

Creating Cultural Connections Summer 2024 E-Newsletter!



What is CCC?

This regionally sponsored support is a 3 yr initiative for licensed programs in Southern AB. Guiding development and delivery of culturally sensitive resources, mentoring support is aimed at enhancing educator capacity reflective of unique program needs and diversity. As a method of informing the AB context; resources are centered on the Child Care Licensing Act & Regulations. Highlighting a focus on the Principles & Matters to be considered, they align with enhancing early learning environments.

Get Involved

Interested in aligning your program's philosophy with the Early Learning Child Care Licensing Act principles and matter's to be considered?

[Access resources & self-refer here!](#)

Mentor Recruitment

Over the Spring, our project supported onboarding of several new mentors! If you think you have ECE expertise to share with other programs, consider inquiring about supporting Southern Alberta communities as a possible mentor with the CCC project. For information contact [Project Coordinator Amaka Amadike: amendy7200@gmail.com](#)

Meet a Mentor

Hi! I am Lynn Rattai, a CCC mentor. I have been in the Early Childhood field for 11 years working in childcare, early learning programs and with ARCQE. I am from Hays, Alberta, a small farming community in southern Alberta. I have two children of my own, 2 and 4. I love getting to visit and work alongside other educators in the field. There is always learning happening.

In my spare time you can find me out on the farm in a tractor or with the cows, or exploring the outdoors while hiking, gardening, camping, or with a good book.

*Lynn**

Showcase of Learning

CCC had its first annual Showcase of Learning on May 3rd and 4th bringing together programs from across Southern Alberta to share learnings gained from participation in the CCC project. It was a wonderful opportunity for building further awareness about CCC support initiatives and how they relate to the work of individual community programs.



Speaker Highlights!



· **Elder Betty Ann and Maurice Little Wolf** from the Piikani First Nations opened the event with prayers. Betty Ann shared personal stories from her residential school days and the important work they are currently doing supporting communities in southern Alberta.

· **Jan Stewart**, Dean of Education and Professor from University of MB shared information and powerful hands-on experiences concerning supporting refugee and newcomer families



· **Christina Pickles** brought her hands on expertise relating to connections of responsive environments! She took all participants outside for fresh inspiration and showed them strategies pertaining to how ECE's can further engage children through intentional engagement in outdoor spaces.



Community Conversations

We are continuing our **Community Conversation** group monthly discussions! They are supporting reflective practice topics' from the book *Introduction to Early Childhood Education and Care: An Intercultural Perspective* by Carole Massing and Mary Lynne Matheson.

The next **Community Conversation** is **Sept.18th!** The focus will be on **Chapter 12, supporting discussion on Language and Literacy.** Register by clicking the link on the CCC site page. Connect with PC Amaka who is constantly seeking out programs to join CCC and experience the benefits for their educators, families, and children. Email amendy7200@gmail.com to ask questions and sign up for the next discussion!

Educate, Advocate & Celebrate

Here are some of the events that take place this time of the year celebrated by some children and families involved with CCC. If you something you want us to feature in the next CCC E-Newsletter, email Amaka at amendy7200@gmail.com



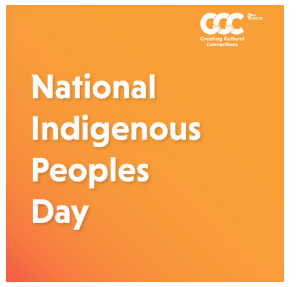
June

June marks **Summer Solstice Indigenous Festival**, The SSIF is unique in that Indigenous communities from all over Canada attend and celebrate their diverse cultures. SSIF honours and celebrates Indigenous culture, traditions, and heritage. On summer solstice, Indigenous communities share their arts, music, dance, cuisine and craftsmanship. The event includes Powwows, workshops on traditional practices such as drum-making and beadwork, folklore and history storytelling sessions, and live Indigenous music. SSIF promotes dialogue and education on Indigenous issues, cultural exchange and inclusivity.

Eid-Al-Adha: June.17th, This Eid, commonly referred to as the Festival of Sacrifice, comes at the end of the annual pilgrimage to Mecca (Hajj) and is traditionally a time of joy, reflection and unity for Muslims. Muslims across world will gather to pray at their local mosques, share meals with loved ones, and provide food to those in need. In Muslim communities celebrate Eid with kindness, selflessness and charity.

National Indigenous Peoples Day: June.21th, on this day many Indigenous groups and communities celebrated their culture, heritage and history, heritage and resilience as well as diversity of First Nations, Inuit, Metis communities across Canada. Every year, numerous activities are organized across the country on June 21 to showcase the richness and diversity of First Nations, Inuit and Métis cultural expressions and stories.

The CCC team commemorated this day sharing the following tribute on June 21st and encourage all programs to consider how they might also commemorate this day In their own programs annually moving forward as a way of further expanding on CCC project objectives In Individual programs as well!



"Today is National Indigenous Peoples Day! As we celebrate this day with our Indigenous friends and colleagues and by recognizing the First Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples that live, work and play in our province, we are reminded of the richness and diversity of cultures that contribute to our shared tapestry. We invite you to continue fostering cultural connections within your childcare programs by sharing your experiences with families and educators. By incorporating Indigenous perspectives, stories, arts, and practices ways of knowing into your program curriculums, you are promoting diversity and inclusivity and instilling in children a deep respect for the different cultures and ways of life. We believe that early childhood education plays a crucial role in shaping the attitudes and values of future generations. By integrating Indigenous knowledge and teachings into our daily activities, we can help cultivate empathy, understanding, and appreciation for the unique experiences and histories of Indigenous peoples. We encourage you to practice diverse ways in your program whether through storytelling, art projects, music, or hands-on activities to engage children in learning about and celebrating Indigenous cultures! Let's all commit to creating a more culturally connected and equitable world for all children."

July

Canada Day: July.1st, This national celebrated event was initially known as Dominion Day. In 1982, it was renamed to Canada Day. Canada Day highlights the richness of our land, our diversity, our culture, our contributions, but above all, our people. Canadians from all communities celebrate by way of coming together to commemorate this day across the country! This day is recognized by all levels of government, communities and/or businesses across Canada. Canadians celebrate with parades, carnivals, concerts, fairs, festivals, barbecues, and firework displays.

Bastille Day: July.14th, This day marks the end of monarchy and the beginning of the French Revolution. Bastille Day was proclaimed a national holiday in 1880 and in 1848 the motto "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity" was reinstated. In France, most folks take the eve of Bastille Day off and celebrate with festive balls and brilliant displays of fireworks. The day that follows is filled with parades, bands, dancing, and community events.

August

Heritage Day: August.5th, a celebration of food, dance, and handicrafts of cultures from around the world.

International Youth Day: August.9th, an awareness day designated by the United Nations



Thank you,
from the
CCC team!
Happy
Summer!

