
NEWS RELEASE COMMUNIQUÉ

For Immediate Release
2018CFD0059-001744
Sept. 11, 2018

Ministry of Children and Family Development
Employment and Social Development Canada

Partnerships give B.C. families quicker access to child care

WHISTLER – British Columbia municipalities and regional districts can now access nearly \$17 million in funding to plan and build licensed child care spaces that will best meet the needs of local families.

“The Government of Canada is committed to helping middle-class families access quality early learning and child care,” said Jean-Yves Duclos, federal Minister of Families, Children and Social Development. “Today’s announcement will ensure that more families and children have a real chance to succeed right across British Columbia.”

The Government of B.C. is investing \$13.7 million from its Early Learning and Child Care Agreement with the Government of Canada through the first of two new partnership programs with the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM). The first program, called the Community Child Care Space Creation Program, will create 1,370 new licensed child care spaces, with a focus on infant and toddler care.

“Local governments know their communities best and have strong relationships with public-sector organizations,” said Katrine Conroy, B.C.’s Minister of Children and Family Development. “This makes them uniquely able to create child care spaces where they are most needed in order to best meet the needs of their local families.”

Municipal and regional governments in B.C. are eligible for up to \$1 million per project through the new Community Child Care Space Creation Program. Priority will be given to projects that build spaces that serve infants and toddlers, offer care outside of regular business hours, are operated by a public body or non-profit, and/or benefit underserved populations, including:

- Indigenous families and communities,
- Children with extra support needs,
- Lower-income families,
- Parents under age 25 who are completing their secondary education, and
- Minority language and cultural groups, including recent immigrants and refugees, and francophone families.

“Local governments have been calling on the provincial government to invest in high-quality child care to make it affordable and accessible, so today’s announcement is welcome news,” said Wendy Booth, UBCM president. “This funding will strengthen understanding of local needs and develop new child care spaces in B.C. communities.”

The second project will provide \$3 million in new provincial funding to UBCM to administer a Community Child Care Planning grant program that will enable local governments to work with their communities to identify their specific needs around child care spaces. Local governments

are now eligible to apply to UBCM for up to \$25,000 from the planning program, which is targeted to communities that are interested in creating new child care spaces over the next 10 years.

“The ability to plan for child care space at the local level will help ensure that new spaces are created in areas with the greatest need,” said Katrina Chen, B.C.'s Minister of State for Child Care. “It will also help identify community assets and partnerships that are the most likely to be successful and sustainable.”

Work is also underway to make sure that Indigenous communities in B.C. — including First Nations, Métis and urban communities — also have support to improve access to early learning and child care. The Province will announce new partnerships in the coming months.

Quote:

Sonia Furstenau, MLA for Cowichan Valley –

“As an MLA, I regularly hear from child care providers and early childhood educators who are looking to do more for B.C. parents. By providing funding and support through these partnerships with UBCM, government is helping these organizations to deliver innovative child care solutions that will provide long-term benefits for their communities.”

Learn More:

To learn more about child care in B.C., visit: www.gov.bc.ca/childcare

To learn more about UBCM and these partnerships, visit: www.ubcm.ca

A backgrounder follows.

Contact:

Government Communications and Public
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Ministry of Children and Family Development
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Connect with the Province of B.C. at: news.gov.bc.ca/connect

BACKGROUND

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UBCM partnership supports child care space creation

Local governments understand and know best what their communities need. Their relationships with public-sector agencies, including school districts, make it easier for them to forge innovative partnerships and identify new child care locations where needs are highest.

The Province is partnering with the Union of British Columbia Municipalities and creating two new initiatives — the Community Child Care Space Creation Program and Community Child Care Planning grant program — that will give communities a voice in creating a new, quality child care system that is affordable and accessible for B.C. families, and effectively uses publicly available assets and lands.

The deadline to apply for both programs is Jan. 18, 2019. Successful grant recipients will be announced in the spring of 2019.

Community Child Care Space Creation Program

The Community Child Care Space Creation Program complements the recently launched Childcare BC New Spaces Fund, which is funding the creation of 22,000 new child care spaces over three years, improving access to child care for thousands of B.C. families. The space creation program is open to local governments in B.C. — both municipal and regional — that are working with partners to locate child care facilities on local government property.

The Child Care Space Creation Program will:

- Provide up to \$1 million per project, with the goal of creating 1,370 licensed spaces.
- Prioritize underserved communities.
- Support innovative partnerships to help create needed child care spaces throughout the province.

Consistent with the Province's recently launched Childcare BC New Spaces Fund, in order to receive funding through the Community Child Care Space Creation Program, the operator of the new child care spaces must be approved for Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative funding (where eligible) before they receive the final payment from UBCM. This will help ensure that new licensed child care spaces are more affordable for families.

Community Child Care Planning grants

B.C. municipal governments and regional districts can apply for Community Child Care Planning grants, which will support communities to assess and plan for the creation of child care spaces, to meet the needs of local families over the next decade.

Applicants will need to collect and report information related to the current availability of child care spaces in their communities and the degree to which those spaces meet community needs.

In instances where a municipality and regional district wish to collaborate on a single project to enable them to do more effective and co-ordinated regional planning – or should several municipalities wish to work together – one applicant may apply on behalf of the others. In these cases, the maximum funding that would be available is based on the number of eligible applicants included in the application. For example, if two municipalities apply for funding together, they would be eligible to receive a maximum of \$50,000.

The new grants will help communities create an inventory, needs assessment and action plan that outlines short-, medium- and long-term space creation goals.

Local governments receiving these grants will work with child care stakeholders in their communities to understand their specific needs, identify areas where child care is needed, the number of spaces and the types of child care required. Plans will also help to identify whether current spaces are meeting the unique needs of underserved populations.

Learn More:

For more information and to apply for funding, visit: www.ubcm.ca

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