TSLEIL-WAUTUTH NATION
PEOPLE OF THE INLET

NEWS RELEASE

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Tsleil-Waututh Nation Child and Family Development Centre wins National Award

The Tsleil-Waututh Child and Family Development Centre (The Centre) is being awarded one of two *Margaret & Wallace McCain Family Foundation & Lawson Foundation Awards* for its Early Childhood Education submission on establishing an Aboriginal addendum to the Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scales (ECERS). The Centre's entry was one of 266 from across Canada submitted to the Changemakers Initiative, which seeks innovative ideas and insights into First Nations, Metis`, and Inuit education and learning.

"The Tsleil-Waututh Nation places the highest priority on our children and families. The Centre is an example of how this commitment is put into practice through on-going quality early childhood programs. We are excited about the potential this project has and humbled by the support we have already received," commented Chief Justin George.

The ECERS captures a very wide range of quality indicators for child care programs. "The Centre's piloted project has identified a number of suggestions to enhance the use of ECERS in First Nation communities thereby providing a solid base to explore the concept of developing a culturally safe addendum to this assessment tool. The concept is attracting many interested partners from across the country," notes Marc Lalonde, manager of The Centre, who will travel to Ottawa this month to accept the award.

The Centre provides an Aboriginal Head Start Program, Aboriginal Infant Development Program, Aboriginal Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters Program and weekly parent groups. The Centre also provides full-time child care for children from six months to school age, which is open to non-Aboriginal families as well.

For more information on ECERS, visit http://ers.fpg.unc.edu/

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