



# West Kootenay

## EARLY YEARS CONFERENCE

---

### **Growing a Culture of Professionalism**

May 25th-26th | Nelson, BC  
Selkirk College, Mary Hall

**2018**

CONFERENCE GUIDE

**earlyYears**  
Starting out Right



## Conference Welcome

Warm greetings from the West Kootenay Early Years Conference Committee! This spring we look forward to welcoming you to "Growing a Culture of Professionalism." The time is ripe for us to stand together as educators, leaders and professionals. Together we create, implement and support such a vast array of early years programs and services. Our curriculum, values and roles have a significant impact on the children and families that we serve. It is important to reflect upon these roles – as community and classroom leaders. And step up as leaders with the pride and commitment that brings us to this field.

We are trying something different this year. We have enlisted local ECEs to co-facilitate our Friday session with Lorrie Baird, and in doing so, we are creating leadership right here, in our communities. By participating in this new and innovative format of small group networking, thought provoking discussion and reflective practice, you are actively contributing to a community of practice for professional development – And giving voice to the leader in you! This day is about constructing knowledge together, about understanding, thinking and being active, together. In addition, we have a great selection of workshops on Saturday to support your practice – ranging from complex communication, to being a mentor, to Reggio based art.

On Friday, May 25, conference registration begins at 8:00 am. Don't miss the banquet on Friday evening. Our banquet is a mainstay of the conference. This is your opportunity to connect and network with other professionals, honour our exceptional ECE and child care provider award winners and indulge in great live music, provided by local musician, Tim Hurley and the Vultures.

We welcome you on Saturday with a keynote address by Lorrie Baird. Local trade fair vendors will be on site all day Saturday, offering you high quality resources and learning materials.

We look forward to seeing you in the spring, to grow and learn together as professionals.

### *West Kootenay Early Years Conference Committee:*

Aanyta Fahrenbruch, Mary Walters, Samantha Zaytsoff, Michelle Pierce, Crystal Laren, Sharon Nazaroff, Lorry Mann, Sue McIntosh, Ketna Makwana, Leslie Dickinson, Heather Broad, Hugette Marr, Natalie Lucas & Alison Salo

The West Kootenay Early Years Office would like to gratefully acknowledge the Columbia Basin Trust as our conference partner.



West Kootenay  
EarlyYears Council

# KEYNOTE

---

>>We are thrilled to welcome Lorrie Baird as our keynote speaker



## KEYNOTE ADDRESS: GROWING COMMUNITIES THAT THRIVE

What do we want for young children? Ourselves? Our families? What kind of a community do we want to build? How can we create a place where each of us feels a true sense of belonging, where learning is joyful, where we can express ourselves and have a strong sense of self?

These questions invite us to reflect on the powerful role we play in creating the kinds of communities where learning happens best. We will reflect on how each moment, each response, each experience can play a critical role in creating the kinds of communities where we can thrive.

## >>Lorrie Baird

Lorrie has been actively working in the early learning field for over 30 years. Her experience ranges from Classroom Educator, Director, College Faculty, Curriculum Consultant and now as a Pedagogical Leader and Executive Director of Pedagogy with Compass Early Learning and Care in Peterborough, Ontario.

Lorrie has immersed herself in the early learning field, strengthening her understanding of the teaching and learning process. As a pedagogical leader and professional learning facilitator she believes in engaging educators in reflective practice and ensuring that our work in adult learning parallels that which we want to foster with children.

Deeply rooted in a social constructivist approach, her practice is to engage early learning professionals in opportunities to reflect and think together about their work.





# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

---

## Friday, MAY 25

8:00 - 9:30	Registration & Continental Breakfast
8:00 - 2:30	Trade Fair
9:30 - 9:45	Conference Welcome With Elders & Community Drums
10:00 - 12:00	Full Day Session: Part 1
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch
1:00 - 3:30	Full Day Session: Part 2
5:30 - 6:30	Social & Drinks
6:30 - 7:00	Banquet Opening – Welcome, Acknowledgements
7:00 - 8:00	Dinner
8:00 - 9:00	Dessert with ECE Award Presentation
9:00 - 11:00	Tim Hurley & The Vultures ( <a href="http://timothyhurleymusic.com/music/">http://timothyhurleymusic.com/music/</a> )

## Saturday, MAY 26

8:00 - 9:50	Registration & Breakfast Open at 8:00, with Keynote 8:45 to 9:45
8:00 - 2:30	Trade Fair
10:00 - 12:00	Morning Sessions
12:00 - 1:20	Lunch
1:00 - 1:15	Early Years Professional Development Presentation - Kathreen Riel
1:30 - 3:30	Afternoon Sessions
3:30	Conference Ends - Farewell & Safe Travels!



**TIM HURLEY:** Born in the heart of a dormant volcano, Timothy Hurley grew up in a musical home in Rossland, BC. His music is a fusion of soul, rock & reggae. His Caribbean & British roots influenced his style. Timothy's sound is inspired by the likes of Neil Young, Stevie Wonder, the Beatles & Bob Marley. Hurley released his first solo album, entitled *June*, September 30, 2016.



# >>At a Glance

## workshops

Full Day Session	Friday   May 25, 2018					
10-12 & 1:00-3:30	The Power of Leadership in Early Care and Learning Environments: Deepening our Role as Early Years Leaders & Growing a Culture of Reflective Practice					
Saturday   May 26, 2018						
Morning Sessions  (A)  10-12	1) Difficult Conversations: How to Keep the Channels of Communication Open	2) Heart and Knowledge	3) How to be a Mentor Who Inspires and Guides Others	4) The KAIROS Blanket Exercise ↓	5) The Reggio Approach	6) Walk Like a Crow and Be Open To Wonder
Afternoon Sessions  (B)  1:30-3:30	1) Difficult Conversations: How to Keep the Channels of Communication Open	2) Heart and Knowledge	4) How to be a Mentor Who Inspires and Guides Others	↓ All Day	5) Art Material Exploration 101	6) Walk Like a Crow and Be Open To Wonder

Please note that all morning sessions, with the exception of Natasha Smith's two workshops and the Kairos Blanket Exercise (full day), will be offered again in the afternoon, to ensure that participants have the opportunity to attend their first choices.



**TRADE FAIR:** The trade & resource fair will be open on Friday & Saturday, from 8:00 – 2:30, showcasing local vendors & organizations. Be sure to look for our local ECEBC West Kootenay branch information table. This is a great opportunity to find out more about our provincial & local Early Childhood Educators professional organization – you can sign up to join here!





# Friday Session - All Day

Friday, May 25 | 10:00-12:00 & 1:00-3:30

---

## **The Power of Leadership in Early Care and Learning Environments: Deepening our Role as Early Years Leaders & Growing a Culture of Reflective Practice**

Join us for this exciting one day institute - A model of learning that offers a new way of thinking about professional development. Early learning institutes are sweeping across the country and transforming practice!

Ever wanted more time with your early years colleagues to discuss the joys and complexities of working with children and families? Wished for lasting inspiration for your work?

Get ready to be motivated in a very new way and don't miss this opportunity to take part in a learning institute for all early years professionals.

Come and join us for a unique day of exploring and deepening your understanding of learning. Join in discussions about how your current practice connects with your image of the child and the vision you hold for early learning. Explore the values that inform your practice; question your role in the environment of early education and envision ways to bring visibility to your work. Make your voice heard and become a leader within your profession.

Together, we will create an effective network of early years professionals that will last beyond the conference.

You will work in small learning communities with other early years professionals, guided by a local co-facilitator. In your learning communities you will experience the power of collaboration and reflection. You will gain an understanding of how this way of working together invigorates your practice and creates a strong support network right in your community. Become the change you want to see.

Please note, this is a full day session for ALL conference participants to attend. This session is for anyone working with children and families. There are no other workshops this day, as we will be working together in small groups.

For more information about the values that shape the early learning institute movement please see:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mDAZFzmE8q4&list=PLlm\\_#t=7Z1gBIDnt-6CrbyCn7iZ0e-H\\_-v&index=13](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mDAZFzmE8q4&list=PLlm_#t=7Z1gBIDnt-6CrbyCn7iZ0e-H_-v&index=13)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P25mOkoODpo&index=15&list=PLlm\\_#t=7Z1gBIDnt-6CrbyCn7iZ0e-H\\_-v](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P25mOkoODpo&index=15&list=PLlm_#t=7Z1gBIDnt-6CrbyCn7iZ0e-H_-v)

*"Alone we can do so little,  
together we can do so much"*

- Helen Keller

---



# Saturday Sessions

Saturday, May 26 | 10:00-12:00 & 1:30-3:30

---

## Difficult Conversations: How to Keep the Channels of Communication Open

A1 (Morning) / B1 (Afternoon)

**Steve (Toumbi) Heynen**

Professionals working with children often find themselves having to broach difficult topics with parents. Whether a child has hurt another child, a child has disclosed abuse in the home, or a parent is angry about something that happened to their child while in a professional's care, it can be challenging to keep a conversation on track when the emotional stakes are high.

This presentation will explore key factors affecting the outcomes of difficult conversations between professionals and families. It will draw on principles from attachment theory, communication theory, and evolutionary psychology to articulate the subtle dynamics of these difficult conversations. We will also work on specific skills and language that can help keep a conversation from turning into a conflict.

Participants will come away with a more integrated understanding of what can go wrong and what can go right when they are communicating from a professional position.

The content of this workshop will be at an intermediate level. An understanding of some basic principles of human development (like attachment theory) would be an asset for participants.





---

# Heart and Knowledge

A2 (Morning) / B2 (Afternoon)

**Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) Faculty: Joanne Schroeder & Pippa Rowcliffe**

This workshop will offer a renewed approach to working across organizations for early childhood educators, practitioners and managers/programmers, by fostering their own social and emotional learning skills, increasing their understanding of how systems work; and strengthening their knowledge of child development in their community.

HELP has collected data on children's development in the West Kootenays for nearly twenty years. Data from the Early Development Instrument (EDI), along with information from additional data sources, provides a rich understanding of how children are doing throughout this region.

Overall, these data are indicating increasing vulnerabilities in areas of social and emotional development, a trend of concern across many BC communities. These data are an important tool towards creating change for children and yet, to address the many influences that are impacting children's healthy development, data must be used within the context of a new way of working together.

This new way includes explorations across a number of domains:

Ourselves - deepening self-awareness and examining our personal dreams and beliefs

Our relationships - authentic interactions with our colleagues can lead to more effective strategies

Our culture - how do our collective beliefs and assumptions drive what we do

Our structures and tools - Data is one of the things that can be a catalyst for action. What other knowledge and structures can create change.

During the workshop, participants will have the opportunity to explore local and regional EDI trends, learn about and practice new tools and strategies to work together more authentically, bringing compassion, personal reflection and mastery to their work.







## How To Be A Mentor Who Inspires & Guides Others

A3 (Morning) / B3(Afternoon)

**Selkirk College ECCE Faculty: Aanyta Fahrenbruch, Taya Whitehead & Ellen Strelaeff**

During this workshop participants will be introduced to mentorship as a professional development tool.

The presentation will be highly interactive, encouraging self-reflective practice, emotional intelligence and leadership skills. Participants will be able to gain insight into their own communication style and how to effectively inspire and guide the people they work with.

Be ready to experience new insights into your own work with children and new perspectives which may influence the way you work with others.

## The KAIROS Blanket Exercise

A4 (full day)

**Circle of Indigenous Nations Society (COINS) & COINS Elders**

In this full day, experiential workshop, facilitators will guide participants through the Blanket Exercise, as developed by KAIROS (<https://www.kairoscanada.org/what-we-do/indigenous-rights/blanket-exercise>). The purpose of this interactive exercise is to learn about the history and impact of colonization through the eyes of Indigenous people in Canada. Facilitators and Elders will guide participants through a traditional talking circle, raising awareness and understanding of the nation to nation relationships between Indigenous and non-indigenous peoples in Canada.



The Blanket Exercise explores the major themes and recommendations of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples and examines how federal policies and programs impact the lives of the First-Nations peoples and bring about positive change. Maximum 25 participants



---

# The Reggio Approach

## A5 (Morning)

### Natasha Smith

Based on the Reggio Emilia practices, this workshop will provide you with inspiration and new ideas about how to approach art with young children.

Beginning with an overview of the Reggio Emilia art philosophy and practices, this is a hands-on workshop, where you will be guided through a number of art making techniques and exercises that will inspire and reaffirm the importance of art for young children. Lots of tips and tricks will be included so you can easily incorporate art making into your weekly routines and enrich the experiences of your young children.

Maximum 25 participants



---

## Art Material Exploration 101

### B5 (Afternoon)

#### Natasha Smith

This hands-on workshop will introduce you to various art materials and art techniques while incorporating the Reggio Emilia approach to artmaking. By investigating the basic elements that make an artwork (line, shape, colour and texture) you will explore the qualities and potential of the various art materials.

Through building your confidence and understanding of the materials, you will be able to provide your young students invaluable opportunities for self-expression and guide safe exploration as they develop their visual language.

Maximum 25 participants



---

# Walk Like a Crow and Be Open to Wonder

A6 (Morning) / B6 (Afternoon)

**Monika Carpendale & Will Parker**

Stimulating connection and attachment to nature is a profound way to enhance a sense of belonging and relationship to others. In this experiential workshop we will focus on the use of art and environmental education as a way to enhance communication skills and positive group dynamics.

It will include theory based on environmental education, art therapy; as well as mentalization and practical activities applicable for children ages 2 to 6 years old. The approach includes a sensory focus and activities intended to increase self-regulation.



There will be both structured and unstructured elements to increase perception, listening, imagination, and sensory exploration. This approach is designed to expand an attitude of wonder, encourage emotional development and increase self-awareness in nature. The hands on aspects will demonstrate how connecting with nature can happen inside or outside while highlighting storytelling and exploration of the natural world.

This workshop will combine storytelling, exploration, discovery and leadership skills. A variety of activities will be introduced that can be done both inside and outside. Art making activities will include bringing the outside inside through creative collections. Other activities include: secret gardens, discover colours, walk like a crow and find a face or creature. Developing an attitude of wonder, increasing imagination and creativity will be central to the whole approach.

Maximum 30 participants







## << Presenter Profiles >>

### Steve (Toumbi) Heynen

Steve Heynen (also known locally as Toumbi), has served as the family counsellor at Nelson Community Services for the last five years, and worked as a child and youth outreach counsellor previous to that. Toumbi holds a Masters Degree in counselling psychology and is also a graduate of the Kutenai Art Therapy Institute, here in Nelson.

### Joanne Schroeder and Pippa Rowcliffe

Joanne Schroeder and Pippa Rowcliffe are the co-leaders of the emerging Systems Leadership Centre for Children (SLC<sup>2</sup>) at the Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP). SLC<sup>2</sup> will be a hub for research, training, coaching, tools and hands on assistance with systems work across many institutional settings that serve children. Ms. Rowcliffe is currently the Deputy Director of HELP and Ms. Schroeder divides her time between her roles as the Executive Director of the Comox Valley Child Development Association and the Senior Policy Fellow at HELP. Between them they bring decades of experience and knowledge of the early child development system across Canada and a passion for making child development research relevant to community practitioners.

### Aanyta Fahrenbruch

Aanyta has 37 years experience working in the field of Early Childhood Education. She has taught at Selkirk College for 10 years in the certificate and diploma programs. Her strong interest in the Early Learning Framework has led to her first hand studies of the child care system in New Zealand and her passion for early learning and children is a driving force in her teaching. It is her goal to inspire educators with the same enthusiasm for working with children and families that has guided her work and ignited her career. She sits on the Board for Kootenay Kids Society and the Kootenay Boundary Community Services Cooperative and has worked in provincial and federal programs such as CAPC and CCRR.

### Taya Whitehead

Taya has been an instructor at Selkirk College since 2008. She has been working in the child care field for 20 years, 8 of which were spent as the program manager for the West Kootenay Boundary Supported Child Development Program. She has a BA in Child and Youth Care and a Masters in Integrated Studies. She sits on the Board of Directors for the Canadian Child Care Federation and the Board of Kootenay Family Place. Taya is passionate about the field of Early Childhood Education and has used her involvement on different Boards to drive the field forward and inspire positive change.

## Ellen Strelaeff

Ellen has been an instructor at Selkirk College for 5 years in both the certificate and diploma programs. She received her first formal post-secondary training in Early Childhood Education and graduated with a Diploma in Human Services from Selkirk College in 1994. Ellen is an integral part of a team that works tirelessly in ensuring that the best quality early childhood educators are prepared for this very rewarding field. She is passionate about learning and has earned a Bachelor in Child and Youth Care from the University of Victoria and Master of Education in Early Childhood Education through the University of British Columbia. She has worked in child care, infant/toddler care, as a program manager at the Child Care Resource and Referral, and most recently as an Early Years Program Supervisor.

## Circle of Indigenous Nations Society (COINS)

The Circle of Indigenous Nations Society is an Aboriginal non-profit society that provides cultural support and counseling services to people in the West Kootenay and Boundary region. COINS was formed in March, 2013. COINS provides programs to the region such as: Aboriginal Family Services Development, "Healing Our Spirits" Aboriginal Mental Health and Addictions, Aboriginal Early Years, Aboriginal Family Connections, Talking Little Feet Council, Aboriginal Supported Child Development, Infant Development, Aboriginal Early Intervention and Traditional Parenting. COINS staff and Elders will be facilitating the KAIROS Blanket Exercise.

## Natasha Smith

Natasha Smith holds a BA hon. in Fine Art Printmaking. She is an experienced teacher, a mother of two young children and a practicing artist who loves to share her art knowledge and experience. Natasha has instructed at Kootenay School of the Arts, Oxygen Art Centre and Red Deer College. She has been artist in residence in local schools as part of the ARTstarts program, as well as pursuing her own art practice.

## Monica Carpendale, BFA, DVATI, BCATR, RCAT, HLM

Monica is the founder and executive director of the Kutenai Art Therapy Institute (KATI). She has 30 years of experience in art therapy, supervision & education. Monica is an author, film producer and designer of communication games. She is a national and international presenter.

## Will Parker, BA, MES

Will is a professional instructor, environmental educator and performance poet. Will lives deeply in relationship to the natural world and enjoys building stone walls and making unique trails. He has developed leadership groups for children combining art making and environmental education.





# >> Conference Accommodation

Please be sure to book under the West Kootenay Early Years Conference

## **Prestige Lakeside Resort:**

**701 Lakeside Drive | 250.352.7222**

**[prestigehotelsandresorts.com/](http://prestigehotelsandresorts.com/)**

**[locations/nelson-lakeside-resort/overview/](http://prestigehotelsandresorts.com/locations/nelson-lakeside-resort/overview/)**

**\$109 - Queen/King Mountain View**

**\$129 - Queen/King Lake View**

**Rates held until: April 23, 2018**

## **Prestige Inn:**

**1301 Front Street | 250.352.3595**

**[prestigehotelsandresorts.com/](http://prestigehotelsandresorts.com/)**

**[locations/nelson-prestige-inn/overview/](http://prestigehotelsandresorts.com/locations/nelson-prestige-inn/overview/)**

**\$109.95 - Queen/King**

**Rate held until: April 23, 2018**

## **Adventure Hotel:**

**616 Vernon Street | 250.352.7211**

**[adventurehotel.ca](http://adventurehotel.ca)**

**\$129.00 - Queen**

**Online booking code: 'WKEY2018'**

**Rate held until: April 23, 2018**

## **Selkirk College**

### **Tenth Street Residence:**

**702 Tenth Street | 250.505.1393**

**Email: [bflemingmc@shaw.ca](mailto:bflemingmc@shaw.ca)**

**Rates held until: April 23, 2018**



## >> Stay on-site at the conference in the Selkirk College Tenth Street Residence:

1 Bedroom in 5 Pod	1 room with single bed in shared unit with 3 bathrooms, fully equipped kitchen, and laundry	\$ 55.00 per person/night
1 Bedroom in 3 Pod	1 room with single bed in shared unit with 2 bathrooms, fully equipped kitchen, and laundry	\$ 55.00 per person/night
5 Bedroom Pod - entire unit, all 5 bedrooms	unit has 5 bedrooms (each with a single bed), 3 bathrooms, fully equipped kitchen, and laundry	\$ 250.00/night (paid on one invoice)
3 Bedroom Pod - entire unit, all 3 bedrooms	unit has 3 bedrooms (each with a single bed), 2 bathrooms, fully equipped kitchen, and laundry	\$ 150.00/night (paid on one invoice)
Single Dorm (Co-ed)	single bed, mini fridge & microwave, units share a common kitchen, bathroom and complimentary washer/dryers	\$ 50.00 per person/night
Block of 6 Single Dorms (Co-ed)	Each dorm room has a single bed, mini fridge & microwave, units share a common kitchen, bathroom and complimentary washer/dryers	\$ 270/night (\$45.00 per person/night) paid on one invoice

**Guests at Tenth Street Residence have access to free WIFI, T.V. lounge, games room with pool table, table tennis & foosball. Parking is free.**

[selkirk.ca/services/campus-services/residence-services/tenth-street-residence-nelson/summer-stay-tenth-street](http://selkirk.ca/services/campus-services/residence-services/tenth-street-residence-nelson/summer-stay-tenth-street)

## >> Other Accommodations in Nelson

**Alpine Inn:** 1120 Hall Mines Road | 250.352.5501  
[alpine-motel.com/](http://alpine-motel.com/)

**Best Western:** 153 Baker Street | 250.352.3525  
[bwbakerstreetinn.com/](http://bwbakerstreetinn.com/)

**Hume Hotel:** 422 Vernon Street | 250.352.5331  
[humehotel.com/](http://humehotel.com/)



# >>Conference Registration & Fees<<

**Please note: Registration is online only and accepted until Friday, April 27th, 2018**

**\$25 DISCOUNT on Full Conference Fee for Kootenay Boundary Community Services Co-operative member agency employees:** Arrow & Slocan Lakes Community Services, Boundary Family & Individual Services Society, Castlegar & District Community Services Society, Kootenay Family Place, Kootenay Kids, Kutenai Art Therapy Institute, Nelson CARES Society, Nelson Community Services, North Kootenay Lake Community Services, Salmo Community Resource Society, Trail FAIR Society, West Kootenay Women's Association.

**STUDENT REGISTRATION:** There is a discount for students with a full course load. Please see the chart below.

		Total with GST
Full Conference (includes Friday banquet, Saturday breakfast & lunch)	\$ 125	+ \$6.25 = \$131.25
One Day (includes breakfast, lunch & banquet)	\$ 65	+ \$3.25 = \$68.25
Full Conference – Student	\$ 70	+ \$3.50 = \$73.50
One Day - Student	\$ 35	+ \$1.75 = \$36.75
Full Conference KBCSC Member Agency / Committee	\$ 100	+ \$5 = \$105
Extra Banquet Tickets	\$ 35	+ \$1.75 = \$36.75

**CERTIFICATES FOR PRO-D HOURS:** These will be emailed after the conference. Please select the certificate option when you register online.

## HOW TO REGISTER:

Register online at: <https://wkearlyyearsconference.eventbrite.ca>

## Workshop Registration

Space is limited in some workshops. We will do our best to give you your first choice for each session. Please note that registrations are processed on a first come, first serve basis. An email confirming your workshop registration will be sent once payment has been processed.

Please complete a separate registration for each person who will be attending the conference.

**Cancellation Policy:** Registration fees, less a \$25 administration fee will be refunded up to May 4, 2018. After this date, fees are not refundable.

**For more information please contact the West Kootenay Early Years Office at:**

[earlyyears@thekoop.ca](mailto:earlyyears@thekoop.ca) or 250-352-6786





