

October 1, 2009

Major Opportunity this Week for Regional Childhood Educators

Grande Prairie... The Northwest Alberta Child and Family Services Authority and the Alliance of Child Care Professionals are pleased to announce two major child care events taking place this week in Grande Prairie. First, on October 2 & 3, 2009, child care providers from across the northwest part of Alberta will be at the Grande Prairie Regional College for the Annual Early Childhood Conference.

The Early Childhood Conference co-organizer, Marilyn Boisvert believes that with the expected high attendance rate and a strong variety of topics for the conference, every worker and provider in child care will learn about new topics and trends and share best practice information. "Our conference expects to have over 300 attendees from the great contacts we've made throughout northwest Alberta," says Boisvert, "and this conference will set a new benchmark with the content and learning opportunities that will be provided."

As an indication, the conference is relevant for Early Childhood Educators from daycares, family child care centres, preschools, out-of-school care centres as well as supportive programs. Administrators, including Directors and Coordinators of children's programs, as well as students will be attending the various conference sessions.

A few of the conference session highlights include topics on the *Facilitation of Children's Social and Emotional Skills, Communicating with Parents, Why Alberta Needs Child Care Professionals, Creating a Culturally Sensitive Early Learning Environment, and Creative Outdoor Play Spaces.*

In addition to this weekend's conference, the second big event includes an invitation to Grande Prairie community members to join the Parent Link Centre in celebrating their move to their new facility at 10807 – 101 Street.

The former Francophone School is the new home of Stepping Stones Society - Parent Link Centre and on Thursday, October 1, 2009, Grande Prairie residents are encouraged stop by from 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. for an Open House which will include tours and demonstrations on the benefits of the new facility.

For more information on subsidies and how to find a quality child care program, parents and caregivers can call Northwest Alberta Child and Family Services Authority (CFSA) at 780-538-5122, or visit the CFSA website at www.northwestalbertacfsa.gov.ab.ca.

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