

East Kootenay ECE Roundtable

Monday 3 June 2024, 11:00 – 11:45am MT



Attendees

Robyn Peel (facilitator, CFEK), Alex Denis (Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation), Crystal MacLeod (School District 6), Laura-Lee Phillips (School District 5), Londa Morris (Kootenay Employment Services), Tessa Bendig (Columbia Basin Trust), Veronique Hamelin (Kootenay Employment Services)

Roundtable Updates

- The pilot Dual Credit program which was fully funded by the Ministry of Childcare and Education that SD6, 5 and 8 were part of is now complete. Going forward the dual credit program will continue but tuition will be paid by the School Districts to College of the Rockies (COTR), rather than being funded through the Ministry.
 - Three students from Selkirk Secondary in Kimberley completed the course and received their ECEA. Two are looking to work in childcare this coming year to determine if they want to continue as ECEs. Crystal met with them regularly and supported them through the program.
- The working group in Kimberley were unsuccessful with their grant application for support for recruitment. They are continuing to look at ways to educate the community that with the new building in Marysville, the work isn't over when it is built! Work includes a delegation to the City of Kimberley as well as a writing series and media releases. Also looking at putting out an expression of interest inviting potential employees to come to Kimberly this summer to see the job opportunities that exist in the childcare sector.
 - **Action:** Crystal to share the presentation that will go to the City of Kimberley so others can look to do similar ones to their own municipal governments.
- Crystal is going to meet with Norma Sherret, the Dean of Health and Human Services at COTR, to discuss ways to better connect COTR students with the community and childcare providers. Robyn noted she had a similar discussion with Kristie Krisher at COTR last week, discussing partnership between COTR and community.
 - Robyn and Kristie talked about the potential of a job fair before practicum two in communities (so early April). This could also be a general recruitment time for ECE, getting people aware of the sector and the program at COTR as well as connecting students with local employers in the various communities.
- Robyn and Kristie also discussed the challenge of students not being paid for their practicums. This means some people don't complete this requirement. Is there an opportunity to access funding to support these practicum placements? They also discussed how best to acknowledge those providers who do take practicum placements. Is this money, or mentorship or training or something else?
- Londa mentioned that following the presentation from Michelle Kirby about New Spaces funding at the Cranbrook event last Thursday, she wonders if communities like Cranbrook and Creston might wait until the next round (rather than applying before 2 August 2024) to get the increased funding such as prework and start-up costs that Michelle mentioned.
 - Londa also wondered if communities might look to use the minor grants to scale up in current locations before taking on large new builds. This might support building capacity over time in smaller communities.

- Laura-Lee noted that 114 new spaces are coming to School District 5 in the coming year. This includes:
 - Amy Woodland in Cranbrook will have after school care, ready in September
 - Steeples in Cranbrook will have before and after school care (new build so may take longer to start)
 - Gordon Terrace in Cranbrook will have after school care. This is a renovation and should be good to go for September.
 - 53 spaces will also be created at the Fernie Learning Centre, and should be good to go for September
 - 14 preschool spaces at Bright Beginnings
 - 39 school aged care spaces
 - Elkford are having a renovation for after school care that should be ready for September
 - Jaffray is having an addition to the school which will be after school care and will need to go out to tender for the build.

Great work to get all those programs moving forward.

- CS Planning are doing a feasibility study at Mountain View School in Sparwood, which would include K-2, childcare as well as a child development hub.
- Robyn mentioned the spreadsheet of new spaces she is working on to identify the workforce needs associated with it. This was an action from the last roundtable.
 - **Action:** Robyn to share this spreadsheet once it has been reviewed and information confirmed.
- Robyn shared ECE BC's 2022 Labour Market Report. These are good reports with clear data to share when doing wider advocacy. <https://www.ecebc.ca/sector-initiatives/labour-market>
- More funding is coming for the ECE Education Support Program (<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2024ECC0055-000803>). Students can access up to \$5,000 per semester for the bursary. Although need to acknowledge this funding doesn't work for everyone, as students need to pay the tuition upfront and then are reimbursed afterwards.
- Work continues with the Mitacs Research project. This is looking at the operational business needs of childcare providers. Survey closed last Friday and there were 89 respondents, with 55 making it through to the last question. Analysis of the survey and then focus groups will follow, then webinars and sharing opportunities.
- Selkirk College are putting on training on inclusive practice starting in the Fall. Share with providers who might be interested - [2024_ECCE_InclusivePractice.pdf](#)

Next Sharing Roundtables:

- **Tuesday 10 September 2024, 10:00 – 10:45am MT**
- **Wednesday 27 November 2024, 11:00 – 11:45am MT**