

ECE Training Roundtable

Wednesday 29 September 2021, 10:00-11:30am



Aim

To continue discussions on how best to support the increase of trained early childhood educators (ECEs) in the East Kootenays and to capitalize on funding available.

Agenda

10:00am	Welcome and Introductions
10:10am	CBT ECE Supports Presentation and Q&A with Nicole MacLellan, Manager, Delivery of Benefits from Columbia Basin Trust (CBT)
10:30am	Community Workforce Response Grant (CWRG) Follow up on discussions that have taken place since first roundtable
11:00am	Next Steps How best to work collaboratively and regionally?
11:25am	Thank you and Goodbye

Attendees

Robyn Peel (facilitator, convener, CFEK), Crystal MacLeod (School District 6), Diane Casault (School District 5), Frankie Seitz (East Kootenay CCRR), Gerri Brightwell (FLNRORD), Glenda Newsted (Interior Region CCRR), Heather Hepworth (COTR), Jill Dewtie (Golden Community Coop), Leah Bradish (COTR), Londa Morris (Kootenay Employment Services), Nicole MacLellan (Columbia Basin Trust), Theresa Wood (Columbia Valley Chamber of Commerce), Tracey Whiting (COTR), Viveka Johnson (School District 6)

CBT ECE Supports

On 16 September 2021, CBT launched two new supports for the Early Childhood Education sector. Nicole MacLellan from CBT presented on these new supports and her slides are included with this write-up package.

The Program and Application Guides on the CBT website provide more detail regarding eligibility and support completion of the application forms:

- [ECE Wage Subsidy](#) and [Program Guide](#).
 - Program closes 21 October 2021, for wage funding for January – December 2022
 - \$2/hour wage subsidy
 - In addition to the provincial wage subsidy
- [ECE Training Wage](#) and [Program Guide](#)
 - Funding on first-come-first-served basis until funding complete
 - A training wage for employed students, contributing to inhouse or online class hours needed to complete their ECE qualifications.
 - Practicum hours are not covered, as this can be covered through the bursary program through the province

General Discussion

- How best to facilitate those in training looking for part-time work and those daycare facilities looking for casual or part-time or substitute employees?
- Practicum placements are part of the full ECE qualification at COTR and if facilities want to have practicum students then they should contact the COTR practicum coordinator Lynn Wood, wood@cotr.bc.ca
 - New website for practicum placements and work-integrated-learning at COTR will be launched soon
- Successful Pilot Peer Mentoring Project <https://ecepeermentoring.trubox.ca/> to help support staff
- ECE Certificate or Diploma starts in September each year at COTR
 - Usually have 30 seats each year, but had a waitlist this year so opened up to 50 seats this year
- KES plan to do awareness and promotion of new wages for ECE and promotion of the sector. Looking to work together with others to help promote this.
- Provincial wage subsidy is retroactive which is causing a lot of challenges for employers.
- What happens after wage subsidies finish? With uncertainty about a continued wage support, hard to use this for drawing people to the sector and retaining them.

Community Workforce Response Grant Discussion

- Golden have had meetings with key childcare stakeholders and looking at a local, innovative project to push through training program that works for the local issues. Not looking at applying for the CWRG funding this time around. Once developed a project keen to invite other communities to participate with them.
- KES are looking at applying for CWRG Emerging Priorities Stream and funding full ECE certificate program but waiting to hear if they could offer living supports as part of CWRG Emerging Priorities Stream. From their work with clients they don't want to put them into financial hardship by having to support themselves for the year training program, so living support is needed.
- If KES is not going to lead an Emerging Priorities CWRG application, then COTR will apply for another CYFS fast-track program under STER CWRG, starting in February like they did last year
 - Londa did note that if COTR goes ahead with STER CWRG then WorkBC can apply for living support for students who need it. But unfortunately the living supports hasn't been approved for the Emerging Priorities Stream of the CWRG yet.
- The Emerging Priorities Stream application closes 30 November 2021. If KES don't apply, COTR will apply for STER Stream before Christmas 2021.

Next Steps / Actions

- Develop clear visual pathway to show how supports can upgrade training for those working in ECE area already as well as getting people started on their ECE journey
 - Look to go into ECE student classes and provide them a presentation of steps for how they can move into the diploma with all the funding available
 - Robyn to work with other roundtable members to produce pathway of training and supports available in the ECE sector and then share out
- Theresa to work with Heather to see if an in-person Health, Safety & Nutrition course can be run from the Invermere Campus, to be run on consecutive weekends for those working (intensive is good)
 - Golden likely to have people wishing to attend if this becomes a possibility
 - CCRR could also share through their network and likely to have people interested
- Gerri to take message to colleagues regarding concern with the retroactive process for the provincial ECE wage subsidy
- Gerri to share link for CWRG team with Londa to discuss potential of providing living support within the Emerging Priorities stream
- KES to lead on information sessions that promote ECE as an industry and training options.
 - Likely to be in Spring 2022, ready for COTR program starting September 2022
 - CCRR keen to be a part of this, as is the Columbia Valley Chamber of Commerce