

ECE ARTICULATION CONFERENCE

Meeting Minutes – May 7 & 8, 2018 (Nanaimo, B.C.)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Taya Whitehead (Chair / Selkirk College), Laura Doan (Thompson Rivers University), Cindy Page (Northern Lights College), Andrea James (Langara College), Enid Elliot (Camosun College), Jessica Hrechka Fee (Camosun College), Georg Melzer (University of the Fraser Valley), Amanda Nelson (Pacific Rim), Pat Bates (Stenberg College), Denyse Oswald-Finch (Nicola Valley Institute of Technology), Cathy Sales (Douglas College), Laurie Tulloch (North Island College), Caroline Loughran (Montessori Training Inst), Emily Gawlick (ECEBC), Pam Wetterstrand (Okanagan College), Brooke Alsbury (Yukon College), Iris Berger (UBC), Kate McCabe (Living Language IF), Marja Burrows (Northwest Community College), Marketa Soldat (Burnaby Community Continuing Ed), Katarina Jovanovic (Vancouver Community College), Inga Kossoroukova (Native Education College), Laurie Kocher (Capilano College), Christine Jackson (College of New Caledonia), Lynn Wood (College of the Rockies), Graham Giles (BCACCS), Sheila Grieve (Vancouver Island University), Ocean Kneeland (Vancouver Island University), Denise Hodgins (University of Victoria), Janet Webster (Ridge Meadows College), Kathy Price

Guest Speakers: Anna Tikina (BCCAT), Cynthia Smith (Camosun), Joanne Murell (Mgr of Child Care Policy Development), Michelle Gilmour (Sr. Policy Analyst for Child Care Policy Development), Darla Faulkner (Director of Early Childhood Registry), Elietha Bocskei (Ministry of Advanced Education)

MINUTES – DAY ONE (May 7, 2018) Vancouver Island University

- Welcoming by an Elder
- Sheila Grieve welcomed everyone to Vancouver Island University
- Introduction by Taya Whitehead
- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES ...** moved by Laurie Kocher (Capilano), seconded by Pam Wetterstrand (Okanagan College)
- Introductions by everyone in attendance

1. **BCCAT Update**

- Anna Tikina from BCCAT gave her report on recent updates with BCCAT
- The BCCAT.ca articulation site has been updated. All Articulation past minutes are available on the BCCAT website
- The BCCAT website is also being updated and will have improved search features and include a media and communications section
- The new Grade 10 curriculum has now been finalized and the Grade and 11 and 12 curriculum will be finalized by the end of this year and be ready for implementation in schools by the 2019 – 2020 year.
- New Graduation Numeracy and Literacy assessments are being implemented within the next 2 years
- Introduced the ‘Transfer Innovation Projects’ – BCCAT always trying to find innovative ways for students to transfer
- The Indigenous Educational Pathways project was a 2 phase project
- The 1st phase was looking at the institutional input (the elders and the administration) to find out what’s working and what isn’t
- The 2nd phase incorporates student voices – what’s working for them?
- This whole project is being done under the ‘Contemporary Issues’ umbrella
- Transfer award nominations are being accepted now and will be until June 2018
- Updated group on the Student Transitions Project – in collaboration with the Ministry of Education
- The Student Transitions Project uses students personal education number to track the pathways of students
- It give information on how students can transfer from one region to another
- It tracks students from K-12 as well as post-secondary students – however is only available for public institutions not private
- The Minister is committed to having all institutions on the Education Planner BC site

2. SECD (The Science of ECE) Update

- Handouts to follow up on last year's introduction and discussion will follow

3. ECE Practicum in Kindergarten Classrooms

- Laurie Kocher (Capilano College) raised the issue of having ECE students doing their practicum in Kindergarten classrooms
- The question was raised if this was an issue to be addressed by the Ministry of Children and Families (MCFD)
- Smaller communities in the province often need to use kindergarten classrooms for placements
- Emily (ECEBC) said the long term plan was hopefully to have ECE's working alongside Kindergarten/Grade One teachers
- They hear rumblings that there is a plan to make ECE a trades program so that high school students begin their ECE training while in high school
- Many felt this is not a positive move
- The Sooke school district (and possibly Victoria school district) is running a pilot project where they have ECE's working with kindergarten teachers at the request of their Kindergarten teachers
- According to the statistics, 2 of the 12 ECE students that have been placed in kindergarten classrooms are fully qualified – not on practicum
- The frustration is that Early Childhood Educators are being requested everywhere and there simply are not enough ECE's
- At the moment there seems to be a culture of hierarchy in the minds of many – the hierarchy appears to be... teachers, EA's (Education Assistants) and then ECE's
- In Merritt they have Strong Start teachers working in kindergarten classrooms because there are no EA's
- Pam Wetterstrand (Okanagan College) raised the question of ECE's being sponsored by qualified Early Childhood Educators?
- Many of the group was under the same belief so questioned how that works within a kindergarten classroom
- Cindy Page (Northern Lights) said the Registry was ok with having a collaborative team so kindergarten classrooms could be used
- The concern is that school departments don't always know the difference between ECE's (Early Childhood Educators), ECEA's (Early Childhood Education Assistants) and EA's (Education Assistants) and need to be educated on the differences
- ECE's that transfer into education are being 'snapped up' as the value of ECE is being recognized
- Idea of speaking to the Ministry tomorrow before drafting a letter to MCFD about this issue
- Thompson Rivers have members of the school district sit on their committee
- Georg Melzer (University of the Fraser Valley) pointed out that ECE's are highly sought after and are being spread thinner and thinner
- Enid Elliot (Camosun) – perhaps it would improve the recognition of the field if we stopped referring to it as ECE 'training' and used the word 'education' instead
- This is perhaps where the rumblings of making it a trades program have arisen, as it is seen as 'training'
- Sheila Grieve (VIU) – feels lots of school districts want to see ECEA as part of high school because it would provide increased funding for school districts
- Emily (ECEBC) would like to plan a meeting with the Ministry to discuss this in detail
- Jessica Hrechka Fee (Camosun College) – added that perhaps we could see this as a way to draw lots of those Early Childhood Educators that are out there (but not working in ECE) back into the field
- It also can be seen as an opportunity for 5 – 8 year olds to be drawn back into the Early Years umbrella
- Denyse Oswald-Finch (NVIT) – some school districts are using the ELF (Early Learning Framework) but Merritt is not

- Taya (Selkirk) – ECE’s, Strong Starts and School Districts often join and meet to discuss the implementation of the Early Learning Framework
- Sheila Grieve (VIU) – at meetings for revisions, where teachers are outnumbered, ECE’s can encourage changes to districts towards using the ELF
- Pam Wetterstrand (Okanagan College) – there has been past talk about mentorship for practicum students and by moving ECE students into kindergarten classrooms for practicum this further loses the opportunity for mentoring in skills that are ECE specific
- Questions will be asked of Advanced Education when they attend the meetings tomorrow
- Denise Hodgins (UVIC) – suggested that we raise this issue with the MCFD
- The ‘Investigative Quality Project’ has an ongoing mentorship with facilitators
- Over the past 3 years the Early Childhood Pedagogy Network – educators have connections to each other and have ongoing mentorship
- Suggestion to request that the Early Childhood Pedagogy Network have a seat at Articulation
- **MOTION ...** Have the Early Childhood Pedagogy Network have a representative sit as a non-voting member on the ECE Articulation Committee to report and update the committee - moved by Jessica Hrechka Fee and seconded by Cindy Page Put to Vote – all in favour
- Laurie Kocher and Pam Wetterstrand – added this is a great idea as it will raise the bar and acknowledge the value of Early Childhood Educators and feel this is a good way to continue growing – all agreed

4. ECEBC Update (Emily Gawlick)

- The ECE Articulation Committee has been great at helping move projects forward
- The Government announcement in February 2018
 - ✓ Childcare BC would receive \$1 Billion dollars over the next 3 years to increase affordability, accessibility and increase the workforce
 - ✓ This plan will take 8 – 10 years to see full effect
- ECE’s will need to be strong and become equal partners
- The Green Party and the NDP Party have agreed to work together
- The government wants to introduce this quickly so there can be fee reduction and in September they will introduce a new Subsidy Program
- For families that make \$45,000. or less (Pre-Tax) they will receive the full benefit of \$1000.00 per month
- There is great support for unlicensed care to move to licensed care centres
- The government is working towards creating 22,000 new spaces including aboriginal spaces and spaces for young parents
- ECEBC is working with the MCFD to enhance their Bursary program
- This past year ECEBC gave out \$545,000.00 in Bursaries to ECE students
- They are hoping to increase the amount they can give to students
- Employers can apply to ECEBC for support with current barriers for salaries for ECE’s
- Taya Whitehead (Selkirk) – The ‘Columbia Basin Trust’ (who get their profits from the interest from dams) are also running a program for a year – employers can apply for funds to have ECEA’s to finish their full credentials
- They paid for ‘backfill’ while students were doing their course work
- The program has been very successful
- In some cases they brought in part time employees which presented some challenge but it was workable
- UVIC is now engaging their Deans in Early Learning in elementary school programs
- There is also a deepening connection with BCACCS
- More discussion on the “Professional vs Para Professional” is necessary but making the change from the Para-Professional status to Professional status would require Policy changes

- Working on
 - ✓ Workforce Strategy – looking at the sector labour market, looking at partnership programs (funding)
 - ✓ Steering Committee – website survey, webinars
 - ✓ ECE Bursary
 - ✓ Education (ELF)
 - ✓ Professional Development
 - ✓ The Early Learning Framework – updates/revisions
 - ✓ A communications strategy – ways of informing government
 - ✓ Reminder ... May is Child Care month
 - ✓ How to further engage students in ECEBC
- Information being developed on how better to inform people on “What do we believe in?” (ECEBC), what’s at stake, how can we help and what happens when we help?
- BC Child Care Owners Association letter/meeting
Found at: (www.bccaa.cca/sixstepstoresolveconcernswiththecurrentndpplan)
 - ✓ Addresses why we don’t want de-regulation of the sector
 - ✓ It was impactful, and being able to meet directly with so many Ministers was beneficial

News...

- There will be a live webcast Thurs June 14th (6 – 7:30 pm) with Peter Moss on “Loris Malaguzzi and the schools of Reggio Emilia”
- The Sue Fraser Student Award was given out this past weekend (May 5th)
- ECEBC’s 50th Anniversary is in 2019
- The National conference will be held April 10 – 14th, 2019 at the Hyatt Regency in Vancouver – with the theme of “Looking Back ~ Moving Forward”
- There will be a month gap between the ECEBC Conference next year and the ECE Articulation Committee Conference

5. ECEBC Instructor’s Stream (presented by Laurie Tulloch – North Island College)/ Emily Gawlick

- Much improved participation this year
- Discussion on re-envisioning practicum was presented by Camosun and was very popular
- 26 participants that registered were faculty
- They had leadership round table discussions - a researcher would host a table and you could join the table and hear their information - this got rave reviews and feedback
- During the Instructor’s Stream the ‘Entry to Practice Training Competencies’ was a big discussion
- When the election happened last year everything stopped and new groups of people to work on it had to be formed
- There was concern about how the ELF is going to be re-vamped through the Ministry of Education
- Katarina Jovanovic (VCC) talked about the workshop “Rethinking the BC ELF”
 - found many participants were not even familiar with the framework (those who graduated 20 + years ago)
 - found knowledge was very inconsistent
 - participants were asked how they feel they would change things – but didn’t know the framework well in the first place
 - doesn’t see the framework being consistently used in the field
- Even though we have concerns, we should also see this as an opportunity to connect it to the ‘Entry to Practice Training Competencies’

- Discussion on ways to further engage students and the national group in conference – Ideas?
 - ✓ Highlighting student’s work and research
 - ✓ Jessica Hrechka Fee (Camonsun) suggested putting out a survey for ideas
 - ✓ Question – could registration for conference be earlier to allow more planning time
 - ✓ Perhaps “teams” could present – for those who may be hesitant or uncomfortable presenting alone
- Having the Faculty Forum is still positive
- Question – is the re-vamping of the ELF connected to the new ‘Entry to Practice Training Competencies’?
- Taya Whitehead (Selkirk) sent a letter to Minister Conroy following a meeting with her to share information about the “Entry to Practice”
- Taya has continued to talk with Michelle Gilmour (Gov’t Sr. Policy Analyst – for Child Care Policy) about where the ‘Entry to Practice’ is
- Government representatives will be attending tomorrow, the ECE Articulation group will formulate questions to ask them tomorrow – Taya will email questions to the representatives ahead of time in hopes of getting answers

6. BCACCS Update (Graham Giles)

- It’s been a busy year doing policy analysis and development
- Hired two new cultural advisors
- Been called to do more TRC (Truth and Reconciliation) workshops for indigenous and non-indigenous participants
- The challenge they find for these workshops is finding ways to inherit history and work through the past
- It is always a positive when indigenous participants want to step up and participate with non-indigenous participants – much is learned
- Discussed the ‘Connections Curriculum Project’
 - ✓ 3 intakes of online training
 - ✓ delivery courses of screening and assessment
 - ✓ learning about the benefits of “Learning Stories”
- Information on the First Nations Partnership Program
 - ✓ tried in the Meadow Lake Band in Manitoba
 - ✓ great interest in creating a First Nations ECDVU (ECD Virtual University) –
 - ✓ 95% completed
 - ✓ graduates would be able to work into their Masters Diploma
- BCACCS Resources
 - ✓ they have 200 new titles all available to members online (library)
 - ✓ curriculum resource kits are also available at some CCRR locations
- The BCACCS Annual Conference will be held Nov 1 – 3rd, 2018
- Indigenous and non-indigenous ECE’s are welcome
- June 21st, 2018 – is National Indigenous Day – celebrations at Trout Lake in Vancouver
- BCACCS is grateful for the partnership they have with ECEBC – it is respectful and there’s an appreciation of the reciprocity that occurs
- Jointly published “New Pathways in Early Childhood Education” (wordpress.com) which is a documentation project based on documentation interviews with Linda McDonnell
- There has been great support for Indigenous ECE - there is networking and sharing of successes
- Lots being done that needs to be shared
- Support from many sources
 - ✓ United Way, Vancouver Foundation, Transitions Partnership, Vancouver School Board
- Documentation is ‘generative’
- Looking at how ‘Healing in the wake of colonization’ can occur
- Wants to make their work more public and part of the website will be devoted to the documentation and research that is being done

- Policy Development...
 - ✓ new climate with relationships with indigenous people
 - ✓ TR Commission – new ways to think about change
 - ✓ overdue expansion of indigenous ECE Programs
 - ✓ priorities in policy – land, language, culture and identity
 - ✓ funding needs to be greatly increased
 - ✓ quality must be supported in indigenous contexts
- The First Nations Early Learning Framework (is not pedagogical)
- Focus is Cultural, Governance, Structural changes to ensure safety
- Changes are structural and systemic
- The Province recently said they would support indigenous governance in ELCC (Early Learning and Child Care) (there are 203 First Nations social authorities)
- Graham will send links to Sheila Grieve (VIU) and she will forward to all
- Inga Kossoroukova (Native Education College) – to make children happy we need to make families happy so we must work well with Indigenous families
- We are experiencing Cultural revitalization now and maybe in 20 years we will see Reconciliation

7. Deans & Directors Report – Cynthia Smith (Systems liaison to the ECE Articulation committee)

- The Deans and Directors group meet every October and March
- In October they invited Darryl Soper (Ministry of Advanced Education)
- They gave their input into what's needed in ECE
- Darryl consulted about new funding for additional seats for ECE students
- Funding was provided to public institutions to help increase seats for ECE students (private institutions were not included in the funding program)
- Noted that funding needs to be longer term/ ongoing in order to be effective and there is the hope that there will be a 2nd opportunity available
- Darryl to convey to the Ministry some of the realities – which are more applicable than funding
- In March they usually have the MCFD attend but this past March were unable to
- Question – are volunteer hours still required for enrollment in institutions?
 - ✓ some require 40 hours, some require 60 hours and some are 20 & 20, while others are flexible
 - ✓ Inga (NEC) have it build into their curriculum – the first 2 weeks of the program students are out at observation
 - ✓ Christine (New Caledonia) – took their volunteer hours out and saw no change in the type of student they had enroll – know numbers of students sooner
 - ✓ Cindy Page (Northern Lights) – no hours
 - ✓ Katarina (VCC) – her opinion is that students should have exposure to some kind of early learning environment before coming into the program
 - ✓ Is there a specific form for hours? – not that anyone knew of

8. Questions for the Government Representatives (coming to tomorrow's meeting)

- Request an update on the "Entry to Practice" project?
- As we look at updating our curriculums, what is their vision in the next 3 years with regards to funding?
- Is there a timeline for the updating of the ELF?
- Is the intention to eventually make it mandatory for all childcare centres to use the ELF in their program?
- What's the role of the MCFD in the updating of the Early Learning Framework?
- There was no ECE Articulation Committee representative on the Advisory Committee for the ELF updates so what are the next steps to voicing the ECE Articulation Committee's concerns?

- We see the primary focus for revisions to include – indigenous knowledge, inclusion (special needs), and linkage to primary programs (0-8 years) – is this correct?
- What are the plans for making ECE a trade program in high school?
- The BC Owners Assn proposal has gone to government – are there plans to de-regulate standards and what are the long term plans for the assistant’s licence?
- Inga (NEC) – really important that a member of ECE Articulation be actively involved because of its’ huge importance
- Sheila Grieve will be the representative – she was sent a “Do Not Share” copy in her email and will clarify if she can share with this group that she represents
- Good News Sharing ...
 - ✓ Northern Lights – Have Post Diploma Grads, have 7 courses approved on their web site, ‘Family Resource Practitioner Advanced Certificate’ which is a program designed to educate students to assist and support parents of infants and young children in dealing with a range of challenges (including developmental, adapting to their new country and culture etc)
 - ✓ Jessica (Camosun) – they have an ELC specific lab being built which is due to open in September
 - ✓ VIU – they have a new cohort in Cowichan, 18 fully funded first nations students started today
 - ✓ Okanagan College – have a similar fully funded first nations program in Salmon Arm with the Shuswap Nations Alliance
 - ✓ Inga (NEC) – have the same program in Vanderhoof and currently have 8 students
- Meeting Adjourned - 3:30 p.m.

MINUTES – DAY TWO (May 8, 2018) Vancouver Community College

1. Para-Professionals Vs Professionals

- Iris Berger (UBC) – ECE and ECEA are considered Para-Professionals and we need to change this
- This has been brought up with the CAYC
- There is a project ongoing at ECEBC (Shawn) working on this finding out what policy needs changing in order to change our designation
- Shawn at ECEBC will need support with this project as it is very involved
- This issue needs to be addressed at both a Provincial and National level
- Is that why we only need ‘certification’ and not a ‘license’?
- This needs to be changed in legislation
- The difference is how the government looks at Education and Early Childhood Educators
- **ACTION ITEM ...** Emily will share the work that Shawn (ECEBC) has done
- Iris Berger (UBC), Cindy Page (Northern Lights) and Laura Doan (TRU) will assist Shawn
- Pam Wetterstrand (OK College) – Has understanding that the Para-Professional designation has to do with the fact that we do not have a specific College
- Point raised... could the ECE Registry not be seen as our ‘college’ (governing body)?

2. The BC Child Care Owner’s Association

- Became an official association on April 27th, 2018
- Based on their proposal letter to the government (six steps to resolve concerns with the current NDP plan)
 - ✓ Ratio changes are a concern
 - ✓ The qualifications for an assistant are not clear?
 - ✓ Question – the language sounds like they could then get their 500 hours and be certified?

- ✓ Janet (Ridge Meadows) – thinks they are trying for immediate hires
 - ✓ Sheila (VIU) – listed professionals are already eligible for assistant’s license and can already be considered as responsible adults
 - ✓ Laurie (NIC) – for example, she teaches nursing students Child Development and the information they receive is such a small part of their training (approx. 5 hours) – same as other programs
 - ✓ Emily (ECEBC) – should we respond to their letter with our concerns? Do we compromise what we know is best for a short term fix? This is just a watering down of an already broken system.
- Katarina (VCC) – there is significant difference in ECE students and students that only take one course to become ECEA’s – this is undermining our profession
 - Sheila (VIU) – other provinces have done this short term
 - Public perception is involved in whether or not we are seen as professionals or not
 - Georg (UFV) – We have a severe problem of shortage – “we’ve got what we’ve got”
 - The response from Articulation should be a separate response
 - Pam (OK College) – parents don’t know any of this and don’t understand the different levels of training
 - We need a public education campaign to educate parents so they are better prepared to make choices for childcare and be supportive of those with their full training (something like a full page indicating the differences)
 - We must be cautious because as an Articulation Committee we cannot demonize private owners as there are a LOT of great private operators
 - The reality is that anyone who has worked with ECEA’s knows there is a difference
 - Perhaps we want to counter the Owners proposal with research that shares the information on how safety and development are better supported with well qualified Early Childhood Educators
 - Should there be a public debate – this would provide more voices?
 - Iris (UBC) – should we send a letter?
 - Enid (Camosun) – is there a role in reminding people what has occurred? If we want to, we must do it thoughtfully
 - **MOTION ...** by Cindy Page (Northern Lights) – a response to the proposal letter should be written
Seconded by Christine (New Caledonia) – the letter should articulate that we need to have a thoughtful response based on research. Vote ... Motion carried
 - The working group for the above response will include: Cindy Page, Ocean Kneeland, and Katarina Jovanoic
 - There is the recognition that this doesn’t solve our immediate problems but it’s perhaps a step in the right direction
- **ACTION ITEM ...** by Jessica (Camosun) – perhaps instead of institutional updates we could make time for round table discussions on various topics ~ time permitting
 - Georg (UFV) – perhaps different topics could be put out on table for discussion over lunch
 - Moodle could be the space that ideas on topics could be posted
- Brooke Alsbury (Yukon College) – would love to host the ECE Articulation Conference next year. Possibly could even have some stay to do some professional development for the educators in the area Whitehorse – May 8th and 9th, 2019 (Wed/Thurs)
 - Following year (2020) hosted by North Island University? Usually every 2nd year it is held in Vancouver or Lower Mainland so this can be discussed

3. Government Updates – The Path to Universal Child Care

- Joanne Murell – Manager of Child Care Policy Development
- Michelle Gilmour – Sr. Policy Analyst for Child Care Policy Development
- Darla Faulkner – Director of Early Childhood Registry
- Elietha Bocskei – Ministry of Advanced Education

Joanne Murell ...

- Canada and B.C. are making significant investments in Child Care (early learning and child care)
- The Can-BC ELCC Agreement was signed February 23, 2018
- Their vision is to have affordable quality child care that's available to any family who wants or needs it
- Their 10 year plan is to invest \$1 billion dollars
- They have a 3 pillar approach
 - ✓ Affordable Child Care
 - ✓ Accessible Child Care
 - ✓ Quality Child Care
- In the first 3 years they will invest \$153 million dollars (\$51 Million per year) They plan to:
 - ✓ create 1,370 new child care spaces
 - ✓ enhance funding for young parent programs
 - ✓ implement free (or low cost) proto-type sites
 - ✓ provide support for up to 4,000 current and future ECE's
 - ✓ open 520 culturally based aboriginal head start spaces
 - ✓ open 1400 new spaces for special needs children
- To address affordability they will invest \$630 million dollars. They plan to:
 - ✓ Reduce parent fees (started in April 2018)
 - ✓ They will focus on licensed programs
 - ✓ This will be up to \$350 per month for group infant/toddler care, up to \$200 per month for family infant/toddler care, up to \$100 per month for group care (3-5 yrs) and up to \$60 per month for family care (3-5 yrs)
 - ✓ Beginning Sept 2018 they will be replacing the subsidy system
 - ✓ Subsidy legislation needs to be re-vamped so the infrastructure needs to be in place
 - ✓ Benefits will be scaled according to gross family income
 - ✓ This should benefit 50,000 families
 - ✓ They will start with the I/T programs and until the 3 – 5 programs roll out, families will still retain current subsidy rates
 - ✓ The online application is easy to understand and will help up to 86,000 families by the end of 2020-2021
 - ✓ Not all providers have opted in and they still have some under review (eg: they need to show why their fees are going up, etc)
- Emily (ECEBC) – questioned whether centres will increase their fees just because they know parents will be subsidized
- To address accessibility they will invest \$237 million dollars over 3 years. They plan to:
 - ✓ Create 24,000 more licensed spaces over 3 yrs
 - ✓ Create a partnership with the Ministry of Education for childcares on school grounds transitioning up to 8 strong start program to full day child care
 - ✓ Provide grants to communities to create child care plans in their community
 - ✓ Give start up grants encouraging LNR spaces to move to licensed spaces
 - ✓ Include family care in minor capital
 - ✓ Ask local government and school districts to help in locating areas where child care spaces are necessary
- Janet (Ridge Meadows) – are there guidelines for the use of grant money?
- Response – they are trying to encourage communities to show a planned approach for new child care programs and encourage developers to consider putting child care in their new buildings and developments
- Georg (UFV) – will Strong Start programs now fall under licensing?

Michelle Gilmour

- Working on the Standards of Practice and Competencies – bulk of project hoping to get done between Summer 2018 and Summer 2019 – the working group will resume meeting this summer/fall
- Then there's an understanding that institutions would need time for roll out (looking towards Fall 2020)
- Getting timelines from institutions would be helpful
- Cindy (Northern Lights) – has there been any thoughts on providing financial support to institutions to compensate them for the amount of work that would be involved to change their programs?
- It would be hard for institutions to know what's involved without knowing the depth of changes that will be necessary
- There is assurance from the Registry that they appreciate that there are processes and they respect that the changes will take time
- The quality of the program is more important than the timelines
- What might be a minor change to one may be a complete re-vamp for another
- Ongoing dialogue with the government is necessary and would be appreciated (at the program level)
- Provincial learning outcomes that have been previously discussed would be included
- It would be good if instead of hours as the basis for the program, if credits were considered
- Taya (Selkirk) – could credentials change (diploma, certificate)
- Question – will MCFD work with ECE or is ECE moving to the Ministry of Education?
- Response – Michelle said not that she is aware of (ECE moving to Ministry of Education)
- Joanne Murell – reassures group that all the ministries are really working together to support ECE
- Georg (UFV) – will regulations change?
- Response – Michelle said all related aspect (including regulations) will be considered
- Bursaries will continue and will expand – fall, winter, spring/summer intakes

Quality – the Workforce Development Strategy (Education and Training)

- Over the next 3 years \$136 million dollars will be invested into Quality
- Beginning with Education and Training
 - ✓ \$7.4 million over 3 years will be invested to expand the ECE public post-secondary programs
 - ✓ This will translate into 620 ECE graduates in the 3 years
 - ✓ They had over \$2 million worth of proposals
 - ✓ The funding for this will hopefully continue over 3 years and although the initial idea is to expand seats, perhaps it's purpose can be expanded (eg: curriculum development etc.)
- Katarina (VCC) – what about space and resources (capital expenditures)?
- Response – Michelle said they would have to look at additional funding streams for that
- The Government is looking at the existing workforce and increasing quality by upgrading their credentials
- The Government looked at the trades model in Ontario and the accessibility and affordability of courses (eg: assistants working towards getting their full training)
- Question – how much is ECE in high schools being explored here?
- Response – currently some high schools are incorporating some ECE courses but the government at this time is currently not looking at full on 'Trades' designation – coming out of high school with your ECE
- The goal is to build a quality system

Quality – the Workforce Development Strategy (Professional Development)

- The MCFD will fund to:
 - ✓ Support Professional Development
 - ✓ Expand the Early Childhood Pedagogy Network/Community Facilitators
 - ✓ Expand the CCRR network

- In May 2018, the Child Care Programs and Services in the Government divided into two new branches
 - ✓ Child Care Capital, Community and ECE Registry Services Branch
 - ✓ Child Care Benefit and Operating Funding Branch
- Jonathan Barry is the Executive Director of the Child Care Capital Branch and Erin Mirau De Vera is the new Training Coordinator for the ECE Registry
- The BC Government is looking at funding models that demonstrate quality – looking at what we already have (existing programs) and are creating initiatives to enhance existing programs
- Enid (Camosun) – this is an exciting time and we all want to wish the government well and are willing to help where necessary
- Everyone is on the same page wanting to do well for children, do well for families and create quality educators and childcare programs
- The Project Manager is: Kathreen Riel (BC Campus). She works with Michelle Glubke on collaborative projects

4. The EYPD (Early Years Professional Development) Web Portal

- Portal is now up and running – still making changes and improvements as suggestions and ideas arise from users
- Purpose is to support the BC Early Years Strategy to promote quality and support work force capacity by hosting, developing and evaluating a professional development Web Portal for the early years sector
- The goal is to use the portal as a central site where all training events and opportunities can be posted by organizers so that anyone in the early years sector can use the portal to locate, register for and keep track of their training hours (for renewal of Certification)
- Found 700 training events around the province
- The idea is to reach both urban and rural areas
- Once you locate a professional development event you'd like to attend you can use the "Plan to Attend" button
- Suggestion/Idea from group – could there be some kind of 'folder' in the Personal Profile Section where certificates obtained from various training events could be kept to print off later
- Often certificates get misplaced and when Certification renewal comes up, certificates cannot be located because they've been kept in a variety of different places (work, home, etc)
- Enid (Camosun) – idea for the 'Infants and Toddlers' dashboard – could it allow learners to add their own categories in their personal profile section?
- CCRR's are the highest number of posts for educational training events

5. Appetite to Play (Sana Fakhri – Provincial Lead, Early Years Health and Wellness)

- Goal is to foster healthy good nutrition and physical activity in the early years
- The recommended practices of Appetite to Play align with the CCLR and the Dolsop Active Play and Safe Place space requirements
- The games, activities etc. included in Appetite to Play area all developed with recommended practices in mind
- The group played a few of the games
- Their hope is that institutions will incorporate this program into their Early Childhood Education programs
- Acknowledged that Stenberg College has already incorporated the Appetite to Play program into their Health, Safety and Nutrition course
- Cindy Page presented Sheila Grieve and Taya Whitehead with 'thank you' plants/flowers
- **ACTION ITEM ...** Taya Whitehead (Selkirk) will initiate the Moodle site when she is back in her office
- Enid Elliot and Jessica Hrechka Fee (both from Camosun College) will consider co-chairing for next year's conference meetings

- **SUMMARY ... MOTIONS AND ACTION ITEMS**

- ✓ Have the Early Childhood Pedagogy Network have a representative sit as a non-voting member on the ECE Articulation Committee
- ✓ Emily will share the work that Shawn (ECEBC) has done regarding Para-Professionals vs Professional
Iris Berger, Cindy Page and Laura Doan will assist Shawn
- ✓ A response to the proposal letter from the BC Child Care Owner's Assn. should be written to articulate that we need to have a response based on research. The working group for the this response will include: Cindy Page, Ocean Kneeland, and Katarina Jovanoic
- ✓ perhaps instead of institutional updates we could make time for round table discussions on various topics (time permitting) and possibly have topics on tables for discussion over lunch
- ✓ Taya Whitehead will initiate the Moodle site when she is back in her office

- **NEXT YEAR'S MEETING** – held in Whitehorse, Yukon Territories Wed May 8th and Thurs May 9th, 2019
(hosted by Yukon College)

- Meeting Adjourned - 2:30 pm.