

In Recognition of Elder Mary Thomas



Beloved and respected Elder Mary Thomas joined the spirit world on July 30, 2007, less than one month after her 89th birthday. Mary was a dear and loyal friend to all of us here at ACCS and the Aboriginal childcare and ECD community in general, at both the national and provincial level.

An advocate, mentor, leader and, most of all, a spiritual guide and helper to all of us, Mary faithfully attended our annual conference, even in poor health, where she was always more than happy and honored to share a story or compelling lesson. She reminded us all of the importance of our work—to instill “our little ones” with cultural pride, love and kindness.

At our 1998 conference, Mary asked us to consider “children as the seeds of our future, and ourselves as the gardeners.” She also never failed to remind us of the importance of our role. She always said that it would be the early childhood educators who would change the future “for our little ones.”

No matter what was happening in her life, Mary never lost sight of her core purpose: to help put pride back into people's hearts. To this end, she worked tirelessly to teach the traditional values of her Secwepmec culture.

Mary was a unique and very special person and we all miss her. Our prayers and thoughts go out to Mary's family and to the Secwepmec community.

Introducing our Newest Board Member

Mary Teegee is Gitk'san and Carrier from the Takla Lake Nation and is a member of the Lax Gaboo (Wolf) Clan. Elected to the ACCS Board of Directors at our 2005 Annual General Meeting. Mary has held the position of Director, Child and Family Services, Carrier Sekani Family Services since 2005.

Mary is proud of her Carrier and Sekani traditional values and culture and is committed to ensuring that they are reflected in all of the community-based child, family and health programs provided by Carrier Sekani Family Services. She has also been a long-time advocate for youth empowerment through the recovery and strengthening of traditional ways and languages.

Believing that community wellness is connected to tradition, cultural values and the environment, Mary insists that any program developed and delivered in a First Nations community must be based in culture, tradition and language.

Believing also that knowledge is the foundation for respect, positive relationships and effective collaboration, Mary strongly advises that non-Aboriginal society—especially the mainstream agencies, organizations and individuals providing services to Carrier Sekani people—have knowledge of Carrier Sekani history, traditions and cultural ways. To that end, Mary provides extensive cross-cultural training.

Committed to the development and implementation of a traditionally based justice system, Mary has been involved with CSFS Alternative Dispute Resolution process since the outset of the initiative. She is also involved closely with the CEDAR (HIV/AIDS) Project.



**BC Aboriginal
Child Care Society**

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Financials

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES For The Year Ended March 31, 2007

2006	2007				Total \$
	Operations Budget \$	Actual \$	Capital Actual \$	Total \$	
	(Unaudited) (Schedule 1)				
REVENUE					
Donations	6,500	9,373	-	9,373	350
Assembly of First Nations - ELCC Dialogue	-	-	-	-	17,500
Handling fees	110,000	121,651	-	121,651	135,081
Health Canada	742,221	747,381	-	747,381	742,504
BC Gaming Commission	-	-	-	-	45,000
Membership	700	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous revenue	39,000	169,472	-	169,472	45,774
Province of B.C.	479,500	469,000	-	469,000	670,857
Registration	44,000	36,835	-	36,835	44,610
Early Childhood Education scholarship	2,000	745	-	745	25,550
Child care subsidy	-	29,719	-	29,719	15,730
Grants	-	-	-	-	30,000
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada	2,500	-	-	-	-
	1,426,421	1,584,176	-	1,584,176	1,772,956
EXPENDITURES					
Accounting	-	11,917	-	11,917	10,526
Advertising	5,000	596	-	596	1,046
Audit	9,000	7,835	-	7,835	8,250
Bank charges	400	4,234	-	4,234	3,259
Banquet and catering	35,000	32,453	-	32,453	25,107
Conference	7,500	6,000	-	6,000	-
Contracted services/workshops	185,705	249,524	-	249,524	179,460
Courier and postage	5,615	3,508	-	3,508	7,410
Depreciation	-	-	22,746	22,746	35,756
Early authors project	-	2,035	-	2,035	-
ECE Resource Box	-	13,000	-	13,000	-
ELCC Dialogue expenses	-	(121)	-	(121)	9,746
Equipment	6,987	19,503	-	19,503	16,139
Evaluation	9,703	1,378	-	1,378	8,429
Handling fee	90,000	119,451	-	119,451	109,500
Honoraria and presenters' fees	7,100	6,425	-	6,425	5,760
Insurance	5,200	8,275	-	8,275	9,108
Janitorial	2,600	6,285	-	6,285	2,542
Legal fees	-	18,199	-	18,199	164
Materials and supplies	39,235	36,858	-	36,858	42,105
Meeting rooms	4,500	2,607	-	2,607	10,000
Miscellaneous	1,000	51,698	-	51,698	16,324
Office supplies	2,000	7,114	-	7,114	31,413
Photocopying	3,750	1,672	-	1,672	(1,289)
Publications	8,000	28,160	-	28,160	8,287
Reception Services	-	-	-	-	131
Renovations	-	6,286	-	6,286	-
Rent and utilities	89,380	90,776	-	90,776	67,876
Resource and curriculum/professional development	-	3,100	-	3,100	(924)
Salaries and benefits	723,020	688,351	-	688,351	793,290
Supported child development	99,431	-	-	-	-
Telephone	5,750	18,667	-	18,667	21,171
Training	53,696	28,220	-	28,220	68,053
Travel	116,200	112,769	-	112,769	154,120
	1,515,772	1,586,775	22,746	1,609,521	1,642,759
(DEFICIENCY) EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES	(89,351)	(2,599)	(22,746)	(25,345)	130,197
FUND BALANCE, BEGINNING OF THE YEAR	-	353,364	159,358	512,722	398,838
PRIOR YEAR SURPLUS REPAYMENT	-	(16,842)	-	(16,842)	(16,313)
INVESTED IN CAPITAL ASSETS	-	(3,913)	3,913	-	-
FUND BALANCE, END OF THE YEAR	-	330,010	140,525	470,535	512,722

Our People / Staff & Board

ACCS Staff:

Karen Isaac
Executive Director

Lynn McBride
Aboriginal Child Care Advisor

Lenora Pritchard
Aboriginal Child Care Advisor

Danielle Mashon
Project Assistant

Linda Clarkson
Researcher / Community Liaison

Yvonne Sam
Administrative Assistant

Mimi Lam
Resource Librarian

ACCS Board of Directors:

The ACCS Board of Directors consists of volunteers representing different regions in BC. Each member has extensive experience with child care policy and service issues and a strong commitment to promoting Aboriginal child care and early childhood development in this province. The Board meets at least quarterly to plan, monitor and evaluate ACCS activities.

Warner Adam, President
Executive Director, Carrier Sekani Family Services
Member, Assembly of First Nations Health Committee

Mary Teegee, Vice President
Director, Carrier Sekani Family Services
Member, CEDAR (HIV/AIDS)

Mabel Louie, Treasurer
Director of Health Services, Carrier Sekani Family Services

Robert Lagasse, Director
Director, Community & Economic Development, Chehalis First Nation
Volunteer, Sts' Ailes Holistic Healing Society

Al Lawrence, Director
Owner / Operator Kidsco

Maurice Squires, Director
Director, Nisga'a Lisims Government Child & Family Services

Deanna Leon-Cook, Director
Coordinator, Splat's in Childcare Centre Society
Member, BC AHS Regional Head Start Committee

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION March 31, 2007

	2007			2006 Total \$
	Operations \$	Capital \$	Total \$	
ASSETS				
CURRENT				
Cash	166,427	-	166,427	151,708
Short term investment	91,273	-	91,273	88,967
Accounts receivable	69,177	-	69,177	131,635
GST receivable	8,322	-	8,322	29,321
Prepaid expenses	23,156	-	23,156	9,972
	358,355	-	358,355	411,603
CAPITAL ASSETS (Notes 2c & 3)				
	-	140,525	140,525	159,358
	358,355	140,525	498,880	570,961
LIABILITIES				
CURRENT				
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	28,345	-	28,345	19,239
Deferred revenue	-	-	-	39,000
	28,345	-	28,345	58,239
FUND BALANCES				
Invested in capital assets	-	140,525	140,525	159,358
Unrestricted	330,010	-	330,010	353,364
	330,010	140,525	470,535	512,722
	358,355	140,525	498,880	570,961

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS For The Year Ended March 31, 2007

	2007		2006
	\$	\$	
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Excess of revenue over expenditures		(25,345)	130,197
Prior year surplus replacement		(16,842)	(16,313)
Add: Depreciation on capital assets		22,746	35,756
		(19,441)	149,640
(Decrease) increase in non-cash current assets		70,273	(1,323)
(Decrease) increase in non-cash current liabilities		(29,894)	(134,032)
		20,938	14,285
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Capital assets acquired		(3,913)	(13,550)
NET INCREASE IN CASH BALANCE		17,025	735
CASH - BEGINNING OF THE YEAR		240,675	239,940
CASH - END OF THE YEAR		257,700	240,675
AS REPRESENTED BY:			
Cash		166,427	151,708
Short term investments		91,273	88,967
		257,700	240,675

AUDITORS' REPORT

TO: THE MEMBERS OF THE B.C. ABORIGINAL CHILD CARE SOCIETY

We have audited the statement of financial position of the B.C. Aboriginal Child Care Society as at March 31, 2007 and the statements of operations and changes in fund balances and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Society. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by the management of the Society, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Society as at March 31, 2007 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. As required by the Society Act, we report that, in our opinion, these principles have been applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

REID HURST NAGY
CERTIFIED GENERAL ACCOUNTANTS
JUNE 20, 2007, RICHMOND, B.C.

Our Partners / Giving Thanks

BC Healthy Child Alliance, for generously supporting the Community Dialogue on Aboriginal ECD, held in Prince George on March 22nd

First Nations Employment Society for having the confidence in ACCS to develop a Needs Assessment for child care of their 10 member First Nations

First Nations Inuit Health Branch, Pacific Region, for funding our Maternal Child Health Resources Cedar Box and for funding First Nations ECEs to obtain Moe the Mouse Speech and Language Training

Ministry of Children and Family Development, Northern Regional Office, for contracting with us to conduct a Needs Assessment for an Aboriginal Supported Child Development in seven North West Coast First Nations communities

Ministry of Children & Family Development, Child & Youth with Special Needs, to expand the training and use of Moe the Mouse Speech and Language Training Kit

Ministry of Children & Family Development, Child Care Branch, for funding our Child Care Resources Project

Ministry of Children & Family Development, ECD Branch, for funding our publication, Steps in the Right Direction: Connecting & Collaborating in Early Intervention Therapy with Aboriginal Families and Communities in British Columbia

National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health, for providing financial support for us to publish and widely distribute our 9th Annual Training Conference Workshop Report, Quality Care: It's in our Hands

Report to the Community 2006/2007

Today's children, tomorrow's hope
Building a comprehensive framework for the early years

BC Aboriginal Child Care Society

Who We Are

The BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (ACCS) was established in 1995 to administer the \$12 million BC share of the federal government's First Nations/Inuit Child care Initiative. We incorporated as a charitable Society in 1998 and obtained charitable tax status in 2000. One federal evaluation described the ACCS as a “model” for other First Nations child care organizations in Canada.

Our Mission

Building on Our Nations' Past for Our Children's Future

The ACCS is here to help Aboriginal communities develop high-quality, integrated, community-based childcare and early childhood development services that are based in the children's culture, language and history. These services promote healthy growth and development among our children. We are also here to build an Aboriginal childcare and early childhood development network by undertaking research, development, advocacy and support for communities to develop their own resources.



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Reflections

Message from the President

The evidence is clear: all children need and benefit from quality care and positive early learning experiences. However, throughout British Columbia, the demand for quality care far exceeds supply. Care outside of the conventional workweek is mostly unavailable, and many Northern, rural and remote communities lack services. Furthermore, quality is often an issue, with many programs unaffordable and Government funding "inadequate and unstable".

In its 2006 study "Strong Start II", the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development found that Canada lags well behind other OECD countries when it comes to investing in early childhood programs and services. The OECD also found that child poverty is one of the biggest challenges facing policymakers when developing strategies to improve outcomes for young children. OECD research found that "reducing child and family poverty is, in fact, a precondition for successful early childhood development", and the OECD calls on Canada to produce a comprehensive framework for the early years.

Our ECD strategy must ensure the holistic development of our children within the context of improvements to the socio-economic circumstances of families and increasing prosperity in all First Nations communities. First Nations children have the right to benefit from the province's improved economic position. Their healthy development, and the future quality of BC society, depends on equitable access to those resources now.

Despite growing evidence on the importance of ECD, Federal and Provincial Governments have reduced funding in the last fiscal year. They continue to make funding decisions without consulting our Leadership, communities and service providers. This, despite the "New Relationship" touted by Gordon Campbell.

A plan to support collaborative, coherent First Nations capacity building and self-determination does not exist within Government, and our organizations must compete with each other over inadequate funding. Competitive funding processes reward, rather than build, capacity, resulting in significant disparities in access to services and resources.

Reducing or eliminating outcome disparities among First Nations children must be public priorities. Our children are paying the price for the lack of such priorities. They deserve much better – from Governments and from us all.

What are we – individually and collectively – going to do to improve outcomes for our children? It is easy to spout the words, "Our Children are Our Future". But we need to move beyond rhetoric and hollow promises, and determine exactly what those words mean in terms of priorities. Are children at the top of political policy agendas? How big is the share of resources allocated to children? Are commitments to children maintained despite changes in Government? What am I – as a First Nations person privileged to live, work and raise children in these territories – going to do right now to improve outcomes for all BC First Nations children?

At ACCS, children and families are our number one priority. Their interests guide every decision we make. We welcome collaboration with all organizations, individuals and Leaders with similar interests. And we challenge all levels of Government, our First Nations Leadership, and private and public organizations to make children a top priority too.

Let's agree on a common vision for our children, and on the paths we need to take to realize that vision. Let's identify measurable indicators and targets, set aside individual and organizational interests and agendas, be transparent, respectful and open, and hold each other – and Government – accountable for making demonstrated improvements in outcomes for our children, in a meaningful timeframe.

Our children are our most precious resource, and should have first call on available resources. Let's continue to say this, but also show that we really mean it, through our decisions and actions!



Mussi Cho, Warner Adam
President

Year in Review

Message from the Executive Director

2006-2007 was busy, productive, and defined by significant accomplishments, challenges and changes both within and outside our agency.

To achieve our overall mission – supporting and developing high-quality, holistic, Aboriginal-specific early childhood education, care and development resources and services – ACCS engages in a broad scope of activities. Our focus this past year was on public policy advocacy, training and professional development, community outreach, education and support, and resource development, including programs for children with additional support needs.

Over the past year, we also began to improve collaboration with First Nations education, health and employment sectors via partnerships with AHRDAs and the emerging BC First Nations ECD Council, affiliated to the FNLC. This is a positive development, one for which ACCS has long advocated. First Nations Leadership is paying more attention, and a wider range of children's issues – including early childhood education, care and development, and child health and child protection in the context of the emerging Regional Aboriginal Authorities for Child and Family Services – is clearly visible on the Leadership radar screen.

It was both rewarding and grounding during 2006-2007 to work directly with the Vancouver Sunshine Coast AHRDA and Nisga'a communities. They conducted formal needs assessments of their programs and services for children, and are now poised to access potential sources of new funding, including increased resources through the Child Care Spaces Initiative (CCSI). The Nisga'a Supported Child Development Readiness Plan provided access to operational funding for SCD Programs in Nisga'a villages, under the direction of the Nisga'a Lissims Government, in a way that is consistent with their self-government Treaty.

Moe the Mouse™ – our highly successful Aboriginal Speech and Language Development Program – grew this past fiscal year. As a result of enhanced one time only (OTO) funding, *Moe the Mouse*™ will now be much more available to support speech and language development in Aboriginal communities.

Recruitment, retention and stabilization of the early childhood education care and development workforce was a recurring theme and significant policy item this past year, for ACCS and other ECD stakeholders. In the coming year, we will continue to address this critically important issue through the development of strategic and action plans and through a strengthened relationship with the Early Childhood Educators of BC (ECEBC).

Another ACCS priority is ensuring quality in early childhood education, care and development settings. Evidence confirms that children benefit from high-quality programs, while poor or mediocre services can actually impede healthy growth and development. Consequently, ACCS is committed to promoting best and promising practices that help community-based programs become centres of excellence for our youngest citizens.

I thank our Board and Staff for their commitment and hard work. I look forward to realizing further progress through our strengthened partnerships with Leadership, the First Nations ECD Council, and all individuals and organizations committed to improving outcomes for our precious children.

Thank-you, Karen Isaac

Highlights of the Year

ACCS in Action 2006-2007

Our focus this past year was on public policy advocacy, training and professional development, community outreach, education and support, and resource development, including programs for children with additional support needs.

Resource Creation and Professional Development

- Organized the ACCS 9th annual training conference, with four streams and 32 workshops, for 165 delegates from around the province;
- Supported and created training curriculum for the Nuxalk Nation, upgraded the *Music and Movement Kit* and began work on the *Maternal/Child Health Home Visiting Kits*;
- Under funding agreements with the First Nations Inuit Health Branch and with MCFD, provided training and *Moe the Mouse*™ Curriculum Boxes to 82 Aboriginal communities;
- Presented professional development training workshops at three On Reserve Head Start Regional Conferences (Interior, Fraser and North);

Community Outreach, Education and Support

- Published a report on the Society's 9th annual training conference: *Quality Care: It's in our Hands* (see Report at www.acc-society.bc.ca);
- Developed and presented culturally relevant workshops in various child care settings throughout BC on Professionalism in the Workplace, Cultural Curriculum, Multiple Layers of Supervision, Building Successful Team Building, ECD Community Asset Mapping,
- Published, *Steps in the Right Direction: Connecting & Collaborating in Early Intervention Therapy with Aboriginal Families & Communities in British Columbia* (see Report at www.acc-society.bc.ca);
- Conducted community site visits in 26 locations throughout the province;
- Delivered eight *Caring for our Children* newsletters to 800-plus contacts.

Public Policy Support and Development

- Prepared written submissions to the Ministry of Education on their Early Learning Framework and made recommendations with respect to a First Nations Early Learning Framework;
- Made revisions to the Assembly of First Nations September 2006 report on the national meeting of First Nations representatives held in Ottawa (to explore the Federal Government's new policy proposals for childcare and early learning and to develop a draft national framework for First Nations early Childhood Development);
- Prepared a written submission to the Federal Government Consultation on the Child Care Spaces Initiative;
- Prepared first draft of a culture and language Literature Review;

Vital Stats—2006/07

Number of stakeholders who accessed the ACCS library and ECE curriculum boxes:	148
Number of communities that received ACCS's culturally-specific training:	26
Number of community members who received ACCS's <i>Moe the Mouse</i> ™ training:	550
Number of phone and e-mail consults:	1,909
Number of site visits by ACCS staff:	133
Number of hits on the ACCS website:	22,787
Number of <i>Caring for our Children</i> newsletters distributed:	6,400
Number of e-newsletters distributed:	16,875



- Participated in various networks and advisory committees, including: the North Shore ECD Network; Understanding the Early Years North Shore; First Call Coalition and the ECD Roundtable; Maternal Child Health Advisory Committee, Public Health Agency of Canada; UBC Young Parent Partnership; Vancouver Coastal Rural Aboriginal ECD Group; Aboriginal Supported Child Development Advisory Committee Provincial Advisor SCDP; First Nations Inuit Health Branch; First Nations Technology Council; BC Healthy Child Development Alliance; Alliance Special Needs Working Group; Alliance Aboriginal ECD Framework Working Group; Aboriginal Administrative Data Development Joint Aboriginal BC Working Group; First Years Council—Aboriginal Community Engagement Committee and Assembly of First National ECD Working Group;
- Through the BC Health Child Alliance's Aboriginal ECD Framework Working Group, facilitated and participated in a one day workshop in Prince George to gather input into a BC Aboriginal ECD Framework, as part of a broader framework being developed by the Alliance;
- Advised First Nations Leadership on various childcare and early childhood development policy matters.

Strategic Collaborations

The ACCS has always recognized the value of partnerships. But this past year we focused on engaging leadership from all levels of government—provincial, national, community and regional—in the development of a policy agenda for children. And we made significant progress at all levels.

At the Provincial Level:

- Strengthened relationships with the First Nations Steering Committee (FNSC), the First Nations School Association, the Ministry of Education, and the First Nations Leadership Council (FNC) towards the development of a holistic approach to childcare, linking early childhood development, early learning and education, training and post-secondary education and health;
- Helped develop, in collaboration with the FNSC, a Memorandum of Understanding as an instrument for securing the commitment of Leadership, and a draft Terms of Reference for a First Nations Early Childhood Development Council affiliated with the FNLC.

At the National Level:

- Represented BC First Nations through our appointment by the BC Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Regional Chief and on the AFN working group on First Nations early learning and childcare;

At the Community and Regional Level:

- Worked closely with the Vancouver First Nations Employment
- Society to build organizational capacity in support of the 10 First Nations members, and create new childcare spaces, enhance existing services, and pursue funding resources for children with additional support needs; and,
- Worked with Nisga'a Child and Family Services and Carrier Sekani Family Services and other partners in the North Coast region to determine needs and prepare