

NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**

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**New Early Childhood Education Diploma Program Launches with Support**

Northwest Community College is launching an Early Childhood Education diploma program that is receiving a helping hand from Terraces' Make Children First Initiative (MCFI).

MCFI has donated \$10,000 for bursaries and scholarships. \$6,000 in total will be allocated to student bursaries, based on financial need, with \$4,000 going toward scholarships based on academic achievement and effort.

"The main objective of this funding from Terrace Make Children First Initiative is to address the critical need for qualified ECE staff in our region," explains Sasa Loggin, Initiative Manager for MCFI. "We identified Infant/Toddler Care and Special Needs as those areas most in need of additional staff and training. We applaud NWCC for reintroducing both basic and post-basic courses at the Terrace campus. Through the structure of the scholarships, we are looking for students that will continue to strengthen the field of early childhood education and care."

"Lack of financial assistance is a major barrier many of our students face in accessing post-secondary education," states NWCC President, Stephanie Forsyth. "MCFI's financial award contributions will help ECE students obtain the advanced education they need to fill the many childcare vacancies that exist in the North."

The ECE diploma is awarded to graduates who have completed both post-basic specialty certificates - Supported Child Care and Infant/Toddler Care. The Diploma provides a comprehensive Early Childhood Education credential that broadens a graduate's skill base and broadens their employment options.

"The ECE diploma program enables students to acquire the specialized training that is in such critical demand in the childcare field," explains NWCC Dean of Human Services, Arlene Herman. "Our region is in especially short supply of workers with skills in the areas of Infant/Toddler Care and Supported Child Care. The College's ECE diploma, coupled with the financial support of MCFI, will go a long way in helping alleviate the need."

Courses for ECE Diploma and Post Basic Certificates start in May. The deadline for MCFI bursary applications for these courses is April 15, 2007. Students currently in or entering into NWCC's Early Childhood Education Post Basic Certificate program are also eligible for MCFI's financial awards.

See the College Website at [www.nwcc.bc.ca](http://www.nwcc.bc.ca) for applications and complete award criteria, procedures, and submission deadline information.

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