

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2022, 9:15 TO 11:30 AM

**PRESENT:**

Gyda Chud, Coalition of Child Care Advocates BC, First Call Board of Directors (Chairing)  
Ashley McKay, MCFD  
Brenda Jones, BC Retired Teachers' Association  
Carole Anne Soong, University Women's Club, Vancouver  
Chantelle Morvay-Adams, BCEdAccess  
Cheryl Mixon, First Call Board of Directors  
David Chudnovsky, Institute for Public Education BC  
Derek De Biasio, Crane Management Consultants  
Erika Cedillo, Inclusion BC  
Fionn Yaxley, BC Aboriginal Child Care Society  
Gary Goodwin, Fairness for Children Raised by Relatives  
Golnar Vaziri, MOSAIC  
Jane Bouey, Parent Support Services Society BC  
Jackie Watts, Aboriginal Supported Child Development BC  
Janet Fraser, Vancouver School Board  
Karen Chong, BC Teachers' Federation  
Kim Jensen, Community Volunteer Kamloops/Secwepemc  
Marisol Petersen, Vancouver School Board  
Maylen Crespo, Family Services of Greater Vancouver  
Megan Wilde, UBC Journalism Graduate Student  
Michelle Bell, Federation of Community Social Services of BC

Michelle Schmidt, Surrey Schools  
Nicky Bowman, BC Society of Transition Houses  
Shari Monsma, Fairness for Children Raised by Relatives  
Shari Laliberte, Vancouver Community College/Basic Income Canada Network  
Sharnelle Jenkins-Thompson, West Coast LEAF  
Tim Gibson, Shuswap Children's Association  
Sheila Pepper, Canadian Federation of University Women  
Audrey Hobbs-Johnson, Canadian Federation of University Women  
Lauren  
Adrienne Montani, First Call  
Anastasia French, First Call, Living Wage for Families BC  
Bonnie Koehn, First Call, Living Wage Research  
Helesia Luke, First Call  
Barb McEachern, First Call (recorder)

**REGRETS:**

Mab Oloman, Coalition of Child Care Advocates BC

**1. WELCOME, RECOGNITION OF INDIGENOUS LANDS, INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA**

Gyda Chud, chairing, acknowledged we are meeting on the unceded traditional lands of the Musqueam, Tsleil-Waututh and Squamish Nations and calling in from many other First Nations lands. Introductions were entered in the zoom chat box.

**2. FIRST CALL UPDATES AND CALLS TO ACTION**

**ECD Roundtable update:**

- This well-attended meeting on February 16, 2022, featured a powerful presentation from the Alliance of Professionals Serving Young Parents (APSYP) – Jennifer Westoby, Maria Cargnelli, Nicole Osborne. APSYP is a provincial network of young parent program staff from 32 BC communities, coordinated through the BC Council for Families, who share best practices, collaborate and advocate for these programs. Program participants are completing their high school education and are provided with on-site child care. A copy of their PowerPoint slides with success stats were made available for sharing.
  - **How First Call and network can support APSYP:**
    1. Send a letter of support for their advocacy efforts, including:

putting children and youth first

- option for their contracts to include outreach support to young parents
- extend support to young parents up to 18 months after graduation
- expand program criteria to support parents who give birth up until age 24, not 20.
- 2. Reach out to the Young Parent Program in your area to provide funding, in-kind donations and/or other ways to partner to support young parents
- 3. Provide research support in collaboration with them, using their data
  - Jennifer Westoby: [jenniferw@bccf.ca](mailto:jenniferw@bccf.ca)
  - Nicole Osborne: [nichole.osborne@options.bc.ca](mailto:nichole.osborne@options.bc.ca)
  - Maria Cargnelli: [maria.cargnelli@archway.ca](mailto:maria.cargnelli@archway.ca)
- ECD Roundtable also included:
  - A presentation by Dr. Alysa Alma on HELP's CHEQ report showing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on families in young children in BC.  
[http://earlylearning.ubc.ca/media/2021\\_cheq\\_covid-19\\_report\\_final-20211206.pdf](http://earlylearning.ubc.ca/media/2021_cheq_covid-19_report_final-20211206.pdf)
  - A presentation by Shannon Renault, MCFD, about child care transitioning to Ministry of Education and Child Care, and the six new regions for Child Care Referral Centres.
  - A brief presentation from Sharon Gregson about the new \$10aDay Child Care Road Map:  
[https://www.ecebc.ca/application/files/4116/4322/2015/10aDay\\_Roadmap\\_Second\\_Edition\\_Jan\\_17\\_2022\\_web.pdf](https://www.ecebc.ca/application/files/4116/4322/2015/10aDay_Roadmap_Second_Edition_Jan_17_2022_web.pdf)

**Living Wage for Families BC update** – Anastasia French

- Program has now certified 350 employers, with 35 new applications waiting review.
- The process and criteria for Living Wage Employer certifications can be found here:  
[https://www.livingwageforfamilies.ca/become\\_a\\_living\\_wage\\_employer](https://www.livingwageforfamilies.ca/become_a_living_wage_employer)

**Making Ends Meet Research project update** – Bonnie Koehn

- This Living Wage Participatory Action Research Project looks at the challenges of parents working for low wages and suggestions for change. The project is recruiting 5 to 8 peer researchers who will gather data from study participants. Peer researchers will be paid a living wage for their time, approximately 2-3 hours per month for a few months.

**BC Child Poverty Report Card 2021**

- Webinar hosted in February had 75 participants and brought requests for presentations.
- A print copy of Report Card is being sent to BC MLA's.
- The 2021 BC Child Poverty Report Card is available on the <https://still1in5.ca> website along with the downloadable Regional Fact Sheets.

**3. Provincial Budget – review and reactions:**

- Good news in child care and for youth transitions from care.
- Adrienne shared slides with a summary of items in Budget 2022 concerning children and youth. (Slides available upon request to [info@firstcallbc.org](mailto:info@firstcallbc.org)). Topics included:
  - Child care moving from MCFD to Ministry of Education and Child Care, and new investments aimed at reducing parent fees, increasing licensed spaces, additional training seats for Early Childhood Educators and more wage enhancements;
  - Enhanced supports for youth transitions from care;
  - Public school funding;

- New funds for anticipated growth in services for children and youth with support needs, and areas/program where no increases were announced;
- Inclusion BC added that for children with disabilities, a lot of question are unanswered and more details about the budget are needed. Inclusive education was absent from the budget.
- Institute for Public Education BC shared the link to their budget comments:  
<https://instituteforpubliceducation.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/IPE-Comment-on-Budget-2022.pdf>
- Unrelated to the budget, a link was also shared to a joint letter from the BC Disability Collective to Minister Mitzi Dean with concerns about the process and proposed plan for Family Connection Hubs for service for children and youth with support needs:  
<https://www.autismbc.ca/blog/disability-collective-response-to-mcfd/>

#### 4. GUEST PRESENTATION – Fairness for Children Raised by Relatives (F4CRR) – Budget Victory

[www.fairness4crr.com](http://www.fairness4crr.com) email: [fairness4crr@gmail.com](mailto:fairness4crr@gmail.com)

- F4CCR, a new non-profit society, is building on the work of Parent Support Services BC with kinship caregivers.
- Shari Monsma, President of F4CCR introduced grandfather Gary Goodwin, who explained their recent victory in getting the province to agree to allow the \$242/mo. federal Child Disability Benefit to go to kinship care families, instead of to MCFD.
- Gary shared some of his personal story raising his grandchild since 2013, and how he became involved with F4CRR.
- Over 13,000 children are in kinship care in BC (2019 – from Gary’s presentation).

#### 5. UPDATES AND ISSUES:

- First Call’s Virtual Gala will be held Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at noon – save the date / buy a ticket! Monique Gray Smith will be key presenter and Catherine Ludgate will be honoured with Champion of Child and Youth Rights Award (posthumously);
- West Coast LEAF, shared they have 2 campaigns meeting on Zoom in April:
  - 1) April 7 – Discussion/strategy around Approach to Risk Assessment tool with Social Workers and Social Work educators and,
  - 2) April 27 – Supporting needs when working with families and child welfare system; developing capacity around investing in advocacy in a meaningful way. Email: [community@westcoastleaf.org](mailto:community@westcoastleaf.org)  
<https://www.westcoastleaf.org/our-work/child-welfare-advocacy-communities-of-practice/>

#### 6. NEXT MEETING DATES:

- **Wednesday, April 13, 2022, 9:15 - 11:30 am (Zoom)**
- **Wednesday, May 11, 2022, 9:15 - 11:30 am (Zoom)**
- The monthly network meetings are always on the second Wednesday of the month.

#### 7. ADJOURNMENT