

Summary

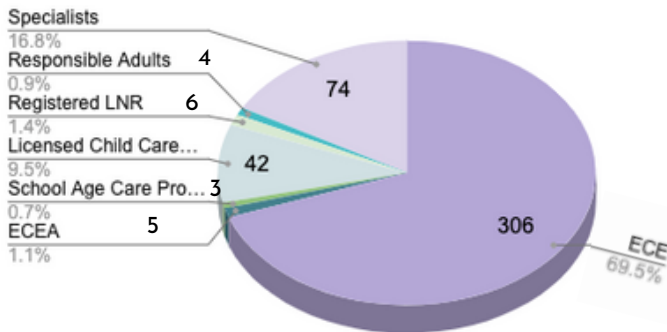
In Year One, bursary funds were distributed for one conference, one community of practice and one workshop. The conference took place in February 2022. The community of practice is still on-going and the workshop will take place in October 2022. Therefore, the data from the community of practice and workshop is not available for this report. The demographic data and comments in this report reflect the documentation reported by organizers of the Children Heart of the Matter Conference. This initiative is funded through the Canada-British Columbia Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Agreement between the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia, in partnership with the Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre (WCCRC), the agency responsible for administering the funds.

◆ Date funding for Pro-D Bursaries was received by Westcoast CCRC

January 19
2022

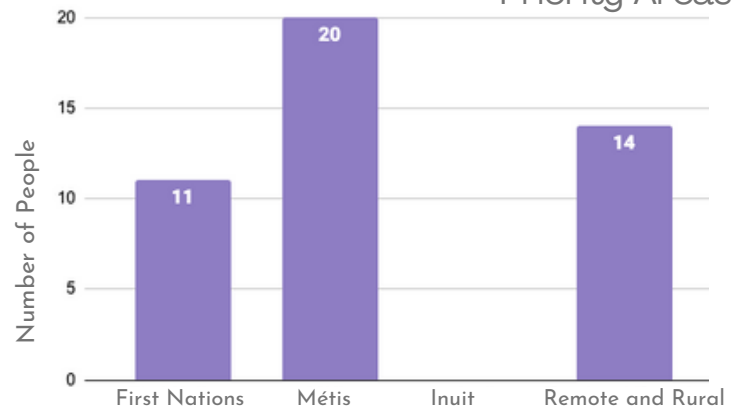
1 Number of ECEs/Child Care Providers Supported **468**

Professional Designation



*440 of 468 Bursary Program recipients declared their professional designation

Priority Areas



*Rural and remote populations based on postal codes starting with "VO" and "V1"

2 Number of applications received

Conference Applications: 2
Workshop Applications: 1
Community of Practice Applications: 1
(1 conference application was received in Year 1 and processed in Year 2)

3 Number of applications denied and reason for denial

0 applications were denied.

4 Location of professional development opportunities funded across the province

1 Conference: Fraser Region
1 Community of Practice: Fraser Region
1 Workshop: Interior Region

5 Scope of Programs or Topics Funded

Cultural Safety
Curriculum & Program Development
Play
Inclusive classrooms and practice
child health and wellbeing
Professional Ethics and Practice

6 Location of Communities of Practice

1 Community of Practice: Fraser Region, Surrey

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Distribution of Funds

1 Conference: Reduced registration fees \$26,672.50

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Successes

468 educators received financial support within the first sixteen days of restarting the Bursary Program's operations.

All the community of practice mentors (Nicky Byres, Jacqueline Ewonus, Jen Vanderberg and Lisa Nicholson) confirmed their commitment to continue working with the Bursary Program.

All members of the Bursary Program Advisory Group agreed to continue their advisory role for Year One and Year Two.

The Bursary Program's website, eceprodbursary.org, was revised, built, reviewed, tested, and launched in ten weeks.

Challenges

Most agencies had already secured funding or finalized their plans for professional development in Year 1 of the Bursary Program. This made funding distribution to priority areas a challenge.

Staff turnover within agencies throughout B.C. requires additional time to cultivate new partnerships with new training coordinators.

Several province-wide community of practice (CoP) programs are operating concurrently in the early years sector. Multiple CoP initiatives may cause perplexity for educators. Ongoing discussions with CoP program leaders has informed an integrated approach to support those facilitating and participating in CoPs supported by the Bursary Program.

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Plans for Upcoming Year

Promote the Bursary Program through publications, presentations and social media channels.

Distribute Year Two bursary funds for agencies to maximize educators' access to professional development particularly in Indigenous, remote, and rural communities.

Strengthen existing partnerships and build new partnerships with those agencies and organizations servicing Indigenous, remote and rural communities to fulfill program priorities.

Maintain ongoing communications with project leaders of community of practice initiatives sponsored by other agencies and organizations throughout B.C.

Budget Summary

Projected Spending until March 2022	\$94,000.00
Actual Spending until March 2022	\$93,137.00
Projected Spending from April 2022-March 2023	\$1,295,000

Impact

Feedback from participants was collected from the Children Heart of the Matter Conference. Increasing personal engagement and affirming professional identity are themes that emerged from the comments and illuminate the impact of the Bursary Program. Below are some selected comments that highlight these themes in answer to the post-conference survey question:

In what ways did the reduced rate for two-day registrations make a difference for you in this learning experience?

Increased Personal Engagement

"It allowed me to participate more fully in the conference and the day, without worrying about the added cost or what I would need to adjust to make it possible to attend both days."

"It felt comfortable in paying the amount...I may have hesitated to join in had it been more costly."

"You can learn about topics that are not strictly what you are looking to educate yourself on but actually broaden your horizons. When workshops are costly, you tend to pick only those you absolutely want to learn about to make sure your dollar is well spent. And when workshops are well priced, it adds to the motivation to join."

Affirmed Professional Identity

"The reduced rate helped me to feel appreciated and that ECE teachers Matter! Thank you!"

"It made me feel acknowledged as an ECE teacher. I chose this field knowing I wouldn't be making lots of money. But I truly enjoy what I do!"

"I feel that my education in the field is valued."