

ECE Training Roundtable

Monday 5 December 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

10:30am	Welcome & Introductions
10:40am	TRAINING <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Dual Credit Update- Self-Employment Program- Further opportunities for training (including CWRG / PBLMT)
11:00am	ACCESS <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Presentation and discussion with Michelle Kirby from New Spaces Fund at provincial government
11:20am	SECTOR SUSTAINABILITY <ul style="list-style-type: none">- \$10/day- Communities of Practice / Networking and Sharing Opportunities
11:40am	Roundtable Update A chance for attendees to update the roundtable on related projects.

Attendees

Robyn Peel (facilitator, convener, CFEK), Caroline Tremblay (Golden CED), Colleen Watts (East Kootenay CCRR), Crystal MacLeod (School District 6), Diane Casault (School District 5), Glenda Newsted (Interior Region CCRR), Heather Hepworth (COTR), Jennifer Moss (Kootenay Employment Services), Laura Eadie, Londa Morris (Kootenay Employment Services), Michelle Kirby (Ministry of Education and Child Care), Renee Quanstrom (Golden CCRR), Theresa Wood (Columbia Valley Chamber of Commerce)

Training

Dual Credit

- Currently 13 students from SD6 and SD5 are signed up for the Dual Credit program starting in February 2023.
 - 3 from Kimberley, 1 from Golden, 4 from Invermere and 5 from Cranbrook.
 - Looking to have supports such as learning lunches to allow students to meet and understand more about the sector from local employers and connections.
 - Glenda noted it would be great to connect in CCRR, with potential shadowing of staff at CCRR and understand the full range of potential careers within childcare.
- An additional two home-school students in SD8 are joining the Dual Credit program.
- An additional 7 school students are looking at take the ECE 113 course, enabling them to work as ECEAs on completion of the course.
- Congratulations to the School Districts for doing such a great job on promoting the sector and recruiting students to the Dual Credit program.
- There is no active promotion of the Dual Credit program to adults, but the education advisory team at COTR are aware and can support potential students if needed. If you know of an adult who would like to join the program, get them in touch with COTR.

Self-Employment Program

- Kootenay Employment Services (KES) is looking to launch a new program in the New Year (potentially February or March) that builds on the Self Employment Program that KES runs for WorkBC
- Participants will learn the basics through self-employment program (ie business plan, marketing and budgeting) but will also add on supports that specifically relate to opening a childcare facility.
- Aim is to have 10 participants.
- It is a 48-week program, that participants are paid to be part of.
- Looking to target in-home facilities, and the training will include information on funding that exists to support start-up for in-home care (<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/caring-for-young-children/space-creation-funding/start-up-grants>).
- If this pilot is successful, will look to expand to other areas too.
- Important to embed professionalism and ongoing professional development into this program.

Other Training Supports

- COTR likely to run the double intake of seats (60 students) again in September 2023 for ECEs.
- International program is currently being slated to start in September 2023 as a face-to-face offering.
 - Look to promote work opportunities within the region to these students to see if can keep them in the region
 - Need to be aware of how safe and welcoming our communities are, with a focus on anti-racism and anti-bias so as not to put people in vulnerable positions.
- There is the BC Early Years Professional Development Hub for continuing professional development. Check out the course on Inclusive Child Care: <https://bcearlyyearshub.ca/courses/foundations-inclusive-child-care-training/>

Access

- For a copy of Michelle Kirby's slides, [click here](#).
- More than 30,000 new childcare spaces have been funded across BC, with 12,000 currently being operational.
- Challenge is still about access to licensed childcare and ensuring there is enough spaces for each community. Across BC only 20% of families have access to licensed childcare; this is a huge barrier. We need to build the spaces.
- There seems to have been resistance within the East Kootenay region to build new spaces due to labour shortages.
 - Need to look at improving wages so it becomes an appealing job and seen as a valued profession. Cranbrook has the lowest ECE wages in the province. Average wage for ECEs across BC is \$22/hour before wage enhancements and other benefits.
- Fees in Cranbrook are the lowest in the province.
 - Look to increase those fees to the average in BC, allowing centres to pay their staff more. With the new fee subsidies brought in by the provincial government, parents won't have to pay as much. Need to look at sector and employee sustainability.
- Work currently focusing on making childcare a core service of government.
- Let's build purpose-built quality spaces in our communities, rather than retrofit spaces. Public sector applicants can receive 100% of capital costs.
- The \$3,000,000 cap on new spaces projects has been lifted, so any size of project can apply for funding through the [New Spaces Fund](#).
 - Started the year on prioritizing projects with a cost per space of \$40,000 or less, but now realise that isn't enough for the vast majority of projects so please still apply if your cost is more than \$40,000 per space.
- Important to get all key players at the table to discuss who is leading on this work and how it can be taken forward in communities and make sure everyone understands the funding models. Robyn can support the facilitation of these types of sessions if needed to ensure actions and responsibilities are in place at the end of the meeting.

Next Steps / Actions

- **Robyn** to convene next meeting in early February 2023, with a focus on creating a sustainable and professional sector.
- Once the KES Childcare Self Employment program is ready to be promoted, **Londa** to share marketing material to distribute.
- **Robyn** and **Heather** to meet up to discuss the PBLMT / CWRG cohort proposal that Robyn has drafted to increase training opportunities within communities.
- Recommend that **everyone** sign up receive the [BC Childcare Bulletin](#) if they aren't already.