

Transcript
Virtual Childcare BC Information Session
December 1 2021
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

00:00:51.514 --> 00:00:58.261

>> Hello, everybody, thank you so much for joining us this evening, for our discussion on childcare BC plan going forward over the next number of years, and we've been looking very much forward to joining you tonight and having a discussion about where we're at with the child care BC plan, and where we're going together.

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And thanks very much for everybody who joined tonight.

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Wanted to let you know a lot of interest in the evening tonight, and participation of folks, joining tonight expanse both early years and child care sectors and over 500 child care providers registered. And several represents from First Nations and several labour organization and is over 100 participants representing our school districts and very pleased to be hosting the webinar this evening.

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My name is Shannon Renault.

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And I'm the executive director of the stakeholder engagement branch of the child care division of ministry children and family development.

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And this conversation is something I think we will all enjoy this evening.

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And I wanted to take a moment to thank our ASL interpreters today.

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From the -- Deaf and hard of hearing centre.

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And thank you very much for joining us tonight as well.

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And I would like to let everybody know our session this evening will be recorded.

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And a recording and transcript of our session will be available in the coming days on the childcare BC website.

00:02:19.913 --> 00:02:21.812

So...

00:02:21.812 --> 00:02:23.412

>> Hello.

00:02:23.412 --> 00:02:25.315

>> Hello.

00:02:25.315 --> 00:02:27.462
Is that Audrey joining

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>> Yes it is.

00:02:35.812 --> 00:02:36.862
>> Wonderful, I was just about to introduce you, so glad you could get through by telephone.

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>> I don't know what happened.

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>> I know.

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To start us off in a good way.

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We have Audrey Lundquist joining us, Audrey is a Hereditary Chief of the Gitxsan Nation, and of the Fireweed Clan from northern BC. She is a wife and a mother of 4 and a grandmother of 3

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And this evening there was some technical difficult in getting her to join us by video, but so pleased she was able to join us by telephone, and Audrey, could you please go ahead and open up our session this evening in a good way?

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>> Yes, it's just wonderful --

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am I muted?

00:03:21.514 --> 00:03:26.866
>> Shannon: No you are just fine Audrey.

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>> It's wonderful to be asked to be part of this incredible project you are working on.

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And I'm very happy to be welcoming you to this project, and look forward to the learning that is going to happen.

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And it's such an important time given COVID that, you know, we have some semblance of working together for a cause for children.

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Because it's so unsettling for the children what is going on.

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And if we just keep things as normal as can be.

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And still be innovative and supportive, I think we can do this.

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And I am calling from the Lekwungen people territory and grateful to be here and welcoming you all to this wonderful project.

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Thank you.

00:05:09.163 --> 00:05:27.112

>> Shannon: Thank you very much Audrey, and appreciate you joining us and welcoming and opening the evening tonight, and so many of us on the line this evening, and we have participants across the province and larger and urban centre and is smaller remote communities and I would like to just perhaps pause in our opening session, and acknowledge that we each carry out of work on the territories of the First Nations communities all around the province, each area with it's unique culture and lang

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And so I would like to just invite you to please just take a moment consider the territory from which you are joining this evening, and what the connection to that territory means to you, and just pause for about 20 seconds or so, and give a moment to think about that.

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>> Shannon: Thank you, everyone for pausing and just giving space to acknowledge the territories across BC and the privilege that we have being here.

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And now, I'd like to turn it over, and introduce a couple other special quests this evening.

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Two special guests joining tonight, Katrina Chen minister for state for child care, and Jennifer Whiteside minister of education.

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And just telling you a little bit about them.

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Katrina Chen was elected as the MLA for Burnaby Lougheed and reelected again in 2020.

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Prior to her election, she served as trustee on the Burnaby board of education and worked in provincial and federal constituency offices for over 10 years.

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Katrina is a mother of a young son and understand that high quality affordable child care gives a child a strong foundation for the future and keeps our economy, and communities moving by giving our parents the option to return to work, and go to school and pursue other opportunities

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>> Jennifer Whiteside was the MLA for New Westminster in 2020.

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And before that a chief spokesperson lead negotiator for the hospital employees union, and fought for better public health workers, Jennifer has worked for community organization and is labour unions, and provincial and national level in those roles had a champ beyond a wide range of social justice issues, from affordable public child care medicare, and health equity, and so I'm pleased to have both ministers this evening.

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And like to hand it over to minister Chen to begin with.

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Thank you

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>> Chen: Thank you so much, and I want to take the opportunity to thank Audrey, for doing the traditional welcome, and really honoured to be here, joining you on the unceded TRA -- traditional territory of the Coast Salish people.

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And see I'm in my 7 year old son's room.

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And see how kids warm hearts, as you know, passionate about the work with young children, kids are really the best.

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And coming together with all your important contributions and all professionals with early learning care in BC.

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And also know this has been such a challenging time for all of us, and some of you may have been affected by flooding and heavy rain in the last few weeks, and please know we're thinking of you during the challenging times, and so grateful on behalf of minister Whiteside and I.

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We're so grateful for the collaborative work of child care providers early childhood educator and is community organization and First Nations and school districts and everyone serving families during the pandemic and now through the extreme weather events.

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Your work is really critical to our community.

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Thank you.

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And today's webinar is an engagement through the years, and our goal tonight is really to learn from you, and discuss the progress, to share some updates, and learn how we can work together with child care provider and is families through the process.

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I'm so glad there are hundreds of you, joining this webinar.

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And excited to be here with you all.

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As a single parent and working mom, and immigrant family, can not tell you how grateful I am for child care professionals who are in my life, supporting me and my son with child care needs, and sure many of you here today can relate, trying best to balance your work life, family, and parenting, and obligations and life can be chaotic at times, and a lot of times, for me it's quite chaotic, trying to balance everything all together, but that is why child care is so critical to the well-being of f

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Especially during our economic recovery through the pandemic and very challenging time, and I remember when I first started this work in 2017 I kept asking, how come the government never put child care as top priority, very little investment and the system was so broken and far too long, parents struggled with child care, and the child care community, and childhood educators struggled with lack of support, since then we have been working together to change that.

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Since 2018 we have worked together to roll out had new initiatives, provincial with 2.3 billion dollars, and the federal government 3 billion to build a new social program, make child care inclusive high quality, and accessible and affordable for all families, and this is historic.

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Largest social policy shift in BC seen in decades and we know we can not do this without all the dedicated professionals like you here tonight, and that's why it's critical we need your input to build the new social program and need the input from all types of providers, public, family, din Indigenous, nonprofit, for profit, all providers in the child care sector, and thanks to your advocacy we made a lot of progress, to bring 10's of 1 thousand's on families more affordable child care, \$10 a d

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And fee re-Dukes program, that's joined 93% of licensed providers.

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And national child care plan.

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And we have to support early childhood educators because we can not build the new system without them, without you.. and increasing wage enhancement, \$1 an hour, and going to -- train more people, and continue to use the bursary program, and we know there is much, much more work to do and also need to fund and build spaces because it takes time to build space and is continue to look at other strategies such as potential wage group program and other measures to help early childhood educators stay

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And this year, we passed new legislation, to ensure government continues to be commit Todd child care and our investment can not be taken away easily, and so the early learning and child care act and the early childhood educator act that is stand alone act, focused on early childhood educators will really help to strengthen and build the foundation for new social program even more. And will be based on consultation, and impact, and Indigenous communities and First Nations and families and child

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And know we have been all super busy, but know there is more work to do.

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SXSH we rely on your experience, and know people work not guilty early learning child care like you put your hearts and souls into this work.

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And we want to let you know how much we respect and value the work you do.

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And that's why we are here today.

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Because government doesn't have all the answers, we need to learn from you to fix the fragment system together and that is why I'm so honoured working closely with minister Whiteside in education who is also a passionate child care advocate as we plan to connect the services between child care school age K-12.

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Because a child is a child regardless of their age, and need to connect the services for children and families, and work with professionals like you, and have a better more coordinated system, and also with all providers to address the diverse needs of this province.

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And that's why we have dedicated session over the coming months to do deeper dive discussion explore the topics with you.

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And this is only the beginning, you have the front line experience, to inform and develop our policy, and really want to thank you for taking your time and share your experience with us, and most importantly, thank you for helping children and families thrive for generations to come.

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This will be a new social program that we're all making history here together, and with that it's my pleasure to SPRO introduce many minister of education, minister Whiteside.

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Thank you.

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Well, thank you. Thank you very much, Minister Chen. Good evening, everyone. My name is Jennifer Whiteside. I'm the MLA for New Westminster and BC Minister of Education. And I'm joining you tonight from the traditional territory

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And I also want to really extend my thanks and gratitude to our teams inside inside the ministries who have launched this and importantly to all of you tonight across the childcare

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providers sector, the advocate sector. Lots of folks on tonight from school districts. We are very grateful that you are taking time tonight, join us to talk about our shared vision for childcare and Vc as we launched this really important engagement, about building this program.

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And I wanted to say, of course tonight thinking about all our folks in school districts affected by the flooding and by the state of emergency we're in and thinking about the families and kids displaced from communities and kids displaced from schools, and the incredible work being done by school districts to make sure we have eyes on our kid and is find places for kids displaced from communities, and these are very challenging times and really within the incredible strength and resilience of

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And I know you are anxious to get to the questions and don't want to take up too much time.

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Just want to share a couple thoughts.

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Just about how exciting in the role, to help participate in building import work, and parents have access to quality inclusive child care, going to work, or school, knowing their kids are getting absolutely the best possible start in life.

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And we're here tonight to talk about the commitment our government has to integrating the child care early learning program into the ministry of education, and that is such an incredible opportunity, because we know that creating a close connection between child care with early learning will help us even build child care spaces even faster and allow us to create a more seamless transition for kids.

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And we know, that child care delivers important early learning opportunities especially for kids who are most in need.

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We also know in education, that families need more before and after school care.

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And that's one area in particular where we can really use the breadth and the structure of the K-12 system to support the evolution of our child care program.

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And I think we're seeing the strong connections to work child care and saw that through co-ordinated and child care resource referral services to work to keep child care open during COVID during the early days of the pandemic which was so key for keeping our essential services going in the early days of the pandemic close connections between child care and everybody working together to keep us through the emergency, and no question we're stronger together.

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And excited to be part of this work -- and which has been led so incredibly by minister Chen over the last 4 years and supported so incredibly by all of you, out in the field looking forward to working with all of you and working with partners to bring affordable child care to families in our province, and of course the work has well under way and the quality early learning and child care make a real difference.

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On a successful path.

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And each of us here tonight is part of the work to give more BC families the quality inclusive affordable child care they need.

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And deserve.

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And this is such important work, as minister Chen already said.

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Our government is building the first new social program for families in a whole generation.

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And we can't do it without you.

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And we'll continue to work with all of you and hear your perspectives and visions and how to best support the whole sector and BC families, and really want to thank you all for the all the work you do each and every day, teaching and caring for our children, and you have to know your efforts make such a real difference in lives of kids families, and entire communities and enjoy this evening, first of many opportunities to engage on this and build together this very important program, and again,

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>> Shannon: Wonderful, thank you.

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Thank you ministers Chen and Whiteside.

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We appreciate the welcome.

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Okay.

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Now to get started I thought it would be good for everybody to see the agenda, and cover -- we already covered the first part of it, session opening and of course the welcomes and I'll go over a little bit more of the objectives for the session, and then we'll move right into the setting the context for our discussion with some introductory comments on the context from our ADM's, assistant deputy ministers, and education of ministry of children and family development, and talk about topics of in

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important for us to address as we move forward, in the BC plan, and we're going to have a Q&A panel.

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And thank you very much for the questions that have been sent in ahead of time with the registration there was many, many questions that were asked.

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And so we'll certainly go through that.

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And then we'll end off by confirming the next steps for our work together over the next couple of months.

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I think we'll move to the next slide.

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And advance forward just a little bit.

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I wanted to let you know about our objective er evening, just on the next slide, if you don't mind.

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And so for our objectives this evening, we're going to be working together over the next few months, and with a we're wanting to do of course is build this evening, help to build a shared understanding of early learning and child care on a few different areas.

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Really talking about the future that we're working towards and how to build that together and areas we need help as the ministers were saying in developing our policy and is programs going forward.

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And where your feedback, and expertise in the field will be most helpful in that regard.

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And also, need to find out from you, what you need to be part of moving forward in the child BC care plan in the future.

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And raise awareness of on going opportunities for further discussion. And talking about how the sessions will progress going forward, and I'm going to pause right there, this evening as mentioned just earlier, is really just the opening of the discussion.

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And so whilst we'll go through information this evening, and provide a sketch of how we can participate in the discussion going forward, do want you to know there is other opportunities for participating as well.

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And for example, we'll be launching online feedback--

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child care BC website, that will stay active right up to mid February or so.

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And that online feedback tool will be focused on the 5 themes that we're going to discuss in just a moment on our agenda.

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And it's -- the foromat of that online feedback is open-ended questions, and really providing you opportunities to provide your thoughts on different areas of consideration, as we evolve child care BC system in the province.

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And this can be completed at any time.

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Right up until February, can you come to it and back to it, as often the case in a feedback session, and also holding virtual workshops on each one of these topic areas as well.

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And we'll introduce the topics tonight and have virtual discussion sessions on them, right after Christmas.

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Not right away quick, but start thinking about the sessions you want to participate in and sessions?

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January, February, and into March. And also want you to know the questions and discussions points in online sessions starting in the new year are exactly the same questions that will be presented in the feedback form, and so an opportunity for you to participate in whatever way works best for you.

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And so as we move into the next part of our agenda, I did want to thank participants for the large number -- actually -- of questions, and that we received ahead of time, thoughtful questions, as you recall, there is an opportunity to send us questions as you registered for the evening, and thank you very much for doing that. And certainly going to make every effort to answer as much as we can tonight, and we are doing that by rolling them up into themes.

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And asking as many questions as we can.

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And there will also be space for you to ask questions in a close out survey at the end of the webinar this evening, so if you are participating in the survey -- or participating in the webinar, you get an invitation, for a survey at the end, and can submit any questions that may have arisen for you as a result of participating in this.

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And we're going to pool the questions we received.

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And over the course of the coming days we'll share out the responses to the additional questions as well on the child care BC site.

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And so first off I would like to introduce you to Kevena Hall, the assistant deputy minister and childcare DWIEGS ministry of children and family development, Kevena please

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>> Kevena: Can I ask you to advance the slides.

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Thank you so much.

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It's such a delight to be here with everybody today, and thank you Shannon for the introduction, and minister Whiteside for the remarks and Audrey for the welcome.

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And reminding us that working together is really the key to supporting our children.

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And privileged to be joining from the traditional territory of the Lekwungen people, and delighted to hear such a diverse group of folks joining us tonight, representing, childcare and education, and Indigenous governing bodies and communities all coming together, and it's such a remarkable time.

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And share a little bit of personal information, and this is the first year anniversary of me being in the role, and just reflected on that this morning, and what a great way to celebrate a year of supporting this portfolio.

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In 2018BC LAFRJD his tenure plan for childcare, and learned a lot in the 4 year childcare BC plan, as we embark on the next 5 years of the plan, we felt it was really important to bring everybody together to pause reflect and share learnings and share vision for the next handful of years, what we know is that childcare and early learning must be accessible, must be affordable, and must be free of racism, and discrimination.

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Following today's webinar, and over the coming months our goal is to hear and learn from you, and work together to shape the future of childcare and early learning in BC.

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Danielle, can you advance the next slide, please?

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We wanted to share our vision, and as you can see from the slide, our vision is pretty simple actually.

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We want it to be accessible to every child, and know that early learning and child care is the very best start for our children in BC, we know that it's delivered by high quality professionals and that we need to support our educators in delivering early care and learning.

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We know it needs to be affordable.

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And available and reliable, and it needs to be responsive and resilient and accessible and inclusive.

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Your collective feedback in the coming months to help inform how we make the vision reality.

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For some examples of how that might look is how do we improve cultural safety and inclusion practice as we move forward, how do we work together to create greater synergies between childcare education and community, and how do we support our educated professionals that deliver childcare and early learning, what we really look forward to tonight as Shannon has mentioned at the start, really beginning of information session and the following months an opportunity where we look forward to learning

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Thank you.

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>> Shannon: Thank you, Kevena.

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And please do advance to the next slide and introduce Jennifer McCrea who is the assistant deputy minister for early learning

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>> Jennifer: Thank you, Shannon, thank you all, there is 913 of us coming together in circle at the same time. And as I'm reflecting on the opportunity that is before us, and responsibility I am also grounded in the territory that I have been born and raised and live today of the Lekwungen and Esquimalt First Nations and west Saanich people who land I'm reminded to tread lightly.

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And we think about the work ahead, and experience around really working to come together, as Audrey reminds us, bring forward a young person in your world.

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Think about the young person tonight and the coming months, many, of you on the call work with children every day inside and out, and --

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eternally grateful.

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We need to work together with child care and early learning in the province, and we absolutely must ensure all our spaces are welcoming, and children are supported and loved.

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It's culturally safe and they can show up at their true authentic selves and as we go through the topics tonight I'll encourage you to think about the role in that. And how we build the system of supports.

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And how we really think about the demand out there, and the struggles that communities are having.

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We heard about some with COVID and with the flooding, and when families need support the most, the first thing they look to is support for their kids, and I just hold that in the highest regard as we walk through the 5 topics tonight.

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Thank you.

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>> Thanks very much.

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And as we move into our discussion I wanted to just acknowledge that we have a number of subject matter experts that will be leading the 5 topics of discussion, and I'll introduce each as we go through.

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And as you are listening this evening, to the themes brought forward and specific topics and also remind you as participants the virtual workshops in the new year, and survey coming out tomorrow for the online feedback, will provide space for specific feedback that you have on each one of these topics.

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And so without further delay, can I please introduce Angie Calleberg and Angie will be talking about working together to deliver child care and early learning, Angie

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>> Thank you, Shannon, and hello everyone.

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I'm so happy to talk to you this evening about working together to deliver child care and early learning.

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I wanted to start by saying that there is a place for everyone who wants to be part of delivering child care and early learning in BC.

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And it's so important for us all to continue to work together to provide inclusive affordable and accessible child care and early learning structure for children.

00:35:41.362 --> 00:35:54.263
Right now we're in a time of transition.

00:35:54.263 --> 00:36:02.065
We currently have varying levels of integration between early learning and child care, and we have a system delivered by a variety of providers across the regions.

00:36:02.065 --> 00:36:08.762
Accountability for child care is currently spread across several ministries.

00:36:08.762 --> 00:36:27.812
And this has proven difficult for us building a cohesive system for family and providers.

00:36:27.812 --> 00:36:34.264
When child care can transition into the ministry of education, and provide us a critical link between early learning and education success, and so pleased to tell you about regional offices that will become a new point of support for child care provider and its partners that responsive to local needs and local level.

00:36:34.264 --> 00:36:46.314
I know some of you are wondering about the change, and will have questions how it will affect you.

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And I think it's important to start by emphasizing that with this shift to education, it does not mean that government is taking over child care from existing child care providers.

00:36:51.863 --> 00:36:56.313
We will continue to need every kind of provider.

00:36:56.313 --> 00:37:03.062
Indigenous, nonprofit, private family, public all of us.

00:37:03.062 --> 00:37:09.512
Providers will continue to work with government and know you need and want processes with government to be simplified.

00:37:09.512 --> 00:37:41.564
School boards continue to be supported and providing child care services and early learning programs as well.

00:37:41.564 --> 00:37:50.715
And child care and early learning, have always been linked and this transition of the responsibility to the ministry of education it seems to make good sense in being able to really strengthen that link, providers will not be governed by school board and is won't be responsible for delivering provincial curriculum within the transition, and school

districts will not be provided to childcare programs either, and no current programs are being replaced.

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Neither the ministry or school districts will have injuries Dirks over any early learning on child care on reserve.

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And thinking about these things likely thinking what is next for us, one of the key things we hope to learn in our engagement sessions with you is how we better work together.

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We want your thoughts on how all of us can collaborate to increase access and improve the delivery of child care, and major change in the plan, is open new regional offices that will be a main point of contact for communities child care resources referrals will continue to remain an

00:39:03.162 --> 00:39:07.462

There will be six new early learning and childcare regional centers to support childcare providers, support community organizations for its nation's school districts and government.

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I want to note that this will not be an additional layer of authority, but instead part of child care and early learning within the Ministry of Education.

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These offices will help us understand the opportunities and the challenges of delivering services in each region and in turn supported tailored approach that recognizes where the local needs are indigenous leadership and indigenous right hole right holders will separately determine a distinctions based approach to early learning and childcare, we. will be guided by Indigenous people to determine where and if government has a role within their approach.

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We envision the regional office as critical to enabling supporting school boards to either provide child care and early learning services directly or to be a partner with nonprofit providers and deliver services on school grounds and nicely aligned with changes to school act that recognize school board as operators for child care, and really about a flexible approach.

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Some of you have asked how for profit and family and multiage child care can be supported.

00:40:20.562 --> 00:40:25.514

And under this new structure, and want you to hear that we remain committed to ensuring there's room in the new system for existing child care professionals.

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The provinces going to be focused on expanding public and nonprofit childcare sector, but it will continue to be inclusive of all childcare providers.

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So as we think about these new regional centers, really what we would like to know from you is how we can use these centers to better respond to local needs and support families and getting the services they need across the province.

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This is speaking to and including supporting first nation and is rural community and is school district and is child care providers, ultimately we want to work together to ensure the new regional approach is successful and look forward to collaborating with you to make this so.

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Thank you.

00:41:01.162 --> 00:41:02.863

>> Shannon wonderful thank you so much.

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A lot packed in there.

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And I'm sure giving participants something to think about and now would like to welcome Aleksandra Stevanovic.

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And Aleksandra is our executive director I should say of child care policy.

00:41:28.912 --> 00:41:29.062

And Aleksandra is going to speak about making child care culturally safe and inclusive of all children.

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Aleksandra

00:41:45.065 --> 00:41:48.112

>> Aleksandra: Thank you Shannon, and good evening everyone, I'm honoured to be here talking about inclusion, I'm sure we all share the same vision, we have a vision of inclusive child care spaces where all children feel welcome and supported.

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We want children of all abilities to feel included.

00:42:20.264 --> 00:42:31.112

We want children of all backgrounds to feel welcome and in particular we want child care that is culturally safe and for Indigenous children and families we know we are not there yet, we made significant progress over

the last 4 years since we launched the child care BC plan, but despite the progress, the investments, have not benefitted all children and families equally.

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We all heard too many times of child with disabilities denied the child care, wasn't adequately supported.

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We know that parents of children with support needs

00:42:37.262 --> 00:42:45.263

face extra difficulty finding and securing childcare and early learning opportunities for their children.

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I would like to take this time to recognize and send a big thank you to all early learning and childcare professionals, and all the support a child development workers and their indigenous counterparts

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Who work tirelessly to have most vulnerable children feel inclusive and supported in child care settings and we know there are waitlists and service pressures that exist to get the one on one support despite significant increase in funding investments and we heard about child care professionals not being adequately supported and not having adequate resources to make child care spaces more inclusive.

00:43:31.162 --> 00:43:32.661

inclusive also means addressing discriminatory beliefs and attitudes that make childcare and early learning settings, unsafe and inaccessible.

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For many children and families.

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We have a long way to go for child care culturally safe for first nation and is Metis, and Inuit families.

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We want to work with First Nations Metis, and Inuit families,

00:43:55.463 --> 00:43:59.262

indigenous governing bodies in organizations that will design and develop childcare responsive to the needs of their communities.

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We would also like to talk about inclusion, to ensure the childcare is made accessible to children and families of all cultural backgrounds,

00:44:26.963 --> 00:44:30.713

families from many different cultural backgrounds struggle to find child care that is perhaps in the language they use at home or reflect their culture

00:44:30.713 --> 00:44:32.215

o traditions and family needs. access needs to be improved for black families and people of color.

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We have a lot to do and lots of work to do to reflect the needs of racialized communities, and identify and remove institutional racism from our programs, forms and policies.

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we also need to listen more in order to support reflect and respect all types of gender identities in early learning child care settings.

00:44:59.813 --> 00:45:17.714

some families don't always feel safe, accessing services, and they don't always find providers, willing and able to deliver care in a way that respects their identities, and the identities of their children.

00:45:17.714 --> 00:45:28.962

So what's next for us? We need to continue providing our one on one support where needed for children read support needs. But what we do believe is that we also need to build capacity across the entire sector to truly provide inclusive child care.

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In fact we do believe that key to better supporting quality child care, and enhance capacity building within the sector itself.

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To make inclusive of all families.

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It's going to take time and going to take lots of work, and we will all need to be part of it.

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Both government, child care providers, and child care professionals.

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In our work, and in our future session, we would like to hear from you about the ways to enhance the capacity across the sector.

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We would like to hear about your best practices, and learn from your experiences and explore ways to better support child care providers, so they have skills and capacity to provide inclusive child care.

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And, we would like to hear from you how to prepare those relationships and build trust with children and families who have been hurt by discriminatory practices and experiences.

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Thank you.

00:46:46.413 --> 00:47:11.516

>> For our third topic I would like to invite Anne Wetherill, to discuss funding child care as core service that families can rely on.

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>> Anne is the executive director -- sorry, Anne is our executive director of our operational and funding program within the child care division which means that all of the current programs that are funding the operations of child cares right now are under Anne's responsibility.

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And with that, Anne can you talk about funding as a core service.

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>> Thank you, hello, everyone, had the pleasure of connecting with many of you over the years, and really honour to be here.

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And I'm here to as Shannon said, this evening, speak about plans earnings in the next steps.

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So moving back.

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Since 2018.

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Child care BC plan, a ton of work has been made towards increasing affordability for the family.

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And most of you have lived this introduction of the child care fee reduction, and affordable child care indefinite, and prototypes, and for education, and with early childhood educator wage enhance.

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And so it's been a busy few years and then we brought it in. We didn't but adding in COVID. And so there's been a lot of work and a lot of

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connections and I wanted to start by acknowledging your commitment, especially to working with us and with our teams for reaching out to share how we can improve and reduce overlaps

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because we know that they exist, and helping to get the word out to families and for maximizing support to parents to ensure they get the funding and so

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For all of this, and our teams, my sincere thanks, and with the programs, and through the commitment, it's great, each month, families in over 3500 facilities receive a fee reduction, and 25 penalties received a child care benefit over 50 facilities serving over 2400 families receive \$10 a day, and day care, and doubled to 2, and now \$4 an hour.

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And so a lot of work happened and the work at any times, and looking forward as we build an affordable child care funding structure and ensure child care is available for every family that wants when they need it.

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The goal is to funding to be stable and reliable for both parents and providers and so collectively here is what we know and heard so far.

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3 years n we heard from you child care providers and professionals at the current array, operational funding programs are

00:50:04.664 --> 00:50:07.762

complex. to navigate, and can be an administrative burden. And we recognized in are aware that healthcare providers would benefit from a more

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unified approach as with parents to operational funding that is easier to understand, easier to access And we know that that child care providers need consistent appropriate funding levels

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that reflect the cost of high quality child care and early learning programs and recognizing of course that BC is diverse, and the funding levels may be different for different types of providers in different regions.

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We have learned both within BC, and based on experiences in other jurisdictions the vast majority.

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Roughly 80% of operating expenses for child care link to wages and benefit of educators and remaining 20% support program and material cost, and insurance, and maintenance, rent or lease cost, and learning professionals are well-compensated is a key element of the future funding model.

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And as I think you heard.

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Certainly will take time to move to unified approach for funding.

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And \$4 wage enhancement is part of the commitment to improve composition, we know parents in every community across BC need to rely on childcare and early learning being available and affordable.

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So what's next?

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The next step on the approach for how we fund child care and early learning is through engagement and working together, we would like to hear from all of you about how to help with this new funding approach, this including working with Indigenous rights holders how we fund delivery of distinction based care for first nation and is Metis, and Indigenous families, and as we mentioned we like the discussions to start with you in January.

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There is a number of areas specific to this theme that we would like to explore through these engagements, we want to hear from us, and child care providers and partners, regarding how best to address regional and community needs within a new funding approach.

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What funding supports or resources are needed to make child care culturally safe for Indigenous, and a family and families And what is needed to support children with disabilities and other support needs. of course how to address varying needs for different kinds of care in the province.

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This what we learned through this series of engagement sessions with you that will help us plan around the real financial costs of providing childcare and early learning and to build those costs into our new approach to funding this important work.

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>> Shannon: Thank you, Anne.

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Okay, for our 4th topic, I'm going to invite Aleksandra Stevanovic to come back and join us again.

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Hello again.

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This time I will be talking about Supporting the Professionals that Support Families.

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early childhood educators are the workforce behind the workforce, and the ongoing pandemic has only reinforced how critical they are to the overall economy.

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And even more important is the significance of early childhood educators in relation to social and emotional development of our children.

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Early childhood educators spend more time in a day with our children than the working parents.

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Research is clear that young children, the brain is developing at a really rapid pace and that's a really important part of their lives.

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And so we know that parents place their trust in early learning and child care staff to help their youngest children get the best start in life.

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I'm sure many parents, and myself included still remember the first day when they left their baby or infant or toddler in the care of an early childhood educator and often a stressful situation for all.

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For the parent, child, and educator, think how less stressful it would be for a parent, that educator is skilled and well supported to take care of our youngest children.

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So supporting these professionals is critical to the future success of child care in BC.

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We know recruitment and retention is one of the largest issues we currently face.

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We know that even for the registration for this session, When you asked so many questions about recruitment and retention.

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Since 2017 we have implemented a number of initiatives to support education and professional opportunities for early childhood educators and it's been a concerted effort for a number of years, and that work will continue until our vision of future success of child care is realized.

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I While I'm pleased to confirm the number of certified ECEs in British Columbia is increasing -

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thanks to a growth in post-secondary seats and an enhanced bursary program, as Wage enhancement.

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We know there remains a short supply of ECEs and a high rate of turnover.

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We have also learned that recruitment is important and so is retention.

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It's as much an issue of recruitment, and wage and benefits is one of the critical factors in increasing number of early childhood educator.

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As new child care spaces cannot open without a qualified workforce and correct teacher to child ratios.

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Many more professionals are needed to support the future system.

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So what we would like to do next is to consult with the early childhood sectors more broadly when it comes to implementation of compensation.

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We know in January, has spoken about earlier -- about funding child care as a core service, one of the most important component of core service is actual

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actually compensation of early childhood educators. It's a big part of childcare costs.

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And we also know that we would like to update the Early Childhood Educator recruitment and retention strategy, looking what they've done so far and what else needs to happen in order to better support and increase the number of early childhood educators.

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So we would like your input on recruitment and retention more broadly in the coming months. Some of you may think we've talked about this so many times, but we would like to have this whole some conversation and be able to look deeper into what else needs to be done to make early childhood educator positions more attractive.

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And early childhood education attractive as a career, what compensation would be appropriate.

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And how can we enable early childhood educators to offer the best start for all children, and ages and backgrounds and abilities and how can we better support the on going professional development, and in general, what will it take for early childhood educators to be satisfied in the field and provide them with long lasting careers.

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We would really like in the up coming recruitment and retention conversation to hear from you, and ensure that we have captured full picture.

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Thank you.

00:58:57.962 --> 00:58:59.112

>> Shannon: Thank you.

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Aleks.

00:59:18.663 --> 00:59:35.812

And last but certainly not least I would like to introduce Jonathan Barry, the executive Director of our child care capital community and early childhood educators registry services that is a long title.

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Essentially the areas in his branch include the EC registry, which seems the most obvious, and new spaces programs and maintains fund programs, and working with our child care resource referral centres.

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And John happy to have you please talk about creating more child care spaces

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>> Thanks very much Shannon and hi everyone, honoured to be here tonight. And I'm pleased to cover the topic of creating more childcare spaces.

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I want to start by recognizing that with enhanced support from the province and the tremendous efforts made by the sector. that together we've made great progress towards expanding access early learning and childcare since the childcare BC plan

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was released in 2018. We've also been able to help many childcare operators make quality improvements to their facilities and support them to expand operations as part of a comprehensive vision to maintain and improve access for children and families.

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Families continue to share their stories about need for more spaces. And in particularly spaces located they need the most, school and homes and neighborhood settings and community and multiservice centres and Indigenous communities, and where the facilities and program is committed to supporting and improving the health and well-being of the community over the long term.

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And it's based on this critical need that the province is committed to creating spaces for every family that once or needs it.

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Before I talk a little bit more about what comes next and where we go from here, I want to take a moment to recognize all the childcare providers and their community partners here with us this evening and across BC.

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Despite all the pressures and challenges, like the on going need to recruit and retain qualified staff, and the changing and growing needs of families and communities and broader economic environment and health related events that impacted us over the last 2 years, and continue to this day and even keeping up as Anne mentioned growing number of child care programs and initiative launched by the ministry, you responded to prance and commitments in 2018 stepping forward creating 26,000 new license

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and commitment And so I want to thank you for that.

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In the midst of this important and ongoing work many parents are still searching for childcare that will meet their needs. As you know many parents are still forced with their children on waitlist before they're even born.

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And even when care is available, it may not be the kind of care that will meet their needs. Its want choices, whether that is a public or private facility.

01:02:22.012 --> 01:02:27.012

home based or small or large group facilities families want quality environments and qualify programs for their kids.

01:02:27.012 --> 01:02:37.313

They don't necessarily want to take the first spot they find, because they no, I don't they won't find thinking.

01:02:37.313 --> 01:02:52.613

And we know that shift workers and other families need flexible care during weekends and evenings are struggling to find the support they need.

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In this context we know we need to make sustained and management progress, to improve the accessibility of child care and ensure services are culturally safe and inclusive for everyone.

01:02:56.912 --> 01:03:47.163

while also working to ensure facilities are stable, reliable and invested in their communities so that parents can go to work, they can go to school and plan ahead for the future.

01:03:47.163 --> 01:03:51.263

If we're going to achieve the provinces vision of child care it needs to be available for every family in BC who wants or needs it.

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As I mentioned previously, in the last few years, we've been focused on broad growth within the sector. And together we've been successful. But as we move forward, we want to look for opportunities to leverage planned and existing public infrastructure. our focus for this next phase

01:03:55.163 --> 01:04:01.113

of space creation funding will be on public and not for profit sectors as well as indigenous communities. This is an alignment with requirements for federal funding through the Canada Wide early learning and childcare agreement, as well as our accountabilities to ensure that public dollars are used to create public assets and approach that also aligns with almost all other Canadian provinces.

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However, this does not diminish the valuable role that private and home based childcare providers play in providing care. private operators remain critical to delivering childcare and BC and we will continue to offer childcare providers access to operational funding and other programs supports

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to help offset the costs and reduce parent fees.

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This means no one in the sector is going to be left behind, and also continue to provide start up grants and help open home base facilities.

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as we know these programs are valued by families. So when the engagement planned over the next few months, we'd like to talk with you about a few questions,

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Including how do we ensure we're building new spaces in neighborhoods and communities that need the most, and how can we be proactive, in supporting needs and organizations across the various regions. And how can the province work with school districts and local governments to help meet demand for child care, including before and after school care, and how to ensure the spaces are affordable accessible and high quality, and perhaps, are there new design standards we need to introduce, expand

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These are the questions around space creation that need your collective input.

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And we're looking forward to discuss these with you in the coming weeks and month and appreciate our time this evening, and thank you and turn it back to our moderator Shannon Renault

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>> Shannon: Thank you John.

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And thank you all our subject matter experts as we call them.

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As they introduce each one of these important topics.

01:05:59.963 --> 01:06:30.367

And now I would like us to be able to move into our questions and answers with the panel, and I'm actually going to invite all of the folks that you just visited with, Aleks and Anne, and Jon and Angie.

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And going to invite them back to a panel, and start through some of the questions and like to thank all the participants for the many thoughtful questions submitted during the registration process, as mentioned earlier, we did receive a number of questions, and able to group those together and endeavor to answer as many questions as possible this evening, and focusing on ones that were -- seemed to bubble to the surface the most even as the questions that were submitted.

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And also like to remind you that we'll post responses to the questions in the coming days on the child care BC website, as well to the questions you may put into the survey at the end of the session.

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And I'll try to get the lightbulb out of your face.

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And just moving ahead.

01:06:55.464 --> 01:06:58.814

Can I see if all the panelists are up here?

01:06:58.814 --> 01:07:05.015

Everybody is up here on the screen, are they?

01:07:05.015 --> 01:07:06.864

Just looking for confirmation, and everybody is not on my screen, and want to make sure that everybody else can see

01:07:06.864 --> 01:07:07.315

>> You're good Shannon.

01:07:07.315 --> 01:07:10.114

Go ahead

01:07:10.114 --> 01:07:55.363
>> Shannon: Thank you, very.

01:07:55.363 --> 01:08:13.766
So to start off our discussion this evening, as I say, we have a number of different topics and I'm seeing them, and going to group the questions together to make our conversation make sense, and I'm actually going to start off first with the topic area of recruitment and retention, as Aleks was saying during the introduction of the topic, this is the area we received the most questions on, and it's the area -- this is what is so central to the expansion of child care as a core service in BC, an

01:08:13.766 --> 01:08:32.764
Aleks I'm wondering if you can maybe talk a little bit about what the plan is, and the timeline to introduce, or implement the wage grid to ECE wages and benefits can be brought up to the those of support staff, or teachers working in schools.

01:08:32.764 --> 01:08:57.964
And this is of course speaking to the fact that we know that compensation is so important as part of recruitment strategy.

01:08:57.964 --> 01:09:01.813
>> Yes, as said earlier, compensation for early care and learning professionals is really significant part of overall expenses for child care providers and it's a key element for the future funding model for child care, at this stage we have discussion about wage grid, and overall compensation.

01:09:01.813 --> 01:09:09.264
And those conversations have started and will be carefully considered.

01:09:09.264 --> 01:09:30.963
We will look to the sector more broadly when it comes to the implementation of that.

01:09:30.963 --> 01:09:39.713
In the meantime, the \$4 an hour retroactive wage enhancement announced for front line and early early child hood educators will continue as part of our on going commitment to improve wages.

01:09:39.713 --> 01:09:40.814
>> Shannon: ... I did the classic Zoom thing, didn't I of putting myself on mute and forgetting to come back.

01:09:40.814 --> 01:09:45.962
Had to happen once.

01:09:45.962 --> 01:10:23.315
Still on the theme of recruitment and retention Alex.

01:10:23.315 --> 01:10:36.415

I know that we certainly have been focusing on this, and will continue, because it's important, but I wonder if you might want to speak a little bit more about what steps are being taken to recruit, and early childhood educators and keep childhood educators in the field, so there is enough appropriately educated staff to work in our expanding childcare centres

01:10:36.415 --> 01:11:19.015

>> Since September 2018 since we launched the ECE recruitment, and retention strategy, and developed, and implemented --

01:11:19.015 --> 01:11:31.715

wage enhancement that we talked about earlier is one of them, and right now implementing a \$4 an hour increase, for early childhood educators and that brings the need an wage to abouts \$25 per hour, and we invested over 68 million, to provide that wage enhancement, and 9200ECE's, have received that enhancement, we are certainly worked, or continuing to work with the federal government as well.

01:11:31.715 --> 01:11:54.664

Because, recruitment, and retention of early childhood educators is not just BC problem, it's a problem that exists in every province and territory in Canada.

01:11:54.664 --> 01:12:04.913

And recently signed extension of our 2017 early learning and child care agreements, where additional funding were added by the federal government in close to 50 million dollars, in 2122.

01:12:04.913 --> 01:12:09.964

To support the VV early childhood educators, sector,

01:12:09.964 --> 01:12:13.313

and our recruitment and retention efforts. the as I said the government of Canada The looking looking to develop professional beta group is something that's shared with the as an interest that the province and the federal government have,

01:12:13.313 --> 01:12:23.114

and something that educators and advocates have been called for.

01:12:23.114 --> 01:12:29.714

still as I said in the presentation before, there are still challenges, and so we will continue to work on recruitment and retention.

01:12:29.714 --> 01:12:36.864

And it's one of our biggest issues when we talk about the expanse of child care in BC.

01:12:36.864 --> 01:13:14.615

And so I hope that lots of people will join that discussion, and share the insights and ideas that they may have.

01:13:14.615 --> 01:13:16.264

>> Shannon: Thank you, Alex, Jon I'm going to go to you about spaces and space creation, and we know this is closely linked to recruitment and retention of early childhood educators you can't have more space without people to work in them. And so one of the questions is why aren't we

01:13:16.264 --> 01:13:20.064

slowing down on space creation, until the education standards and wages are addressed and until we have that more, more educators in the field.

01:13:20.064 --> 01:13:23.563

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01:13:23.563 --> 01:13:26.864

>> Jon: Thank you, Shannon.

01:13:26.864 --> 01:13:38.264

I really appreciate this question.

01:13:38.264 --> 01:13:42.416

Recognize there is it fundamental interdependence, between the build new child care spaces,

01:13:42.416 --> 01:13:53.616

and having the workforce to open and operate those spaces and I think this is why, on the accessibility side of the BC child care plan. We're gonna have to try and make sustainable and manageable progress over the coming years.

01:13:53.616 --> 01:14:06.114

we want to move at a pace the sector can accommodate, and support over time.

01:14:06.114 --> 01:14:12.415

And as Aleks pointed out really well, with he have to continue to build

01:14:12.415 --> 01:14:18.715

on initiatives that will help improve recruitment and retention of early childhood educators. So including the wage enhancements, and the bursaries and grants for students, ensuring there's access to early childhood education programs across BC.

01:14:18.715 --> 01:14:22.764

and in a way that is accessible to all students that want to take it.

01:14:22.764 --> 01:14:44.966

And I think, this is a challenging question.

01:14:44.966 --> 01:14:50.913

And as everyone I think here tonight would acknowledge, there is no real single easy solution, but many of the initiatives, putting in place, are helping and where they're not, achieving those outcome, then we need your input on the changes and improvements to make sure that families get the supports that they need.

01:14:50.913 --> 01:14:57.563

And really, I think that's where the focus needs to be.

01:14:57.563 --> 01:15:03.115

In terms of how to continue to provide to make progress,

01:15:03.115 --> 01:15:15.763

benefit families. But, balancing that with the, with the realities and the needs of the sector and child care providers in particular so

01:15:15.763 --> 01:15:21.264

I know this is a challenging question, and one that we will talk about in the weeks ahead.

01:15:21.264 --> 01:15:29.563

>> I'm going to go to Alex, actually,

01:15:29.563 --> 01:15:40.113

and talk a bit about making childcare. culturally safe and inclusive so we know that cultural safety, and inclusive, this is so important as we build out the, the childcare system.

01:15:40.113 --> 01:15:52.065

and expand it so it's accessible for all families.

01:15:52.065 --> 01:16:07.665

And so how will we as a province ensure, full inclusion and support for neurodiverse children, children with disabilities, and children with other support needs in our early learning and child care system.

01:16:07.665 --> 01:16:12.386

>> Yeah, we are certainly committed to improving access to services for children and families that have been marginalized, and experiencing vulnerability.

01:16:12.386 --> 01:16:58.214

And that commitment is not only outed in our work.

01:16:58.214 --> 01:17:15.664

And also in your recent agreements with the federal government to meet the XHILT we're putting various glances on the topic of inclusion, and talk about children with disabilities, and other support needs, and we also want to talk about families with all types of gender identities, and children living in poverty, and First Nations meeting, and Inuit children, and really appreciate to hear in our next session from those who have experienced to share, and to share best practices in terms of, you k

01:17:15.664 --> 01:17:33.416

We will -- we have our support the child development worker and is they're doing a great job, and some children always need that one-on-one support and continue providing that support to the best of our abilities.

01:17:33.416 --> 01:17:37.913

But, as I said earlier, our future vision moves towards enabling and ensuring that all the providers have a capacity to support inclusion of those children.

01:17:37.913 --> 01:17:54.515

And so we know -- we heard from them.

01:17:54.515 --> 01:17:55.515

They need to be well supported and well trained to offer those services to families, regardless of background

01:17:55.515 --> 01:18:04.386

or ability, and to ensure cultural safety and inclusion.

01:18:04.386 --> 01:18:11.713

>> Shannon: Thank you. Can you be specific about how childcare for Indigenous children and families will look different in the future.

01:18:11.713 --> 01:18:38.164

>> Aleksandra: Cultural safety in child care is not optional.

01:18:38.164 --> 01:18:40.115

Every child, every family needs to feel safe, and accessing child care, and other government funded services and important to acknowledge, Indigenous people have told their

01:18:40.115 --> 01:18:52.615

government that they want their own childcare services that are distinct and culturally based their barrier free rooted in their languages and cultures, and linked to more comprehensive cultural, economic, and health supports for the whole family.

01:18:52.615 --> 01:19:06.565

as such, we would like to look at the future of child care through both lenses, lenses of cultural safety.

01:19:06.565 --> 01:19:23.263

And the lenses of distinction based childcare. We are committed to being full partners in reducing those barriers and creating the kind of childcare that indigenous families need to try to do.

01:19:23.263 --> 01:19:24.715

to do this right we need to engage with right holders directly.

01:19:24.715 --> 01:19:32.013

and we need to provide supports that are tailored to reflect their trust. traditions and designed to meet their goals.

01:19:32.013 --> 01:19:38.314

Of course when we work on, on that supporting that distinction based childcare and really make that distinction based childcare is available

01:19:38.314 --> 01:20:01.065

It doesn't mean we won't have a responsibility to make broad child care culturally safe.

01:20:01.065 --> 01:20:04.767

And it will still be there and need to ensure, that Indigenous families can access culturally safe childcare and early learning opportunities within that broader system.

01:20:04.767 --> 01:20:15.165

culturally safe childcare isn't a replacement for distinction based childcare needs to baseline.

01:20:15.165 --> 01:20:28.565

>> Shannon: Thank you. Okay, I'm going to move to speaking about funding childcare as a as a core service. So while I was mentioning that recruitment and retention, had the most number of questions

01:20:28.565 --> 01:20:50.815

Asked my participant, in our survey.

01:20:50.815 --> 01:20:54.265

participants in our in our pre session survey, This topic about funding.

01:20:54.265 --> 01:21:02.814

Funding childcare is of course service had, I would say a wider variety of questions. So I've got a few here that I'm going to bring up and I'm going to try to spread them across our panelists, if that's okay, So I'm going to start off with a question for you.

01:21:02.814 --> 01:21:05.865

One of the questions that was brought up about funding was why do we not just enhance and increase the eligibility for our current programs.

01:21:05.865 --> 01:21:17.514

So programs like our affordable childcare benefits, so that families can continue to have the choice of the type of childcare that they want

01:21:17.514 --> 01:21:35.815

>> Anne: Thank you. Excellent question. So, starting that, you know, you mentioned sort of a theme we know that transitioning to a new

01:21:35.815 --> 01:21:40.013

funding model will take time. So in the meantime, the programs such as the affordable childcare benefit and the child dcare fee reduction and all of those programs for both parents and childcare operators will continue to be in place for some time.

01:21:40.013 --> 01:22:29.815

But concurrently, we know that the current approach for finding childcare and we've talked about that uses multiple programs, you know,

01:22:29.815 --> 01:22:31.714

we've heard from you and from providers, there's gaps and overlaps and you know, we're working together to make sure that the funding Support

families, but we know it's less efficient and places can be difficult to navigate and can end up at times causing frustration and delay and administrative burden, and so really it's about finding a way and looking at a model that is -- that really addresses all aspects of the child care that we're working towards quality inclusivity, and

01:22:31.714 --> 01:22:33.921

service delivery, recruitment intention, retention, and really looking at, at how we can create a new funding model that is more efficient and really does reach them.

01:22:33.921 --> 01:22:52.214

And so, to loop back to the question about choice.

01:22:52.214 --> 01:22:59.915

And so, to loop back to the question about choice, The new funding model, While it's going to change how childcare providers are funded it won't change towards who is funded.

01:22:59.915 --> 01:23:10.163

the goal is to continue with a variety of childcare types so that families do have choice. It's just a journey to get there but in the interim, we do have our current array of programs.

01:23:10.163 --> 01:23:22.565

>> Shannon: Thank you. And so that, yeah, it's gonna take a little bit a while to figure out that funding model and then to implement it, so we'll continue with our current programs as we eventually transitioned over time. So thank you for that.

01:23:22.565 --> 01:23:37.015

>> Aleks another question on the funding and going with this.

01:23:37.015 --> 01:23:44.615

Is the plan to limit or take away funding to family or multiage preschool, edged license not required, care programs in the next 5-10 years.

01:23:44.615 --> 01:23:51.665

Or how will these programs be included in the \$10 a day future in child care BC.

01:23:51.665 --> 01:23:55.114

>> Aleksandra: Thanks Shannon, we need every child care license space that exists and more.

01:23:55.114 --> 01:23:59.014

To meet the needs of family.

01:23:59.014 --> 01:24:01.714

Family in home providers, preschool providers.

01:24:01.714 --> 01:24:09.265

They are critical piece of the child care network.

01:24:09.265 --> 01:24:46.915

And they will continue to credit cabbings to creating child care in the years to come.

01:24:46.915 --> 01:24:50.614

Well, we looked at the public funding to for expansion of childcare spaces and and prioritize the investments in public and nonprofit childcare facilities going forward.

01:24:50.614 --> 01:25:05.865

We are continuing to provide an offer operational funding to help offset costs and reduce parents needs.

01:25:05.865 --> 01:25:13.863

We are also continuing to provide the offer the startup grants for unlicensed and registered, licensed not required home based providers to become licensed family in home, preschool, private nonprofit indigenous sled public childcare will all be invited to join the future system under a new operating funding model. we do recognize service of all those providers and it's important for families.

01:25:13.863 --> 01:25:19.314

>> Shannon: Thanks Aleks.

01:25:19.314 --> 01:25:32.914

I'm going to press this a little bit more if I.

01:25:32.914 --> 01:25:39.065

We had concerns raised about where private child care providers are going to fit into the system, and this is rayed --

01:25:39.065 --> 01:25:50.815

why can't business owners run their businesses, that they worked to hard to establish.

01:25:50.815 --> 01:26:01.615

And government instead just reimburse parents, the cost. So, that's, that's a question about, you know the actual approach to the funding, why not just subsidize parents.

01:26:01.615 --> 01:26:04.364

>> The private providers play a very important role in delivering child care in BC, and value their work very much.

01:26:04.364 --> 01:26:11.264

We are inviting the private providers to work with us.

01:26:11.264 --> 01:26:42.266

And continue delivering, the child care spaces.

01:26:42.266 --> 01:26:53.014

As I mentioned earlier, while in terms of creation of spaces, and building facilities, we are prioritizing, investments in public, and non-

profit, child care facilities going forward, and definitely continue to offer operational funding for all those providers who would like to work with us, and we would like to offset their costs and reduce parent fees.

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We do recognize that delivering child care in partnership with government comes with some overhead for private providers.

01:27:06.313 --> 01:27:16.465

But, the research is clear, providing reimbursement or subsidies to parents is not an effective way to get the kind of child care future that we want.

01:27:16.465 --> 01:28:00.366

Our goal is to make quality child care into an affordable service that every family can rely on.

01:28:00.366 --> 01:28:03.765

To get there public funds must create reliable spaces, and build using consistent standards that you -- for the public in the long term, So there is a stability and certainty to families and the new funding model may provide opportunities to address broader objectives.

01:28:03.765 --> 01:28:08.465

Parents need to know that no matter where they live, they can access childcare and know that it will be respectful of their family culturally safe and inclusive.

01:28:08.465 --> 01:28:18.314

Providing reimbursements to parents wouldn't give government the tools it needs to make sure these wider needs are being met As we work to improve access and affordability.

01:28:18.314 --> 01:28:23.366

that's why instead of pursuing

01:28:23.366 --> 01:28:24.765

subsidy model the province is looking to work in partnership with providers to enhance funding levels and support them in their critical role of supporting children and families to provide high quality childcare.

01:28:24.765 --> 01:28:40.965

Thank you Alex. That was an excellent and detail the answer and so there's a lot that's going into this, that thought process about the funding model.

01:28:40.965 --> 01:28:43.765

There's a lot folded in and I think the discussions on that in the next number of months will be really interesting, and something that all different types of providers will look forward participating in.

01:28:43.765 --> 01:28:46.812

And also in this general --

01:28:46.812 --> 01:29:02.014
future funding and how the system is going to work.

01:29:02.014 --> 01:29:04.163
Angie, I wonder if you can address the question about if existing licensed care operators that are located in schools are going to have to vacate their facilities.

01:29:04.163 --> 01:29:42.416
>> Absolutely, Shannon.

01:29:42.416 --> 01:29:49.815
I hope that response to this is really going to relieve concerns, we know there are significant concerns in the sector about all the changes we have been talking about and how child care operates on school grounds, and particularly with the announcement of move to child care of education, and I think the really key message here though is no

01:29:49.815 --> 01:29:54.366
that there's no change in the operation of existing childcare on school grounds,

01:29:54.366 --> 01:30:29.917
one of this is required as a result of this move. Existing childcare operators on school grounds are really a critical piece of the childcare network and they were going to continue to be very critical to delivering childcare to families in the years to come.

01:30:29.917 --> 01:30:31.315
I was thinking just how over a year ago the province made a public commitment to be able to provide universal access to before and after school care, with that prioritization of care on school grounds so that parents know their children are safe at one place for the full workday, and this commitment really builds upon what is already in place under the school act for boards of education, to provide

01:30:31.315 --> 01:30:37.666
prioritize the development of policies that promote that use of school space for childcare. So in thinking about next steps, the province

01:30:37.666 --> 01:30:56.466
is going to look for opportunities to facilitate partnerships with school boards to expand these existing relationships with childcare providers that are operating on school grounds.

01:30:56.466 --> 01:31:28.216
and to build new partnerships and also hope to hear from the sector and school boards through the engagement series, how best we have a role in the partnerships, in an eventful way.

01:31:28.216 --> 01:31:39.163
Thank you, Angie. And so that was a cross over piece in terms of, you know, the funding of the system, and then, the other piece of about

working together to deliver child care and early learning which is the topic you addressed in the opening session, Angie, and I know we have mentioned a few times and scattered throughout the discussion this evening, there is a place in the system for all different types of providers.

01:31:39.163 --> 01:31:51.765

But I think it's good to acknowledge, that the questions about how for profit family multi-age have been raised particularly.

01:31:51.765 --> 01:32:11.066

And I'm wondering if you can address specifically how that those would fit into the structure under the ministry of education.

01:32:11.066 --> 01:32:19.667

>> Absolutely Shannon, I think when we introduce the topic and talking about regional centres, there is lots in here that we know, and there are a number of things with respect to these 6 early learning and child care regional centres that are yet to be determined.

01:32:19.667 --> 01:32:32.463

And the part that we know and that we're very clear on is that all providers will continue to be critical under the new structure.

01:32:32.463 --> 01:32:41.666

We said it before, and it will take everyone to be able to build this inclusive child care system that will benefit families today, and families in the future.

01:32:41.666 --> 01:32:49.466

And that means that family, preschool, private, nonprofit, Indigenous-led, public child care, everyone.

01:32:49.466 --> 01:33:04.966

They will be invited to work with government and deliver affordable child care as a core service to families.

01:33:04.966 --> 01:33:23.764

The part we still need to explore is how to leverage the experience of all providers and the presence of regional offices to be able to better support communities and to be really responsive to both regional and local needs.

01:33:23.764 --> 01:33:46.314

And this will be, I think a key part of the topic discussions that will be able to have regarding, you know, how we can work together to deliver child care, and early learning in the new year.

01:33:46.314 --> 01:33:51.713

>> Thank you Angie, and you said a key thing there, leveraging the experience of different types of providers so building on that theme of leveraging people's experience I wanted to turn and talk about Childcare Resource and Referral centers, and John.

01:33:51.713 --> 01:33:57.313

I'm wondering if you can speak to the anticipated role of

01:33:57.313 --> 01:34:01.321

particularly with the, with the commitment to move to the six Early Care and Learning regional offices.

01:34:01.321 --> 01:34:29.866

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01:34:29.866 --> 01:34:41.714

>> Jonathan: Thanks Shannon, appreciate the question, and shoutout to all my CCR colleagues in the communities want to acknowledge, the CCR's provide a range of critical services to families and sector, and I think it was minister Chen who mentioned in the opening remarks, just how critical, child care resource and referral centres were in the early days of the pandemic, when we needed to get information out to the sector, and support out.

01:34:41.714 --> 01:34:49.013

And to families who had changing care arrangements and essential workers looking for supports they needed to continue to support all of us in our communities.

01:34:49.013 --> 01:34:57.765

And so, really want to acknowledge the work they did within that space.

01:34:57.765 --> 01:35:03.114

And they will continue to do that work, as we collectively work towards integrated early learning and child care system.

01:35:03.114 --> 01:35:07.915

There is no immediate or planned changes, coming to CCRs.

01:35:07.915 --> 01:35:20.516

If and when change occurs.

01:35:20.516 --> 01:35:24.163

It will have to be based and grounded in the needs of families, and child care providers and sector as a whole, and needs to be in alignment of the changes that will move the governance vision for child care.

01:35:24.163 --> 01:35:27.615

And so change such that it happens will be informed.

01:35:27.615 --> 01:35:33.114

In part by engagement processes like this.

01:35:33.114 --> 01:35:46.065

And in continued direct consultation with communities and CCR providers.

01:35:46.065 --> 01:36:04.365

And so whether it's our regional coordinators or CCR's, that serve, I think around 400 communities around the province, we're going to need them.

01:36:04.365 --> 01:36:08.265

And their support as we develop, this system, and so, -- what that looks like, is going to be informed by the discussions that we have here together over the next few months.

01:36:08.265 --> 01:36:17.414

>> Shannon: Thank you, Jon.

01:36:17.414 --> 01:36:39.664

And I think we'll perhaps wrap up our discussion this evening with one more general question which I'm going to ask Anne to address.

01:36:39.664 --> 01:36:43.514

And that is -- again, about the change in moving and integrating child care into the broader learning environment, under the ministry of education, and Anne I'm wondering if you can address what impact will this move to the Ministry of Education have on child care professionals, that are working in the field?

01:36:43.514 --> 01:37:09.015

>> Anne: Perfect, thank you Shannon.

01:37:09.015 --> 01:37:11.265

I certainly want to acknowledge one of the key things we talked about over and over again, the criticality of childcare professionals, and thinking about the transition and impacts the transition of responsibility of child care, MCF,

01:37:11.265 --> 01:37:27.616

Ministry of Children Family Development to ministry of education really is about establishing a single provincial lead for child care policy and program development.

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within that government's role is to support the child care sector and support you, and which we know and talked about, you know, it's made of a range of individual providers of varying types and sizes and so we know that.

01:37:42.013 --> 01:37:54.066

And child care providers employ these child care professionals and provide the care and supports of children and families, and the overarching responsibility is about again, a single provincial lead.

01:37:54.066 --> 01:38:00.265

But, educators and child care professionals employed by individual child care providers as well as child care providers both continue to connect with the provinces as we currently do.

01:38:00.265 --> 01:38:06.063

And so related to funding and educator requirements and professional learning.

01:38:06.063 --> 01:38:26.465
>> Shannon: Great, Anne.

01:38:26.465 --> 01:38:35.464
Thank you, I think that can be reassuring to participants on the line, this is really about improving the system internally, aligning with education, and leveraging the places we can work better together, as we continue to evolve the system externally.

01:38:35.464 --> 01:38:40.565
And so what I heard most from you there Anne there should be really no impact on our child care professionals in the field.

01:38:40.565 --> 01:38:44.170
And so thank you for addressing that concern.

01:38:44.170 --> 01:38:53.513
>> Shannon: That concludes our panel discussion for this evening.

01:38:53.513 --> 01:39:07.862
And so thank you to Jon, and Aleks, and Angie, and Anne providing such great answers to the questions that came in.

01:39:07.862 --> 01:39:15.863
And want to thank the participants for the questions they sent ahead of time and joining us this evening, and having the discussion as a kick off for our engagement with you and just reminder this is multi-step engagement period of time.

01:39:15.863 --> 01:39:22.212
So, we're starting with it tonight, and your feedback is critical.

01:39:22.212 --> 01:39:26.462
And so we would love to hear some early feedback from you, actually right now if we can.

01:39:26.462 --> 01:39:45.062
And so we're going to run just a little bit of a poll.

01:39:45.062 --> 01:39:59.764
And I'll have that poll up on the screen here, and based on the topics you hear this evening, I wonder if you can tell us, which topics are you most likely to attend and participate in for further discussion in January and February, and give you a moment to answer those.

01:39:59.764 --> 01:40:04.212
I feel I should be doing the jeopardy Tune.

01:40:04.212 --> 01:40:16.463
I can't hit the high notes, sorry, I'm waiting.

01:40:16.463 --> 01:40:19.012

These 5 topics of course will be scheduled for you to sign into January and February, and perhaps into March.

01:40:19.012 --> 01:40:26.965

And also be able to participate online.

01:40:26.965 --> 01:40:30.713

And so which of these topics are you most likely to participate in?

01:40:30.713 --> 01:40:46.063

And I think we have just a few more questions before we see the responses on that.

01:40:46.063 --> 01:40:48.361

All right, excellent, thank you.

01:40:48.361 --> 01:40:56.112

And there we go.

01:40:56.112 --> 01:41:07.612

Look at that blue line heading out the front, just as reflective oof the questions that came in.

01:41:07.612 --> 01:41:10.462

But healthy interest on all the topic, and this is wonderful, and no topic less than 35%, and up to 65%, thank you for that.

01:41:10.462 --> 01:41:19.363

And just one more poll for you at the moment.

01:41:19.363 --> 01:41:24.962

As we plan out our sessions in January, February, we're wondering -- one more question will pop up right away.

01:41:24.962 --> 01:41:26.212

We're wondering what time would be the most convenient for you.

01:41:26.212 --> 01:41:36.865

Oops, I don't see the question yet.

01:41:36.865 --> 01:41:38.113

Wait just a moment for that to pop up.

01:41:38.113 --> 01:41:54.612

Here we are.

01:41:54.612 --> 01:42:09.463

As we plan out those 5 topic sessions in the new year, can you please tell us what time of day is the most convenient for you to attend a virtual workshop, would that be in the morning, afternoon or evening?

01:42:09.463 --> 01:42:22.862

And of course, whilst you are thinking about that I'll just remind you attending the virtual workshop is not the only way to participate in the conversations because we will of course be launching the online discussion forum as well.

01:42:22.862 --> 01:42:29.912

And that will be launched tomorrow at some point, barring any technical difficulties, but, questions that will be launched online will be the same questions that will be discussed in the virtual workshop.

01:42:29.912 --> 01:42:37.263

And so you can attend either or, you can mix it up, if you want.

01:42:37.263 --> 01:42:42.712

And for those sessions that you may want to attend virtually, like this one, what's the best time of day for you?

01:42:42.712 --> 01:42:47.812

And that will help us with planning out our calendar in the new year.

01:42:47.812 --> 01:43:00.263

So just waiting a few more minutes here for folks to get their votes in.

01:43:00.263 --> 01:43:10.362

Too bad I didn't know another theme song, I don't know why jeopardy and the only theme song that popped into my head, shows you what game show I watch.

01:43:10.362 --> 01:43:11.112

There we go.

01:43:11.112 --> 01:43:16.563

All right.

01:43:16.563 --> 01:43:20.963

Okay, so looks like evening is the best for at least half of the people.

01:43:20.963 --> 01:43:34.213

But there is also a healthy interest in the morning, and afternoon.

01:43:34.213 --> 01:43:43.362

And so, thank you very much for those questions, those will certainly help us in our planning, and most of all, I really want to thank you for investing your time with us this evening.

01:43:43.362 --> 01:43:53.513

I know that, you know, not with standing the fact that 51% of folks said evenings are best for these.

01:43:53.513 --> 01:44:03.812

We know that when you give your time to these discussions and bring your expertise, and opinions, you are taking time away from your families as well.

01:44:03.812 --> 01:44:08.013

And want to acknowledge the time you have given out of your calendar for the discussion this evening, and really do look forward to continuing this discussion.

01:44:08.013 --> 01:44:14.712

So again, please, visit our child care BC website for more information.

01:44:14.712 --> 01:44:34.514

Thank you for -- thank you for being with us this evening.

01:44:34.514 --> 01:44:36.514

And just reminding you when you sign off tonight you will receive an invitation to complete a post-webinar feedback survey, and just watch for that information coming on the child BC website for the registration for those future sessions thank you so much, have a lovely evening.