce and what has actually been happening across Canada.

**Don Giesbrecht** is the Chair of the federal government's National Advisory Council on Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC), having taken a leave as CEO of the Canadian Child Care Federation (CCCCF).



Don has worked in Canada's ELCC sector for over 32 years, starting his career as an Early Childhood Educator in Winnipeg and most recently as CEO of the Canadian Child Care Federation (CCCCF). He believes that the transformational change that the Canada-wide child care plan will bring for Canada's children, families and ELCC sector can address the interconnected issues of affordability and accessibility of child care services for families along with enhancing quality for children together with a specific focus and importance of Canada's ELCC workforce.

He has previously chaired the CCCC, Manitoba Child Care Association the Alberta Resource Centre for Quality Enhancement, was a member of the federal government's Expert Panel on ELCC, sat on the executive committee of the Child Care Human Resource Sector Council along with serving on other committees and advisory roles in Canada's ELCC sector.



## Early Care and Learning Workforce Recruitment & Retention with Dr. Reuben Ford

In fall 2018, the Province of B.C. launched its Early Care and Learning Recruitment and Retention Strategy (ECL R&R Strategy): part of a larger 10-year plan to increase the quality, affordability, and availability of childcare spaces in B.C. ECEBC is leading the sector-led evaluation of the ECL R&R Strategy. The project is learning: whether there is less turnover in the skilled Early Care and Learning workforce; whether the numbers of certified Early Childhood Educators are better able to meet demand; whether careers in Early Care and Learning become more popular; and whether public confidence in the Early Care and Learning workforce is increasing. These outcomes are generally being tracked as trends by undertaking cross-sectional surveys of providers of early care and learning and their employees; creating and maintenance a database of providers; public opinion surveys; visits to centres combined with key informant interviews; analysis of micro-data from Statistics Canada; and compilation and analysis of administrative data. Annually, SRDC has been collecting, analyzing, and reporting on these measures to determine whether the ECL R&R Strategy is on track to achieving its long-term goals and expected outcomes. The work will continue at least until 2024. The evaluation methods and tools are guided by a 25-member Sector Steering Committee - representing the diversity of the ECL field in BC. Funding and approvals of the project deliverables are provided by the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training.

In this presentation, Dr. Ford will share findings so far from evidence gathered for the evaluation since 2019.



**Reuben Ford** is a research director in SRDC's Vancouver office with extensive experience in the design and analysis of innovations spanning education and employment transitions. He is a Credentialed Evaluator with 30 consecutive years in program evaluation. Since 2003, he has worked with educators and thousands of students in four provinces on six large-scale investigations of early interventions to increase access to post-secondary education as well as analyses of the roles career education and student financial assistance play in the decision-making of potential learners. Before joining SRDC in 1998, Dr. Ford spent five years at the UK non-profit Policy Studies Institute, where he worked on several studies of child care. He holds a PhD in Geography from University College London.

SRDC is a non-profit research organization, created specifically to develop, field test, and rigorously evaluate new programs. SRDC's two-part mission is to help policy-makers and practitioners identify policies and programs that improve the well-being of all people in Canada, with a special concern for the effects on those facing disadvantage, and to raise the standards of evidence that are used in assessing these policies



## Panel Discussion – Question and Answer Period



**Emily Mliczko**

Join us as we continue the conversation about the recruitment and retention of early childhood educators. We will have the opportunity to join three passionate individuals within the BC ECE landscape in a panel discussion.

Come be engaged and be a part of the discussion on the research, as well as the required action and renewed efforts that are needed so that regional disparities are addressed as a provincial system of childcare is being built.

This session will be facilitated by Emily Mliczko, ECEBC Executive Director.



*Reuben Ford*



*Sharon Gregson*



*Don Giesbrecht*



# Keynote

## Keynote

Saturday May 13, 2023

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

# Power of Story with Carol Rowan

What do stories do? Why do stories matter? How do we, as early childhood educators and pedagogues live and work with stories? Who shares stories with you? With whom do you share stories? Why do we share stories? In this Keynote I will share stories about storying in early childhood practice. I want to speak and think with you about stories as method, and stories as pedagogy. I'd like to tell stories about power through story. Stories come in an abundance of shapes and forms, with a myriad of purposes and potentials and powers.

I will suggest that one thing stories can do, is provide the marrow for practices in early childhood education that know about histories and engage in presences. Practices which position us to recognize and cherish and question our lived experiences. Practices which are: ethical, political, complex, curious, and concerned about our common world.



**Carol Rowan** is a part-time faculty in the Child Studies Unit, of the Department of Education, at Concordia University in Montreal, Quebec. She is also an educational consultant who works with organizations and governments creating curriculum and designing policy, usually related to early childhood education in Inuit and sometimes First Nations and Métis communities and urban populations too. She has been listening to stories, since before she can remember. Over the past twenty years, Carol has been working with Elders and educators to collect and share local stories in community languages, to support pedagogy oriented to local Indigenous values, knowledges and ways.



# Closing

## Closing Address

Saturday May 13, 2023

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM

# Self-Compassion Your Inner Ally

with Kate Toye

What story are you telling yourself about yourself?  
Are you your own best friend or your worst critic?  
What could be possible if you tapped into your inner ally, self-compassion?  
During this experiential talk, Kate will take you on your own inner adventure. You will tap into the wisdom of your body, meet some of your hidden "parts", and understand where your inner story may have originated from, and with curiosity and compassion you will uncover powerful self-loving stories that are waiting for you to reconnect with.



**Kate Toye** is a self-compassion coach who weaves together mindfulness, wellness, somatic and intuitive coaching with self-compassion, Compassionate Inquiry and parts work to support her clients in her private practice. Kate has a love of learning, her greatest teachers are her three kids, and she continues to enroll in courses to grow her knowledge and the ability to support her clients. Self-compassion, parts work, and compassionate inquiry have transformed who she is and how she is with her kids, her partner, her parents, and herself. Kate loves to share with anyone wanting to create stronger relationships with themselves and their loved ones.

Kate's certifications include

Certified Compassionate Inquiry Practitioner-a psychotherapeutic approach developed by Dr. Gabor Mate

Certified Mindfulness, Somatic, Wellness Coach-Mindfulness Coaching School Certified ACC Coach-International Coaching Federation

Dual Certification Intuitive/Life Coach-Atmana Academy

Integrative Somatic Parts Work Certificate-The Embody Lab





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# Let's Talk About Touching (LTAT) (Pilot Program)

Thursday May 11 8:45 AM - 4:45 PM  
Friday May 12 8:45 AM - 4:45 PM

ECEBC is pleased to offer the revised Let's Talk About Touching (LTAT) workshop for teacher training. This is an exciting opportunity for you to be engaged in the re-development of this program.

LTAT is an inclusive child abuse prevention program for children and has been a valuable resource for Early Childhood Educators and teachers. After much research and feedback ECEBC has updated this longstanding program to reflect current language and early years practices. ECEBC is running this as a pilot program as we use the input of participants to further develop this program.

This updated 3rd edition of the LTAT Teacher Training workshop is a total of 15 hours over the course of two days and prepares certified ECEs and teachers to engage with the LTAT program with children in their programs. The workshop is broken down into four modules.

**Module 1:** provides an overview of the LTAT program and defines child abuse.

**Module 2:** focuses on the educator's legal responsibilities when a child discloses abuse, and how to make a report and overcome barriers when making a report.

**Modules 3 and 4:** provide an overview of the LTAT program and kit, and how to deliver the LTAT program with children in your centre.

Each LTAT kit includes a program manual with nine lessons, family resource materials, teaching pictures, felt board figures, sorting cards, puppets, teaching dolls, and other resources.

The subsidized cost of this training has been made available through the Government of BC, Professional Development Fund.

Cost: \$40.00 (includes lunch buffet for the 2 days)

**Presenters: Lee McArthur, Cari Rawling, Ada Mawson**



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# Thursday May 11, 2023 - Session A

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Choose only one A workshop

## A1 Supporting Neurodiversity through an Emotional Regulation Approach

Practices in early childhood and education settings have shifted and a key learning for all educators working with any age group is, compliance is not the goal. This session will explore the move from behaviour management to emotional regulation and will provide attendees with a toolbox of strategies to ensure all children have a story that values their unique profile. Strategies will focus on changes to the learning environment and the adult interactions that support child development to teach concepts such as emotional awareness, safety for all, and building a foundation of trust. This session is designed for any person working with children of any age, and will include an open discussion format to allow for sharing of strategies and ideas.

**Presenter: Kelsey Penney**

## A2 An Equitable, Diverse and Inclusive Workplace for Early Childhood Educators

If you are looking to have a better understanding of your rights to a fair and just workplace this session is for you. Justice Education Society (JES) has designed a workshop to help early childhood educators and their employers/managers navigate their legal rights and responsibilities. JES conducted a survey of over 200 Early Childhood Educators to identify common concerns and questions. Based on ECE feedback, a JES team of lawyers and ECE experts have created a series of workshops for employees and employers/management. Join us for our Equity, Diversity and Inclusion workshop. Participants will learn about: Human rights in the workplace, How to create an inclusive workplace, What to do if you experience discrimination or harassment at work, How to provide a safe, fair and compliant workplace for employees. **Presenter: Nora Bergh**

## A3 Self-Compassion, Your Inner Ally for More Peace and Patience and Less Overwhelm

What is self-compassion?

In this workshop, we will explore some of the myths about self-compassion as well as what self-compassion is and what it is NOT. We will explore the three pillars of self-compassion: mindfulness, common humanity, and kindness, and explore them both individually and collectively. We will look at some of the benefits of self-compassion and the resistance we experience to it, including the beliefs that lead to resistance.

**Presenter: Kate Toye**



# Thursday May 11, 2023 - Session A

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Choose only one A workshop

## A4 Conversations with ECPN Pedagogists

Pedagogists work alongside early childhood educators and children to think and create pedagogical projects that respond to current conditions and concerns. In this interactive presentation, a group of pedagogists will discuss their pedagogical trajectories with early childhood centres across BC.

**Presenters: BC Pedagogists**



A5

## Re-Generation: Radical De-Centring of Dominant Voices in Collective Early Childhood Community Work

Waterloo Region's Early Learning and Literacy Alliance (ella) comprises local member organizations working cross-sectorally to create conditions for foundational early-literacy-related capacity building, acquisition and application of new Science, and development of accessible tools and resources for use across the early childhood landscape. As established stakeholders within oppressive community systems of power, the majority of our member organizations are Eurocentric. In order to disrupt our own collective perpetuation of inequity in the early childhood sector, radical leadership was required to de-centre the voices of our member organizations by intersecting our early childhood work with alternative ways of learning, knowing, being, and leading. This interrogation of our relationship to power and knowledge included facilitating a region-wide two-day equity-focused virtual event and created a platform for community voices typically marginalized, combined lived and learned expertise, and established a strong cross-disciplinary network of relationships between scientists, practitioners, and advocates.

**Presenter: Kathilee Porter and Meagan Snyder**

## A6 Beyond the Keynote: Intention to Action Indigenous Allyship

Allyship entails more than just standing up to injustice. It is about taking deliberate efforts to end injustices in the present and prevent them from occurring in the future. This interactive session is a continuation of the pedagogy of truth presentation where we will journey into what it means to be an Indigenous ally and how allyship in action results in productive, equitable, and inclusive early learning programs for all.

**Presenter: Cathy Balatti**



# Centre Tours

Meet fellow delegates in the Radisson Hotel front lobby at 6:00 pm sharp to hop on our chartered bus for a guided tour of Terra Nova Nature School or Seedlings Early Childhood Development Hub.

Thursday May 11, 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Cost \$40.00 - Space is limited

(Participants will receive 2 professional development hours )

## Terra Nova Nature School Tour

Now in it's ninth year, coordinators Kate Dawson and Emily Vera will share their journey of opening and operating Terra Nova Nature School in Terra Nova Rural Park. They will discuss the ways in which Indigenous ways of knowing; Forest Schools; and the philosophies of Reggio Emilia, come together to guide their emergent and place-based curriculum. Situated in Terra Nova Rural Park, TNNS offers licensed preschool and educational programs for children ages birth to 15 years. Participants will spend time inside the school as well as outside in the park. Please wear comfortable walking shoes and outdoor clothing appropriate to the weather. TNNS is jointly operated jointly Thompson Community Association, and the City of Richmond.

## Seedlings Early Childhood Development Hub Tour

Aspire Richmond has been offering child care in the Richmond community for over 40 years. In 2022 Aspire began operations at Seedlings Early Childhood Development Hub, a new state of the art facility in the heart of Downtown Richmond. This unique HUB integrates Early Intervention Services; Infant Development and Supported Child Development Programs along with 5 different child care programs ranging from infancy thru grade 7. These inclusive child care programs provide care for 107 children supporting children with developmental disabilities to define, discover and advocate for their self-determined goals, passion, and happiness. Aspire Richmond is the largest non-profit social service provider of programs and services that support over 1000 children, youth, and their families each year in the City of Richmond to live thriving, connected and happy lives.



# Friday May 12, 2023 - Session B

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Choose only one B workshop

**B1**

## **Mentorship: Facilitating Relational, Reciprocal and Collaborative Learning Groups**

This workshop provides an overview of the Mentorship Course component of the Learning Outside Together (LOT) program. Participants will hear the journey of how this course and LOT came to be, explore the benefits of mentorship in online learning cohorts, and engage in activities and experience relational, reciprocal and collaborative learning in action. **Presenter: Karolyn Hendra**

**B2**

## **Philosophy In Action: Aligning Pedagogical Practice with Philosophy**

This workshop will share the story of our centre's journey to define our philosophy, and create an understanding of what this means in action. Through a series of reflective activities, participants will be challenged to consider their own values, philosophy and how they may identify and align their pedagogical practices with their guiding vision.

**Presenters: Shawna Hindson and Maggie Powter**

**B3**

## **We All Belong - Reviewing Resources with an Anti-Bias Lens**

The revised 2019 BC Early Learning Framework (ELF) is explicit in the call to nurture a sense of well-being and belonging for all children. Providing spaces where children see themselves and others reflected in the child care environment is essential to fulfilling this mandate. We All Belong provides a welcoming and space for participants to learn about anti-bias education and practice reviewing materials through an anti-bias and inclusive lens.

**Presenter: Cassidy Taylor**



**B4**

## **Two Provinces, Two Programs: Stories of Early Years Communities**

In this workshop, you will hear about two programs working to support early childhood educators in BC and Ontario. We will explore the many synergies between the two projects, the learnings along the way, and the value that these programs have had for educators. The two programs are unique, but both focus on building and supporting communities within the ECE workforce. The Association of Early Childhood Educators of Ontario supports regional and relational communities of practice across the province, and has created a new professional learning program - both spaces centred on relationships of care, support, and personal and professional capacity building. The Peer Mentoring Program, a partnership between Thompson Rivers University and ECEBC, aims to support the ongoing professional development needs of beginning and experienced early childhood educators, while expanding the current infrastructure of support for educators, through the creation of 25 Peer Mentoring Communities of Practice across British Columbia. These are spaces for belonging, reflection, and inquiry. We will share stories from each program and discuss together how these structures help to provide space and time for early childhood educators to come together in care, connection, and advocacy. We will explore how strong relationships and meaningful, supportive professional learning can be centered in our own ECE communities, as we seek to empower and engage educators and redefine our practice together.

**Presenters: Amber Straker and Dr. Laura Doan**

# Friday May 12, 2023 - Session B

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Choose only one B workshop

**B5**

## **Stories from Community: Advocacy for an Equitable and Fair ECE Wage Grid in BC**

The CCCABC has partnered with ECEBC and Pacific Immigrant Resources Society to advance a competitive, equitable, and publicly funded provincial ECE wage grid. In this workshop we will share and discuss learnings and reflections about our ongoing journey to achieve this essential goal, including: Stories from Early Childhood Educators who sit on the Wage Grid Project Advisory Committee about their leadership and advocacy in engaging their communities. The BC government's current commitments to ECE wages: Your questions about wages and wage grids, and your advocacy ideas for advancing a competitive, province-wide ECE wage grid that: Reflects and respects qualifications, experience, gender parity and equity. Encourages, and compensates for, additional education. Is regularly reviewed, updated and increased. Is publicly funded as part of a child care system. Is part of a strategy to improve wages, benefits, and working conditions



**Presenters: Sharon Gregson, Ana Valle Rivera, Lynell Anderson**

**B6**

## **Enriching Outcomes for Children and Families through Digital Storytelling**

Covid-19 challenged all of us to share stories and observations with and about children in new ways. Online communication and engagement has enabled opportunities for story telling and working in partnership with families that further personalize and support children's unique journeys. This presentation will share insights and case studies from Canada, Australia and New Zealand to provide participants with ideas, tools and resources to use in their practice.

**Presenter: Peter Dixon**

**B7**

## **Self-Compassion, Your Inner Ally for More Peace and Patience and Less Overwhelm**

What is self-compassion?

In this workshop, we will explore some of the myths about self-compassion as well as what self-compassion is and what it is NOT. We will explore the three pillars of self-compassion: mindfulness, common humanity, and kindness, and explore them both individually and collectively. We will look at some of the benefits of self-compassion and the resistance we experience to it, including the beliefs that lead to resistance.

**Presenter: Kate Toye**

# Saturday May 13, 2023 - Session C

10:15 AM - 12:15 PM

Choose only one C workshop

## C1 How to Tell an Epic Story

This session is designed to give you an experience of a couple of the WomanSpeak™ teachings and practices to support you in powerful storytelling. Participants will practice crafting an epic story; play with the art of using your body to enhance your storytelling AND some of you will be able to get up and share a story using these practices. When telling a story, you don't just want to tell it with your words. Storytelling is a practice that helps you to connect with others and deepen understanding of your message. **Presenter: Maureen Caley-Verdonk**

## C2 Wonderings with Ward - Through an Infant/Toddler Lens

Meandering through various inquiries, our day will flow and weave together using a responsive curriculum approach with the Educators, as we are encouraged to practice with the children in our care. This unique workshop engages participants in a communal learning environment through discussion, video, photos, personal reflection and group problem solving. **Presenter: Ward Nakata**



## C3 Come join our Coast Salish Talking Circle

We invite you to come and sit, and listen and hear from 2 of our Coast Salish Knowledge Keepers from Tsawout First Nation and Snuneymuxw First Nation. This is an opportunity to ask questions, be curious, come with an open heart and mind to hear and listen and learn from each other. This workshop will be guided with participants thoughts and questions. It will be an interactive workshop with opportunities to share and learn from each other. We will also be offering a "cedar brushing" for those that may want to experience a cultural healing with cedar. We also will have drumming and singing as part of our circle. This circle will be guided by Ada Mawson who brings 33 ECEC years of experience in the field through a First Nations lens. Come ready to learn, share, ask questions, be curious, our Knowledge Keepers will be sharing their experiences and answering questions that you may have or just come listen and hear and feel.

**Presenters: Ada Mawson and Coast Salish Knowledge Keepers**

## C4 Embracing Gender Diversity in Our Sites of Practice

Working with families in our evolving world involves conscious acts of inclusion and acceptance. Our sites of practice have the opportunity to become beacons of access, making all services a safer space for gender creative children and families. By acknowledging the embodied experience of gender diverse clients as worthy of being embraced and celebrated, we stand to make meaningful impacts.

'Embracing Gender Diversity in Our Sites of Practice' is an interactive and engaging presentation. Elliot and Kendra use a personalized, intersectional approach to discuss the culture of gender diversity and the use of intentional language to better include gender diverse children and families. They share a compassionate perspective through personal narratives and will offer scenarios, practical applications, and thoughtfully directed dialogue to help prepare participants to embrace disequilibrium and tension when engaging in social change.

**Presenters: Elliot Wheatcroft and Kendra Hill**

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# Saturday May 13, 2023 - Session C

10:15 AM - 12:15 PM

Choose only one C workshop

## C5 Mapping an Educator's Journey Through their ECE Career

Participants of the World Forum in Florida identified a strong interest in supporting the experience of educators, to help nurture and retain staff. A group of multi-site organizations from five countries worked to map an educators' experience using software customer journey mapping techniques. This has resulted in a valuable resource and the cross pollination of approaches and tactics to support each stage of an educators journey from initially becoming aware of the profession, to training, induction, leadership development and advocacy which will be presented at this session. **Presenter: Peter Dixon**



## C6 Exploring Supports for Health and Wellness of Early Educators

In this workshop we will review the results of research on the health and wellness of early educators in BC during Covid-19. Following sharing of the results, the workshop will proceed with interact break out group discussions on ways to support early educators health and well being. The session will conclude with discussion of strategies to help support health and well being in early educators. **Presenter: Laurie Ford**

## C7 Decolonizing Early Learning and Child Care Spaces

How can we improve our early learning and child care settings to ensure that we are connecting with all children, families, and communities?

In this interactive session, we will engage in critical reflection to examine decolonizing practices within early learning programs. Cathy will facilitate the learning by providing opportunities for participants to practice, talk, and ask questions about a decolonized practice. **Presenter: Cathy Balatti**

## C8 Supporting and Sustaining Ethical Practice in Early Years Settings

The ECEBC Code of Ethics and Best Choices Ethical Journey Training provide us with the foundation for ethical practice. But how do we move from intention to action in our daily work? Building on our foundation, participants will be presented with examples and will share stories from "real life" that will illustrate the importance of reflective practice and self-awareness in unpacking diverse belief systems. This exercise will support educators to create conversations in their own workplaces that will allow them to expand their capacity and create a safe environment to be reflective and compassionate with children, families and each other. It is helpful for participants to have taken the Best Choices training but not a necessity. **Presenter: Charlene Gray**

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# Saturday May 13, 2023 - Session D

1:15 PM - 3:15 PM

Choose only one D workshop

## D1 Co-constructing Stories with Children Using Loose Parts and Art Mediums to Promote Early Literacy

Everyone has unique stories; it is important for children to connect to the stories of their life and their imagination. In this workshop Early childhood educators will explore ways to use loose parts and art mediums to co-construct stories with children and promote early literacy. We will talk about ways to encourage creativity in storytelling while creating sense of belonging in the Early childhood classroom. **Presenter: Pooja Kalsi**

## D2 Cuddle Up and Read: Using Read-Alouds to Connect Unconditional Love, Identity and Activism

This two-hour interactive workshop asks the question: How can we as educators use read-alouds as an equity-building tool in early learning settings? Together, we will reflect on: our existing and developing early literacy practices; dialogic reading in early learning settings; the role of books in anti-oppressive pedagogies; the use of pedagogical tools in developing inclusive literacy practices.

**Presenter: Meagan Snyder**



## D3 Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in the Early Childhood Setting

Go over different ways to show educators how to incorporate DEI into their curriculum. Explain how this can be done through physical or material environments, and explain the importance of teaching DEI in the beginning years. This will benefit participants by giving valuable information in creating a classroom setting that will foster DEI for our youngest learners.

**Presenter: Annette Calhoun**

## D4 A Me to We Framework of Leadership

The workshop will explore the impacts of change on front-line staff, through story telling, leadership and partnership. Participants will experience 4 round table cycles, exploring stories of possibility that include shared understanding, confidence, and a sense of belonging. Participants will benefit from using the 'Me to We' engagement framework as a visual and practical tool.

**Presenter: Katie Hodder**

# Saturday May 13, 2023 - Session D

1:15 PM - 3:15 PM

Choose only one D workshop

## D5 Celebrating Leadership with Shared Reflection and Stories

ECEBC has a long history of supporting and elevating the sector to be strong leaders, to tell their stories and to share their knowledge and experience. This continues to be upheld and reimagined with the 18-month Leading Change program. Come and engage with us in this interactive workshop to hear an overview of the Leading Change journey and how consistent reflection and community connections became a catalyst for discovery and growth that activated a change project in community. Members of the Leading Change group will share their personal and relational leadership reflections and local community project stories as an invitation for you to celebrate and share your own leading change stories. We look forward to engaging with you! **Presenters: Tammy Dewar, Alaina Smith, Daljit Dial, Ewa Boss, Gretta Kawshara, Leola McMillian, Narisse Christensen, and Natalia McGonigal**

## D6 Critical Literacy & Diversity: A Close Look at the Books We Choose

What power do books hold? In this workshop educators will discuss topics of social justice and diversity, considering how all children can feel represented. We will focus on understanding the importance of representation in children's day to day lives and on the power books can hold. This involves looking at how books can uphold ideas of colonization, gender stereotypes, one type of family and white-centric voices. We will look at how the literacy we use can work towards anti-racist & anti-bias practice, as well as create a welcoming environment where all children are able to feel represented. Not limited to cultures, but also consideration of children with exceptionalities, various family structures, LGBTQ2S+, and looking outside of the gender binary & stereotypes. Focusing on the critical literacy theory, educators will have a chance to discover new authors and books that will help to diversify their bookshelves and develop skills that allow them to critically assess and choose books within their classroom. **Presenter: Ashleigh Davies**

## D7 What is Your Story?

When we understand where our story as an educator began we can have more control over where it is going. Participants will explore where the motivation or joy lived when they first came to their job and how that shapes their pedagogy. Large portions of our professional community are losing their motivation to extreme stress and "burnout". Workshop will empower participants by given a specific name to their experience instead of trying to address their experience under the umbrella of "burnout". By identification and experiencing how it affects our story, we will take steps on how to address effectively. Participants will have the understanding how extreme stress or burnout affects our pedagogy and how to identify or label what you are going through to be able to implement a solution so that your story in the field of early learning can continue.

**Presenter: Karli Michelle**

## D8 Respectful Practices for Early Childhood Education

Participants will gain knowledge in steps to conflict resolution in addition to engaging with children in a respectful way through their days and in their play. The "power of story" is what children grow to believe about themselves in relation to their relationships with others. So many of us have stories as adults that were created when we were children. We can help create healing stories through respecting children through every conflict and how we engage with children.

**Presenters: Catheryn Brulé and Emma Billman**

# Online

## Online Conference at a Glance

### Saturday May 13, 2023

8:45 AM- 9:00 AM  
Welcome

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM  
Keynote Address  
Power of Story  
with Carol Rowan

10:15 AM - 12:15 PM  
Morning Workshops

12:15 PM- 1:15 PM  
Lunch

1:15 PM - 3:15 PM  
Afternoon Workshops

3:15 PM - 3:30 PM  
Break

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM  
Closing Address  
Self-Compassion, Your  
Inner Ally  
with Kate Toye

We are thrilled to bring an online component to our conference this year! We hope you can join us from your home!

**Cost: \$35.00 ECEBC Members**  
**\$90.00 Non-Members**



# Online Conference

**Saturday May 13, 2023** 8:45 AM - 4:30 PM

Choose only one workshop for both morning and afternoon sessions

## Live Stream - Keynote Address - Power of Story with Carol Rowan

What do stories do? Why do stories matter? How do we, as early childhood educators and pedagogues live and work with stories? Who shares stories with you? With whom do you share stories? Why do we share stories? In this Keynote I will share stories about storying in early childhood practice. I want to speak and think with you about stories as method, and stories as pedagogy. I'd like to tell stories about power through story. Stories come in an abundance of shapes and forms, with a myriad of purposes and potentials and powers. I will suggest that one thing stories can do, is provide the marrow for practices in early childhood education that know about histories and engage in presences. Practices which position us to recognize and cherish and question our lived experiences. Practices which are: ethical, political, complex, curious, and concerned about our common world.

### Morning Workshops

**10:15 AM - 12:15 PM**

#### H1 Territory Acknowledgments

Territory acknowledgements are traditional Indigenous gathering protocols that honour and recognize the Indigenous peoples who have deep historical and significant ties to the lands where the gathering is taking place. The territory protocol is an ancient cultural practice of Indigenous Nations across Turtle Island (North America) and is essential in demonstrating our commitment to reconciliation by reversing the forced erasure of Indigenous peoples by colonial Canada. Presenter: **Len Pierre**

#### H2 Re-thinking screen time with children to explore inquiries and tell learning stories

During this session, we will investigate the use of technology and digital tools for exploring and extending the interests of young children, while creating and re-visiting pedagogical narrations and learning stories of their inquiries. In an age of social distancing, we have had to re-think how screens are used with young children, and acknowledge that not all screen time is equal. Reducing the negative impacts of screen time rely on encouraging active participation with technology through content creation, story telling opportunities, and the maintenance of real-life social interactions during digital experiences. Participants will gain new insights and ideas for age-appropriate digital undertakings that foster opportunities for open-ended exploration, creativity, and relationship-building with other. **Presenter: Athena Skliros**

### Afternoon Workshops

**1:15 PM - 3:15 PM**

#### H3 Mentorship: Facilitating Relational, Reciprocal and Collaborative Learning Groups

This workshop provides an overview of the Mentorship Course component of the Learning Outside Together (LOT) program. Participants will hear the journey of how this course and LOT came to be, explore the benefits of mentorship in online learning cohorts, and engage in activities and experience relational, reciprocal and collaborative learning in action.

**Presenter: Karolyn Hendra**

#### H4 Using digital tools to support inclusive pedagogical practices with students

During this interactive session, we will explore ways that digital tools support an inclusive pedagogical practice with students. Digital tools are now an integral part of the teaching and learning landscape, and provide opportunities for students to understand information in different ways, foster a sense of belonging through centralized communications with others, and document learning journey's to visualize progress over time. Digital tools also help to reduce barriers to learning, and allow for planning that anticipates and takes into account the diverse needs of students and learners, while supporting universal design principles for instruction. Participants will gain new understandings and innovative perspectives on the advantages of digital tools for inclusive learning experiences, documenting and reflecting on student development, and promoting co-learning relationships online.

**Presenter: Athena Skliros**

## Live Stream - Closing Address- Self-Compassion, Your Inner Ally with Kate Toye

What story are you telling yourself about yourself?

Are you your own best friend or your worst critic?

What could be possible if you tapped into your inner ally, self-compassion?

During this experiential talk, Kate will take you on your own inner adventure. You will tap into the wisdom of your body, meet some of your hidden "parts", and understand where your inner story may have originated from, and with curiosity and compassion you will uncover powerful self-loving stories that are waiting for you to reconnect with.

# Registering for conference

#ECEBC2023

www.ecebc.ca

If you are an ECEBC member please check your email for your membership code to register

We are grateful for the support from the Westcoast Professional Development Bursary Fund as we are able to offer our ECEBC membership a reduced conference rate.

<b>ECEBC Members</b>	<b>Conference Rate (check email for member code)</b>	<b>Regular rate after April 3</b>
<b>3 day registration</b>	<del>\$275</del> \$150	<del>\$325</del> \$150
<b>2 day registration</b>	<del>\$175</del> \$95	<del>\$275</del> \$95
<b>1 day registration</b>	<del>\$100</del> \$55	<del>\$200</del> \$55
<b>Online - May 13</b>	<del>\$60</del> \$35	<del>\$60</del> \$35
<b>Let's Talk about Touching</b>	<del>\$160</del> \$40	
<b>Non-members</b>	<b>Early Bird Rate (until April 3, 5:00 pm)</b>	<b>Regular rate after April 3</b>
<b>3 day registration</b>	<b>\$450</b>	<b>\$555</b>
<b>2 day registration</b>	<b>\$350</b>	<b>\$450</b>
<b>1 day registration</b>	<b>\$225</b>	<b>\$325</b>
<b>Online - May 13</b>	<b>\$90</b>	<b>\$90</b>
<b>Let's Talk about Touching</b>	<del>\$160</del> \$40	

## Cancellation Policy

Registration fees, less a \$50 administrative fee, will be refunding if a cancellation request is received in writing by Friday April 7, 2023. After this date, conference fees are non-refundable.

If you have registered for Conference but are unable to attend and wish to have someone else attend in your place, you will need to email us by Friday April 15, 2023 by 4:00 pm to give us time to update workshop attendance lists and delegate kit materials. If we have not received notification by April 16, 2023 we cannot accommodate delegate replacements onsite at Conference.

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## ECEBC Conference Travel Bursary

The travel bursary is available to help reduce the cost of delegate hotel and travel costs for those that live 75km or more from the location of ECEBC's annual conference in Richmond, BC, May 11 - 13, 2023. The bursary won't cover the full hotel and travel expenses to the annual ECEBC Conference. Applicants must reside in BC and be an ECEBC member. Due to the limited funds, travel bursary funding is not guaranteed. Applications will go through an approval process and you will be contacted by email. Visit [ecebc.ca](http://ecebc.ca) for fillable travel bursary application form.

- Interior: \$5,000
- Kootenays: \$5,000
- Lower Mainland/Fraser: \$400
- Northern BC: \$5000
- Northern Vancouver Island: \$2,000
- Southern Vancouver Island: \$2000
- Sunshine Coast: \$600



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ECEBC 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference  
**Power of Story**

**Travel Bursary Application Form** - Application due **March 31, 2023**

The ECEBC Board of Directors is thrilled to announce that we have funds to be used to help reduce delegate hotel and travel costs for those who live 75 km or more from the location of ECEBC's annual conference in Richmond, BC, May 11 – 13, 2023. ECEBC will strive to ensure all travel bursary recipients will have equal access to the funds available.

To apply for the ECEBC Conference Travel Bursary, please fill out application form and email it to [amaglieri@ecebc.ca](mailto:amaglieri@ecebc.ca) Bursary recipients will be notified by email if they have been a successful applicant and pick up your cheque at the conference.

Region:  Interior  Kootenays  Lower Mainland/Fraser  Northern BC  
 Northern Vancouver Island  Southern Vancouver Island  Sunshine Coast

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Who the cheque should be made to payable to: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Workplace Name : \_\_\_\_\_

How would you maximize these funds to attend the 2023 conference? (e.g. carpooling, bus charter, etc.)

I am applying for travel bursary funds for \_\_\_\_\_ (number) of delegates.

List all Delegate names below:

Email completed application form to: [amaglieri@ecebc.ca](mailto:amaglieri@ecebc.ca)



## Trade & Resource Fair



The Trade and Resource Fair will be open at the following times during the conference. Bring your shopping lists and bags and meet our wonderful vendors!

Thursday May 11	8:00 am to 5:30 pm
Friday May 12	8:00 am to 5:00 pm
Saturday May 13	8:00 am to 4:00 pm

## Awards Gala Night

Join us Friday May 12 at 6:30 pm for a night of fun, food and acknowledging and honouring Early Childhood Educators. This is included with your conference registration!

Hope to see you there!



## Volunteer at conference

- Are you excited about conference?
- Would you like to meet members of your ECE Community?

For more information about volunteering please email Annette Maglieri at [amaglieri@ecebc.ca](mailto:amaglieri@ecebc.ca)

Follow us for  
conference updates



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# Meet our Presenters

**Karli Michelle**, Managing Director of Professional Development with Natural Pedagogy Society. ECE since 2015, currently working on Vancouver Island. Founding member of the Natural Pedagogy Society

**Shawna Hindson & Maggie Powter**, are co-owners and operators of an early learning centre in Whitehorse, Yukon, as well as instructors in the ELLCC program at Yukon University. Inquiry-based learning guides, and influences our pedagogical approach for both our youngest and our adult learners. We believe in order to support the growth of learners a sense of place and shared understanding of the purpose and meaning behind our practices is necessary.

**Kelsey Penney** has been working with Children's Autism Services for the past 10 years as an education consultant. Kelsey has worked with educators, care providers and administrators to support neurodiverse children in early childhood and school settings. Kelsey received her Bachelor of Education from the University of Alberta and then completed her Masters of Arts in Educational Leadership at Royal Roads University. It is Kelsey's belief that children with diverse learning needs can thrive in any setting with the right supports, and that educators need a toolbox of strategies to feel confident to help children succeed.

**Ward Nakata** has been in the Early Years Sector for over 30 yrs. He has facilitated workshops and presents at conferences throughout the province. He enjoys spending time outdoors with his 3 children and his wife who is also an Early Childhood Educator

**Charlene Gray** is a Best Choices Ethical Journey Guide with over 30 years experience as an ECE. Charlene has dedicated herself to supporting reflective, ethical practice in her daily work as a Senior Manager of a non profit child care Society and in my role as an Ethical Journey Guide. She is a past-president of ECEBC and a Board member of the Canadian Child Care Federation.

**Cassidy Taylor** has spent the last decade working as an educator and is currently a Librarian at the Westcoast Early Learning Library in Vancouver, BC. Always curious, she loves learning and sharing together by exchanging her knowledge with others. Originally from the land of the Eastern Band of Cherokee. Cassidy has lived, worked, and learned on the unceded territories of the Coast Salish Peoples Musqueam, Squamish, Tsleil Waututh and Qayqayt First Nation for the past 13 years.

**Sharon Gregson, Ana Valle Rivera, Lynell Anderson** work with the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC to collectively, using research, public education and mobilization, achieve a high-quality, inclusive child care system that serves the public interest = the \$10aDay Plan!

**Nora Bergh** as a non-practicing lawyer, Nora has been working in the Public Legal Information and Education sector for the last 7 years. She uses her content expertise and plain language skills to help British Columbians learn about the law and our justice system, assisting them to be more able to deal with their legal issues.

# Meet our Presenters

**Annette Calhoun** is an Early Childhood Educator with over twenty five years experience. She is on the DEI committee for current school PK-8th grade.

**Pooja Kalsi** has a master's degree in Early Childhood Education from State university of New York. She has 25years of experience in the Early childhood field as a teacher, facilitator, supervisor, director, and instructor. She is very passionate about finding ways to promote children's creativity and expression of discovery. She currently teaches at Langara College in the ECE department. She is a mother of two children and believes that she continues to learn from the world around her.

**Kathilee Porter** (she/her) is a guest on Turtle Island, a Gram, Stepmom and Mom. As the Activator for ella - a 17 organizational member alliance in Waterloo Region - she works to leverage new knowledge from the Sciences, lived experience and the wisdom of different ways of knowing, to change the way members work together and individually. Kathilee's experience as an internationally award-winning television producer/writer/director (focused on children/education/health) formed her untraditional approach to the work.

**Meagan Snyder** (she/her) is a guest on Turtle Island. She is a passionate advocate for socially just pedagogies in early learning settings, a lover of all things Kindergarten, and a grateful lifelong learner. She has worked in the early years for over 20 years, and is a Registered Early Childhood Educator and Ontario Certified Teacher (P/J) with a Masters degree in Child Study and Education (JICS/OISE/UT).

**Peter Dixon** has been keynote speaker, workshop facilitator, MC, co-presenter and participant at conferences in Canada, USA, China, Australia, France and New Zealand. His expertise comes from a long involvement in Early Childhood Education, professional development, researching the ECE profession globally, working with children who have additional needs and in edtech.

**Athena Skliros** has been involved in the Early Childhood Education sector for the last 20 years as an educator, family support worker, instructor and professional learning and development trainer. She now specializes in pedagogy, training and curriculum development, and supporting educators, services and organizations in online documentation and family engagement.

**Dr. Laura K. Doan** is an associate professor in early childhood education in the School of Education, Thompson Rivers University, Kamloops, BC. Laura is the primary investigator in a province-wide peer-mentoring program for early childhood educators taking place in 25 regions across British Columbia, Canada. Laura is inspired by the wisdom, strength, and resilience of early childhood educators.

**Amber Straker** is an RECE and the project coordinator for the Building Leadership and Learning Communities project at the Association of Early Childhood Educators Ontario. Amber's focus is supporting those in the early childhood sector to come together in community, to recognize the power their voices hold, and to work together to change the status quo in our field.

**Katie Hodder** has a Master's of Arts in Leadership degree. Katie is a collaborative scholar-practitioner focused on child and family development with an interest in positive social change. In her undergraduate career Katie coordinated the Early Learning Physical Literacy Research Team across Canada.

# Meet our Presenters

**Laurie Ford** is the Director of the Early Childhood Education program at University of British Columbia. A former early childhood special education teacher and school psychologist, her professional interests include community support services for children and families.

**Kate Toye** is a self-compassion coach that weaves together mindfulness, wellness, somatic and intuitive coaching with Compassionate Inquiry, self-compassion and parts work. Kate has a love of learning and continues to enroll in courses to grow her knowledge and her ability to support her clients, her greatest teachers are her three kids and she is forever grateful for them.

**Cathy Balatti** a member of the Haisla Nation is an uninvited guest residing on the unceded, unsurrendered lands of the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc. She is an Indigenous early years professional with over three decades of experience, who is working toward a Bachelor of Child and Youth Care.

**Ada Mawson** has been an Early Childhood Educator for the past 33 years. Over the years, ECEC has led Ada to work alongside many First Nation communities here on Vancouver Island. Being of mixed ancestry has given Ada the ability to work with First Nations and Non-First Nations Early Learning programs together and provide a bridge into both worlds. Ada felt that the LTAT program could use a First Nations lens on the training model. This support would provide understanding with a First Nations perspective and things to consider when in one of our Nations or community delivering this training.

**Narisse Christensen** was born and raised on the territories of the Esquimalt, Songhees, and WSANEC Nations, colonially known as Victoria, BC, where she gratefully continues to live today. Her Leading Change project, ECE's for Inclusion in BC, aims to examine and uplift the complexities of inclusive practices within our field.

**Leola McMillan** has been active in the early childhood education field for 25 years. She has been a member of ECEBC since 2001 and is currently chair of ECEBC North Okanagan Branch. Her Leading Change Project will bring the early years community together in ongoing discussions and gatherings; through a Pedagogy of Listening to Renew and Build Relationships with Indigenous Peoples and the Land.

**Gretta Kawahara** was born and raised in Brazil, a country that also suffers the consequences of several attempts at colonization, which gives her the strength to bring her passionate heart to find ways to contribute to global justice and sustainability. Her Leading Change project proposes a reflection on how we can honour our ancestors by rescuing values and finding a connection in our practice.

**Alaina Smith** is the morning ECE in a Seamless Day Kindergarten program in Oliver BC, which was the first pilot site four years ago. Alaina loves her job. She is a wife and a mom of two energetic children. Alaina's Leading Change project focuses on sharing her experiences as an ECE in Seamless Day.

**Daljit Dial** has been working in the field for over a decade and is passionate about working with children and families. Being a part of the Leading Change project is an exciting opportunity and she is looking forward to future possibilities while also enjoying the process. Her project is, "Finding your why: reigniting your passion."

**Tammy Dewar**, project lead, is honoured to be facilitating the Leading in a Changing Environment: Promoting the voices of the Early Learning Sector (Leading Change) program supported by Women and Gender Equality Canada. She is passionate about the well-being of child, family, educator, and community. Tammy is grateful for the whole-hearted connections with the dynamic educators, advisors, and team members involved with the Leading Change program.

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# Meet our Presenters

**Ewa Boss** has a master's degree in Pedagogy of Early Years Education and over 20 years in the field as an educator, facilitator, program coordinator and instructor at Delta Continuing Education. She believes that learning is an ongoing journey. Her Leading Change project is an experiential workshop - Finding Your Why: Reigniting Your Passion.

**Natalia McGonigal** born and raised in Colombia, has profound respect for Indigenous culture and is excited to be part of the Early Years team at the Fraser River Indigenous Society where she is immersed in the beautiful teachings of the communities and families in the region. Her Leading Change project is called: Seeds for Reconciliation, an Early Childhood Educator's journey in applying the principles of truth and reconciliation.

**Ashleigh Davies** has worked with children in a variety of roles for the last ten years and currently is a post-basic ECE instructor with Sprott Shaw College. Ashleigh is passionate about the topic of inclusion and social justice within ECCE settings, running several workshops on the topic within BC.

**Maureen Caley-Verdonk** helps socially conscious leaders, women, advocates and entrepreneurs find the courage to speak their truth with intention, integrity and influence. A strong believer in the value of social connection, I am privileged to create communities that co-create spaces where women not only enhance their public speaking but are a powerful stand for each other-celebrating and supporting each other in speaking up.

**Catheryn Brulé and Emma Billman.** We are the creators of Mindful Early Childhood Educators and together we have almost 20 years experience in the ECE field. Our goal is to advocate for child-led play and respectful practices within the ECE community.



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# Meet our Presenters

**Sharon Gregson** is the provincial spokesperson for the successful \$10aDay Child Care campaign working with the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC. She was twice elected as a Trustee to the Vancouver Board of Education. She represents British Columbia on the Board of the Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada (Child Care Now). Sharon was named to the Power 50 in Vancouver in 2022 by BIV (Business in Vancouver) - and one of the top 500 most influential leaders in British Columbia. Sharon is clear that the success of \$10aDay is very much a collaborative effort.

**Len Pierre** is Coast Salish from Katzie (kate-zee) First Nation. Len is an educator, consultant, TEDx Speaker, social activist, traditional knowledge keeper, and cultural practitioner. He just completed his Masters of Education degree from Simon Fraser University focusing on curriculum and instructional design. His experience includes Indigenous education and program leadership from various health organizations including the First Nations Health Authority, Fraser Health Authority, and the Canadian Centre for Mental Health and Addiction. As an agent for change, Len leads and advises for systemic transformation in universities across North America. He specializes in the development of educational programs and services with decolonization and reconciliation as its core values. He comes to us with an open heart and open mind and hopes to be received in the same way.

**Lee McArthur** has been an Early Childhood Educator for over 40 years, she is the senior educator at Raven Daycare UBC. Lee has held various positions with the BCGEU union as well as a generous amount of committees through UBC. She has been an active member of the Let's Talk Program since its beginning stages and has delivered the program to children for 30 years and has been a facilitator for the program for over 25 years.

**Cari Rawling** is an Early Childhood Educator with 30 years of experience, is a Director on the ECEBC provincial board and works as a StrongStart Educator for School District #28. Cari is passionate about the Let's Talk about Touching Program and is happy to bring this 3rd edition to the communities around BC.

**Karolyn Hendra** is an early childhood educator, who has worked in a variety of capacities over a 31 year career including frontline, administrative, licensing and post secondary education and practicum roles. Karolyn is the chair of ECEBC Kamloops and a faculty pedagogist with the ECPN.

**Kendra Hill** is passionate about social justice, ethical practice, and service equity for LGBTQ2A+ children and youth. For the past 15 years she has worked progressively within early-years tables, CCRRs, early-literacy coalitions, program evaluations and dynamic early-years consulting. Kendra has a deep commitment to evolving child, youth, and family care into a more inclusive and responsive field.

**Elliot Wheatcroft** is a licensed special needs Early Childhood Educator with extensive experience in inclusive early childhood education. He has over 10 years of working in the field in a variety of roles and settings including as program manager for inclusive child development programs. Elliot has also spent over 12 years supporting trans and gender diverse children youth and families in various roles, including as a youth group facilitator and as a child, youth and family support worker. He currently cares for his three young children on the traditional lands of the Coast Salish, s'cəwəθənaʔtəməxw (Tsawwassen), ÁLENENEĆ ŁTE (WŚÁNEĆ) and Stz'uminus people including the Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group on Salt Spring Island while studying Child and Youth Care at the University of Victoria. Elliot has also spent over 14 years supporting trans and gender diverse children youth and families in various roles, including as a youth group facilitator and as a child, youth and family support worker. He currently cares for his three young children on the traditional lands of the Tsawout First Nation on Salt Spring Island while completing his undergrad in Child and Youth Care at the University of Victoria.

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# Hotel Information

Radisson Hotel  
Vancouver Airport  
8181 Cambie Rd.  
Richmond, BC

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www.ecebc.ca

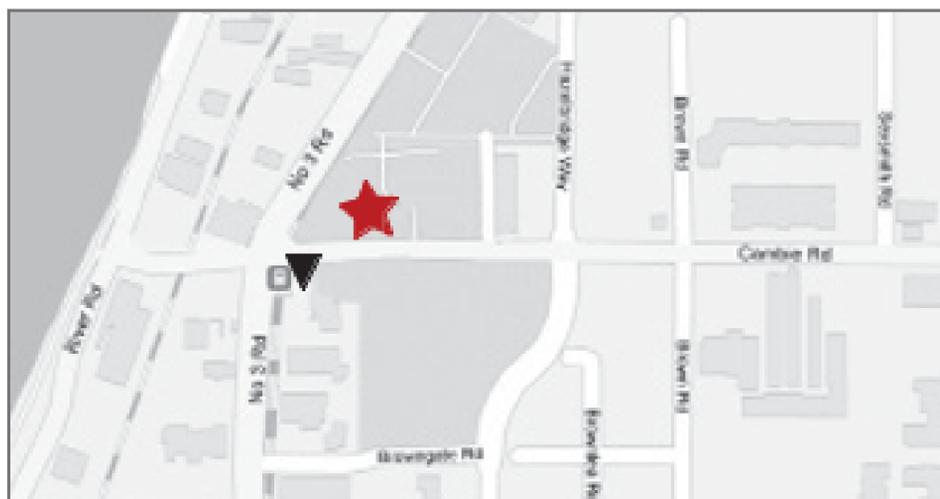
The conference will take place at the Radisson Hotel Vancouver Airport in Richmond. The hotel is right next door to the Canada Line (Aberdeen Station), just steps away from the Richmond Mall and 20 minutes from downtown Vancouver.

## Hotel booking

Rooms are available to ECEBC delegates at the reduced conference rate of \$189 (plus taxes) per room, per night based on single or double occupancy, \$15.00 additional per person, per day for triple or quad occupancy.

Call the hotel directly at **(236) 305-5339** identify yourself as a delegate at the **ECEBC - Early Childhood Educators of BC Conference**, book no later than April 7, 2023.

After this date, reservations can be made based upon room availability and at the best available rates.



## Parking

Complimentary parking is available for conference delegates on the 5th level (blue zone only) of the President Parkade. On the 2nd and 3rd levels of the President Parkade, and in front of the hotel.



The Radisson Hotel Vancouver Airport offers free Wi-Fi in guest rooms, and is close to Starbucks and Tim Hortons.

# Sponsorship

We are grateful to our amazing sponsors that support the 52nd Annual ECEBC Conference.



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ECEBC represents the early childhood care and education profession throughout the province. We provide professional development opportunities, training, and resources for early childhood educators across the province. We support early childhood educators to inform the broader community about their work. We are dedicated to building respect for early childhood education and educators.