

Leadership Initiative

Seeking Communities of Innovation

2012 Call for Proposals



ECEBC | early childhood
educators of BC

ECEBC, with funding from Vancity Community Foundation, is seeking proposals from Early Childhood Educators across BC who are interested in playing a leading role in helping their communities become one of ECEBC's 2012/13 '**Communities of Leadership Innovation**'.

If you and other ECEs in your community are emerging leaders and want to develop your capacity to:

- Raise the profile and understanding of the work you do in the broader community
- Build the leadership capacity of ECEs in your community
- Take ECE values and ways of knowing out the door to the larger community

read on...

ECEBC's Call for Proposals is different from many other 'grant' applications you may have seen – so please read all the information below before you complete the form on pages 4-7.

What is the ECEBC Leadership Initiative?

ECEBC is entering the fourth year of our exciting Leadership Initiative. The initiative is designed to support ECEs across BC develop their capacity to take a leadership role in the broader community. The Leadership Initiative has two main components.

1. Communities of Leadership Innovation

*Each year, ECEBC identifies ten diverse geographic and cultural Communities of Leadership Innovation where two or three licensed- to- practice ECEs take a leadership role in developing and implementing a community project that raises the profile and understanding of the value of ECEs. Through the project, participants are supported to develop their own leadership **capacity, culture and confidence**. Each identified community receives up to \$10, 000.00 to support their project.*

2. Leadership Institutes

Three times a year, ECEBC brings together the 2 or 3 ECEs from each Community of Leadership Innovation for a 3-5 day Leadership Institute. Here, participants build their individual and collective leadership capacity and create a shared culture of ECE leadership. Participants then apply their learning to their own community projects. In addition to the \$10,000.00 grant for each community project, ECEBC covers all of the participants' costs of attending the Institutes – including the cost of replacing ECEs on the floor.

What do we mean by leadership?

For us, leadership is not about a prescribed set of 'skills'. Rather it's about learning to trust that our work has an important contribution to make inside and outside the walls of our programs and developing the capacity to share our learning with others.

ECEBC believes that together we have the ability to create an ECE culture of leadership that is consistent with our values and practice - where all of us are potential leaders; where we can 'do' leadership our way; confident in the values of ECE and in our contribution to the world and our ability to change it.

So, the focus on our Leadership Initiative is not about how we take leadership in our practice with children and families. And, it is not about administration, management or supervision.

Rather, it is about valuing our work and our selves enough to gain the respect of others. It is about finding our voice to proudly answer the question "What do you do?"

What are Communities of Leadership Innovation?

"Communities of Leadership Innovation" are communities from across BC where small teams of ECEs design and work on a project to strengthen and assert their leadership capacity.

Based on responses to this Call for Proposals, ECEBC will identify 10 diverse geographic and cultural Communities of Leadership Innovation to work with during the 4th year of our Leadership Initiative.

It's up to you to define your community. It can be a group of practitioners who are already working together on projects like Investigating Quality or the Early Learning Framework. It can be as small as an urban neighbourhood or as big as a province. It might be a land-based or urban Aboriginal community or a cultural or self- defined community.

The important thing is that a core group of ECEs take the lead role in a developing and implementing a project that strengthens their capacity to raise public awareness about the important role that early childhood educators play in building strong communities.

What kinds of 'projects' are we looking for?

The projects will be as diverse as the communities they come from. But, we are looking for projects that move beyond day-to-day practice, service delivery or program administration and management. We will not fund capital projects.

Rather, we are looking for projects that raise the profile and understanding of the valuable role ECEs play in building strong communities.

We hesitate to give examples for fear of stifling creativity but to learn about the past 3 years many different Communities of Innovation, visit our website www.ecebc.ca You will see projects that range from getting a community to declare itself a Child Friendly City (they did it!); to engaging the community in bringing traditional language and culture into ECE programs to showcasing the strengths, gifts and abilities of ECEs in the community – just to name a few.

The most important thing is that through 'doing the project', the emerging ECE leaders in your community have an opportunity to find their voice; learn new skills and take leadership risks.

How will ECEBC support Communities of Leadership Innovation?

The Leadership Initiative will support Communities of Leadership Innovation in a number of ways

1. *The two or three licensed to practice ECEs who initiate the project will attend three Leadership Institutes in Vancouver. All costs – including replacing ECEs on the floor – will be covered. At the Institute, we will work together on a shared leadership culture, strengthened leadership capacity and planning your community based project.*

For this round of Communities of Leadership Innovation, 3 Institutes are planned:

- Institutes #1 - 5 day Institute in February, 2012*
- Institutes #2 - 3 day Institute in Late November 2012*
- Institutes #3 - 2 day Institute at the ECEBC Conference in late May 2013.*

The 2 or 3 ECEs who submit the proposal will need to attend all 3 Institutes.

2. *Each Community of Leadership Innovation will receive up to \$10,000.00 to cover the costs of implementing their project. Each community will need to identify a **non-profit society with a charitable tax number** to receive and administer the funds.*
3. *In between the Institutes, participants from the Communities of Leadership Innovation will be supported through conference calls, networking and the ECEBC website.*

How can we become a Community of Leadership Innovation?

First – talk with other ECEs in your community. You could do this at an ECEBC Branch meeting, your local or regional CCRR, a provincial association, an Early Childhood Coalition Table or any other network that exists in your community.

Once you have a team that includes at least two individuals who want to engage in building ECE leadership and are committed to the timelines required by the project - think about a leadership project that can make a difference in your community. Your project doesn't have to be fully developed – we will support you to develop implementation plans at the first Institute. That's what building leadership capacity is all about.

Remember – your project should focus on sharing a strong ECE professional identity with the community – so think outside the doors of your program.

Next, find a non-profit society with charitable tax status to act as the administrative home for your project. Not every non-profit society has charitable tax status so check carefully. This society will receive funds to support your local project so they will need to manage and report on these funds. We keep the reporting requirements as simple as possible

*Now , complete and submit the following Community of Leadership Innovation Call for Proposals (pages 4-7) by **January 16, 2012**. Be sure to provide the contact information we need to be in touch with you. We will get back to you by the end of January 27th, 2012.*

**If you have questions – contact the ECEBC Leadership Initiative Coordinator,
Bev Christian at leadership.ecebc@look.ca.**

2774 East Broadway,
P 604 709 6063

Vancouver BC
F 604 709 6077
www.ecebc.ca

V5M 1Y8
TF 1 800 797 5602

Communities of Leadership Innovation – 2012 Call for Proposals

In 2012, ECEBC will support ten Communities of Leadership Innovation.

ECEBC and the Leadership Initiative Advisory Committee will select the ten Communities of Leadership Innovation based on the following criteria:

- 1. Diverse geographic and cultural communities are involved.*
- 2. The Project builds the leadership capacity of ECEs to raise the profile of their work and value.*
- 3. Two or three **licensed-to-practice ECEs** are actively involved in the development of the proposal, are able to attend all three Leadership Institutes and understand they will play a leadership role in implementing the project.*
- 4. The sponsoring society is a non-profit society AND holds charitable tax status.*

In order to be considered, complete this Call for Proposals and submit it to ECEBC by Jan. 16, 2012.

Proposals must be FAXED to ECEBC at (604)709-6077 - Attention: Raphaella Wesissgerber

Communities will be informed as to whether or not they have been selected by January 27, 2012. Project work plans and budgets will be developed at the first Leadership Institute in late February 2012. Projects will report out at subsequent Leadership Institute (Nov. 2012 and May, 2013). Final project reports will be due June 30, 2013.

If you have questions about completing this Call for Proposal, please email the ECEBC Leadership Coordinator, Bev Christian at leadership.ecebc@look.ca

Proposal Contact Person

Name _____

Position/Organization _____

Phone number (Day) _____ (Evening) _____

Email _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

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ECE Project Leadership Team

Each proposal needs to be developed and submitted by a Project Leadership Team of two or three licensed to practice ECEs. We encourage communities to choose 'emerging leaders' who may not have lots of experience in a leadership role but are ready, willing and able to be part of the leadership of the next generation of BC ECEs. All members of the Project Leadership Team will be expected to attend the 3 Leadership Institutes and to play a leadership role in implementing their project within their community. Withdrawal from the project by any of the team members may compromise the ability for the project to continue including access to the funding and participation in the Institutes by the remaining team members. The Team can and is encouraged to work with a larger community group that includes other ECEs and/or community members who care about young children.

Identify the licensed to practice ECEs who are your Project Leadership Team

Participant #1

Name _____ Phone number _____
Address _____ City _____ Postal Code _____
E-mail address _____ ECE License Number _____

Participant #2

Name _____ Phone number _____
Address _____ City _____ Postal Code _____
E-mail address _____ ECE License Number _____

Participant #3

Name _____ Phone number _____
Address _____ City _____ Postal Code _____
E-mail address _____ ECE License Number _____

ECE Culture of Leadership

The Leadership Initiative is about supporting an ECE culture of leadership and building ECE's leadership capacity, confidence and ability to take our ways of knowing and doing out the door of our practice to the larger community

Please share your Project Leadership Team's motivation for being involved in this leadership program. How have you been involved in developing this proposal? Why do you want to develop your leadership capacity? How will you play a leadership role in implementing this proposal? (Please use a separate sheet of paper if necessary)

Community of Leadership Innovation

It's up to you to each Leadership Team to define the community in which you will undertake your project. It can be a large or small geographic community, a community of practice, an Aboriginal community; a cultural community or a self-defined community. The important thing is to reach outside the doors of your program to the broader community so they understand and value the work of ECEs.

Please name and briefly describe the community you will involve in this project. (Please use a separate sheet of paper if necessary)

Community of Leadership Innovation Project

Each Community of Leadership Innovation will undertake a project to raise the profile and understanding of the value of the work ECEs do in building healthy communities. Your idea doesn't have to be all figured out. The Leadership Initiative will help you develop your plan.

Please briefly describe your project. How will it build ECE leadership capacity? How will it help increase public understanding of ECEs work? What community groups will you work with or reach out to? What outcome or change do you hope to achieve? (Please use a separate sheet of paper if necessary)

Leadership Institutes

All members of your Project Leadership Team will be expected to attend three Leadership Institutes in Vancouver. The Institutes are intensive and fun experiences where the group and individual learning builds on what came before. 'Parachuting' someone into the process part way through won't work. To quote one 2009 participant, the Institutes as "Amazingly, wonderful, memorable, rewarding, exhilarating, emotional, reflective experience." ECEBC will cover all cost of travel, hotel, meals and replacing you on the floor for the three institutes.

*Please have each Project Leadership Team indicate that they understand they will be participating in the following Leadership Institutes. Here are the **tentative** dates for the 3 Institutes.
We will confirm them in early 2012.*

Event	Leadership Institute # 1	Leadership Institute # 2	Leadership Institute # 3
Dates	Tuesday February 21 st – February 25 th , 2012	Sunday, Nov. 25 th to Wednesday, Nov. 28 th , 2012	To coincide with the ECEBC 2013 Conference in late May
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants will travel to Vancouver on Monday Feb. 20th for a Tuesday morning Institute start. They will return home Saturday late afternoon or early evening. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants will travel to Vancouver for a Sunday evening Institute start and will return home Wednesday evening or Thursday morning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBA

Yes, I will attend all three Leadership Institutes (Please have each participant initial below)

Team Member #1 _____

Team Member #2 _____

Team Member #3 _____

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Sponsoring Charitable Society

The Leadership Initiative will also provide each selected Community of Leadership Innovation with up to \$10,000 to support your project in your community. You need to identify a non-profit society, with **charitable tax status** to receive and administer the funds.

Please provide the following information about your sponsoring society

Organization Name _____

Charitable Tax Number _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

Contact Person Name _____ Position _____

Contact Person Phone Number _____ Email _____

Contact Person signature _____

Leadership Capacity

Please think about the abilities that will help your team find and nurture your leadership gifts. Here are a few ideas to get you started but please add your own.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personal confidence & assertiveness building, | <input type="checkbox"/> Public speaking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Framing the Message | <input type="checkbox"/> Marketing/Communications |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Defining professional identity | <input type="checkbox"/> Addressing invisibility of the work |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gendered perceptions of the field | <input type="checkbox"/> Policy, legislation context |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The value of childhood (international perspectives) | <input type="checkbox"/> Community-based Research |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The economic impact of child care | <input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy plans, strategies & tools |

Other things you would like to learn about...

If you have questions or want to talk about your proposal, please contact Bev Christian, our Leadership Initiative Coordinator at leadership.ecebc@look.ca

Complete and submit this form by FAX to (604)709-6077

by January 16, 2012