



*Children*  
THE HEART OF THE MATTER

**2025**

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

[childcareoptions.ca](http://childcareoptions.ca)

We are grateful to the ECE Professional Development Bursary Fund for helping to reduce the registration fees to participants of this year's conference. Without this funding the cost to attend would be \$160.00.



This initiative is funded through the Canada-British Columbia Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Agreement between the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia, in partnership with the Westcoast Family Centres (Westcoast), the agency responsible for administering the funds.

## HEARTFELT THANKS TO THIS YEAR'S SPONSORS...

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# CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 31<sup>ST</sup>

- 6:00 PM **DOORS OPEN**  
Welcome reception  
Registration table and Marketplace opens
- 7:00 PM **TRADITIONAL WELCOME**  
Lekeyten & Sqwayeten Cheryl Gabriel,  
Elders from Kwantlen First Nation
- KEYNOTE**  
What's Love Got To Do With It? Books,  
Brains, Hearts and Spirits  
with Monique Gray Smith
- 10:00 PM **MARKETPLACE CLOSSES**

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1<sup>ST</sup>

- 7:00 AM **DOORS OPEN**  
Registration table and  
Marketplace opens
- 8:15 AM **KEYNOTE**  
The Truth about Child Development  
with Dr. Vanessa Lapointe
- 10:15 AM **MORNING BREAK**
- 10:45 AM **AM SESSION WORKSHOPS**
- 12:45 PM **LUNCH BREAK**  
**DOOR PRIZE DRAWS**
- 1:45 PM **PM SESSION WORKSHOPS**  
**Marketplace closes**
- 3:45 PM **CONFERENCE ENDS**

## FOR THOSE ATTENDING IN-PERSON...

### CERTIFICATES

For each keynote and workshop you attend, certificates will be available for download from the conference portal by February 3, 2025. You must complete an evaluation for each session before the certificates will be available to download.

### SELFIE STATION

The selfie station is back! Be sure to drop in for fun with your colleagues and new friends! Take a photo and post it to Instagram, Twitter, or Facebook using the hashtag **#CHOM2025** to be entered to win a door prize!

### WELCOME RECEPTION

Friday evening will feature light refreshments and a chance to catch up with friends and colleagues.

This is also a great time to visit vendors in the Marketplace!

### VISIT THE MARKETPLACE

Check out the latest toys, equipment and materials available for the early care and learning field, as well as local community resources, in our Marketplace!

Photographs will be taken during the Children the Heart of the Matter conference. By registering for the conference, you are giving permission that photos containing your image/likeness may be used.



**LEKEYTEN &  
SQWAYETEN CHERYL GABRIEL**

## CONFERENCE WELCOME

We are Lekeyten and Sqwayeten Cheryl Gabriel, Elders from Kwantlen First Nation, residing on McMillan Island across from Fort Langley. We have been together for 50 years and have 13 wonderful grandchildren from our blended family.

During our time as partners, parents, co-workers, grandparents, and Elders in Residence we promised ourselves that we would give back and share our Kwantlen First Nation history.

As Elders we have welcomed many to family gatherings for over 30 years, with drumming and singing to ground everyone to the learning spaces.

We have been part of the education system sharing our responsibility and accountability to Indigenous worldview with our love and respect as Kwantlen First Nation. We remind everyone we share with that we think generationally - reflecting on the knowledge from the previous seven generations as well as considering the seven generations forward to time immemorial. We share our traditional territories to those who live, play, learn and work here.

We are honoured to be asked to welcome everyone.

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**EverPlay Mud Kitchen**



## FRIDAY KEYNOTE

# WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT? BOOKS, BRAINS, HEARTS AND SPIRITS MONIQUE GRAY SMITH

In this dynamic and inspiring session, Monique will share her personal journey, offer readings from her various books and provide stories of love, hope and joy. She will begin with an overview of how stress and trauma may be impacting us and those we work with; including what happens in our bodies when trauma is experienced. We will explore the integral role books have in fostering love and joy and the impact of those emotions on our ability to be resilient.



## BE SURE TO CHECK OUT THE MARKETPLACE FOR...

### COMMUNITY RESOURCES

BC Aboriginal Childcare Society  
Child Care Options CCRR  
Delta School District - Continuing Education  
Early Childhood Educators of BC  
Foster Caregiver Recruitment & Support  
Inclusion Langley  
Justice Institute of BC  
Métis Nation British Columbia  
Parent Support Services Society of BC  
REACH Child and Youth Development Society  
The Centre for Child Development  
Westcoast Childcare Resource Centre

### VENDORS

Autumn Fraser  
Discovery Toys  
Feltastic Felt  
Kinder Books  
Little Métis Things  
Louise Kool & Galt  
Natural Wood Creations  
Quality Classrooms  
Silver FX Inc  
Sticks & Stones Childhood Learning  
SUMMIT  
Ubuntu Ogogo Grandmothers to Grandmothers  
Campaign, Stephen Lewis Foundation  
Wintergreen Learning Materials  
Wool Food

## SATURDAY KEYNOTE

### THE TRUTH ABOUT CHILD DEVELOPMENT



#### DR. VANESSA LAPOINTE

Dr. Vanessa Lapointe, a parenting educator, best-selling author, and international speaker, transitioned from a practising psychologist to a global parenting advocate. With a psychology doctorate and over 20 years of experience, she now leads The North Star Developmental Clinic. Her passion is in walking alongside parents, teachers, care providers, and other big people to really see the world through the child's eyes. She believes that if we can do this, we are beautifully positioned to grow up our children in the best possible way.



Reach Child & Youth Development Society is a non-profit organization that provides programs and services to children and their families in Delta, Surrey and Langley. At REACH, we believe in the potential of every child.



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## EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

- ▶ BASIC Certificate
- ▶ SPECIAL NEEDS Certificate
- ▶ INFANT/ TODDLER Certificate



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- ▶ *Part-time Schedules*
- ▶ *Quality instruction with affordable fees*
- ▶ *Teaching early childhood educators since 1969*

<https://deltalearns.ca/eceprogram/>

## OPEN STUDIO TIME

### THE WONDER OF PAINT

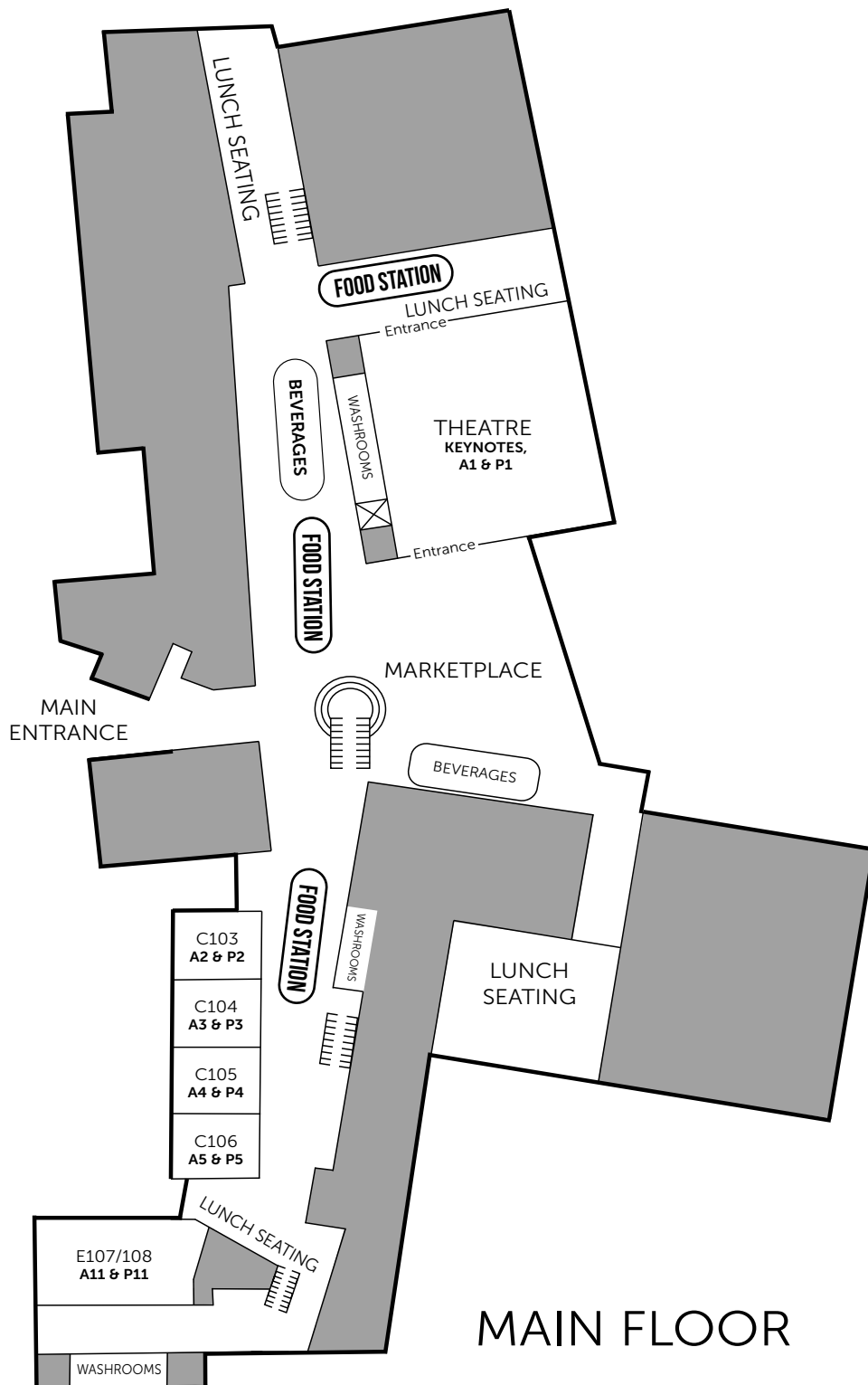


Step into the Studio and explore a world of creativity where materials come to life. Join us as we discover the endless possibilities of paint.



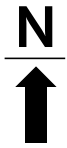
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deltalearns.ca

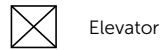


MAIN FLOOR





LEGEND



Elevator



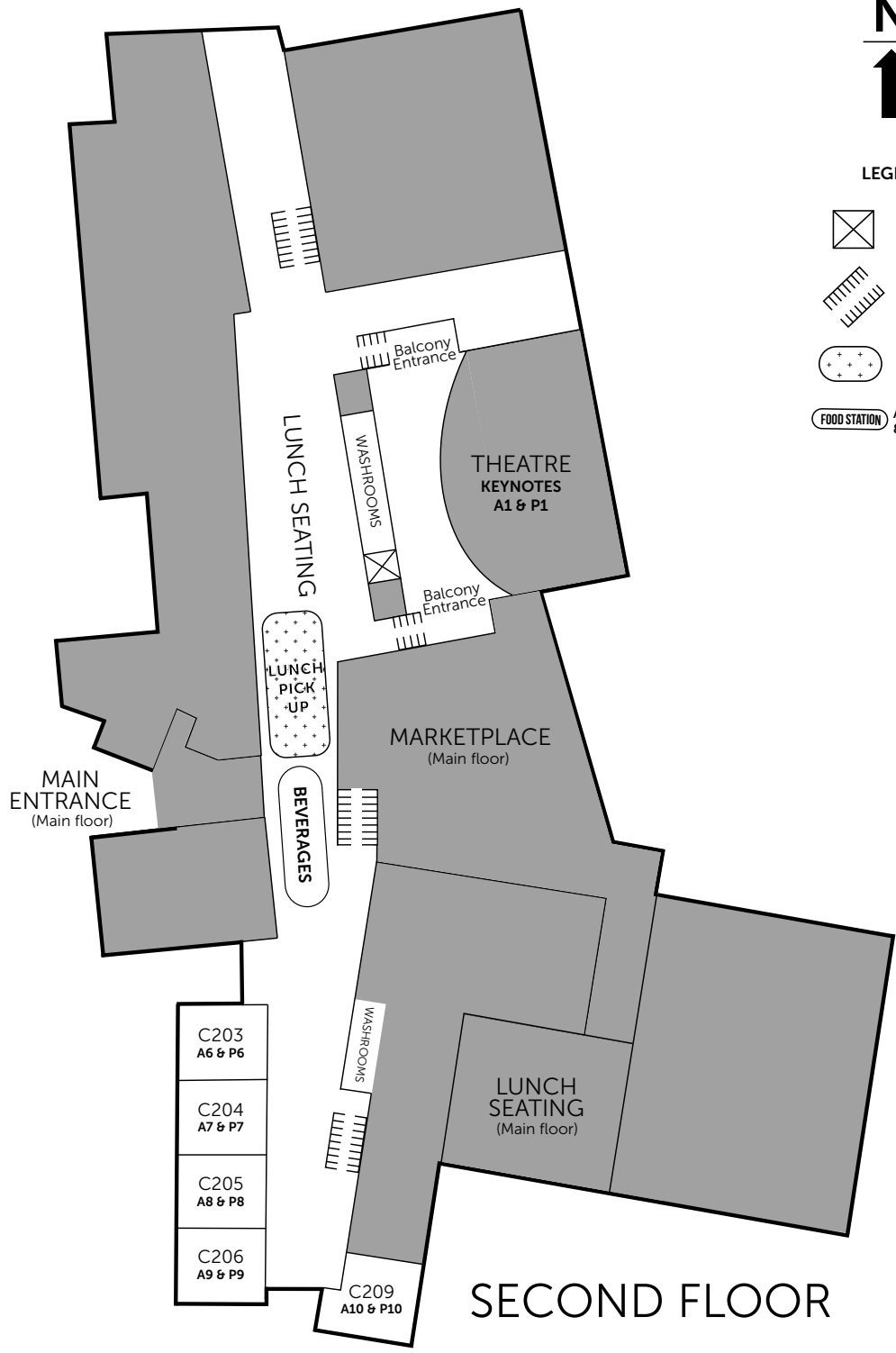
Stairs



LUNCH PICK UP



AM SNACK & LUNCH PICK UP



# SATURDAY WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

## AM SESSION 10:45 AM - 12:45 PM

A1

### **Play is the Way: Supporting Healthy Development Through Playful Expression**

Dr. Vanessa Lapointe

ROOM: Theatre

A2

### **Playful Mathematics for Young Children**

Janice Novakowski

ROOM: C103

A3

### **Beyond Volcanoes and Slime: Reimagining Activity-Based Learning into Inquiry Projects (Part 1)**

Wendy Lorch

ROOM: C104

A4

### **The Art of Storytelling (Part 1)**

Corinne Moody

ROOM: C105

A5

### **Supporting Emergent Bilingual Children in Early Childhood Education Programs**

Angelpreet Singh

ROOM: C106

A6

### **Step Outside and Fall in Love: Environmental Education and Outdoor Games**

Jui-Jou Jasmine Chou & Allison Koberstein

ROOM: C203

A7

### **“Aansaamb aen kiskayhtaamaahk” – Learning Together**

Violeta Savic & Coleen Berg

ROOM: C204

A8

### **Embracing Tensions: Encounters with Tough Topics**

Ashleigh Davies

ROOM: C205

A9

### **Settler Colonial Influences in the BC Early Learning Education System**

Katelyn Moon

ROOM: C206

A10

### **Creating Space For Open-Ended Art In A Variety Of Child Care Settings**

Wanda Cole

ROOM: C209

A11

### **Indigenous Culture Kits for Early Years Programs**

Pam Moore & Taryn Graham

ROOM: E107/108

## PM SESSION 1:45 - 3:45 PM

P1

### Why Outdoor Risky Play Is Critical In The Early Years - Now More Than Ever

Hebah Hussaina

ROOM: Theatre

P2

### Mindful Transitions for Calm Classrooms

Jennie Abbot

ROOM: C103

P3

### Beyond Volcanoes and Slime: Reimagining Activity-Based Learning into Inquiry Projects (Part 2)

Wendy Lorch

ROOM: C104

P4

### The Art of Storytelling (Part 2)

Corinne Moody

ROOM: C105

P5

### Trauma-Informed Care Supports in Children's Development- Implementation and Building Resilience

Shalini Das

ROOM: C106

P6

### Beyond Assessment: Practical Ways To Have An Inclusive Classroom

Pam Venkataya & Valerie Kelly

ROOM: C203

P7

### What Is Pedagogical Narration And Why Is It An Important Component Of Curriculum Making?

Behnaz Lotfi

ROOM: C204

P8

### Disruption In The Classroom

Ashleigh Davies & Ilam Muralidharan

ROOM: C205

P9

### Cultivating Communities of Cultural Humility in Education

Katelyn Moon

ROOM: C206

P10

### The Art of Conscious Language

Colleen Strachan & Carol LaJeunesse

ROOM: C209

P11

### Indigenous Culture Kits for Early Years Programs

Pam Moore & Taryn Graham

ROOM: E107/108



# ONLINE CONFERENCE PORTAL

## *Tips, Tricks, and Helpful Information*

- The conference portal can only be accessed by those registered for conference.
- **Only virtual attendees will be able to view the live streams.**
- Participants were sent an email with a password and link to the portal the week of the conference.
- To verify your registration details, check your email for your initial registration confirmation.
- **Please note both in-person and virtual attendees will use the portal to access their certificates.**

Can't find your registration information?

Contact: [childcareoptions@options.bc.ca](mailto:childcareoptions@options.bc.ca) or 604-572-8032



## CONFERENCE PORTAL LINK

[https://events.myconferencesuite.com/CHOM\\_2025/virtual/login](https://events.myconferencesuite.com/CHOM_2025/virtual/login)



## TO LOG IN, YOU NEED:

1. Your email address
2. Your password or confirmation number (8-digit string of letters and/or numbers)



## TROUBLE LOGGING IN?

Contact [support@myconferencesuite.com](mailto:support@myconferencesuite.com)

**For more detailed information, as well as a helpful video tutorial, on how to navigate the online conference portal - visit the link below:**

<https://www.childcareoptions.ca/children-the-heart-of-the-matter/conference-portal/>



# ATTENDING IN-PERSON?

The online conference portal is not just for online participants! In-person conference attendees can engage with the online conference portal in many ways:

- Access your certificate for all sessions attended.
- Connect with other conference attendees and speakers.
  - Use the right hand side bar to post a public message in the Social Feed, and chat with other participants under Users. You can also message any participant from the attendees list.
- View the conference program.
- Visit the sponsor's virtual booths.

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# GET SOCIAL

Join us on social media!

We'll be using the hashtag **#CHOM2025**. Be sure to use it when you post about conference, and you will be entered to win a prize!

Twitter @chcareoptions

Facebook @childcareoptionsccrr

Instagram @childcareoptions



With Outlast, students build their own outdoor play experience!



Interlocking knobs connect blocks, planks, ramps and flow pans. Sturdy enough for children to balance, jump, and walk on, these play structures never get tired.

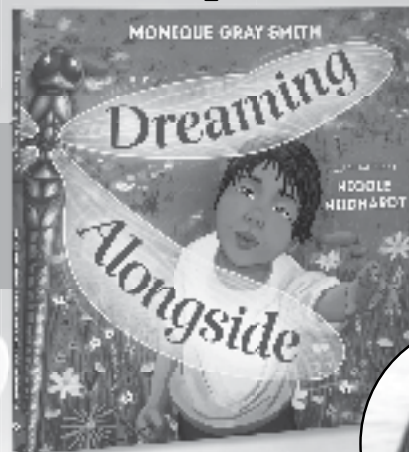
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## A journey of inspiration!



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# CONFERENCE EVALUATION

## **We want to hear from you!**

Your opinion is important to us. The conference committee is dedicated to offering innovative and engaging learning opportunities that addresses your needs and interests. We look forward to your valuable feedback and comments as it helps us to plan for future conferences.

Please scan the QR code below or watch for our follow up email with a link for you to give us feedback about your thoughts on the overall conference. The link will also be available on our website after the conference.

Thank you for taking the time to provide your insightful feedback.



**SCAN OUR QR CODE TO  
COMPLETE OUR SURVEY!**



# CONFERENCE PLANNING

The conference planning committee is comprised of individuals working in the field of early care and learning in our community. Committee members and staff contribute to the planning and organization of this conference. Through the dedication of the committee, provincial funding, and sponsor support, we are able to keep the conference affordable for our participants.

## 2025 CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Michelle Davies | Child Care Options CCRR (Options Community Services) |
| Leah Drayton    | Surrey School District #36                           |

## 2025 CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Ewa Boss            | Child Care Options CCRR (Options Community Services)   |
| Karen Came          | Inclusion Langley Society - Child Development Services |
| Daljit Dial         | Child Care Options CCRR (Options Community Services)   |
| Amanda Douglas      | Reach Child and Youth Development Society              |
| Pia Evans           | Reach Child and Youth Development Society              |
| Gisele Haines       | Child Care Options CCRR (Options Community Services)   |
| Krista Harrison     | Surrey Libraries                                       |
| Nina Kozawko        | City of Surrey   |
| Jody Mischuda       | Ministry of Education and Child Care                   |
| Karen Norman        | Early Childhood Educator (Retired)                     |
| Rachel Oulton       | Child Care Options CCRR (Options Community Services)   |
| Karina Roman        | Alexandra Neighbourhood House                          |
| Kristina Saito      | Options Community Services                             |
| Jennifer Street     | Fraser Health Licensing                                |
| Jennifer Vanderberg | Delta Continuing Education                             |
| Crystal White       | The Centre for Child Development                       |