



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BCACCS Calls for Action on the Aboriginal Early Childhood Education TRC Recommendation

COAST SALISH TERRITORY/WEST VANCOUVER - The BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (BCACCS) wants to see the 12th recommendation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) calling for culturally appropriate Aboriginal Early Childhood Education implemented immediately.

Mary Teegee, BCCACS Board President said, “We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and First Nations governments to make young Aboriginal children and early childhood development, education and care a priority in any reconciliation agenda. The destructive impacts of residential schools have been felt through generations and contribute to the gap in well-being and quality of life between Aboriginal peoples and other Canadians. By providing high quality, culturally relevant early childhood education for our children we can help to limit the impacts of Canada’s Residential School legacy in the youngest generation.”

“Compelling scientific evidence conducted worldwide over the past four decades shows that high quality early childhood development, education and care programs dramatically improve the lives of children from disadvantaged communities. And we know from our own research and experience training Early Childhood Educators and working with Aboriginal communities that when communities are able to develop high quality, integrated early childhood education, and community child care services grounded in the children’s culture, language and history, the health and well-being of children and families increases greatly,” said Karen Isaac, Executive Director of BCACCS.

Enabling parental and community responsibility, control, and accountability - for these services and training - help promote healthy growth and development among our children. However, more sustainable funding is needed if these programs are to achieve best results and lead to improved well-being and health for our children and families.

Mary Teegee, BCCACS Board President added, “One of the greatest hurdles we face in sharing knowledge and training services is insufficient, insecure funding. The TRC recommendations help remind the public and leadership that in order to ‘close the gap’ adequate, sustained funding is necessary.”

BCACCS is committed to nurturing excellence through community outreach, training, education, research and advocacy, to ensure every Aboriginal child in BC has access to spiritually enriching, culturally relevant, high quality early childhood development and care services.

Find out more about us: www.acc-society.bc.ca like www.facebook.com/aboriginal.childcare or follow [@BCACCS](https://twitter.com/BCACCS).

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