



ECD ROUNDTABLE MINUTES

UNITED WAY OF THE LOWER MAINLAND
4543 CANADA WAY, BURNABY

Wednesday, May 30, 2018
9:30 am

PRESENT

Kerry Watts, BCCAPC Society and
Richmond Children First
Sandra Menzer, Vancouver Early
Years Partnership
Iosefina Para, Kiwassa/HVEYC
Colleen Wickenheiser, Public Health
Agency of Canada
Mab Oloman, Coalition of Child Care
Advocates of BC
Helen Davidson, Children First
Lianne Carley, Vancouver Coastal
Health

Emily Gawlick, Early Childhood
Educators of BC (Chair)
Helesia Luke, First Call
Emily Chan, First Call

BY PHONE

Keren Massey, Population and Public
Health
Laura Wilson, Mission Early
Childhood Development
Gina Panattoni, East Kootenay
Children First and Success by 6
Regional Manager

Sandra Sasaki, United Way of
Northern BC
Sherry Sinclair, Family Resource
Programs of BC
Lori-Ann Armstrong, United Way of
Northern BC

REGRETS

Pam Alcorn, The Federation of
Community Social Services of BC
Sharon Gregson, Coalition of Child
Care Advocates of BC

1. Welcome, recognition of Indigenous lands and agenda

Emily Gawlick chairing. Helesia Luke and Emily Chan representing First Call.

Indigenous lands acknowledged, introductions and regrets noted, and agenda adopted with one addition: Minister Chen's townhall calls to be added to the MCFD update.

2. Review of previous meeting minutes – [March 21, 2018](#)

Accepted as written.

Actions arising or pending:

1. Response from Minister of Health re: outdoor play space regulations

On October 31, 2017, [a letter was sent to the Minister of Health, Adrian Dix](#) to ask why the minimum outdoor play space per child as determined in the Child Care Licensing Regulation had been reduced from 7 square metres for licensed child care programs to 6 square metres. The letter also called for the minimum outdoor play space per child to be increased.

Sue Bedford, Director of Community Care Facility Licensing and Assisted Living Registry, [responded to this letter on February 22, 2018](#) saying they are standing firm on the outdoor play regulations as amended and providing the following rationale: "The 2016 Child Care Licensing Regulation amendments were made in consultation with the Ministry of Children and Family

putting children and youth first

Development, in response to concerns about the high cost of real estate in British Columbia, and the negative impact that this has on creating additional affordable child day care spaces.”

In discussion, ECD Roundtable participants expressed the opinion that this economic rationale flies in the face of the evidence about the importance of outdoor play for young children.

Action. Send a follow-up letter to Minister of Health Adrian Dix and Minister of State for Child Care Katrina Chen asking how they rationalize their position on outdoor play with the government’s stated commitment to quality child care and the evidence about the importance of outdoor play to the health of children, especially in the early years.

2. Small working group on differential fees for families accessing supported child development program funding.

This agenda item was tabled to September. It was suggested that the small working group discussed in March meet before September’s ECD Roundtable meeting to frame out the issue. It was also suggested that if participants, especially those on the phone from around the province, have examples of discriminatory practices related to fees and service hours for child care for children with special needs that their example(s) be sent to Adrienne Montani, First Call Provincial Coordinator, by email at adrienne@firstcallbc.org.

3. ECD Sector Updates/Presentations/Discussions

MCFD Child Care Update

No one from MCFD was available to report but it is understood that capital and other announcements will be coming out in June. Wage enhancement announcements will hopefully follow later in the summer.

Minister Chen is traveling the province having meetings with early learning and child care professionals, parents, educators and providers. She is also holding townhall phone calls to talk with British Columbians about child care. No one at the Roundtable meeting had participated in these calls.

Early Childhood Educators of BC and the Ministry of Advanced Education are collaborating on a project that will look at labour market issues in the child care sector. A contractor has been hired and 18 committee members appointed. There have been 5 focus groups. A survey has gone out and is being tabulated and they are having two tele-conference calls – one urban and one rural. Project concludes at the end of June.

June 13 First Call Coalition Meeting – MCFD early years

Emily Horton and Jan White from the Early Childhood Services Planning office will be on the agenda for the next First Call Coalition meeting (Wednesday June 13th) to discuss their Early Learning Framework. Please note that the call-in code changes for every meeting so those calling in should email info@firstcallbc.org with their RSVP and will receive the call-in code the day before the meeting.

Early Years Public Awareness Campaign contract

Thanks to a grant from the United Way, First Call is [seeking a contractor](#) to animate the [2015 Call to Action](#). Please contact Adrienne Montani at adrienne@firstcallbc.org if you are interested.

Access to child care subsidy for grandparents raising grandchildren

First Call was copied on a letter from a grandparent who has been denied subsidy. As the Roundtable does not usually do individual advocacy it was suggested that Adrienne consult with Sue Irwin, Child Care Resource and Referral for advice about whether this is a trend... if so the Roundtable might want to consider developing a response. Also, the [grandparents raising children group](#) may wish to consider the issue.

Federal and provincial budgets – impacts on Early Years

After a brief acknowledgment of the federal and provincial initiatives, discussion turned to the upcoming Municipal elections and the development of the related election toolkit. There was an extended discussion about how local governments can support child health and wellbeing, the planning and development of child care facilities, etc. How can the planners, if the community has them, and other municipal staff be supported? Participants recognized that large municipalities have more capacity than smaller ones. It was noted that many municipalities have endorsed the \$10 a day plan.

4. Member Updates and New Resources

The Minister of State for Child Care visited **Prince Rupert** and it was a good meeting. They have a shortage of infant toddler spaces. The Prince Rupert Child Care Resource & Referral has entered into an innovative collaboration with Northern Lights College for distance education. They are slowly building up the number of early childhood education staff.

Early Years Regional Manager United Way of Northern BC has nothing specific to report. They are waiting for announcements from the Ministry regarding allocation of funds.

The BC Association of Family Resource Programs are launching their [Family Resource Practitioner Certificate](#) online in the fall.

Early Childhood Health, Ministry of Health are re-writing Baby's First Steps and field testing it in June.

Northeast Vancouver Early Years Centre is having a professional day on June 13 and are launching a webpage. Minister Chen visited Hastings Park Daycare and they also had good conversations.

Collingwood Neighbourhood House is looking for a new Director of the Early Years. Find out more information about the position [on their website](#).

The Toronto-based **Childcare Resource and Research Unit** has released [ECEC in Canada 2016 full publication](#). Some errors in the BC data are to be corrected - Revised 31/5/2018.

Early Childhood Educators of BC (ECEBC) will be hosting the national child care conference next year in collaboration with the Canadian Child Care Federation. They are also looking at how to break down barriers to the ECEBC bursary program. And on Thursday, June 14th, in partnership with the University of Victoria and Capilano College they are hosting Peter Moss (6:00 pm - 7:30 pm University of Victoria, HSD A240). His lecture title “Loris Malaguzzi and the Schools of Reggio Emilia: Telling an Alternative Narrative About Early Childhood Education” Please contact ECEBC to register for online webcasting access at www.ecebc.ca

5. Future Meeting Dates

The next ECD Roundtable meetings will take place:

- Wednesday, September 19th, 2018, 9:30–12:00pm
- Wednesday, October 31st, 2018, 9:30-12:00pm

Refreshments are served at 9:15 am. United Way, 4543 Canada Way in Burnaby. Telephone participation welcome; please contact us by the Monday before the meeting at info@firstcallbc.org if you wish to participate by phone.