



# Head, Heart & Hands

*Nova Scotia Child Care Association's Membership Newsletter*

## **Professional Association for Child Care Practitioners Gets off the Ground**

This spring, the Nova Scotia Child Care Association (NSCCA) was officially born, and has opened its doors to new membership. The NSCCA, a non-profit professional association for child care practitioners in Nova Scotia, is dedicated to gaining professional recognition of child care practitioners as well as recognition for their value to Society.

"It is important that child care practitioners are recognized as skilled and knowledgeable professionals in their field," explained Bronwein Richardson, NSCCA Board member. "The NSCCA is dedicated to making this happen through several different initiatives."

One such initiative is the publication of a Code of Ethics. Elizabeth Hessian explains, "A goal of the NSCCA is to ensure the ethical practice of our members and to support them in applying ethics to their work."

To ensure the association meets this goal members

are provided with the Code of Ethics, a *Standards of Practice* publication, and ethics mentoring.

The NSCCA is also dedicated to advocating and lobbying for the needs of its members. Anne Culling, president of NSCCA explained, "Membership in the NSCCA ensures that our collective voice will be heard. We advocate and lobby for our members in order to make them the best that they can be."

Several already established child care organizations have been involved in the development of the NSCCA, including the Certification Council of Early Childhood Educators of Nova Scotia, Child Care Connections, Société provinciale des intervenantes du préscolaire (SPIP), and Centre provincial de ressources préscolaires (CPRP).

Board member, Heather Hansen Dunbar believes the association is an excellent possibility for child care practitioners

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across Nova Scotia. "By becoming a member in the Nova Scotia Child Care Association, individuals in the child care field will gain belonging, voice and safe reflection, three important components in making our profession the best that it can be," she explained. It's a great opportunity to get involved and make a difference in our important practice!"



**<http://pages.istar.ca/~ccns/NSCCA/home.html>**

for info. on services, events, and membership, and access to this newsletter on-line.

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## Meet the Board

The NSCCA Board is currently made up of five members. These women are dedicated to the NSCCA and its goals and purpose, and they are excited about the future.

### **Anne Culling, Chair:**

Anne, chair of the NSCCA board, has been in the child care industry since 1987. Currently, Anne is assistant director at Alexandra Children's Centre in Halifax. Besides chairing the NSCCA board, Anne is also sits on the Child Care Connections Nova Scotia Board.

Anne is proud to be a part of the NSCCA. She explained. "The professional association both gives support to early childhood educators in the field, and is an avenue to hear what child care practitioners have to say, and then to act as their collective voice."

### **Elaine Ferguson:**

Elaine, Executive Director of Child Care Connections Nova Scotia, has been practicing in the child care field for 32 years.

She is very involved in the sector. She is currently vice-chair of the IHSE Board of Governors and working with Partners in Practice.

Elaine believes the NSCCA is essential. She explained, "We have to have an infrastructure to support ethics and standards of practice to make a profession visible, and NSCCA is a way of doing that."

### **Heather Hanson-Dunbar:**

Heather, director of Kids R Kids Day Care in Halifax, has been working in the child care sector since she graduated from Mount Saint Vincent University in 1985.

Heather is involved in several other child care organizations, including the Private Licensed Administrators Association (PLAY), which she chairs.

Heather believes NSCCA is essential. She explained, "It has become crucial to move our vital profession forward and NSCCA is the vehicle to do this. I

am both honoured and thrilled to be a part of such necessary vitality."

### **Elizabeth Hessian:**

Elizabeth, a teacher at Alexandra Children's Centre in Halifax, has been practicing in the child care field for 25 years.

Elizabeth believes the NSCCA is very important because, "belonging to a professional association shows that we are dedicated to the child care field. It also demonstrates our commitment to ensuring that child care in Nova Scotia is the best that it can be."

### **Bronwien Richardson:**

Bronwien, owner and director of Dutch Village Road Child Care Centre, has been practicing in child care for over 15 years.

She is proud to be a part of the NSCCA because, "it is an organization truly making a difference for child care practitioners in Nova Scotia, the children we care for, families and society as a whole."

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## **What's New**



The NSCCA Board has been working very hard to develop the association. In the past three months since the NSCCA began, we have made tremendous strides!

The following are some examples of the steps that have been taken to ensure that the NSCCA meets its goals and serves its members effectively.

### **NSCCA Web Site:**

The NSCCA web site will be available September 2003 at <http://pages.istar.ca/~cccn/s/NSCCA/home.html>

This site is designed to make information available and accessible to everyone. Members can access this newsletter on-line, check on what's new at NSCCA, and keep up to date and informed on NSCCA activities, by visiting our site. It is your one-stop information shop!

### **NSCCA Committees:**

Several committees have been formed, each dedicated to reaching

specific goals. These committees include the Standards of Practice with its subcommittee on Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR), the Ethics Committee and the Advocacy & Support Committee.

As a member, you are encouraged to get involved in the committees, to ensure your voice is included in all the work done by NSCCA. To get involved e-mail NSCCA at [nscca@istar.ca](mailto:nscca@istar.ca).

### **PLAR**

#### **Subcommittee:**

The PLAR committee has designed the workbook and manual for those members participating in the PLAR process. The process will get underway early in Fall 2003.

#### **Promotions:**

The NSCCA has been busy promoting the association to all potential members, through a mail-out campaign to all child care centres in Nova Scotia, and plans are in place to recruit student members when classes resume in the fall.

A presentation to possible members has been designed and information packages have been created. If you would like more information on these promotional activities, or would be willing to make a presentation to your colleagues on the association, please email NSCCA at [nscca@istar.ca](mailto:nscca@istar.ca).

### **Membership Packages:**

The NSCCA has put together a lovely membership package for all new members. In this package, members receive a NSCCA pin, certificate and membership card, as well as a Code of Ethics, a Standards of Practice publication, a membership handbook, and this newsletter!

### **Communications Handbook:**

The NSCCA has completed a communications handbook for the association. This guide will aid all NSCCA members in helping to achieve the goals of the association by getting our messages out to the right people.

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## **Getting Involved**

### **Why get involved?**

All members are encouraged to get involved with the actions.

Being involved is also a way to make a difference in our profession, and to do something important for yourself, your colleagues, Nova Scotia's children and families, and for society.

### **What can I do?**

Join a Committee-

- Standards Committee,
- Ethics Committee,

- Advocacy & Support Committee

Outside of committee work, members can take part in the many activities and events that come up.

Other volunteer work is also always available. These volunteer opportunities may include promoting NSCCA, or planning events.

events, or other volunteer opportunities that arise, or have an idea, on how to promote the association, email or write NSCCA.

This association is for you, and your involvement is crucial to making it work for you and your colleagues.



### **How do I get Involved?**

If you are interested in joining a committee, upcoming activities and

### **Questions or Comments?**

*We'd love to hear from you!*

**Phone:** (902) 423-8199 (*HRM*)  
1-800-565-8199 (*Atlantic*)

**Mailing:** c/o 100-1200 Tower Rd.  
Halifax, NS B3H 4K6

**E-mail:** [nscca@istar.ca](mailto:nscca@istar.ca)

### **Web Address:**

<http://pages.istar.ca/~ccns/NSCCA/home.html>

### **Up coming Events & Activities**

Committee meetings are held at Child Care Connections  
100-1200 Tower Road, Halifax, NS

**Ethics Committee Meeting:** October 8, 2003

**Advocacy Committee Meeting:** October 15, 2003

**Standards Committee Meeting:** October 22, 2003

**Fall Rally 2003** November 15, 2003 location TBA

For more information on these events and activities, and a complete list of all activities, check out the NSCCA web site at <http://pages.istar.ca/~ccns/NSCCA/home.html>, and follow the current members link, to "What's New at NSCCA".

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