www.acc-society.bc.ca

about us

Our mission is to support and develop Aboriginal-specific early learning and child care resources and services that are high quality, holistic, and reflective of Aboriginal communities, cultures, languages, and histories.

The BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (ACCS) was started in 1995. Since then we have helped to establish over 58 licensed group child care programs and nine family child care programs in BC Aboriginal communities. We incorporated as a non-profit society in 1998 and obtained charitable tax status in 2000.

we believe that:

- Early learning and child care is an essential building block for the social fabric of our communities and strengthens Aboriginal children, families and communities;
- Our children have a right to high quality early learning and child care services that are culturally appropriate, affordable and comprehensive;
- Our early learning and child care services must be community owned and directed, involve parents, Elders, leaders and community members and reaffirm their perspectives and teachings;
- Our early learning and child care services must be responsible and accountable;
- Early learning and child care providers require teaching and learning materials that reflect the children's culture, history and traditions, and education and training that prepare them for their responsibilities in Aboriginal communities; and
- Aboriginal people should have jurisdiction over their own early learning and child care system to ensure that it best reflects community needs, hopes and dreams.

become a member

Benefits include access to the ACCS bimonthly newsletter and electronic mailing list, the resource library and curriculum boxes, discounts on print resources, and an opportunity to shape & influence Aboriginal child care policy, research & practice

facts and highlights about Aboriginal early learning and child care in British Columbia

- BC has the second largest Aboriginal population in Canada – Over 170,000 people, 4.4 percent of the BC population
- BC has the greatest diversity of Aboriginal languages in Canada
- 48 percent of Aboriginal people in BC are under 25 years old
- The birth rate of Aboriginal people in Canada is 1.5 times higher than in the general Canadian population
- There are over 150 different Aboriginal early childhood programs in BC (including child care and family drop-in programs)
- Over 150 practicing early childhood educators in BC are Aboriginal

services

- **Advisory and support services**
  Including technical advice and assistance in building and expanding early learning and child care facilities, program planning and evaluation, and proposal writing.
- **Workshops**
  Designed to help parents, volunteers, staff and coordinators of early learning and child care programs enhance their services for Aboriginal children and families.
- **Print and web-based resources**
- **Lending library and rotating curriculum boxes**
- **Annual conference**
- **Research, advocacy and networking**
- **Print and electronic newsletters**
- **Eagle's Nest and Singing Frog Aboriginal Head Start Preschools (Vancouver)**
  These half-day programs feature Parent/Elder Advisory Committees as well as Coast Salish singing, dancing and other traditional activities. Contact Eagle's Nest at 604-253-3354 or Singing Frog at 604-253-5388.