

## East Kootenay ECE Roundtable

Tuesday 19 May 2026, 11:00 – 11:45am MDT

### Attendees

Robyn Peel (facilitator, CFEK), Cheryl Anderson (Summit Community Services), Crystal MacLeod (School District 6), Katrina Heyde (Kootenay Employment Services), Kristie Krisher (COTR), Laura-Lee Phillips (School District 5), Michelle Chan (CFEK)

### Roundtable Updates

- Rocky Mountain in Marysville have increased their enrolment in their Infant Toddler rooms, so they are both up to 12 in each room now.
- At Lyndsay Park After School program there is now an EA from the school who is managing the program, and she has brought in other EAs to work with her. This has been working really well, as they know the children, the school and the routines.
  - There was a short discussion around if this should be replicated elsewhere, but it was noted that the wage gap means that not many EAs want to do this work. Also, many EAs choose to be EAs as it fits with their personal life and being able to finish work at the end of the school day.
- The Ministry of Education and Childcare has offered \$5 million in capital funding for the expansion of school-aged care on school grounds.
  - SD6 has been working hard to access this funding, and are looking to expand, bringing on 75 new spaces for school-aged care on school grounds.
  - Treehouse in Sparwood is looking to expand its school-aged care on school grounds.
  - SD5 have also applied for this capital funding to increase school-aged care.
- May is the month for kindergarten transition events in SD6, and these wrapped up last week. In SD5 they are doing “Play before K” events which will run throughout June.
- SD5’s Metis childcare project was hoping to have an open house in June, but it will be postponed to the Fall.
- Through the [Kootenay Childcare Initiative](#), 23 providers are actively receiving 1:1 support, 2 providers are on pause and 3 have finished their 1:1 support and are being regularly followed up. The initiative is currently looking at ways to meet childcare providers where they are at (in terms of their capacity) and look to provide support in a more impactful way.
  - Please continue to share the opportunities available through the Kootenay Childcare Initiative with providers.
  - You are welcome to use the videos produced for the initiative, to help promote our region to ECEs and others:
    - Focus on ECE work - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RXLpJCrOCIY>
    - Focus on the Kootenay region - <https://youtu.be/ouls5cSI6ZA>
  - There is also a [resource page](#), where providers can view and sign-up for upcoming workshops and view recordings from previous training sessions.

- The College of the Rockies is looking to have approximately the same number of seats this coming year as this past year – so that is 40 doing the certificate and 30 doing the diploma.
- Discussions continue about returning the ECE Dual Credit program to the February- May cohort in 2027.
- Robyn shared data from ECEBC which outlines the number of requests for [ECEBC Bursaries](#) over the past eight years from our region:

Bursary Data Request - East Kootenays										Completed: March 19, 2026	
	Golden	Radium	Invermere	Fairmont	Canal Flats	Kimberley	Cranbrook	Fernie	Sparwood	Elkford	Totals
2018	7	0	2	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	12
2019	14	0	2	0	0	1	3	5	0	0	25
2020	3	1	2	1	1	1	4	7	1	0	21
2021	17	2	4	0	0	1	2	8	2	1	37
2022	12	3	8	1	2	1	5	4	2	5	43
2023	8	2	5	0	0	9	16	2	3	0	45
2024	12	6	12	0	1	18	11	4	4	1	69
2025	15	6	8	0	2	7	8	2	3	2	53
<b>Total</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>305</b>

Robyn has asked for more details about how many of the requests are from the same individuals, as the data, particularly for Golden seems high. There was also a discussion around whether ECEBC could ask a question at the same time as collecting the data, such as *Are you currently working in childcare?* and *Are you planning to work in childcare?* This would help to understand how many are using the training as a stepping stone and how many are choosing this as a career.

- Robyn attended and spoke at the ECEBC conference in May in Vancouver about the Kootenay Childcare Initiative.

**Next Sharing Roundtable:**

- **Monday 28 September 2026, 11:00 – 11:45am MT**
- **Tuesday 24 November 2026, 11:00 – 11:45am MT**