



January 23, 2012

Ref: 203238

Dear Provincial Child Care Council Members:

I am pleased to announce the fifth annual Child Care Awards of Excellence, in which the Ministry of Children and Family Development will be recognizing the exceptional service that child care providers, individuals, organizations and local governments provide to British Columbia's children and families.

These awards acknowledge the valuable contribution early childhood educators (ECEs), licensed family child care providers and others make in the community in support of early learning and child care in British Columbia. The ministry will honour these individuals and organizations in four different categories:

1. **General:** (4 regional awards) for Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) with an active licence to practice or licensed family child care providers, who are currently working in a licensed child care setting.
2. **Aboriginal:** (2 awards) one award for an ECE of Aboriginal descent currently working in a licensed child care setting or an Aboriginal organization currently offering care to Aboriginal children. This award category includes the Lenora Pritchard Award of Excellence to honour outstanding leadership and mentorship by an Aboriginal child care provider.
3. **Innovation:** (2 awards) one for an individual and one for a facility or organization demonstrating innovation in child care programming in a traditional or non-traditional setting.
4. **Local Government:** (2 awards) honours local governments that demonstrate leadership in the development of initiatives, projects or programs that support the delivery of high quality child care.

Contributions by individuals and organizations nominated in the General, Aboriginal and Innovation categories will be assessed on their achievements in four different areas: supporting child development; supporting diversity; involving parents, families and communities; and, commitment to, and leadership in, the child care sector. Nominees in the Local Government category will be assessed on commitment and leadership; staff engagement; policy integration; and investment.

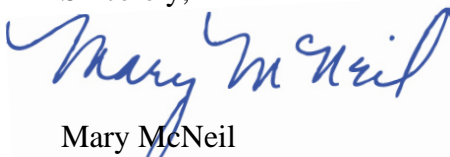
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Nominations for these awards will be accepted until Monday, March 5, 2012. For further information please refer to: <http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/childcare/awards/index.htm>. Should you have further questions please call the ministry's Client Relations Branch toll-free at: 1 877 387-7027 or in Victoria at 250 387-7027 or by e-mail at: EarlyYears@gov.bc.ca.

Please share this information with anyone who may be interested in nominating an exceptional early childhood educator or licensed family care provider; an individual or organization showing innovation in child care programming; or a local government showing commitment to, and leadership in, the development and support of community child care.

Thank you for assisting us in supporting and recognizing these individuals, local governments and organizations for their commitment to the children and families of British Columbia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary McNeil". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Mary McNeil
Minister