



Manitoba Child
Care Association
2-2350 McPhillips St.
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R2V 4J6

2026 Fall Workshop Brochure

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Phone: 204-586-8587

Toll Free: 1-888-323-4676

Email: INFO@MCCAHOUSE.ORG

Find us on Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn & X

Website: WWW.MCCAHOUSE.ORG



Welcome to the Fall Workshop Series

Welcome to our fall workshop series. We are happy to offer 40 workshops this series. We are continuing with offering in-person workshops and zoom. We have added some information into the brochure about who the workshop is suitable for. So if the workshop is geared for those working with infants someone working with school age children won't sign up. We hope that is helpful in registering for workshops.

Please ensure that you register early to avoid missing out on any workshop that you are hoping to attend. Most workshops are capped at 30 participants and canceled if registration is below 10.

Prior to registering, please read over the workshop descriptions. Ensure you note how the workshop is being delivered, as refunds will not be provided. Make sure to read the description so you know if the workshop being offered is the right fit for you and meets your professional development goals.

Information about registration and payment is below. Information about certificates and substitutions is on pages 3 & 4.

If you have any questions about the workshops, please contact Kayla Mauricio at 204-336-5061 or Karen Kowalski at 204-336-5062 (toll-free in MB at 1-888-323-4676) kmauricio@mccahouse.org or kkowalski@mccahouse.org.

If you have any questions about registration or substitutions, please contact Debbie at 204-336-5065 (toll-free in MB at 1-888-323-4676 ext. 227) or dcrampton@mccahouse.org.

WORKSHOP DELIVERY

The brochure is divided into three parts: In-Person Workshops, online and Zoom Workshops. They are listed chronologically by date for each type.

In-Person Workshops (pages 7 - 24): Most of these will be held at MCCA. Please watch for the finger icon. This indicates that the location is elsewhere.



Online Workshop (pages 26): These workshops are all online. A reliable internet connection is required for online workshops.

Zoom Workshops (pages 28-36): These workshops are all virtual. A reliable internet connection is required for zoom workshops. Please note the zoom policies listed on page 27.

HOW TO REGISTER AND PAY

If you are paying by credit card then you must use our online registration. Go to www.mccahouse.org, click on the professional development button, select workshops and then click on the link to access the online registrations. Please avoid using auto-fill when registering online.

If you are paying by cheque, please complete the registration form (found online) and mail it with your cheque to MCCA. If you are registering people from the same centre, you can fill out one registration form for everyone.

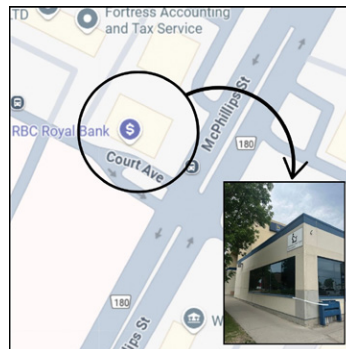
You can also come to MCCA during our office hours to drop off your completed registration form and pay by cash, cheque, or debit/credit.

Please ensure that registration has the correct email address and the correct spelling of the participant's name. Make sure the name is the person who is attending and not who is doing the registering.

WHERE TO FIND US

MCCA is located on the second floor of the Royal Bank Building on the corner of Court and McPhillips Street.

Manitoba Child Care Association
2 - 2350 McPhillips Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba R2V 4J6



POLICIES

Prior to registering for workshops, please read the workshop policies, particularly cancellations and substitutions. The policies can be found on page 37.

PARKING

There is no parking allowed in the parking lot at the strip mall at 1021 Court. If you park there, your vehicle will likely be towed. There is no parking permitted in the Royal Bank Parking lot (this includes evenings and Saturdays).

Next to 1021 Court Medical Centre parking lot is a paid parking lot. It is \$9.00 for the full day. You may also download the hangTag app and pay via Visa debit or credit card. There is limited street parking available.



****MCCA is not responsible for towed vehicles. Ensure you are parking in the paid parking lot or on the street. ****

WORKSHOP CERTIFICATES

Please ensure when you register someone for a workshop the name is spelled correctly. The way it is entered will be how it will appear on the certificate. Errors made by the person completing the registration online or on paper will result in a \$10.00 charge to have a new certificate issued.

Certificates are issued in person or electronically depending on workshop delivery. Each certificate will have the amount of workshop hours on it to help you track your professional development hours. Best Practices recommends 24 hours of professional development each year.

Replacement certificates for workshops are available for \$10.00 each.

Keep the original certificate and provide copy to employer.



SUBSTITUTIONS

MCCA does not offer refunds for workshops. If you are unable to attend a workshop for any reason that you have registered for, you can send someone in your place as a substitute. Contact Debbie Crampton at MCCA at 204-336-5065 or dcrampton@mccahouse.org. Substitutions must be made by 3:00 pm the day of the workshop for workshops held Monday – Thursday or 3:00 pm on Friday for Saturday workshops. This will ensure the substitute will receive a certificate at the time of the workshop.

FEELING UNDER THE WEATHER?

If you are not feeling well, have a fever, coughing, achiness, or sore throat, we ask that you **do not** attend your in-person workshop to reduce the chance of infecting others. If you cannot attend a workshop that you are registered for (for whatever reason, illness or other), there are no refunds. You can send a substitute in your place. Please see above and refer to the workshop policies on page 37 for more information.

GETTING THE MOST OUT OF YOUR WORKSHOP

At MCCA we strive to provide our members with professional development opportunities that are relevant, presented by professionals, and offer opportunities to learn. We want your workshop experience to be an uplifting and valuable one, so we have a few suggestions that can help you accomplish this.

Professional goals: You are looking over the workshop line up and deciding what workshops to take. What factors help you to decide what workshops to take? Do you have a goal to work on, are you looking for new ideas on a specific topic, or are you just filling professional development hours?

Arrive on time: Once you have signed up for a workshop, jot down the time and date on a calendar so you remember to attend your workshop on time or log on before the workshop begins. MCCA sends out a courtesy reminder 2 days prior to your workshop. Put a note that if the workshop is in-person and where or if it's via zoom.

Venture out: People who work together over a period of time will usually have the same work philosophies, experiences, ways in which things get done, etc. How about spreading your wings and connecting with people you don't know? Try sitting with new people or use the break out room as an opportunity to connect with new people, learn from each other, share your ideas, and network.

Participate: If you have signed up for a workshop, it is your obligation to fully participate in that workshop. This can be difficult after a long work day, but you will only get out of the workshop what you put in. Sharing your experiences may provide someone else with a solution to a dilemma that they have encountered, or maybe your story will give someone a boost, or just a much needed laugh. A Zoom workshop is a live event and participation is expected. Zoom workshops are not webinars.

Evaluate: In order to provide you with quality workshops, MCCA needs your feedback. It is important for us to know what you thought about your workshop, the presenter, and what type of workshops you would like to see offered in the future. Please take the time to complete the online evaluation you are sent after the zoom workshop.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT BROUGHT TO YOUR DOOR!

Are you looking for a workshop that would benefit your staff? Are you looking for some professional development for a staff meeting or a staff retreat? Have you attended a workshop and wished your entire staff heard the same message? If you answered yes to any of these questions then perhaps we have the solution. You can contact MCCA to arrange for your personalized professional development. This service is available to child care centres or groups of family child care providers across the province and can be delivered by Zoom or in-person.

Benefits of your own personalized professional development opportunity:

- Everyone hears the same message
- Reduced cost – the cost to bring someone in for 35 people is cheaper than registering 35 people for a workshop
- Topic specific to your needs
- Flexibility with dates and times

MCCA has an extensive database of presenters, many of which have been presenting professional development for many years. Due to this consistent relationship with us, the presenters may be able to provide a discounted

rate through MCCA. In 2025, MCCA has organized over 30 personalized PDs for programs throughout Manitoba. The most popular workshop topic is Team Building and Respectful Workplaces.

What MCCA will provide:

MCCA will search our presenter database to match your topic & budget and we will provide the following:

- Initial contact of the presenter
- Contract with the presenter
- Organize audiovisual, handouts, etc.
- Invoice the centre
- Provide participation certificates for your staff
- Provide evaluation forms
- Payment of the facilitator

Cost for the service is dependent on length of event, number of attendees, and other variables.

If you have questions or are interested in having MCCA book your next professional development event, visit our website under personalized PD and complete our intake form.

When attending a professional development event we ask:

Please take responsibility for the energy you bring to this event.

Your words matter. Your behaviours matter.

Our Members, Facilitators, Guests & MCCA Staff matter.

Take a slow, deep breath and be mindful of your energy before entering this collaborative meeting and learning environment.

Thank you

IN-PERSON WORKSHOPS



**Please ensure you make note of where
your in-person workshop is located.**

**Not all in-person workshops
are held at MCCA.**

Beaded Orange Shirts

Saturday, September 26, 2026
10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Suitable For: All
Hours: 3

Join Lisa for a reflective and heartfelt beading workshop dedicated to honouring the Orange Shirt and the powerful stories it represents.

FACILITATOR: Lisa Bowden is a proud Métis lesbian, beadwork artist, and workshop facilitator living and creating on Treaty 1 Territory. She has been beading since 2017, using it as a form of healing, storytelling, and cultural reconnection. Lisa is over 1,000 days sober, cannabis-friendly, and a strong advocate for restorative justice and community care.

Her work is rooted in Indigenous teachings, personal growth, and a commitment to making space for others to feel seen, safe, and inspired. Whether teaching workshops, organizing community events, or sharing stories through her art, Lisa leads with warmth, honesty, and a deep love for culture, creativity, and collective healing.



WORKSHOP DELIVERY: In-Person

LOCATION: MCCA
2 - 2350 McPhillips St.
Located in the Royal Bank building on the corner of Court Ave. & McPhillips St.

COST:	\$50.00	MCCA Member
	\$100.00	Non-member

Leadership Strategies for Respectful Workplaces

Thursday, October 1, 2026
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Suitable For: Leaders
Hours: 6

Do you find it difficult to recognize and address disrespect at work? Do you feel confident to speak to the Code of Conduct policy? Are you aware that leaders hold a higher standard and duty to ensure the workplace is respectful? We all deserve a respectful workplace where we can all contribute to a healthy and productive organization.

However, when people at work offend, embarrass, or humiliate us, it hurts our dignity and well-being affecting work relationships and lowering productivity. This session focuses on understanding the impact of disrespect at work and how to lead with clarity, accountability, and confidence to uphold a truly respectful workplace.

Participants are on their own for lunch. There will be an hour lunch break. MCCA has a fridge, microwave, and an air-fryer for your convenience. There are also several restaurants in the area.

FACILITATOR: Melenie Olfert has worked as an independent consultant sharing her knowledge and expertise through leadership projects and workplace training. With a background in adult education and training, Melenie is now a published writer, as well as an accomplished speaker on intercultural & diversity in the workplace, human resources and leadership development. Further to her training experience, Melenie is an instructor with the University of Winnipeg, PACE Program, where she teaches in the Leadership Program. She is also the co-facilitator of the Language Interpreter Training Program which supports language diversity in work and community settings. Outside of work, Melenie volunteers in assisting newcomers in preparing for their Canadian citizenship exams.

WORKSHOP DELIVERY: In-Person

LOCATION: MCCA
2 - 2350 McPhillips St.
Located in the Royal Bank building on the corner of Court Ave. & McPhillips St.

COST:	\$100.00	MCCA Member
	\$200.00	Non-member

Networking Walk & Talk

Thursday, October 1, 2026
6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Suitable For: All
Hours: 1.5

Join Karen & Kayla at Assiniboine Park for a walk with colleagues. No PowerPoints, no presentations, no hand-outs. Just fresh air, good conversation, and space to ask questions or have a conversation in a relaxed, easygoing way. Get outside, get moving, and head back feeling connected, re-energized, and refreshed.



FACILITATORS: Karen Kowalski is MCCA's Assistant Executive Director/Director of Professionalism.

Kayla Mauricio is MCCA's Program Services Administrator.

WORKSHOP DELIVERY: In-Person



LOCATION: Assiniboine Park
Meet at Duck Pond Shelter

COST: FREE for Members & Non-Members
*Registration is still required on Cvent
for your certificate!*

WATCH FOR THIS!



IT MEANS THE WORKSHOP LOCATION IS NOT AT THE MCCA.

Hands-On Forest School - In an Urban Setting

Saturday, October 3, 2026
10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Suitable For: All
Hours: 3

This interactive workshop introduces child care staff to the ethos and principles of Forest School through hands-on outdoor experiences. Designed especially for programs that may not have a forest or ideal outdoor space on site, this session explores how nature-based, child-led learning can still thrive in urban settings.

Participants will learn how to create a **mobile Forest School program**, including what materials and equipment are helpful to have, how to plan and transport them, and how to organize **off-site “forest days”** in local green spaces. Through practical activities and real-world examples, educators will gain ideas and confidence to bring meaningful outdoor learning into their programs—no matter their location.

Participants will leave with inspiration, practical tools, and strategies to begin offering Forest School experiences in their own programs.

FACILITATOR: **Jamye Lovering** with over 20 years of experience in the early childhood education field, Jamye is a certified Forest School Practitioner through Child and Nature Alliance of Canada. She has always felt most at peace among the trees—listening to the wind moving through the leaves and feeling the soft earth beneath her feet. Jamye believes every child deserves the magic of a forest school experience and is passionate about helping educators bring nature-based learning into their programs.

WORKSHOP DELIVERY: In-Person

LOCATION: Living Prairie Museum
2795 Ness Ave.



COST: \$40.00 MCCA Member
\$80.00 Non-member

For evening and Saturday workshops, the elevator door will be locked 15 minutes past the start of the workshop. If the elevator is locked, press the intercom button to the left of the elevator and the workshop host will let you in.

Motivation: Helping Your Team Thrive

Monday, October 5, 2026
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Suitable For: Leaders
Hours: 6

Building a dynamic and engaged team can be rewarding but also comes with challenges. To be able to do this, you must recognize the importance of having valued employees who see themselves as important parts of the team and are recognized in the best ways possible.

Motivating, Influencing and Coaching are all key parts of our daily interactions in the workplace and beyond. There are times where we want to understand the best approach to communicate with those who share different styles from ourselves. If you do this well, you will be able to build dynamic teams that strive in their roles, contribute to an amazing workplace and grow your centres.

In this workshop, we will explore what motivates us, how to create a motivating environment, different types of coaching and ways to influence our teams. It's not always technical expertise or even heightened intelligence that makes people effective in their roles. It's often their understanding of the situation and ways to approach it. We will explore ways to enhance these important skills necessary to benefit not only yourself, but everyone around you.

What You'll Learn:

- How do people think
- Different styles/types of motivation, coaching and influence
- Ways to create a motivating environment
- Scenario Based Activities to practice

Participants are on their own for lunch. There will be an hour lunch break. MCCA has a fridge, microwave, and an air-fryer for your convenience. There are also several restaurants in the area.

FACILITATOR: Ron Sarran is proud to share that he was born and raised in Winnipeg and embraces what it takes to brave a prairie winter and enjoy our beautiful (yet too short!) summers. He is a graduate of the University of Manitoba with a Bachelor's Degree in Business (Commerce) and Adult Learning & Development (Education). This is in addition to completion of his designation from the Canadian Institute of Management with a Professional Manager's Designation and as a Certified Facilitator from Design Dimensions International (DDI). His current role is the Director, Strategy and Consultant Care with Paradigm Consulting Group where he leads a team of professionals who deliver on their unmatched offer across the organization. The 20+ years of work experience has allowed him to learn about banking, retail, telecom, public sectors management and now consulting. His responsibilities have spanned multi-million-dollar Capital and Operating Expense Programs at Bell MTS, Organizational Initiatives such as the updated Strategic Plan for Economic Development Winnipeg to the development of Leadership Programs across multiple companies. These valuable experiences have led to successful outcomes that can be seen at each of these organizations.

WORKSHOP DELIVERY: In-Person

LOCATION:	MCCA	COST:	\$120.00	MCCA Member
	2 - 2350 McPhillips St.		\$240.00	Non-member
	Located in the Royal Bank building on the corner of Court Ave. & McPhillips St.			

Directors Lunch 'N Learn

Tuesday, October 6, 2026
11:15 am - 2:00 pm

Suitable for: Leaders (Directors & Assistant Directors)
PD Hours: 2.75

Location: Caboto Centre
1055 Wilkes Ave.



Topic: Grant Writing

Speaker: Neneth Banas & Aliya Mrochuk

Networking & MCCA News: 11:15 am - 12:00 pm
Lunch: 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
Speaker: 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

FACILITATOR: Karen Kowalski is MCCA's Assistant Executive Director/Director of Professionalism.

WORKSHOP DELIVERY: In-Person

Wednesday, December 2, 2026
11:15 am - 2:00 pm

Location: Buffalo Crossing at Fort Whyte Alive
1961 McCreary Rd.



Topic: Supporting Temporary Foreign Workforce
in Child Care

Speaker: Matthias Rust

COST: \$65.00 MCCA Member (each)
\$130.00 Non-member (each)

52 Ways to Reconcile – Making Reconciliation Real and Relatable

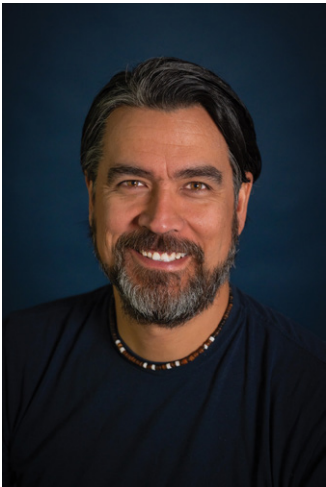
Tuesday, October 6, 2026
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Suitable For: All
Hours: 2

Based on his national bestselling book *52 Ways to Reconcile*, David A. Robertson leads a discussion that moves reconciliation beyond theory into everyday practice and a more grounded, broader understanding of what it is. Participants will explore practical, meaningful ways to contribute to reconciliation in their personal lives, workplaces, classrooms, and communities. Recognizing that reconciliation can often feel complex or overwhelming, David makes it approachable by grounding it in human connection, lived experience, and achievable actions. He creates an environment where participants feel comfortable asking questions, reflecting on their own perspectives, and engaging in open dialogue.

A special focus is how we talk to children about reconciliation. David explores how fostering empathy, kindness, curiosity, and respect lays the foundation for reconciliation in young people. Participants will gain practical strategies for responding to children’s questions about reconciliation in thoughtful, age-appropriate ways, while discovering how stories can build understanding, empathy, and inspire lasting change through action.

FACILITATOR: David Robertson stands as one of Canada’s most influential voices in literature and public discourse. A member of Norway House Cree Nation, he is a celebrated author, graphic novelist, and podcaster. His work offers profound insights into critical topics like Indigenous themes, mental health, and freedom of expression. Throughout his career, his extensive body of work has earned him widespread acclaim. This includes two Governor General’s Literary Awards and numerous other honours. On the world stage, he is Canada’s nominee for the prestigious Hans Christian Andersen Award. Furthermore, his significant contributions to the arts have earned him honorary doctorates from both the University of Manitoba and the University of Lethbridge.



At the heart of David Robertson’s work lies a deep commitment to sharing Indigenous stories and perspectives. His celebrated novels, such as *The Theory of Crows*, explore profound human themes. Similarly, his powerful memoir *Black Water* delves into family, legacy, and cultural reconnection. He also created the award-winning podcast *Kiwew* to further explore these narratives. In every medium, he tackles essential conversations with honesty and grace. Consequently, his work reflects the resilience and love that anchor Indigenous communities.

As a keynote speaker, David Robertson translates these powerful narratives into unforgettable live experiences. He shares deeply personal insights drawn from his own life to connect authentically with his audience. With this platform, he educates and inspires people on crucial topics like Indigenous rights and mental health awareness. His presentations are not merely informative; he designs them to spark genuine dialogue and encourage empathy among colleagues. Ultimately, this approach empowers teams, leaving them with a renewed sense of connection and shared purpose.

Beyond his own creative work, David Robertson actively builds a legacy for future generations. He serves as the editorial director for Swift Water Books, the first Indigenous-led imprint at a major Canadian publishing house. This leadership role cements his status as a vital and forward-thinking force for change in the arts.

****This workshop is a continuation from the March 9th workshop.***

WORKSHOP DELIVERY: In-Person

LOCATION: Victoria Inn & Conference Centre
1808 Wellington St.
Centennial 7 & 10



COST: \$25.00 MCCA Member
\$50.00 Non-member

Partially Sponsored by: **Winnipeg Foundation**

Reflecting Together in a Community of Practice

Thursday, October 8, 2026
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Suitable For: Frontline
Hours: 2

"My eyes have changed. What I pay attention to has changed. I am not the same teacher I was when I started this work. What I love, though, hasn't changed. The children show up every day expectant of the wonderful time that we will share together." Provider Kelly, as quoted from, Learning Together with Young Children, 2017.

Do these statements resonate with you?

Join us as we come together as a Community of Practice to share our stories of joy and delight, moments that drain us and moments that energize us! We invite you to ask yourself, "How have my eyes changed?"

Together we will build the momentum and engage each other in new ways of seeing and understanding children. This meeting, rather than a workshop style presentation, creates an interactive opportunity for discussion and collaboration with peers.

FACILITATORS: **Brigitte Insull** has 40 years of experience in the child care sector, working with preschoolers, as a Centre Director and as a practicum Instructor at Red River College Polytech. She has been retired for the last seven years and has taken on the role of Side-by-Side Mentor, working with a number of centres to support their pedagogy and professional development. She continues to be a member of the Inclusion Committee.

Laureen Brandson has loved her choice of careers for the entire 40 years she's been at it. She has a degree in Human Ecology and since then has been passionate about her work in the child care field. As Assistant Director of a child care centre, Laureen has helped guide her program through their own pedagogical journey. Outside of her professional roles, she is a proud mother of two grown sons and Amma to two grandsons.

WORKSHOP DELIVERY: In-Person

LOCATION: MCCA
2 - 2350 McPhillips St.
Located in the Royal Bank building on the
corner of Court Ave. & McPhillips St.

COST:	\$45.00	MCCA Member
	\$90.00	Non-member

Ready, Set, Support: What Every New CCA Needs to Know!

Saturday, October 10, 2026
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Suitable For: New CCAs
Hours: 3

Starting a career in child care can be exciting, but it can also feel overwhelming. This interactive workshop is designed to help new CCAs build the practical skills, confidence, and professional habits needed to be successful in the workplace. Participants will explore workplace expectations, communication strategies, teamwork, supporting children's play, and building positive relationships. Through real-life scenarios, discussions, and reflection activities, educators will learn what centre leadership look for in team members. This workshop focuses on the "back to basics" skills that help educators move from simply showing up to truly thriving in their role. Participants will leave with practical strategies they can apply immediately in their programs.

FACILITATOR: Colleen Lussier is a passionate Child Care Director at the YMCA-YWCA of Winnipeg with 20 years of experience in early childhood education. Her leadership is rooted in a deep appreciation for nature and a commitment to fostering meaningful learning experiences for children and relationships with those around her. Outside of her professional life, she enjoys spending time with her daughters and all their activities, embracing the fresh air, and diving into a good book.

WORKSHOP DELIVERY: In-Person

LOCATION:	MCCA	COST:	\$45.00	MCCA Member
	2 - 2350 McPhillips St.		\$90.00	Non-member
	Located in the Royal Bank building on the corner of Court Ave. & McPhillips St.			

A Time to Come Together: Infant Mealtimes

Thursday, October 15, 2026
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Suitable For: Infant Educators
Hours: 3

This workshop invites you to discover the power of mealtime as a special opportunity to nurture connection, belonging, and lifelong habits in your infant/toddler room. Mealtime is more than just a time to eat; it is a chance to foster warm relationships and create a supportive atmosphere for young children. Participants will learn practical ways to turn mealtime into calm and joyful moments that strengthen bonds—with food and with each other.

Topics include: creating a welcoming space where every child feels seen and appreciated. We will also discuss establishing helpful routines and involving children—key steps that foster a strong sense of community. Consistent mealtime rituals offer comfort and predictability, helping children feel secure and connected.

The workshop will include guidance on meeting infants' needs at mealtimes. We will discuss how to handle typical mealtime challenges and tips for communicating effectively with families. Join us for fresh ideas and inspiration to make mealtimes a treasured part of your daily schedule.

FACILITATOR: Jenna Poborsa has been in the child care field for over 20 years, with most of it spent with Infants and Toddlers. She has training in Pedagogy, Resource for Infant Educators (RIE philosophy), and is a facilitator for both Circle of Security and Positive Discipline for Everyday Parenting. After lots of experience and learning, she is looking forward to sharing her passion and wealth of knowledge on infant play and interactions.

WORKSHOP DELIVERY: In-Person

LOCATION:	MCCA	COST:	\$45.00	MCCA Member
	2 - 2350 McPhillips St.		\$90.00	Non-member
	Located in the Royal Bank building on the corner of Court Ave. & McPhillips St.			

Pedagogical Leader: Community of Practice

Thursday, October 15, 2026
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Suitable for: Leadership
PD Hours: 3



Location: Discovery Children's Centre
367 Hampton St.

Thursday, December 10, 2026
9:00 am - 12:00 pm



Location: Discovery Children's Centre
367 Hampton St.

This Community of Practice grew out of a group of directors who wanted to meet to support each other on their pedagogical journey after they attended the 11th Annual Directors Conference – ‘Leading a Year of Reflection’. This group has had members come and go but a core group has kept it going. We invite you to join us if you are in a leadership position or may be the pedagogical leader at your centre and mentor or coach staff.

Join us as we share and support each other's pedagogical journey. At each meeting, we spend three hours, getting together to think deeper about topics that are current and relevant to our daily practice. The meeting content includes a round table discussion of a specific questions posed to everyone, discussion of articles, pedagogical focused activities, and sharing of resources. To receive the full benefit of this group we encourage you to register and attend all five of the meetings that happen throughout the year.

Once you register, approximately one week before the meeting you will be sent an agenda and readings (to discuss at the meeting) by Karen Kowalski. The email will be sent to the email entered at the time of registration.

FACILITATOR: Karen Kowalski is MCCA's Assistant Executive Director/Director of Professionalism.

WORKSHOP DELIVERY: In-Person

COST:	\$30.00	MCCA Member
	\$60.00	Non-member

Create Your Own Puppet

Monday, October 19, 2026
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Suitable For: All
Hours: 2



Choose a blank full body 26" puppet and choose what features you want to add. Learn how to attach eyes, nose, hair, and clothing.

Have fun creating your own character that you can use as a teaching tool, story teller, or a communication tool for talking to kids.

FACILITATORS: Kara and Curtis Nordstrom are a husband-and-wife team. When they first met, they asked each other "what would you do if money weren't an option?" Curtis wanted to make comic strips and quit his current job to do it full time. So, they made it happen. The next day he quit his job and started making comic strips.

Kara said she wanted to build puppets for a living but was terrible at it. Curtis got her to make him one and he was so proud of the really ugly puppet he made, that he posted it on Facebook. That gave her the confidence she needed. About three years ago they made it possible for Kara to quit her job and now they do these passions together full time.

WORKSHOP DELIVERY: In-Person

LOCATION: MCCA
2 - 2350 McPhillips St.
Located in the Royal Bank building on the corner of Court Ave. & McPhillips St.

COST: \$75.00
\$150.00



MCCA Member
Non-member



Workshops begin promptly at
the start time, please ensure you have
arrived at your workshop 10 minutes
prior to the start time.

Watercolour Pencil Art

Thursday, October 22, 2026
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Suitable For: All
Hours: 2

Can't draw? No problem!

Art ~ it's creative expression, therapeutic, relaxing, fun and with the right guidance, anyone can do it well.

Join us as we explore the exciting world of watercolour pencils and all the convenience and beauty that this no-mess, easy to use medium has to offer, as you create fast, vibrant paintings.

With simple techniques, you'll find yourself watching in amazement as beautiful pictures 'come to life' (and that's before jazzing them up further, if you decide to add glitter afterward to really make them sparkle)!

No experience is necessary (all skill levels are welcome) ... lots of pictures will be available to choose from (or you can bring your own reference to paint) ... and all supplies are included, which are yours to keep, so you have them for all your future inspirations. **"For the Love ~ of Art!"**

FACILITATOR: Kimberly Striemer has always loved art and sharing the beauty of it with others. She has explored many different styles and mediums throughout her life including photography, writing poetry and painting (with acrylics and watercolour pencils) and she enjoys teaching all that the wonderful world of art has to offer, to people of all ages and skill levels throughout Winnipeg and southern Manitoba.

WORKSHOP DELIVERY: In-Person

LOCATION:	MCCA	COST:	\$50.00	MCCA Member
	2 - 2350 McPhillips St.		\$100.00	Non-member
	Located in the Royal Bank building on the corner of Court Ave. & McPhillips St.			

A Few of our Favourite Things - A FCCP Lunch 'N Learn

Saturday, October 24, 2026
9:30 am - 1:30 pm

Suitable For: FCCP
Hours: 4

For Family Child Care Providers, by Family Child Care Providers – gather together as seasoned FCC Providers share some of their favourite games and activities. This is a hands-on workshop with lunch & networking included!

FACILITATOR: This workshop will be facilitated by the **MCCA FCCP Committee**.

WORKSHOP DELIVERY: In-Person

LOCATION:	MCCA	COST:	\$40.00	MCCA Member
	2 - 2350 McPhillips St.		\$80.00	Non-member
	Located in the Royal Bank building on the corner of Court Ave. & McPhillips St.			



Leading Others Through Change

Thursday, October 29, 2026
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Suitable For: Leaders
Hours: 3

Change doesn't just reshape processes — it reshapes people. *Leading Others Through Change* is a practical workshop that equips leaders with the clarity, communication tools, and emotional intelligence needed to guide child care teams through uncertainty with confidence and care.

Participants learn how to support each other through the human side of change: navigating resistance, reducing anxiety, maintaining trust, and keeping people engaged even when the path ahead feels unclear. The session blends leadership strategies with scenarios so leaders can apply the concepts immediately in conversations, team meetings, and day to day interactions.

FACILITATOR: **Melenie Olfert** has worked as an independent consultant sharing her knowledge and expertise through leadership projects and workplace training. With a background in adult education and training, Melenie is now a published writer, as well as an accomplished speaker on intercultural & diversity in the workplace, human resources and leadership development. Further to her training experience, Melenie is an instructor with the University of Winnipeg, PACE Program, where she teaches in the Leadership Program. She is also the co-facilitator of the Language Interpreter Training Program which supports language diversity in work and community settings. Outside of work, Melenie volunteers in assisting newcomers in preparing for their Canadian citizenship exams.

WORKSHOP DELIVERY: In-Person

LOCATION:	MCCA	COST:	\$50.00	MCCA Member
	2 - 2350 McPhillips St.		\$100.00	Non-member
	Located in the Royal Bank building on the corner of Court Ave. & McPhillips St.			

Reflecting on Everyday Infant Care

Thursday, October 29, 2026
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Suitable For: Infant Educators
Hours: 2

Caring for infants comes with its own set of rewards and challenges. This workshop welcomes infant care providers into a supportive environment where we can openly discuss the joys and difficulties of our work. Participants are encouraged to bring their real-life infant care experiences for group discussion, focusing on strategies rooted in secure attachment and child development. Together, we'll consider what infants truly need from caregivers, explore the difference between simply reacting and thoughtfully responding, examine ways to support families, and maintain our own well-being during tough moments. The workshop is designed as a space to connect with fellow professionals, share reflections, and strengthen our practice through collaborative conversation. Join us for an easygoing and thoughtful session, discover new approaches to nurturing care for infants, and connect with others who are equally passionate about caring for young children.

FACILITATOR: **Jenna Poborsa** has been in the child care field for over 20 years, with most of it spent with Infants and Toddlers. She has training in Pedagogy, Resource for Infant Educators (RIE philosophy), and is a facilitator for both Circle of Security and Positive Discipline for Everyday Parenting. After lots of experience and learning, she is looking forward to sharing her passion and wealth of knowledge on infant play and interactions.

WORKSHOP DELIVERY: In-Person

LOCATION:	MCCA	COST:	\$45.00	MCCA Member
	2 - 2350 McPhillips St.		\$90.00	Non-member
	Located in the Royal Bank building on the corner of Court Ave. & McPhillips St.			

Integrating Gen Z Into the Workplace

Wednesday, November 4, 2026
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Suitable For: Leaders
Hours: 3

The modern workplace is no different than those of years past, with Generation Y, Generation X and Baby Boomers all co-existing in the same workplace. As the newest generation continues to enter the workforce, Generation Z brings unique characteristics, values and expectations that require a fresh approach to leadership.

Child care leaders today must navigate a delicate balance. They are responsible for welcoming and integrating new educators who are eager to contribute but may be building foundational skills, while also honouring the deep experience, stability, and professional wisdom of long serving staff. When this balance is handled well, centres benefit from stronger teamwork, better communication, and a more consistent experience for children and families.

This session explores how child care leaders can confidently lead multi generational teams — reducing friction, strengthening collaboration, and creating a centre culture where every educator, regardless of age or tenure, feels respected, supported, and empowered to contribute to high quality care.

FACILITATOR: Melenie Olfert has worked as an independent consultant sharing her knowledge and expertise through leadership projects and workplace training. With a background in adult education and training, Melenie is now a published writer, as well as an accomplished speaker on intercultural & diversity in the workplace, human resources and leadership development. Further to her training experience, Melenie is an instructor with the University of Winnipeg, PACE Program, where she teaches in the Leadership Program. She is also the co-facilitator of the Language Interpreter Training Program which supports language diversity in work and community settings. Outside of work, Melenie volunteers in assisting newcomers in preparing for their Canadian citizenship exams.

WORKSHOP DELIVERY: In-Person

LOCATION: MCCA
2 - 2350 McPhillips St.
Located in the Royal Bank building on the corner of Court Ave. & McPhillips St.

COST: \$50.00 MCCA Member
\$100.00 Non-member

Building a High Performing Team

Tuesday, November 10, 2026
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Suitable For: Leaders
Hours: 6

A strong child care team doesn't happen by accident — it's built through clear expectations, shared responsibility, and everyday behaviours that help educators feel supported, connected, and proud of the work they do. This interactive workshop is designed for child care educators and leaders who want to strengthen collaboration, reduce friction, and create a team culture that directly supports each other as well as children and families.

Participants explore what effective teamwork looks like in a child care setting: consistent communication, shared routines, mutual respect, and a willingness to step in for one another during busy moments.

Using the stages of team development, educators practice moving from confusion or conflict toward clarity, trust, and shared purpose. The workshop highlights inclusive behaviours, respectful communication, and the importance of creating a centre environment where every team member — from new hires to long serving staff — feels empowered to speak up, contribute, and support one another in delivering exceptional care.

Participants are on their own for lunch. There will be an hour lunch break. MCCA has a fridge, microwave, and an air-fryer for your convenience. There are also several restaurants in the area.

FACILITATOR: Melenie Olfert has worked as an independent consultant sharing her knowledge and expertise through leadership projects and workplace training. With a background in adult education and training, Melenie is now a published writer, as well as an accomplished speaker on intercultural & diversity in the workplace, human resources and leadership development. Further to her training experience, Melenie is an instructor with the University of Winnipeg, PACE Program, where she teaches in the Leadership Program. She is also the co-facilitator of the Language Interpreter Training Program which supports language diversity in work and community settings. Outside of work, Melenie volunteers in assisting newcomers in preparing for their Canadian citizenship exams.

WORKSHOP DELIVERY: In-Person

LOCATION: MCCA
2 - 2350 McPhillips St.
Located in the Royal Bank building on the
corner of Court Ave. & McPhillips St.

COST:	\$100.00	MCCA Member
	\$200.00	Non-member

Gathering Together: Truth, Reconciliation, and Indigenous Ways of Knowing in Early Learning

Friday, November 13, 2026
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Suitable For: All
Hours: 7

These workshops invite Early Childhood Educators into a holistic and relational learning experience grounded in Indigenous ways of teaching, learning, and knowing. Through storytelling, circle dialogue, and shared reflection, participants will explore how knowledge is passed through relationship, land, community, and lived experience; and how these approaches can enrich everyday practice in child care settings. Together, we will engage in meaningful, honest conversation about what it truly means to action the principles of Truth and Reconciliation, understanding this work, alongside decolonization, is a journey of self that asks us to both learn and unlearn. Our time together is an invitation to be open to possibilities: to sit with discomfort, to imagine differently, and to walk this path as a shared and ongoing commitment rather than a destination. Educators will leave with greater confidence to action meaningful change within their respective child care settings, a deeper understanding of why this work matters, and a renewed sense that centering Indigenous perspectives fosters belonging, respect, and equity for every child, family, and community we serve.

FACILITATOR: Joanna White is Anishinaabe from the Huron Tract Territory and a member of Aamjwinaang First Nation. Joanna approaches her work from a holistic and relational perspective which is rooted in Indigenous cultural, spiritual, and ceremonial practices. Joanna brings 30 years of diversified experience in the human and social services field providing services and leadership to both Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities and organizations throughout Canada and the United States. Joanna currently works with a wide range of organizations and communities to support meaningful Truth and Reconciliation and decolonization initiatives. Drawing on lived experience and a collaborative approach, Joanna leads work that fosters change, accountability, and the creation of more inclusive and equitable spaces across sectors.



WORKSHOP DELIVERY: In-Person

LOCATION:

Victoria Inn
1808 Wellington Ave.



COST:

\$70.00
\$140.00

MCCA Member
Non-member

Partially Sponsored by:



Mirrors and Windows: Exploring A Child’s Right to Read

Tuesday, November 24, 2026
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Suitable For: All
Hours: 2

When we read picture books to children, they might experience the stories and illustrations as mirrors, reflecting themselves and their families. Alternatively, they might be seen as windows, introducing children to new thoughts and ideas while cultivating compassion, awareness and understanding through exposure to a broader world view. Every year, some children’s picture books are challenged for political, legal, religious, or moral reasons. And, sometimes they are removed from libraries or early learning environments because they are deemed to be inappropriate. These efforts often target books promoting diversity and inclusion. This workshop will explore why it is important to respect a child’s right to read and the value of providing many mirrors and windows on the bookshelves of early learning environments.

FACILITATOR: This workshop will be facilitated by a **Bookmates** facilitator.



WORKSHOP DELIVERY: In-Person

LOCATION: MCCA
2 - 2350 McPhillips St.
Located in the Royal Bank building on the corner of Court Ave. & McPhillips St.

COST: \$45.00 MCCA Member
\$90.00 Non-member

Workshop Tip:

Always keep your original workshop certificate.

Give your employer a copy.

Performance Management

Monday, December 7, 2026
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Suitable For: Leaders
Hours: 2

Performance management is more than addressing challenges—it is an ongoing process that helps early childhood educators grow, succeed, and contribute to a positive workplace culture. Whether you are a new supervisor or an experienced leader, this workshop will provide practical tools and strategies to help you confidently navigate leadership challenges while building a positive, respectful, and high-performing team.

This interactive workshop will explore ways to give leaders a full year approach of strategies to set clear expectations, build accountability, and create an environment where educators feel supported, recognized, and motivated to do their best work. Participants will explore the difference between coaching and correcting, learn how to deliver effective and constructive feedback, and discover ways to recognize and reinforce positive performance.

The session will also address common performance challenges faced in early learning environments, including managing difficult behaviours, and developing meaningful performance improvement plans with achievable goals. Throughout the workshop, participants will gain practical tools and conversation techniques that foster growth, improve retention, and build stronger, more engaged teams. By the end of the session, leaders will leave with greater confidence in managing performance proactively and creating a culture where continuous learning and professional development thrive.

Participants are on their own for lunch. There will be an hour lunch break. MCCA has a fridge, microwave, and an air-fryer for your convenience. There are also several restaurants in the area.

FACILITATOR: Ron Sarran is proud to share that he was born and raised in Winnipeg and embraces what it takes to brave a Prairie Winter and enjoy our beautiful (yet too short!) summers. He is a graduate of the University of Manitoba with a Bachelor's Degree in Business (Commerce) and Adult Learning & Development (Education). This is in addition to completion of his designation from the Canadian Institute of Management with a Professional Manager's Designation and as a Certified Facilitator from Design Dimensions International (DDI). His current role is the Director, Strategy and Consultant Care with Paradigm Consulting Group where he leads a team of professionals who deliver on their unmatched offer across the organization. The 20+ years of work experience has allowed him to learn about banking, retail, telecom, public sectors management and now consulting. His responsibilities have spanned multi-million-dollar Capital and Operating Expense Programs at Bell MTS, Organizational Initiatives such as the updated Strategic Plan for Economic Development Winnipeg to the development of Leadership Programs across multiple companies. These valuable experiences have led to successful outcomes that can be seen at each of these organizations.

WORKSHOP DELIVERY: In-Person

LOCATION: MCCA
2 - 2350 McPhillips St.
Located in the Royal Bank building on the
corner of Court Ave. & McPhillips St.

COST: \$120.00 MCCA Member
\$240.00 Non-member

Finding your Voice: Speaking up with Confidence and Respect

Tuesday, December 8, 2026
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Suitable For: All
Hours: 3

Speaking up isn't just about talking more — it's about knowing when to speak, how to speak, and how to stay grounded when the moment matters. This session is an engaging, skills focused workshop designed to help participants strengthen their communication presence, advocate for themselves, and express ideas with clarity and courage.

Through practical strategies, real life scenarios, and supportive discussion, participants learn how to navigate challenging conversations, interrupt self doubt, and communicate assertively without becoming aggressive. The session blends mindset tools with actionable communication techniques so participants can build confidence that feels authentic, not forced.

FACILITATOR: Melenie Olfert has worked as an independent consultant sharing her knowledge and expertise through leadership projects and workplace training. With a background in adult education and training, Melenie is now a published writer, as well as an accomplished speaker on intercultural & diversity in the workplace, human resources and leadership development. Further to her training experience, Melenie is an instructor with the University of Winnipeg, PACE Program, where she teaches in the Leadership Program. She is also the co-facilitator of the Language Interpreter Training Program which supports language diversity in work and community settings. Outside of work, Melenie volunteers in assisting newcomers in preparing for their Canadian citizenship exams.

WORKSHOP DELIVERY: In-Person

LOCATION:	MCCA 2 - 2350 McPhillips St. Located in the Royal Bank building on the corner of Court Ave. & McPhillips St.	COST:	\$50.00 \$100.00	MCCA Member Non-member
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ONLINE WORKSHOPS



SECD: Truth and Reconciliation in Early Childhood

November 12 - December 2, 2026

Suitable For: All
Hours: 9

Truth and Reconciliation in Early Childhood acknowledges truths in Canadian history; examines relationships and steps towards Reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples; and shares ways to include Reconciliation in everyday learning experiences with children, families, colleagues, and community.

Please note: Participants should have a reliable internet connection and be comfortable reading and writing in English.

The Manitoba Child Care Association and Red River College Polytech have partnered to offer online workshops. The workshop content (videos, readings, links, games, discussions) is completely online and available to participants during the duration of the workshop. There are weekly expectations and participants have complete flexibility to work through the materials at times of the day that are most convenient for them. The content is from the Science of Early Child Development (SECD). SECD's engaging, multimedia resources are used around the world by people who want to learn more about the impact of the early years on lifelong health and well-being.

Included in the workshop are clips from interviews with Dr. Niigaan Sinclair, David Robertson, and other "experts" on Indigenous curriculum and pedagogy from across Canada plus other related resources. We hope the workshop will support educators to view their curriculum and pedagogical approaches through a reconciliation lens, so they are comfortable including more Indigenous content.

WORKSHOP DELIVERY: Online

COST:	\$180.00	MCCA Member
	\$360.00	Non-member

ZOOM WORKSHOPS

POLICIES FOR ZOOM WORKSHOPS

- Please click on the zoom link 10 - 15 minutes before the workshop begins. Our zoom workshop hostess will begin admitting participants in at that time.
- Zoom workshops are live workshops that require participants to keep their video on the entire time.
- Upon entering the workshop everyone will be muted to minimize background sounds. If you wish to make a comment or ask a question you can unmute yourself or comment in the chat feature.
- Please name your device with your full name so that we can check you off on the attendance sheet. We don't know who you are if it just says iPhone 10 or iPad. We want to make sure we have verified your attendance so that you will receive a certificate.



- After the workshop you will be sent a link to complete a workshop evaluation using Survey Monkey. Please do the evaluation within 48 hours.
- Certificates of Participation will be emailed to participants after 75% of participants have completed the evaluation.
- If for any reason we cannot identify who you are, we will remove you from the workshop. You will not receive a certificate and will not be refunded.
- The zoom link we send is only for you. It should not be shared and other people should not be listening to the workshop who have not registered.
- If two or more people are registered and sharing one screen, please let the host/hostess know. It is recommended that each person is on their own device.
- The zoom link is sent out at least 24 hours to the workshop start time. If you have not received the zoom link contact MCCA by 3:00pm so that we can send you the link.

Sensory Gardens as a Pathway to Regulation

Monday, October 5, 2026
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Suitable for: Frontline
PD Hours: 2

This session invites educators to explore how sensory gardens, grounded in the eight sensory systems, can foster regulation, curiosity, and calm through connection with nature and natural materials. We'll look at how sensory gardens can support responsive care in early learning environments, leveraging the environment as a co-teacher and supporter. Participants will receive a practical "Sensory Garden Starter Guide" and explore strategies for creating accessible, culturally responsive, and sensory-rich environments both indoors and outdoors. This workshop builds on the article in the SPRING 2024 issue of *PLAYOutdoor Magazine* titled "Gardening as the Gateway to Relationships," which explores food, sensory, and exploration gardens as a means of building knowledge and connection through shared experiences with plants, bugs, and people.

FACILITATOR: **Cara Claudle** leads operations of Childhood Connect and shapes nature based programs for children, along with offering professional learning for early years and elementary teams. With a Masters in Education, a Bachelors Degree in Child Studies, a couple of diplomas Early Childhood Education, and certification as a Forest and Nature Practitioner, Cara combines her educational background and passion for nature to create inclusive, relationship centred environments that nurture curiosity, creativity, and community. She also teaches Early Childhood Education at First Nations Technical Institute, guiding future educators in developing their own sustainable, child centred practices.

Cara has written for *PLAYOutdoor Magazine*, presented with the 2024 International Bright Starts Conference, is a 2x featured podcast speaker and continues to pursue events and publications. Follow us on Instagram @ChildhoodConnect to tune in to our adventures!

WORKSHOP DELIVERY: Zoom



COST:	\$45.00	MCCA Member
	\$90.00	Non-member

Accommodating Disabilities in Child Care: A Legal and Practical Guide

Wednesday, October 7, 2026
9:00 am - 11:00 am

Suitable for: Leaders
PD Hours: 2

Accommodating children with disabilities is a legal and moral imperative for all organizations providing child care services. While this responsibility has never been more challenging, failing to meet it has never been more costly. Child care providers facing staffing shortages and limited resources must make difficult decisions, while balancing the duty to accommodate with the duty to protect the safety of staff and other children. Making decisions to modify or condense hours, adjusting service levels, or deciding to suspend or withdraw a child from care, are increasingly met with litigation, making it essential for leaders to respond knowledgeably and sensitively.

This workshop combines instructor-led, interactive and practical case studies, including examination of the issue of accommodation from the perspective of a parent of a child with special needs. Participants will learn how to create a collaborative relationship with parents requesting accommodation.

Supervisors, and directors will learn to:

- Meet the obligation under human rights legislation to accommodate a child to the point of undue hardship
- Respond to health and safety concerns staff and parents commonly raise as objections to accommodations
- Use effective conflict resolution skills to resolve thorny issues in accommodation
- Handle complaints and concerns from parents professionally
- Identify when a safety plan is needed, and create one
- Navigate challenging situations where services to a child may need to be modified or withdrawn

FACILITATOR: Asha Rampersad is an experienced lawyer who represents a broad range of employer clients, including private schools, child care centres, and the child care sector in all facets of employment, human rights law, disability management and litigation matters. Asha is also a highly sought-after speaker and trainer who has been selected to speak at leading employment, human rights, and investigation conferences. She has also been retained by several municipalities to deliver workshops and training sessions (resource issues in the child care sector.



WORKSHOP DELIVERY: Zoom



COST: \$50.00
\$100.00

MCCA Member
Non-member

Children Taking on the Role of Pedagogical Documentation

Wednesday, October 7, 2026
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Suitable for: All
PD Hours: 2

Pedagogical documentation is often thought of as a way of adults telling stories about children's play and learning. But wait.... What is the role of children in pedagogical documentation? How might children lead the pedagogical documentation process? This session highlights how and why children can become the leaders in documenting their play from their lens and how their voices inform inspiring programming opportunities.

FACILITATOR: Dr. Beverlie Dietz is passionate about advancing children's opportunities to engage in outdoor experiences. She is the author of ten textbooks related to play and children's programming and has several peer-reviewed articles published on early childhood and adult education topics. She is the publisher and Editor-in-Chief of the *Canadian Play Outdoors* magazine.

WORKSHOP DELIVERY: Zoom



COST: \$45.00 MCCA Member
\$90.00 Non-member

What!? A New Code?

Wednesday, October 14, 2026
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Suitable for: All
PD Hours: 2

This workshop is an opportunity for those who have taken all 4 parts of the Ethics Series to become acquainted with the new code and responsibilities. We've got all the information you need in a tidy 2-hour workshop.

FACILITATORS: Shannon Curtaz is the Executive Director of Horizons Children's Centre. She has been working in the field of Early Childhood Education since 1997 as a front line ECE, a Supervisor and a Director. She believes that the relationships we form with all of the people who come in and out of our lives, both personal and professional, shape the person that we ultimately become and that therefore growth and learning is never ending.

Melanie D'Souza is interested in issues of diversity, inclusion, and children's rights in early childhood settings. Melanie has been a member of the MCCA Ethics committee since 2003 and recently retired from Red River College Polytechnic.

WORKSHOP DELIVERY: Zoom



COST: \$45.00 MCCA Member
\$90.00 Non-member



Workshops begin promptly at
the start time, please ensure you have
joined the Zoom workshop 10 minutes
prior to the start time.

Inspiring Provocation on a Budget: Making the Most of What You Have

Tuesday, October 27, 2026
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Suitable for: All
PD Hours: 2

Whether you're working in a beautiful, stacked classroom or constantly digging through the recycling bin for inspiration, this session is for you. In early learning environments, provocations are powerful invitations for children to explore, investigate, and wonder. But they don't have to be expensive, elaborate, or Instagram-perfect. In fact, some of the richest play comes from the simplest materials, especially when those materials are offered with intention and curiosity. We will shift our thinking from "what don't we have?" to "what can we do with what we already have?" We will explore how common, low cost, and natural materials can become magical – learn how to design meaningful provocations that invite deep play and learning – collaborate, create, and experiment alongside your fellow educators. This isn't about having a Pinterest-worthy classroom, it's about tapping into creativity, resourcefulness, and your deep knowledge of children to spark their imagination and learning in new ways.

FACILITATOR: Sharon Ness is an Early Childhood Educator III who has been part of the western Canadian child care community since 1989 and been involved with the Alberta community since 2001. Her background is in Early Childhood Education. Sharon is a recognized member of the Alberta early childhood community having been involved in both local and provincial associations. Sharon is a global Virtues Project Facilitator and is also trained in delivering Positive Discipline for Parents. Sharon owned the first licensed overnight child care facility in British Columbia and has worked extensively in the not-for-profit sector since arriving in Alberta. She is the recipient of the Alberta Association for Community Living's Community Living Award for promoting the concept and spirit of community inclusion for people with developmental disabilities.

WORKSHOP DELIVERY: Zoom



COST: \$50.00 MCCA Member
\$100.00 Non-member

AI for ECEs: Harnessing Artificial Intelligence to Innovate & Enhance Early Childhood Education

Wednesday, October 28, 2026
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Suitable for: All
PD Hours: 2

In this workshop we will uncover how Artificial Intelligence (AI) can transform the early childhood education profession. Explore practical applications of AI for administrative tasks, classroom activities, and professional development. Gain confidence in integrating technology ethically and effectively into your practice.

By the end of the workshop, participants will:

- Understand the basics of AI and its relevance to ECE
- Learn how to streamline administrative tasks using AI
- Explore tools to enhance classroom learning experiences
- Understand ethical consideration when using AI in education
- Gain insights into staying ahead in an evolving technological landscape

FACILITATOR: Carla Ward is an Early Childhood Educator, speaker, podcaster, and consultant with over 20 years of experience in the profession. She is the founder of *The Everything ECE Podcast*, *The ECE Latte Lounge* membership, and *ECE Podcast Academy*, where she empowers educators to elevate their practice and their voices. Carla is known for her engaging workshops, real-talk training sessions, and advocacy for professionalism and joy in Early Childhood Education. Whether she's speaking on stage, teaching online, or behind the mic, she brings practical insights, a deep respect for educators, and a passion for reshaping the way the world sees ECE.

WORKSHOP DELIVERY: Zoom



COST: \$50.00 MCCA Member
\$100.00 Non-member

Stronger Together: Building Collaborative Professional Relationships

Monday, November 2, 2026
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Suitable for: All
PD Hours: 2

This workshop equips educators with the tools and mindset to cultivate meaningful professional relationships, fostering a collaborative and supportive work environment that benefits everyone—educators, students, and communities. By embracing the power of connection, educators can transform their professional dynamics and create thriving, synergistic teams.

FACILITATOR: Cathy Belgrave is an Early Childhood and Elementary Educator with over 25 years of experience. As the host of *The Intentional ECE* podcast and founder of *Creative Studio for Children*, she is passionate about helping educators feel confident and inspired in their teaching. Cathy supports educators in aligning their values and their teaching practices through thoughtful reflection and practical, actionable strategies.



WORKSHOP DELIVERY: Zoom



COST:	\$50.00	MCCA Member
	\$100.00	Non-member

Humanity-Driven Leadership in ECE

Tuesday, November 3, 2026
9:00 am - 11:00 am

Suitable for: Leaders
PD Hours: 2

How does 'the history of work' during the Industrial Revolution impact the ways we think and behave as leaders today?

Together, we will unpack the cultural baggage of historical, top-down approaches to leadership. From there, we will explore the research surrounding 'what employees are looking for' in workplaces, especially since the many shifts that emerged post-pandemic.

Finally, we will learn what it means to implement a Humanity-Driven Approach © to leadership—wherein teams feel authentically seen, heard, and valued in the workplace.

FACILITATOR: Mary Hewitt is the founder of Unlocking Childhood, is an experienced public speaker, writer, and consultant specializing in the wellbeing of children, parents, educators, and child-centered professionals. With 15 years in the Early Learning field as a classroom educator, early childhood education professor, and early years system leader—she leverages her expertise to develop engaging and meaningful learning experiences for her clients.

Mary holds a Masters degree in Early Childhood Education, a Bachelor of Education degree, a diploma in Early Childhood Education, and a Psychology degree.

WORKSHOP DELIVERY: Zoom



COST:	\$50.00	MCCA Member
	\$100.00	Non-member

The Unspoken Trauma of Hidden Neglect in Early Childhood

Wednesday, November 4, 2026
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Suitable for: All
PD Hours: 2

Childhood neglect is often overlooked and misunderstood, and yet, it can be the most damaging of all forms of trauma.

In this session, we explore: What is 'hidden neglect'? How might neglect manifest in children's behaviour? As educators, how can we thoughtfully respond in empowering ways that remind children of their innate, unwavering worthiness?

FACILITATOR: Mary Hewitt is the founder of Unlocking Childhood, is an experienced public speaker, writer, and consultant specializing in the wellbeing of children, parents, educators, and child-centered professionals. With 15 years in the Early Learning field as a classroom educator, early childhood education professor, and early years system leader—she leverages her expertise to develop engaging and meaningful learning experiences for her clients.

Mary holds a Masters degree in Early Childhood Education, a Bachelor of Education degree, a diploma in Early Childhood Education, and a Psychology degree.

WORKSHOP DELIVERY: Zoom



COST:	\$50.00	MCCA Member
	\$100.00	Non-member

Sensory Processing



Thursday, November 5, 2026
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Suitable for: All
PD Hours: 2

Explore "sensory processing", what it really means, and how this process may look different for neurodivergent children. Participants will learn the differences between hypo and hyper sensitivities, the 7 (not 5!) senses that we use to explore and regulate our environment, as well as how to adapt the environment for potential sensory processing disorder.

FACILITATOR: Monica Maddison has compiled 14 years of her professional practice (as a therapist, college instructor, director of specialized education, consultant, and educator...) into understandable, actionable, and engaging workshops and Keynote sessions for educators to not only better understand neurodiversity, but to gain confidence in creating inclusive classroom spaces. Educators are encouraged to challenge their past bias, engage with up-to-date research, and develop their individual educational philosophies.

WORKSHOP DELIVERY: Zoom



COST:	\$50.00	MCCA Member
	\$100.00	Non-member

Playing on Pathways: Enhancing Winter Exploration and Learning

Monday, November 9, 2026
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Suitable for: Frontline
PD Hours: 2

Discover the endless possibilities that pathways offer for children's winter play and learning in this engaging workshop! Explore how pathways, from snowy trails to icy sidewalks, to large puddles, can become dynamic environments for fostering curiosity, creativity, and developmental growth. Learn how to design simple, open-ended experiences that encourage sensory exploration, gross motor skills, problem-solving, and storytelling for children of all ages, all on a pathway.

FACILITATOR: Dr. Beverlie Dietz is passionate about advancing children's opportunities to engage in outdoor experiences. She is the author of ten textbooks related to play and children's programming and has several peer-reviewed articles published on early childhood and adult education topics. She is the publisher and Editor-in-Chief of the *Canadian Play Outdoors* magazine.

WORKSHOP DELIVERY: Zoom



COST:	\$45.00	MCCA Member
	\$90.00	Non-member

The Inclusive Learning Environment

Thursday, November 12, 2026
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Suitable for: All
PD Hours: 2

What does it mean to be an "inclusive" educator? Participants explore an ASD diagnosis, and how they can both honour and support neurodiversity within their classroom. Combining philosophy, engagement methods, and physical accommodations, "The Inclusive Learning Environment" encourages educators with accessible changes with holistic, lasting impact.

FACILITATOR: Monica Maddison has compiled 14 years of her professional practice (as a therapist, college instructor, director of specialized education, consultant, and educator...) into understandable, actionable, and engaging workshops and Keynote sessions for educators to not only better understand neurodiversity, but to gain confidence in creating inclusive classroom spaces. Educators are encouraged to challenge their past bias, engage with up-to-date research, and develop their individual educational philosophies.

WORKSHOP DELIVERY: Zoom



COST:	\$50.00	MCCA Member
	\$100.00	Non-member

**The Best Practices Licensing Manual recommends
24 hours of professional development
for Directors, ECEs, and CCAs.**

Exploring Loose Parts

Wednesday, November 25, 2026
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Suitable for: Frontline
PD Hours: 2

Most of us are familiar with what Loose Parts are. This workshop explores how Loose Parts go beyond being open-ended play materials to a powerful tool for children's learning and development.

Together, we will dig deeper into how Loose Parts support Schema Theory, risky play, creativity, and problem-solving. We will explore how to create meaningful invitations to play, encourage exploration, and support children's natural curiosity.

FACILITATOR: **Cindy Curry** has been in the field of Early Childhood Education for over 37 years in several different roles, including operating a Forest & Nature School. Currently, she is the host of The Outside ECE podcast and instructs at University College of the North in The Pas, facilitates workshops and mentoring programs, and is an active advocate for children playing outside.

WORKSHOP DELIVERY: Zoom



COST:	\$45.00	MCCA Member
	\$90.00	Non-member

Cultivating Quality Together: A Virtual Community of Practice

Thursday, November 26, 2026
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Suitable for: All
PD Hours: 2

Article: Snow Much to Learn: Teachers' Experiences Embracing Child-Led Snow Play
By Ann Rossmiller, Rachel Konerman and Mickaela Dean

This isn't your typical workshop. This is a workshop where we unpack and discuss articles that have an influence on our practice, challenge our thinking, and help us keep current in our field. This is a great opportunity to connect with others and stretch our thinking.

The article(s) are chosen based on a specific topic and sent before the workshop for you to read so you will be ready to have a deep discussion that may lead us to places we never imagined.

This session is going to explore getting children outside in winter.

FACILITATOR: **Cindy Curry** has been in the field of Early Childhood Education for over 37 years in several different roles, including operating a Forest & Nature School. Currently, she is the host of The Outside ECE podcast and instructs at University College of the North in The Pas, facilitates workshops and mentoring programs, and is an active advocate for children playing outside.

WORKSHOP DELIVERY: Zoom



COST:	\$25.00	MCCA Member
	\$50.00	Non-member

Rethinking “Nature Connections” - Growing Gardens, Empathy and Community



Tuesday, December 8, 2026
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Suitable for: All
PD Hours: 2

As a seasoned gardener, Ana has been providing workshops on gardening with children for years (seeding, transplanting & plant safety). For this reason, it was only natural that during her master's work, Ana followed an inquiry into care and belonging with the children and more-than-human worlds (worms and insects). This led to a deep dive into the history and science behind the sentience (the ability to feel) in worms and bugs. As she grappled to make meaning of her pedagogical documentation, she talked a lot about worms, and her family called her "the worm lady." In this workshop, Ana challenges not only how we garden and interact with children in nature spaces, but she also invites educators to think deeply about how nature relations can resist colonial pedagogies, such as positioning humans as dominant over nature (anthropocentrism). In this workshop, Ana will:

- Make connections to land-based learning and nature relations using pedagogical documentation.
- Share practical gardening tips for growing gardens with young children.
- Think deeply about how to promote kindness, empathy and care in everyday interactions with human and more-than-human others (insects and worms).

FACILITATOR: Ana Valle Rivera is a proud mother of three, a public speaker, TEDx speaker, a consultant, and the founder of Early Years Thriving. Ana has 18+ years of experience in the childcare field, including OSC, ECE, supervisory, and early intervention roles. She has direct experience working with children and families using inclusive and trauma-informed approaches. Ana has over 11 years of experience working in adult education and currently supports ECE practicum students at local colleges. Ana has 9+ years of experience as a workshop facilitator and has facilitated hundreds of professional development workshops for thousands of educators, teachers, and parents. Ana has a Diploma in ECE, a Bachelor's Degree in Child & Youth Care, and a Master's of Professional Education in ECE. Ana will be a PhD student in Child, Youth, Family, and Community Studies beginning in Sept 2026.

WORKSHOP DELIVERY: Zoom



COST:	\$50.00	MCCA Member
	\$100.00	Non-member

FALL 2026 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

REGISTRATION PROCEDURES & POLICIES

- You must be a personal member of MCCA to qualify for member pricing. To confirm your membership number check your card or ask your director.
- Your registration will not be processed unless we have received your completed registration form detailing sessions you would like to be registered for with payment enclosed. We do not invoice for workshops.
- Telephone, faxed registrations and post dated cheques will not be accepted.
- Registration deadline is one day prior to each session unless otherwise indicated.
- Methods of Payment:
Cheque, Visa, MasterCard are accepted. Interac is available for in person registration. If paying by cheque, mail your registration form and payment to:

**Manitoba Child Care Association
2 - 2350 McPhillips Street
Royal Bank Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba R2V 4J6**

If you are paying by credit card then you must register online. Go to [mccahouse.org/professional development](https://mccahouse.org/professional-development) button, and then click on the link for online registration. Please avoid using auto-fill.

- Receipts will be emailed directly from Cvent at time of registration.
- If you are unable to attend a workshop that you have registered for and would like to send someone in your place (must be from the same centre and must be replacing a member) email Debbie Crampton before 3:00 pm prior to the workshop at dcrampton@mccahouse.org. Debbie's direct line is 204-336-5065. We require the name and email of the replacement so that the Zoom link, any handouts, and certificate can be sent to the new person attending.
- There are no workshop refunds, including if the participant misses the workshop.
- To replace a "Certificate of Participation" the cost is \$10.00.
- Participants for Zoom workshops will receive a certificate of participation via email once 75% of participants have completed the workshop survey. Participants for in-person workshops will receive a paper certificate at the workshop.
- A reminder for in person workshops will be emailed 2 days before the workshop.
- If enrollment for any workshop is insufficient, MCCA reserves the right to cancel or reschedule it. In such instances, registrants will be notified and the fee refunded.
- In the event that weather prevents a participant (from outside of Winnipeg) from attending a workshop, a workshop credit will be granted if Environment Canada has recommended that a specific highway not be travelled on or is closed. A workshop credit allows the transfer of money from one workshop towards a future workshop and must be used in the same calendar year.
- If a workshop is cancelled due to weather, we will call/email to advise you the workshop is cancelled.
- If you are ill please do not attend your in person workshop, send a substitute.
- We reserve the right to change the workshop location. Registrants will be notified by phone or email.