



July 15, 2019

VIA E-MAIL

Ref: 244242

Dear Mayor:

Since Childcare BC launched in 2018, we have taken great strides towards our vision of universal child care: a system that will provide parents with access to affordable, high-quality child care whenever and wherever they need it.

One of the key pillars of Childcare BC is accessibility. Under this pillar, the Childcare BC New Spaces Fund offers funding to create new licensed child care spaces for British Columbian families.

Today, we have good news to share. Public sector organizations, Indigenous Governments, and non-profit societies can now access more money through the Childcare BC New Spaces Fund to create spaces. Based on feedback from communities throughout British Columbia, we have tripled the funding maximums up to:

- **\$3 million per facility** (previously \$1 million) **for up to 100% of project costs** for public sector organizations and Indigenous Governments,
- **\$1.5 million per facility** (previously \$500,000) **for up to 100% of project costs** for Indigenous non-profit societies, and
- **\$1.5 million per facility** (previously \$500,000) **for up to 90% of project costs** for non-profit societies and Child Development Centres.

We are making this change to recognize that in many communities, high capital costs can be a barrier to creating child care spaces. Increasing funding maximums means that more communities can access the Childcare BC New Spaces Fund, and more families will benefit from access to licensed child care.

For a breakdown of applicant type, new funding maximums and provincial contribution levels, see attached table.

Looking ahead, the ministry is also creating a multi-project funding stream so that public sector organizations and established non-profit societies can submit a single proposal for multiple projects, or for large-scale projects that require more than the funding maximums. More information on this stream will be available in coming weeks.

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We hope you share this information with your colleagues, partners and clients, and apply for funding if you are an eligible organization. By working together, we can make life better for British Columbia's families by improving access to child care.

Childcare BC New Spaces Fund guidelines, application forms and FAQs are available at www.gov.bc.ca/childcare/newspacesfund. If you have any questions, you can contact the Childcare BC New Spaces Fund Program at MCF.CCCF@gov.bc.ca or 1 888 338-6622 (option 5).

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katrine Conroy'.

Katrine Conroy
Minister of Children and Family Development

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katrina' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Katrina Chen
Minister of State for Child Care

Appendix: Contribution Percentages and Funding Award Commitment by Applicant Type

Applicant Type	Required Organization Contribution	Provincial Contribution	Maximum Provincial Funding Amount*	Funding Award Commitment
Public sector organizations and Indigenous Governments	0%	100%	Up to \$3,000,000	Up to 15 years
Indigenous Non-Profit Societies	0%	100%	Up to \$1,500,000	Up to 15 years
Non-Profit Child Care Providers and Child Development Centres	10%	90%	Up to \$1,500,000	Up to 15 years
For-profit child care organizations (Businesses and Incorporated Companies).	25%	75%	Up to \$250,000	Up to 10 years
<i>*The maximum provincial funding amount applies to a single physical location. Projects occurring within the same physical location are considered as a single project.</i>				

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2019CFD0082-001418
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Ministry of Children and Family Development

Bringing child care closer to home for families through new incentives for publicly funded child care

VICTORIA – A significant increase in funding will help public sector and non-profit organizations create more publicly owned and operated child care spaces in their communities, bringing child care closer to home and making life more affordable for British Columbian families.

The maximum funding amount available from the Childcare BC New Spaces Fund to public sector organizations, such as local governments, school districts, tribal councils and First Nations governments, is increasing to \$3 million per project, up from \$1 million. Additionally, non-profit organizations – including Indigenous organizations – will be eligible for up to \$1.5 million per project, three times more than was previously available.

“Our government believes all families should have access to publicly supported child care just as they have access to public education – and the best way to make that happen is by working in partnership with public sector and non-profit organizations,” said Katrine Conroy, Minister of Children and Family Development. “By offering incentives to these sectors, we can strengthen communities and give families access to the services they need right on their doorstep, meaning they no longer have to give up valuable family time to get to their child care centre far from where they live – and we know that for families, that positive change can’t come soon enough.”

As well as the funding increase, the ministry is introducing a new process to allow experienced public-sector and non-profit organizations to apply for funding for multiple projects at once. More information on this process will be available in the coming weeks.

“Child care has the ability to be the common ground that brings families in communities together,” said Katrina Chen, Minister of State for Child Care. “We’ve seen the City of Vancouver and the School District of Victoria thinking outside the box to create hundreds of new licensed child care spaces, and we encourage other local governments and organizations, from large to small, to bring their ideas for solving the child care space shortage. Together, we will forge long-lasting partnerships to deliver publicly funded child care spaces that will be life-changing for families and communities for decades to come.”

Under the Childcare BC New Spaces Fund, child care providers can apply for funding to create new child care spaces at any time throughout the year under a continuous application process. It is part of the Province's Childcare BC plan, designed to give British Columbian families access to affordable, quality child care when they want or need it. Since July 2018, the Province has funded approximately 9,000 new licensed child care spaces throughout British Columbia. More new spaces will be announced as projects are approved.

Investing in child care and early childhood education is a shared priority between government and the BC Green Party caucus, and is part of the Confidence and Supply Agreement.

Learn More:

For more about Childcare BC, visit: www.gov.bc.ca/childcare

To learn more about the Childcare BC New Spaces Fund and to apply, visit:
www.gov.bc.ca/childcare/newspacesfund

To find child care in a community, view the online child care map:
<http://maps.gov.bc.ca/ess/hm/ccf/>

Child care factsheet: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/18430>

Contact:

Ministry of Children and Family Development
Government Communications and Public Engagement
(250) 356-2028

Connect with the Province of British Columbia at: news.gov.bc.ca/connect