

2025 Provincial Conference

***Building Bridges: Diversity, Equity,
and Inclusion in Our Communities***

CONFERENCE PACKAGE



LOCATION
PITT MEADOWS GOLF CLUB



DATE
APRIL 30 – MAY 1

On behalf of ACEbc, our executive find it important to acknowledge that we are gathering for this conference on Building Bridges: Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Schools on the traditional and unceded territory of the ǵícəy (Katzie) First Nation who have been stewards and protectors of this land since time immemorial.

The Katzie people have lived and thrived on their land for thousands of years. They maintain deep connections to their land, rivers, sloughs, creeks and wetlands - at the center of this territory is sǵəyćəyaʔł xăcaʔ (The lake of the Katzie) and sǵəyćəyaʔł státləw (the river of the Katzie). What is now known as Pitt Meadows, Maple Ridge, Surrey, Langley and Delta, the Katzie have ancient names for all of these places where their ancestors lived, worked, learned and transformed.

As educators and community school coordinators gathering from various territories that have been unceded, we acknowledge the power of transformation that can occur when we commit to truth, reconciliation and decolonization. Part of that process is understanding, living in, and building community.

The Tewa scholar Gregory Cajete (2015) wrote: "The community is where the individual 'forms the face and heart' as one of 'the People'...The community is the place for feeling and being connected, for belonging. The community is the place where each person can, metaphorically speaking, become complete and express the fullness of their life."

With that wisdom in mind, we acknowledge that we seek, through our conference, to transform ourselves and our communities to become places for feeling, being connected and for belonging. Places where our students and educators can continue to form and re-form our faces and hearts. We thank the Katzie nation on whose land we gather on, for their commitment and continued protection of the land.

Hello!



We look forward to seeing you at the ACEbc 2025 Conference: "Building Bridges: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Our Communities", held in Pitt Meadows at the Pitt Meadows Golf Club! My name is Bal Dhillon, the President of ACEbc, and I speak on behalf of the ACEbc Executive when I say we look forward to connecting with you at our conference. Last year, we focused on Student Health and Wellness in Education, building upon the conference the year before where we focused on our own health and wellness as Community School Coordinators. This year we are shifting focus to the work of Equity and Inclusion in our schools. We are excited to welcome a number of speakers including Christine Mackenzie from the Kwakiutl Nation who will lead us through discussion, reflection and stories of decolonization; Beth Applewhite, an award winning facilitator and community builder who will take us through anti-racist and anti-oppressive frameworks as foundations for building community; Jordynn Punter and James Daniels who will teach us about promoting and creating inclusive environments in schools especially in the face of challenges that impact 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals; and Sam Thiara, an award winning professor who will conclude the conference by using appreciative inquiry to give us insight into how we can build more inclusivity on top of what we are already doing well. There will be engaging sessions for all of us to learn from, and of course, plenty of opportunity to connect, network and build community. We look forward to seeing you in Pitt Meadows!



Sincerely,

BALRAJ DHILLON
COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORDINATOR,
SD41

SCHEDULE

Time	Wednesday, April 30th	Time	Thursday, May 1st
8:30 - 9:00am	Arrival, Check-in, Breakfast	8:30 - 9:00am	Arrival, Check-in, Breakfast
9:00 - 9:30am	Breakfast and Networking	9:00 - 9:30am	Breakfast and Networking
9:30 - 10:15am	Opening and Activity	9:30 - 10:15am	Opening and Activity
10:15 - 10:30am	Break	10:15 - 10:30am	Break
10:30 - 12:30	Steps Forward: Christine Mackenzie	10:30 - 12:30	Empowering Voices: Navigating Identity and Allyship: Jordynn Punter & James Daniels
12:30 - 1:30pm	Lunch	12:30 - 1:30pm	Lunch
1:30 - 3:15pm	Moving From Awareness to Action: Identifying and Responding to Racism: Beth Applewhite	1:30 - 3:15pm	CARE for Our Communities: Building Connection, Resilience, and Impact: Sam Thiara
3:15 - 3:30pm	Break	3:15 - 3:30pm	Break
3:30 - 5:30pm	Social hour and AGM	3:30 - 4:30pm	Prizes, Reflection and Closing

All meals and refreshments are included and will be provided by the Pitt Meadows Golf Club,

SESSIONS: DAY 1



CHRISTINE MACKENZIE

Steps Forward: Christine Mackenzie

Join Christine Mackenzie, facilitator and Artist from the Kwakiutl Nation, for this interactive workshop, where we will explore decolonization by examining internal biases and the impact of systemic inequities. Through discussions, reflection, and storytelling, participants will learn to create culturally safe, inclusive spaces. We'll also examine the "masks" we wear in personal and professional settings, exploring how they shape interactions. A key focus is recognizing our own mental health needs while supporting vulnerable communities. By the end, participants will:

- Connect decolonization, equity, and cultural safety
- Identify biases that hinder inclusivity
- Learn strategies for fostering equitable environments
- Prioritize self-care in community work



BETH APPLEWHITE

Anti-racism: Beth Applewhite

Beth Applewhite is an unapologetic anti-racist and has dedicated her professional life to educational justice initiating professional development work in Education Systems. Beth advocates for honest discourse, diverse voice, and an increased awareness of dominant culture, and the need to face both explicit and implicit biases. She will use lived experiences to inform our practice and enlighten participants about the long-reaching effects of discrimination. Her presentations and workshops are explicit, thought provoking and interactive. Beth does not shame and blame; instead she meets participants where they are at with compassion and understanding. She moves beyond definitions and awareness to honest personal reflection and authentic personal goals. Beth creates accountable spaces for participants to reflect on their learning/unlearning, share experiences and "try on" new perspectives. Participant voice will be encouraged, appreciated, and respected.

SESSIONS: DAY 2



JORDYNN PUNTER

Empowering Voices: Navigating Identity and Allyship: Jordynn Punter & James Daniels

Jordynn Punter (she/her) and James Daniels (he/him) are passionate about creating inclusive after-school programs, promoting allyship, raising awareness about challenges faced by 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals, and encouraging healthy conversations on sensitive topics.

Their presentation will include:

- Embracing our own identities and recognizing how they enhance our ability to support 2SLGBTQIA+ students
- Defining the identities highlighted in the 2SLGBTQIA+ acronym
- Developing inclusive language
- Creating safe spaces to have sensitive conversations regarding SOGI and 2SLGBTQIA+ concerns and issues
- Understanding how SOGI can show up in Community Schools Programming
- Learning what compassionate allyship looks like



JAMES DANIELS

CARE for Our Communities: Building Connection, Resilience, and Impact: Sam Thiara

Our community schools serve as the heart of collaboration, bringing together partners to create a dynamic and engaged hub where every role matters. For these components to align effectively, the need to CARE has never been greater.

CARE embodies four key principles—Collaboration, Adaptability, Resilience, and Empathy—forming a foundation for a positive and thriving educational environment.

In this interactive session, we will explore new possibilities through appreciative inquiry, applying the CARE model to unlock opportunities for growth, connection, and meaningful impact. Through engaging discussions, real-world insights, and powerful stories, participants will gain a deeper understanding of how to foster a more inclusive and supportive community within our schools.



SAM THIARA

ACEbc Executive

Role	Name	District	Term
President	Balraj (Bal) Dhillon	SD41	1-2 Years
Vice-President	Taryn Briscoe	SD41	1-2 Years
Treasurer/Insurance	Mischa Greenwood	SD41	2-2 Years
Co-Secretary	Jacqui Adams	SD56	2-2 Years
Co-Secretary	Hannah Macdonald	SD42	1-2 Years
Membership	Sandhya (Sandy) Krishna	SD41	1-2 Years
Communications	OPEN	SD42	
Website	Stephanie Eby	SD35	1-2 Years
Member at Large	Neelofar (Neelo) Nurani	SD41	1-2 Years
Member at large	Jordynn Punter	SD36	1-2 Years
Member at Large	James Spediel	SD36	1-2 Years
Member at Large	OPEN	SD38	2 Years
Member at Large	OPEN	SD39	2 Years
District Rep	Anne Bell	SD62	Ongoing
District Rep	Neelo Nurani	SD43	Ongoing
District Rep	Sandhya (Sandy) Krishna	SD41	Ongoing
District Rep	Karamjit Jagdeo	SD38	Ongoing
District Rep	Adriana Tusek	SD57	Ongoing
District Rep	Rick Bloudell	SD40	Ongoing
District Rep	James Speidel	SD36	Ongoing
District Rep	Hannah Macdonald	SD42	Ongoing

District Representative Role Description:

- Liaise between District and ACEbc
- Attend General Meetings
- Connecting Community Schools Coordinators and other relevant professionals/partners with ACEbc meetings through discussion, sharing of meeting agenda and information, informing people about registration with ACEbc, etc.
- Ensure contact information for all coordinators in your district is up to date on the ACEbc contact/email list (perhaps create a live google document that can be accessed by all to make this easy)

**ACEbc Annual General
Meeting Agenda**

April 30, 2025

**4:45pm - 5:30pm (in-
person and via Zoom)**

1. 2 Minutes: Welcome – James Speidel

2. 3 Minutes: Land Acknowledgment – James Speidel

3. 5 Minutes: Approval of AGM 2024 Agenda and Approval of AGM Minutes 2024-
James Speidel

4. 10 Minutes: Annual Reports

- a. Financial Report – Mischa Greenwood
- b. Insurance and Membership Report – Mischa Greenwood and Sandhya Krishna
- c. President's Report – Balraj Dhillon

5. 15 Minutes: Election of Officers – James Speidel

NOTE: All Executive positions are 2 year terms with the exception of District Representatives which are 1 year terms.

- a. Co-Secretaries - Shared Position– Open
- b. Treasurer – Open
- c. Insurance Coordinator – Open
- d. Communications Coordinator – Open
- e. Membership Coordinator - Open
- f. 6 Members at Large – 1 open
- g. District Reps (appointed – 1 Year Term) – to be appointed at the April AGM, Districts please be prepared to appoint your rep.

6. 5 Minutes: Questions/Comments – James Speidel

7. Next ACEbc Executive Meeting: May 16, 2025 from 9:30 am – 11:30 am

8. Next ACEbc General Meeting: May 23, 2024 from 9:30am-11:30am



THANK YOU!

ACEbc is committed to building community and school partnerships, integrating services, and promoting life-long learning to benefit children, families and communities.

Thank you for joining us and sharing your unique perspective and expertise. We are incredibly grateful!

Sincerely,

ACEbc Conference Planning Committee: Balraj Dhillon, Delphina Liles, Hannah Macdonald, Jacqui Adams, James Speidel, Jordynn Punter, Karamjit Jagdeo, Mischa Greenwood, Neelo Nurani, Sandhya Krishna, Shahzyah Juma, Stephanie Eby, Taryn Briscoe.