

MINUTES

First Call Early Childhood Development Roundtable meeting
Held at United Way, 9.30 am -12.00 noon

January 21, 2009

In attendance:

Lesley Richardson, First Call
Adrienne Montani, First Call
Lynn McBride, BC Aboriginal Child Care Society
Sharon Gregson, Collingwood Neighbourhood House\
Debbie Jackson, BC Assn of Family Resource Programs
Ruth Fahlman, Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC
Allison Bledsoe, United Way of the Lower Mainland
Carol Matusicky Fellow Council for Early Child Development
Mab Oloman, Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC

On Phone:

Sanya Sladojevic, Windows of Opportunity
Deb Frolic Kamloops Child Development Society

Regrets

Sheila Davidson, Early Childhood Educators of BC, Chair

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Minutes and Correspondence

Minutes of the October 15, 2008 were reviewed and approved.

The following publications and correspondence were noted:

BC Campaign 2000 /**2008 Child Poverty Report Card** (on First Call website)

CCPA. The Time is Now: A poverty reduction plan for BC. Many partner organizations have signed on to the open letter prepared by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives in support of their Poverty Reduction Strategy. The deadline for signing on is January 29.

Letter from Coalition January 9, 2009 to Premier Campbell requesting meeting <http://www.firstcallbc.org/pdfs/CurrentIssues/Premier%20request%20to%20meet%20Jan%2009.pdf>. and letter to Carol James <http://www.firstcallbc.org/pdfs/CurrentIssues/James%20Jan%2009.pdf>

3. 2009 Provincial Election Kit

With particular emphasis on the section – Strong Commitment to Early Childhood Development – meeting participants reviewed and recommended edits and additions to the seven page draft 2009 Provincial Election Kit. Adrienne and Lesley thanked participants for the input which will be built into the next draft.

Discussion arising included a suggestion that membership in the BC Chamber of Commerce be considered by partner organization because of the related benefits, partnerships, and networking opportunities.

The lack of inter-ministerial early learning and child care planning/communication was noted... for example capital funds to being given out for new or expanded child care and alternative free part day services being opened by school districts nearby.

There was also some discussion about wages in the sector and the dichotomy between remuneration in the school based programs versus that in the child care sector.

4. Partner Updates:

Debbie Jackson noted that it was the start of Family Literacy Week (Jan 21 – 27). In Vancouver many events are at the Vancouver Public Library including the Breakfast of Champions January 27.

Debbie also mentioned that FRPBC have finalized their provincial standards of practice document (<http://www.frpbc.ca/projects/documents/FRPBCStandardsFirstEdition.pdf>) and plan an on-line course with six components. Applications for Capacity Grants are being reviewed.

Deb Frolich said they now have staff in place and will be opening their infant toddler program February 3rd.

Mab mentioned the CCAAC pre-budget up-date which includes links to the latest polling on child care as well as the Alternative Federal Budget Fiscal Stimulus Plan (<http://www.ccaac.ca/resources/CCUpdates/January202009.php>). She also mentioned that the BC Child Care Advocacy Forum has a Postcard– addressed and ready to go to the Premier and encouraged partners to join this focused, time limited campaign. Until February 4, 2009 postcards can be requested by email to forum@advocacyforum.bc.ca. For more info go to <http://www.advocacyforum.bc.ca/campaigns/postcard.html>.

Adrienne brought a number of items to the attention of participants including:

- The Living Wage Campaign
<http://www.firstcallbc.org/pdfs/EconomicEquality/3-LW%20info.pdf>.
- That child care has been included in the Alternative Federal Budget as part of the economic stimulus package. For more info see:
http://www.policyalternatives.ca/~ASSETS/DOCUMENT/National_Office_Pubs/2009/AFB2009_Beyond_the_Crisis.pdf

The Canadian Language and Literacy Network (CLLRNet; www.cllrnet.ca) is coordinating a nation wide National Strategy for Early Literacy. See their website for information the invitation to submit information briefs and participate in a national consultation.

Carol closed the update session with a description of work being done by the Burnaby Board of Trade Social Development Committee of which she is a member.

6. Next meeting: To be determined