

ISSUE 8: May 2023



The Here and Now Reimagining Early Childhoods In Urgent Times



Photo credit: Chelsea Hann, ECPN Pedagogist

Celebrating! May is Child Care Month in BC

If passed, the [Canada Early Learning and Child Care Act \(Bill C-35\)](#) will enact the federal government's vision of a national early learning and childcare system, which goes beyond the varied agreements currently in place across provinces, territories, and Indigenous communities. Early learning professionals nationwide have applauded this proposed bill as a crucial measure in creating a more equitable and accessible early learning system. Speaking on behalf of the [Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC](#), Emily Mliczko of [Early Childhood Educators of BC](#) (ECEBC) considers this bill as an essential step towards the prioritization of non-profit and public early learning programs, as well as a necessary measure to “support educators in their multifaceted

work while ensuring families pay no more than \$10 dollars a day for childcare”. For early childhood professionals across Canada, Bill C-35 holds possibilities to move away from a patchwork, market-based system.

At the Early Childhood Pedagogy Network (ECPN), we echo and support these sentiments but believe Bill C-35 is the beginning of hard and contemplative work that must be done together by all of us in the early childhood profession. As we celebrate [May as Child Care Month](#), we want to honour the work of educators, advocates, government and others who have worked tirelessly to create the educational spaces our youngest citizens and their families deserve. We know that across British Columbia, many educators are committed to providing early years programs that respond with deep respect, dignity, and professionalism to the complex needs of children in the 21st century.

In this edition of the Here and Now, we want to acknowledge the transformative change taking place across the province in spite of ongoing challenges such as the recruitment and retention of educators. In our work as pedagogists, walking in relation with our sister network, the [First Nation’s Nations Pedagogies Network](#) and our project partners [ECEBC](#) and [Métis Nation BC](#), and our many [CCRR Program collaborators](#), we have seen how educators, early years professionals, advocates and communities work to create the early childhood spaces that young children and their families deserve.

Thinking with the [BC Early Learning Framework](#), educators and pedagogists work with the government to ensure that British Columbia has an [inclusive and universal child care program](#). In early years programs, this means creating conditions where young children can think deeply about living and learning well with others. From a pedagogical perspective, learning to live well requires spaces that honour differences and diversity in the hope of a more liveable world for all. While this may sound relatively simple or utopian, it is ethical and political work. As pedagogists, we think with educators to carefully choose stories, songs, and materials to bring into their classroom to share with children. Educators and pedagogists are deeply aware that the materials and practices within a space will invite particular stories to flourish and have the potential to silence others. The faces and bodies on the pages of storybooks tell children who is valued and who is excluded. The songs that are sung reflect values and ideas and have the potential to celebrate diversity or marginalize a culture. In inclusive environments, it matters the languages spoken and the words

used to talk about other humans and beings in our world. In our work with children and educators, we have seen first-hand the complex work involved in creating inclusive spaces that welcome all bodies and ways of being in the world.

As we enter into May 2023, we celebrate the complex, ethical and delicate work that is the profession of early childhood educators. Educators know that patience, kindness, and simply loving children are not enough to create the spaces children deserve. Moreover, educators concerned with inclusion are rethinking everyday concepts such as sharing. They know that helping children to share is far more than giving them instrumental skills or strategies. Rather, it helps children develop the disposition to see sharing as integral to living well together. Indeed, we only have to look at current events to know that social skills, such as sharing and kindness, have yet to be mastered simply by virtue of reaching adulthood. Living well with others requires developing the disposition to think ethically with others to create just and equitable worlds. Educators work with very young children to create the space and time to think about the perspective of others. Creating possibilities for children to work collectively over a challenge such as sharing provokes them to come up with possible solutions and then experiment to test if the solution proposed is just and equitable.

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The ECPN wants to honour educators and pedagogists engaged in innovative practices that invite children to think, wonder, and hypothesize about big and important ideas. These big ideas emerge from the complexities of everyday life in a world of entangled relationships. Educators and pedagogists, across the province, have shared pedagogical moments that they carefully curate to nurture with the children the dispositions to attend deeply to the world.

The ECPN looks forward to celebrating Child Care Month with educators, early years professionals, child care professionals, advocates and others across British Columbia. As a group of pedagogists we are committed to collectively work with the community to provide the opportunities for young children to become the people that they need to be to create more livable worlds for them and for others.

Continuing the Conversation

The ECPN will be active during the month of May. If you are in Prince George, please check out [Children's Encounters with Spiders and Spider Webs: An Interactive Exhibit](#) at the Bob Harkins Branch: Prince George Public Library starting May 3rd. In Terrace, the Terrace Art Gallery is hosting the exhibit, [Childhoods: Becoming, Inheriting and Unbounding Bodies](#). [ECPN pedagogists](#) will be presenting at [ECEBC 2023 Annual Conference](#).

We ask members of the ECPN community to look for opportunities to become active participants in the dialogue of universal early learning and early childhood education infrastructure. A few ways to make your voice heard by decision-makers and policymakers is [to write to your elected Member of Parliament \(MP\)](#). Let your MP know your thoughts, concerns, questions, and wonderings on Bill C-35.

As we welcome the spring of 2023, we also welcome the many graduates of ECE programs into the early childhood education profession in BC. We encourage you to take seriously the collective commitments and responsibilities of an [early childhood educator in the 21st century](#).

In 2019, the provincial government of BC released the [Early Care and Learning Recruitment and Retention Strategy](#). We encourage everyone to read the document as it emphasizes the government's commitment to investing in early childhood educators. As educators and early years professionals who are navigating the 'in-between' of recruitment and retention, you are in a critical position to provide feedback, wonderings, and questions.

Tag the ECPN ([@EcpnBC](#)) when you tweet out the May is Child Care Month events in your community. We will retweet to spread the word of your celebration.

Join the Conversation

ECPN Community Events

For upcoming and ongoing events please follow the links below. To stay up to date with ECPN's events and news, [subscribe](#) to our website.



Children's Encounters with Spiders and Spider Webs: An Interactive Exhibit

May 2nd-June 2nd, 2023 | 10am-5pm PDT
Bob Harkins Branch Prince George Public Library | 887 Dominion St,
Prince George, BC, V2L 5L1

This exhibit offers the Prince George community a glimpse into how children and educators, alongside an ECPN pedagogist, at a local child care centre, reimagine curriculum as an ongoing process that values listening and collaboration.

[See Details](#)



Childhoods: Becoming, Inheriting and Unbounding Bodies

May 5th-May 27th, 2023 | 12pm-5pm PDT
Terrace Art Gallery | 4610 Park Avenue
(lower), Terrace, BC, V8G 1V6

This exhibit contains glimpses into an ongoing inquiry with a group of children at HOP (Hands On Playcare) in Terrace, BC. Children, educators, and pedagogists provoked by the thoughts and ideas emerging from tracing and drawing life-sized bodies challenged idyllic notions of childhoods.

[See Details](#)

Pedagogical Highlights

Check out the links below to follow the work of children and educators with place as they searched for a monster in the community surrounding their early childhood centre in northern BC, situated on the lands of the Wet'suwet'en. Also hear ECPN pedagogist Chelsea Hann discuss the pedagogical processes involved in creating relations and curriculum in rural Northern British Columbia.

Responding to Place and Thinking with Monsters

This documentation narrates children's engagements with place as they search for a monster in the community surrounding their early childhood centre in northern BC, situated on the lands of the Wet'suwet'en.

[View Pedagogical Narration](#)



ECPN Conversations VI: Part I "Responding to Place and Thinking with Monsters"

ECPN pedagogist Chelsea Hann and ECPN Director Veronica Pacini-Ketchabaw discuss the pedagogical processes involved in creating relations and curriculum in rural Northern British Columbia. The talk focused on the connections between pedagogical commitments, responsive relationships, and curriculum development.

[View Recording](#)

