

ECE Training Roundtable

Monday 30 May 2022, 10:30am - 12:00pm



Aim

To continue discussions on how best to support early childhood educators and childcare centres in the East Kootenays, with the aim to increase spaces and support economic development across the region.

Agenda

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| 10:30am | Welcome and Introductions |
| 10:45am | Roundtable Update <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Training & Supports Promotion• COTR ECE Seats for September Intake<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ CWRG / PBLMT application?• Childcare BC Universal Prototype Sites and \$10/day centres• Increase number of spaces across the region• Ministry of Education and Child Care• Funding opportunities?• Other challenges? |
| 11:30am | Next Steps |
| 11:55am | Thank you and Goodbye |

Attendees

Robyn Peel (facilitator, convener, CFEK), Caroline Tremblay (Golden CED), Colleen Watts (East Kootenay CCRR), Connie Barlow (Golden Community Resources Society), Crystal MacLeod (School District 6), Gerri Brightwell (Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery & Innovation), Glenda Newsted (Interior Region CCRR), Heather Hepworth (COTR), Leah Bradish (COTR), Londa Morris (Kootenay Employment Services), Pamela Tetrault (Golden Child Daycare), Renee Quanstrom (Golden CCRR), Ronda Ellery (EKSCD Consultant Golden), Theresa Wood (Columbia Valley Chamber of Commerce), Tracey Whiting (COTR)

Update

Training and Supports Promotion

- Ran a regional training & supports webinar in March 2022 to promote ECE sector and ways to get assistance with training in the East Kootenays - <https://youtu.be/wS-63UBqILE>
- Created a short animated video to promote ECE training supports in the region - <https://youtu.be/hugvr4GCx2A>. Please continue to share and promote.
- It is vital to continue to promote and share the importance and need of trained ECEs within the region.

COTR ECE Seats

- Original 30 seats are full (15 are students within the East Kootenay region) for September 2022 intake
- Additional 30 seats added for September 2022 intake – targeting regional students
 - 15 of the additional seats have been filled, and have 20 applications for the remaining 15 seats
- ECE 113 is continuing with the monthly online format – being held in September, October, November, January, February, March, April and May - allowing people to then register to be an ECEA
- Dual credit will run again in February 2023 with the school districts
 - Promotion is taking place now. Asking students to declare their interest by November 2022.

- Focus is more on ECE for the 2023 cohort.
- 24 seats available for dual-credit and any not used by high school students will be opened for adults.
- The dual credit program is an option for those wanting in-person support and cohorts in the communities.
- 9 high-school students completed the dual credit course that started in February 2022.
- Plans continue with a face-to-face international cohort in Cranbrook to start in September 2023
 - There will be total of 24 seats, and any unused seats from international students will be opened to local students who want a face-to-face program.
- There was a good discussion around need for local cohorts within communities
 - Option to have local tutor who supports a cohort in a community while they do the online course. Allows them to learn together and support each other. If room at the local campus, could meet there for their sessions.
 - Also discussion around need for in-person training in some areas, as potential students won't do online training due to beliefs / culture. How do you make it financially viable for small numbers in each community?
 - Discussion on accessing government funding for these supports that are specific and unique to allow successful training programs in rural communities.
- If interest and waitlist extends beyond the 60 seats for 2022 intake, continue discussions about looking at other start times for a cohort (like January 2023) or looking to other training providers that can meet the need within our region. Important to harness the interest within our region to meet the very real challenge of not having enough trained ECEs.

Universal Prototype Sites / \$10/day Centres

- Another application process is opening mid-June, with applications closing 18 August 2022
 - We understand priority will be given to applicants from not-for-profit, public, and Indigenous-led organizations operating licensed facilities, as well as applicants located in communities currently without a \$10 a Day ChildCareBC Centre or with a low proportion of \$10 a Day sites based on child population.
- Londa attended a feedback process to the provincial government on the first round of applications. Strong feedback from rural areas with small childcare centres was that the process was burdensome. Also concerns that those who knew how to negotiate well were able to get more financial support. For smaller childcare centres they don't have experience with negotiation skills or a background in advocacy, they might be losing out in this process and not getting the administrative financial support that is needed.
- Discussion on running information sessions or workshops in the region to support centres to get ready for the application process. It is important for operators to be aligning themselves with the \$10/day Guidelines and understanding these guidelines when preparing the application.
 - Need to find source of funding for this training. Could perhaps look to use CBT childcare advisor for this.
 - Training could potentially be offered through CCRRs
 - Peer mentoring and networking should be key part of this training process. Including having successful applicants share their learning.
- Need to understand why centres have or have not applied in order to support them through the process. The training might provide an opportunity to understand this more.
 - Some initial feedback is that centres can see the benefit to the parents, but hard to see the benefit for them as providers, and the application is added work and stress.
 - Londa offered a positive impact for their centre being a prototype site in that they are guaranteed income. Even if children aren't able to make it because they are sick or away the parent only has to pay \$10 and the centre still gets full payment. During Covid when attendance has been erratic, this is a benefit.
- Issues raised that the \$10/day process has the potential to squash private provider's businesses, as the funding doesn't cover mortgage costs. So tough to cover all expenses and also limits amount of profit

can take, which means not many private providers may switch over. However, staying outside of \$10/day centres means likely having to double parents' fees.

New Spaces Fund

- The New Spaces Fund next round opened 31 May 2022. See [more information here](#).
- Priority is for projects creating infant toddler child care spaces and also on school age space creation.

Ministry of Education and Childcare

- By the time this part of the agenda was discussed, there wasn't anyone from SD5 or SD6 on the call. Robyn detailed information she had received from them about the name change in April noting it is about integrating child care and education and coming together to get to know each other and begin working together.
- It was raised at a recent meeting with Minister Whiteside that need to build capacity in the school districts to start do more work on childcare, rather than it being done off the side of the desk.
- Supported child care is still with Ministry of Children and Family Development and didn't move to the new Ministry. Family Connection Centres will be opening up, which may affect service providers and support offered in the future.
- Seamless day seems to be a big focus of the Ministry. Concerns were raised about this taking away the focus (and potential funding) for the challenge of infant toddler spaces.
 - Glenda mentioned School District 19 in Revelstoke has decided not to go for funding for seamless day, as concerns about taking staff from childcare centres.

Other Challenges / Discussions

- Lack of trained staff is still the number one challenge facing childcare centres in the region. This is where we need to continue to prioritize our focus and efforts.
- SD6 is working with third-party providers on increasing after school care starting next year, including for early Friday dismissals, which impact parents a lot in the communities.
- BC PNP has childcare as one of its strategic priority occupations for immigration ([see information here](#)). Haven't heard anything since the announcement of this regarding information sessions or numbers coming through this channel.
- Number of infant toddler spaces and infant toddler staff remains a critical need that we need to focus on.
 - With infant toddler being the greatest need, how do we make infant toddler spaces more financially viable for centres?
- Do we ask our councils to take the childcare interests forward to UBCM to take forward to Ministers?
- Is it time for communities to look again at their childcare needs assessments and action plans?
 - Do we have the right information to make decisions and choices?
 - Do we share case studies of where communities are working across sectors to move childcare forward and learn more about what is needed to make this happen? Creston and Golden are examples of this.

Next Steps / Actions

- **Heather** to provide details of the location of the 60 students enrolled for September 2022 intake
- **Heather** to provide details of location of the students in recent graduation class, and if possible, if they have gone onto employment and where
- **Robyn** to work with CBT to see if can get location of those receiving the training wage subsidy and what school they are attending
- **Heather** to send around promotional material for the ECE 113 course that can be promoted through CCRRs and other partners in the community
- **Heather** to share promotional material for dual credit and other programs as they are ready, to allow to get out within the region
- **Robyn** to follow up with **Heather** regarding what numbers are needed to make a face-to-face cohorts viable in a community

- **Heather** and **Leah** to look at how to use government funding for innovative options to allow local cohorts in communities across the region
- **Heather** to work with **Londa** when the RFP for extra seats comes out, to look at how best to frame the request for in-person supports or cohorts
- **Robyn** to follow up with Nicole at CBT to understand if any new support coming in strategic plan for childcare.
- **Gerri** to find out about any potential training or support provincially for the next application round of \$10/day centres
- **Glenda** to provide \$10/day Guidelines document that can be shared
- **Robyn** to work with **Glenda** to look at training for assisting the application process for the \$10/day centres
 - **Robyn** and **Glenda** to meet with Nicole from CBT to discuss potential funding through the CBT Childcare Advisor Program for this training
- **Gerri** to see if have more information about the PNP focus on childcare workers – is there a way to know how many people coming in through this channel and which regions they are applying in?
- **Robyn** to get information from **Crystal** about the after school care work taking place in SD6 to be able to share with this group.
- **Londa** to look at \$10/day funding for infant toddlers – does it help alleviate the challenge of make these spots financially viable for centres, and thus more available for parents?