
NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2022AEST0065-001417
Sept. 22, 2022

Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training
Capilano University

New centre for childhood studies doubles child care spaces

NORTH VANCOUVER – The Province is making education accessible by working with Capilano University (CapU) on a new centre for childhood studies that will more than double the available child care spaces on campus.

Slated to open late 2024, the centre will add 74 affordable new child care spaces for a total of 143 on-campus spaces for infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers. Students, employees and community members are all eligible to apply for space for their children at the new centre.

“I am proud that we are investing in people’s futures by providing child care spaces so parents can benefit from educational opportunities,” said Anne Kang, Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training. “The new centre for childhood studies will provide a positive learning environment for children, and support their parents who are advancing their own studies. By doubling the available spaces for child care on campus, we’re decreasing the cost of living and removing barriers to education for British Columbia’s next generation of workers, innovators and leaders.”

To enhance the student learning experience, the centre will also offer 2,135 square metres (23,000 square feet) of new studio space, study and research labs, classrooms and faculty offices. The two-storey sustainably built facility will increase opportunities for practicum placements on campus for students from Capilano University’s school of education and childhood studies.

“Early childhood educators are skilled professionals who are the workforce behind the workforce and it’s critical we support people entering this in-demand career,” said Katrina Chen, Minister of State for Child Care. “This new centre brings us one step closer to making affordable, quality, inclusive child care a core service families can rely on, by providing more hands-on training for the future early childhood workforce, and more convenient on-campus child care spaces for parents, students and teachers while they study or work.”

The \$18.6-million centre for childhood studies project is receiving \$9.46 million from the Province, including \$6.5 million from the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training and \$2.96 million from the Ministry of Education and Child Care Children. Capilano University is contributing \$9.14 million toward the project.

“Today, we celebrate the groundbreaking of this fully integrated centre of research, learning and child care, which exemplifies how CapU is building a distinct university experience that inspires imagination and supports the well-being of our campus community,” said Paul Dangerfield, president, Capilano University. “Quality child care is closely linked to social and economic development and vitally important for many families. The new centre for childhood

studies will build on the great work already underway at CapU to continue to meet the growing needs of childhood educators and families in the community.”

This building expansion is part of the Province’s 10-year ChildCareBC Plan, which has funded 30,500 new licensed child care spaces throughout the province since 2018.

To support providers and early child care educators, the B.C. government has enhanced their wages in licensed facilities by \$4 an hour, expanded early child care education spaces at public post-secondary institutions, and provided bursaries and better access to training and professional development. Government is also prioritizing immigration pathways by adding early child care educators to the B.C. Provincial Nominee Program to help bring more trained early child care educators into child care centres faster and address the cost of living.

Supports, such as affordable housing, child care and transportation, are crucial to breaking down barriers to training and workforce participation. Government is opening doors to employment opportunities by expanding affordable child care for families, raising the minimum wage and providing better workplace protections.

Funding for the new child care centre is part of StrongerBC’s Future Ready Plan. Future Ready is making education and training more accessible, affordable and relevant to help businesses grow and prepare British Columbians for the jobs of tomorrow.

Learn More:

Learn more about the steps B.C. is taking to deliver quality and affordable child care to more families:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/caring-for-youngchildren/child-care-strategy>

Learn more about supports, training and professional development opportunities for child care and early learning professionals: www.gov.bc.ca/childcare/ecestrategy

Two backgrounders follow.

Contact:

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BACKGROUND 1

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What people are saying about the upcoming Centre for Childhood Studies

Shaun McGrath, Capilano University alumnus and current child care user –

“As a full-time student, knowing my son was happy and well cared for by quality child care educators and only one minute away on campus was absolutely priceless. We felt truly blessed to get a spot for him at the Capilano University Children’s Centre. I am thrilled the new centre for childhood studies means so many more students will be able to benefit by having access to high-quality child care on campus.”

Susie Chant, MLA for North Vancouver-Seymour –

“I was an active and engaged parent of both my own and my foster children. As such, I know how important it is that parents and children have solid and reliable support throughout the pre- and school-age years. This support enhances their capacity to achieve their full potential. Additionally, the importance of well-trained and committed early childhood educators cannot be overstated as a critical part of our society. That’s why centres like this new one underway at Capilano University are so important. They help provide stability and a safe place for parents, students and kids to grow, learn and thrive, in child care, or as early childhood educators.”

Bowinn Ma, MLA for North Vancouver-Lonsdale –

“Access to affordable, high-quality child care is one of the most common challenges faced by young families in North Vancouver. Capilano University’s new state-of-the-art centre for childhood studies will not only double child care spaces available on campus, but also help increase the number of early childhood educators who can support other child care facilities throughout our communities.”

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BACKGROUND 2

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Facts about the centre for childhood studies

The new centre for childhood studies will include:

- A 74-space child care centre (24 spaces under 36 months; 50 spaces 30 months to school age) on the ground floor.
- Purpose-built classrooms, student study space and administrative space on the second floor for the early childhood care and education diploma, bachelor and post-baccalaureate programs.

The current 69-space Capilano University Children's Centre (24 spaces under 36 months; 45 spaces 30 months to school age) is a not-for-profit child care facility run by the university and licensed by Vancouver Coastal Health under Community Care Licensing.

- The current facility opened in 1973 and will remain in operation when the new centre for childhood studies opens.

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