



ON MAY 18TH CELEBRATE THE WORK OF CHILD CARE PROVIDERS – THEY HELP CHILDREN THRIVE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 18, 2016

WEST VANCOUVER, BC - COAST SALISH TERRITORY – The BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (BCACCS) has decided to mark Child Care Provider Appreciation Day during Child Care Month by reminding leadership and communities about the crucial role Child Care Providers play in helping children thrive. As well, BCACCS asserts that the development of a National Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care (IELCC) Framework is especially important at this time, as is investing in comprehensive supports for young Indigenous children and their families.

For Child Care Month every year, BCACCS renews the *From Seed to Cedar* Campaign (www.seedtocedar.com) to raise awareness about the crucial role of quality IELCC programs in communities and recognize the work of Early Childhood Educators (ECEs). This year we have another important reason to renew the campaign. As one of the regional First Nations members of a National First Nations ELCC Working Group, BCACCS is honoured to be involved in supporting the co-development of a distinct National IELCC Framework with the Assembly of First Nations and the government of Canada. This framework provides for the support of distinct cultures and needs of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children, families, communities and Nations. It will also help support Indigenous self-determination as outlined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and adopted by the government of Canada in 2016 as the Canadian framework for reconciliation.

BCACCS views the federal government's commitment to the development of a distinct National Indigenous ELCC Framework as positive and long overdue. Sustainable and enhanced funding—far in excess of the status quo—is needed at all levels if a real difference is to be made in our children's immediate and long term futures.

The Seed to Cedar Campaign is a chance for leadership and communities to support the creation of the IELCC framework, and especially the Child Care Providers who work so hard both to help children thrive and communities to re-establish Indigenous cultures. This is challenging, important and underappreciated work. BCACCS is optimistic that communities, families, and children have much to benefit from expanded, integrated, and culturally affirming Indigenous early childhood development programs, based on Indigenous-led, planned, and shared approaches.

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Families and programs share photos and stories about the difference that quality early childhood programs make to demonstrate the impact quality IELCC has in communities #SeedtoCedar.

Our children are the future. Spread the word about the necessity and promise of quality IELCC. Like or follow the campaign on social media and become a champion by signing the declaration.

Find out more at www.seedtocedar.com
www.facebook.com/Seedtocedar
<https://twitter.com/SeedtoCedar>
<http://seedtocedar.com/sign-the-declaration/>

Find out more about: [Child Care Provider Appreciation Day and Child Care Month](#)

For more information or to find out how to participate in the engagement activities, visit the [Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care engagement process](#) webpage.

More info about BCACCS: [Link to BCACCS](#)

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