



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Daycare Recognized with National Award for Providing Inclusive Environment for Children with Special Needs.

Quesnel and District Daycare awarded National Inclusive Education Award.

For more information, contact: Danielle Kelliher, Director of Communications, BC Association for Community Living, (604) 777-9100 ext. 527 dkelliher@bcacl.org.

Vancouver, B.C., February 18, 2009 – Early Childhood Educators at the Quesnel and District Daycare will be receiving a National Inclusive Education award from the Canadian Association for Community Living and the British Columbia Association for Community Living. Elaine Kopetski, Megan Kikert and Echo Hawkrige are being commended for creating an inspirational example of what a truly inclusive daycare looks like. The award ceremony will be held in Victoria in June, 2009.

Because of the staff's commitment to promoting an atmosphere of inclusion for all children, the Quesnel and District Daycare has been recognized, along with three other individuals and organizations in B.C., as part of National Inclusive Education Week, celebrated from February 15 to 22, across Canada.

Cari Charron, a parent of two children, feels lucky to be able to have her children go to the Quesnel and District Daycare:

“My youngest son has special needs and I was thrilled when he was old enough to attend the daycare,” says Charron. “The staff is very supportive of working with his specialized equipment and open to suggestions about changing the environment to meet his needs.”

National Inclusive Education Week provides an opportunity to acknowledge and recognize the commitment and effort of teachers, administrators, students, and families who contribute to successful inclusion of students in schools and classrooms throughout Canada.

Inclusive school/preschool practices help provide quality education to an increasingly diverse student population, including students with a developmental disability.

We know inclusive education works. Children who learn together in school also learn to live well together as adults and are better able to create communities where everyone belongs.

For more information on Inclusive Education week, visit www.bcacl.org.