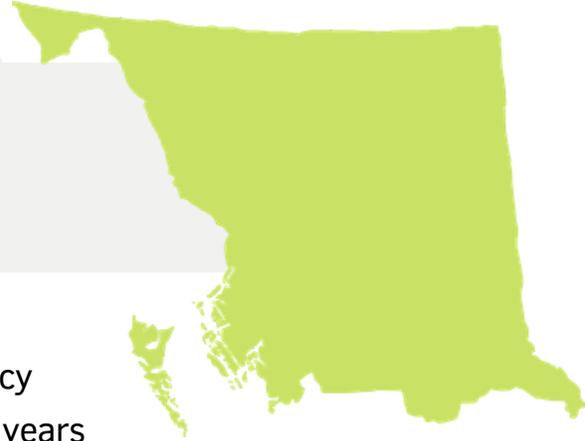


## STANDING STRONG FOR BC: WHY OUR YOUNGEST CITIZENS MUST REMAIN A PRIORITY



In a compelling interview on CBC's *The Early Edition*, Adrienne Montani, Executive Director of First Call Child and Youth Advocacy Society, reminded British Columbians that investing in the early years is one of the most powerful ways to build a more equitable future.

While BC continues to face economic pressures, including a significant budget deficit, we cannot afford to let fiscal challenges compromise the well-being of children and families. Nearly 1 in 6 children in BC (about 150,000) live in poverty, with disproportionate impacts on single-parent families, Indigenous children, newcomers, and racialized communities. As BC navigates its fiscal future, advocates and organizations must work together to ensure that children remain at the heart of policy decisions. The message is clear: to truly stand strong for BC, we must stand strong for children. Targeted investment can dramatically reduce child poverty, and governments need to build on this, particularly in the early years.

*"We know that supporting families in the early years has long-term effects... if there's any austerity going on or cuts, we need to make sure that it doesn't impact children. And especially in their early years. We cannot afford not to support our children well."*

[Listen to the full interview](#) and explore how your community can advocate for stronger policies to reduce child poverty and support vulnerable families.



### NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

[Early Literacy  
Screening](#)

[Feelings First  
E-Modules](#)

[Learning and  
Engagement  
Opportunities](#)

### CONNECT ONLINE



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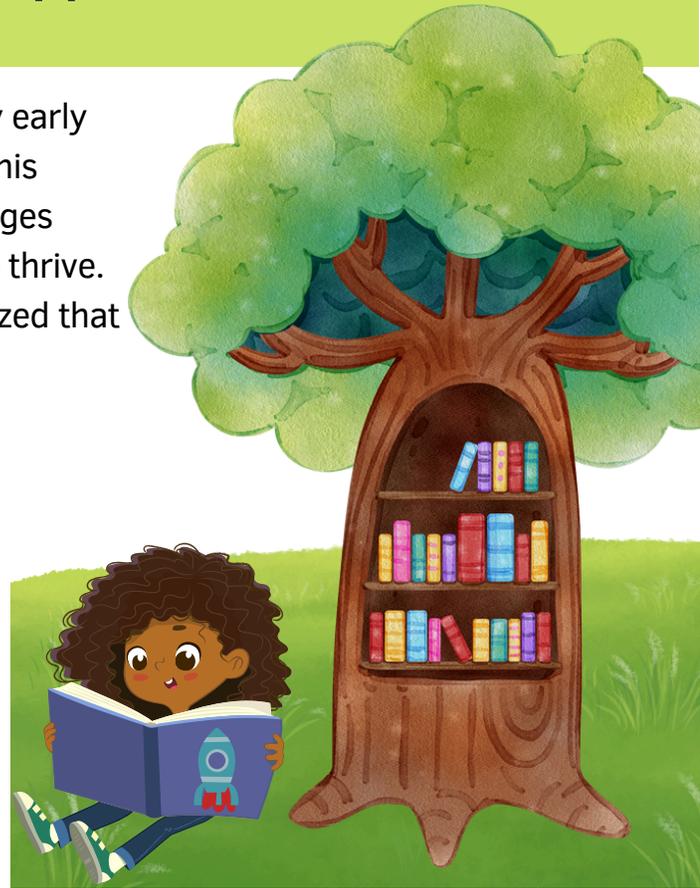
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# New Early Literacy Screening to Support Student Success

The Province of British Columbia has launched mandatory early literacy screening for all Kindergarten students, starting this school year. This initiative aims to identify reading challenges early and connect children with the supports they need to thrive. Lisa Beare, Minister of Education and Child Care, emphasized that early intervention is key to lifelong learning success.

The screening will help teachers tailor instruction and ensure no child falls behind due to undetected literacy barriers. This move is part of BC's broader commitment to improving foundational skills and equity in education. This is especially important for rural and northern communities where access to specialized supports can be limited.

[Check out the full announcement.](#)



## Launch of Feelings First E-Learning Modules

We're excited to highlight the launch of the [\*\*Feelings First e-learning module\*\*](#), a free, accessible resource created to support caregivers, early years professionals, and community partners in fostering healthy social and emotional development in young children. This engaging learning experience is part of the Feelings First initiative, led by the BC Healthy Child Development Alliance

Developed with input from parents, public health nurses, doctors, and early childhood specialists across BC, the modules explore:

- **The Inner World of the Parent** – Encouraging self-care and presence over perfection.
- **The Caregiver-Child Relationship** – Building trust through gentle touch, communication, and co-regulation.
- **The Inner World of the Child** – Supporting identity, emotional expression, and the power of play.
- **The Child in the World** – Promoting kindness, celebrating differences, and talking about gender early.



# LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

## Northern BC Research and Quality Conference - October 23



### Strengthening Health Through Collaboration and Partnerships in the North

October 23, 2025

Location: Virtual

This initiative is part of the NH-UNBC MOU work

[For more information or to REGISTER click here.](#)

## The 5th Annual Canadian Children, Youth and Communities (CCYC) Health In Equity Conference

The banner features a photograph of three smiling children on the left. The right side has a dark blue header with the CCYC logo and text: "The Canadian Children, Youth and Communities Health In | Equity Conference". Below this, the main title "The 5th Annual Canadian Children, Youth, and Communities (CCYC) Health In | Equity Conference" is displayed, along with the hashtag "#CCYC25" and the website "cpd.utoronto.ca/ccyc". A purple circle highlights "Save with Early Bird Registration" and an orange circle indicates "Ends September 19, 2025". At the bottom, logos for the Temerty Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto and St. Michael's Unity Health Toronto are shown. The text "October 29-30, 2025 Digital Conference" is overlaid on the bottom left of the photo.

[For more information or to register click here!](#)