



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**25 years Inspiring Excellence in Child Care and Early Learning:  
Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre Hosts Fundraising Dinner May 31<sup>st</sup>**

In 1987 a small group of dedicated people came together to realize the dream of increasing the quality and accessibility of child care in BC by providing early childhood resources for parents and child care providers. Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre is now celebrating this milestone of 25 years of service by honouring our founders – the volunteers and original staff who worked so hard to make this dream a reality.

Huddled together in a booth at a local restaurant, the founding group poured over a doodle on the back of the placemat that would begin to outline the vision for the resource centre. They formed a registered society, set down guiding principles, and applied for funds. Their application to the federal government's Child Care Initiatives Fund was successful, and the society rented the first Westcoast home on Main Street in Vancouver in 1988. So began the journey.

Now, 25 years later, Westcoast still strives to provide supports to families, individuals and organizations who are seeking the best care and early learning for children.

During a typical year Westcoast

- responds to 7000 requests for child care information from Vancouver parents.
- offers 24 "Choosing Child Care" workshops for new parents in the community.
- Assists more than 1600 families to apply for child care subsidy.
- provides professional development for 1450 Early Childhood Educators through exemplary and creative workshops.
- touches the lives of hundreds of children and child care providers through outreach training endeavors like Diversity Circle Times and Safe Spaces Bullying Prevention for Preschool-aged Children.
- circulates over 15,000 items through the Westcoast Library, which hosts one of the largest specialized Early Childhood Education circulating collections in Canada.
- delivers specialized play and learning resources to families via Westcoast's Mobile Lending visits to parent drop-ins and StrongStart programs throughout Metro Vancouver.

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Contact:  
Pam Preston, Executive Director,  
Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre,  
604-709-5661 ext. 222  
Email [ppreston@wstcoast.org](mailto:ppreston@wstcoast.org)  
Website: [www.wstcoast.org](http://www.wstcoast.org)