Aspire RICHMOND

INCLUSION & BELONGING

CHILD CARE CONFERENCE

January 24-25 2025 | Richmond BC

thriving. connected. happy.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

CONFERENCE AGENDA

FRIDAY January 24, 2025

530pm-630pm	Meet and greet with Refreshments
630pm-730pm	Keynote Elizabeth McWilliams Hewitt
730pm-830pm	Mayday Choir
830pm-9pm	Seedlings Centre Tours

SATURDAY January 25, 2025

8am-9am	Registration
9am-945am	Opening with Elder Roberta
945am-1015am	Coffee Break
1015am-1215pm	Morning workshops (3) ◦ Cultivating a space of agonistic pluralism - Rachel Yu and Jiyeon Kim ◦ Creating Inclusive Spaces where all feel welcome - Destine Lord ◦ Learning Together with Metis Nation - Coleen Berg
1215pm-1pm	Lunch
1pm-3pm	Afternoon workshops (3) ◦ Putting Care back in child care - Marie Thom and Angela Yodogawa ◦ Autistic by Nature - Pam Collins ◦ Learning Together with Metis Nation - Coleen Berg (continued from morning)
3pm-345pm	Child Care Panel
345pm-4pm	Closing Remarks

PRESENTER BIOS

For close to four decades, **Elder Roberta Price** has actively shared her leadership, wisdom and teachings at UBC and throughout the Lower Mainland to assist both Indigenous and non-Indigenous community members to achieve improved outcomes in health care. A member of the Coast Salish Snuneymuxw and Cowichan Nations, she has been instrumental in helping to create shared spaces for both Indigenous and Western approaches to healing and health. Her ongoing involvement and leadership in research projects have been key to the continued work of decolonizing health care and creating cultural safety and equity for Indigenous patients. Elder Roberta Price has received an honorary degree from UBC in 2021 in recognition for her substantial contribution to society.

Pam Collins is a late-identified neurodivergent parent to two amazing multiply neurodivergent adult sons. She provides Neurodiverse-Affirming parent coaching, consulting and education services to families and community partners and has been supporting families for over 25 years. She is also a volunteer with the Alliance Against Seclusion and Restraint.

PRESENTER BIOS

Elizabeth McWilliams Hewitt has BA in Child and Youth Care and a Master of Arts in Education, as well as post-graduation certifications, including DIR/Floortime ®. Elizabeth has worked in a variety of settings in the field of disability and family support for more years than she wishes to count! After working in several community-based organizations, Elizabeth made the move into private practice over than 12 years ago. In addition to her consultation, Elizabeth teaches part-time at a local university, enabling her to share current research and best practices with future practitioners of ECE, CYC and Education. Elizabeth supports families, care teams and organizations who care for neurodiverse children and youth, specifically Autism, FASD, ADHD, learning disabilities and mental health needs. With experience in residential treatment programs, school-based, community and specialized outreach programs, Elizabeth has a wide variety of front-line experience to draw upon, before becoming a consultant. An active member of the FASD Collaboration Round Table for over 10 years, as well speaking both locally and nationally on topics related to FASD, Elizabeth is committed to increasing awareness of FASD, sharing developmentally appropriate interventions and reducing the stigma of prenatal alcohol exposure. Elizabeth is also a Director with Power for All; Adventure Therapy Society, a charity committed to providing accessible adventure-based activities for all, with developmental and mental health disabilities. In response to both the pandemic and growing research around nature-based learning and intervention, Elizabeth began Outdoor Adventure Group, (OAG) taking youth with disabilities into local parks and wooded areas. A fully inclusive, nature-based intervention, the group focuses on social-emotional development, adaptive skills, while embodying the philosophies of inclusion, risky-play and individual led-interests. Elizabeth implements her inclusive practice on the land with children and youth, with a focus on connection, relationships, and outdoor play as an integral part of well-being.

PRESENTER BIOS

Marie Thom is a retired Richmond Kindergarten Teacher and Teacher Consultant for the Early Years. In her consultant role, she set up the StrongStart programmes and the first District run preschool. Marie travelled to Reggio Emilia, Italy to see the infant toddler and preschool centres and came back inspired to create new visions for education. In addition to visiting Reggio Emilia, Marie guided study tours to Opal School in Portland, Oregon and continued to connect with teachers on developing Story Workshop. In her last year of teaching, Marie used Carol Garboden Murray's book, "Illuminating Care" with her Early Childhood team. Currently Marie is caring part time for her granddaughter and is able to see how the act of caring is truly what makes us human. In addition to being passionate about care in the early years, Marie loves to cook and bake, arranges flowers as a hobby and practices daily yoga.

Angela Yodogawa has been an early childhood educator for over 25 years and is a mom of two grown children. She is currently the manager of Treehouse Early Learning Center. Over the years Angela has worked and taught in all facets of childcare, from preschool, daycare, IT, OSC and Strong Start. She has also taught workshops around the lower mainland for Early Childhood Educators. Angela has always strived to build supportive and caring communities wherever she has taught and hopes that she can continue to inspire teachers to do the same.

PRESENTER BIOS

Coleen Berg has been in the Early Learning field for the last 20 years as an Early Childhood Educator in a wide variety of programs from preschool to family childcare and everything in between. As a proud Métis woman and mother to 2 Métis children, Coleen is especially passionate about sharing her vibrant culture and helping to create culture-rich opportunities for Indigenous children to see themselves reflected and represented in their learning environments. She is a Childcare Navigator with Métis Nation of BC (MNBC). In her spare time she loves to spend time with her family, read a good book and get outside.

Rachel Yu is a faculty member in the School of Education and Childhood Studies at Capilano University. She has completed her MA in Society, Culture, and Politics in Education from the University of British Columbia where her research work critically examined and explored issues concerning diversity in the context of early childhood care and education and how the discourses of multiculturalism influence children, families, and educators.

Jiyeon Kim (MA), is an instructor in the School of Education and Childhood Studies at Capilano University. Thinking with postmodern theories, her research interests lie on what it might mean to have ethical commitment and responsibility to and for others—specifically when those others are children with disabilities, in relation to the ethical and moral thoughts of the philosopher, Emmanuel Levinas. She is committed to listening to multiple voices in creating inclusive pedagogical spaces in the field of education.

PRESENTER BIOS

D**estine Lord** (she/her) is a consultant and facilitator actively working toward the elimination of racism in Canada. For the last 15 years, she has worked in both the private and public sectors, facilitating workshops and delivering learning sessions related to anti-racism and anti-oppression, change management, and reconciliation. Destine has helped educators across Canada and UK get comfortable with discomfort, using it as tool for learning. As a Black Canadian, Destine can draw on her lived experiences to inform conversations about racism and anti-oppression.

Destine is new to unceded territories of the hən̓q̓əmin̓əm̓ (hun-ki-meen-um) language group and is keen to learn about its history while unlearning the norms of the colonial settler mindset.

The Mayday Club Youth Choir is a grassroots youth run charity. It ais to erase the stigmas surrounding neurodiversity and to help neurodiverse youth across BC to make real friendships and gain valuable real-life skills through arts.