



Child Care Fee
Reduction Initiative
Funding Guidelines
2025-2026

Released December 2024



ChildCareBC

The Ministry of Education and Child Care acknowledges the territories of First Nations around B.C. and is grateful to carry out our work on these lands.

As the ministry is committed to reconciliation, we acknowledge the rights, interests, priorities, and concerns of all Indigenous Peoples – First Nations, Métis, and Inuit – respecting and acknowledging their distinct cultures, histories, and rights.

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1 Introduction

The governments of British Columbia and Canada are partnering with child care providers to make child care affordable for families by reducing and stabilizing fees through the [Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative](#) (CCFRI).

- To be eligible, a facility needs to receive Child Care Operating Funding (CCOF) base funding.
- To be approved, a facility's fees and closures must align with the policies in these funding guidelines.

As the purpose of the CCFRI is to make child care more affordable, these policies are intended to ensure that parents see the greatest possible benefit of reduced fees. The Ministry of Education and Child Care may revise these policies as needed.

To help offset the costs associated with participating in the CCFRI, such as agreeing to limit fees and fee increases while participating in the program, child care providers receive monthly CCFRI provider payments. The provider payment can be put toward operational costs and is in addition to CCOF base funding, CCFRI fee reductions for families, and the Early Childhood Educator (ECE) Wage Enhancement.

Child care providers who participate in the CCOF Base Funding, CCFRI, and ECE Wage Enhancement programs may receive up to the following funding amounts in 2025-26, based on a 20-day month:

- Up to \$240 per month, per child in CCOF base funding for operating costs;
- Up to \$96 per month, per child in CCFRI provider payment for operating costs;
- Up to \$900 per month, per child in CCFRI fee reduction payment to reduce parent fees; and
- Up to \$960 per month, per eligible ECE (based on eight hours each day) to enhance wages.

Providers approved for the CCFRI are responsible for complying with specific obligations under their funding agreement with the ministry, including a requirement to notify families in writing:

- That the facility is participating in the CCFRI,
- The amount of fee reduction for their child, and
- The amount of any ministry-approved fee increase during the funding term.

For information about the CCFRI, please call the CCOF program Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 1-888-338-6622 (option 2) or visit the program [web page](#). To find providers participating in the CCFRI, please refer to the [online estimator](#).

2 What's New for 2025-26

- The [median parent fees](#) for each [region](#) have been updated for 2025-26 based on information collected from over 90% of child care facilities across the province.
- The fee increase limits continue to be based on 3% and 10% of the regional median fee, and the affordability benchmarks continue to be set at the 75th and 80th percentile of fees reported in each region.

3 Parent Fee Reduction Amounts

Providers in the CCFRI receive funding to reduce parent fees by up to the following amounts:

Table 1. Maximum Monthly Parent Fee Reduction Amounts for Full-time Enrolment

Care Category	Group Child Care	Family/In-Home Child Care
Infant (0-18 months)	\$900	\$600
Toddler (18-36 months)	\$900	\$600
3 Years to Kindergarten	\$545	\$500
Kindergarten	\$320	\$320
Grade 1 to Age 12	\$115	\$145
Preschool	\$95	N/A

Out of pocket parent fees for families will not be reduced below \$200 per month or \$10 per day for full-time care. If the maximum reduction amount would make the full-time parent fee less than the minimum parent fee (i.e., below \$200 per month or \$10 per day), the fee reduction may be less than the maximum set out in table 1. Limited exceptions to the minimum monthly parent fee may be approved at the ministry's discretion.

- The minimum parent fee for families enrolled four hours or less per day, including preschool programs, is \$140 per month or \$7 per day.
- The parent fee reduction amount is [pro-rated](#) for children enrolled for four hours or less per day (except those enrolled in preschool).
- Fee reductions are adjusted for children enrolled fewer than 5 days per week.

Note: Children over age 12 who are enrolled at a participating child care facility (e.g. with an exemption granted by a Licensing Officer) are also eligible and included in the "Grade 1 to Age 12" category.

4 Applying for the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative

Child care providers must apply to participate in the CCFRI and be approved by the ministry each funding year. The funding year is from April 1st to March 31st and eligible providers can apply to join at any time.

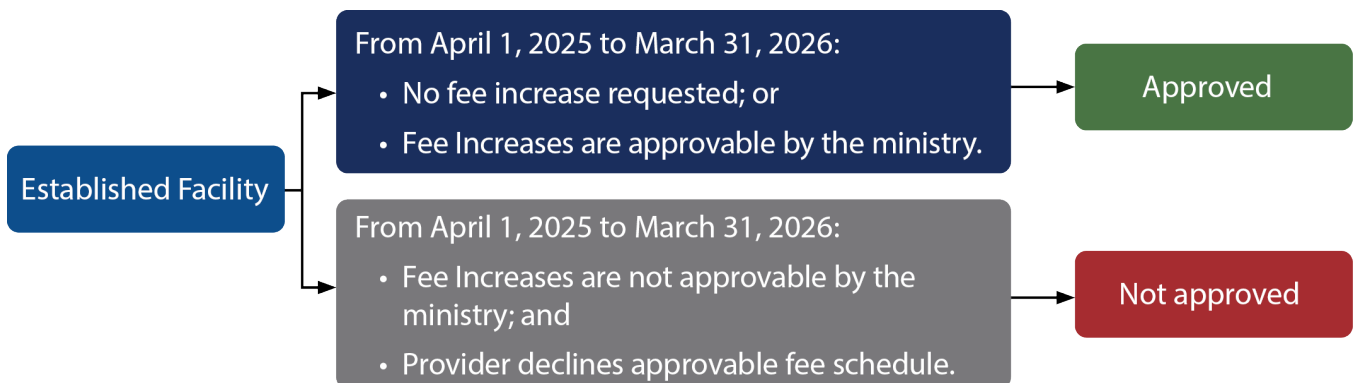
- All applicants, including renewing or ‘established’ facilities, must align their fees and closures with the policies outlined in these guidelines.
- New, new-to-CCFRI and modified facilities are also required to set their fees in line with other providers offering the same type of care in their region (the ‘affordability benchmarks’).
- Facility types ‘established,’ ‘new’ ‘new-to-CCFRI,’ or ‘modified’ are defined in these guidelines and are determined at the ministry’s sole discretion.

4.1 Application Process by Provider Type

The ministry will assess each provider’s CCFRI application according to their facility type:

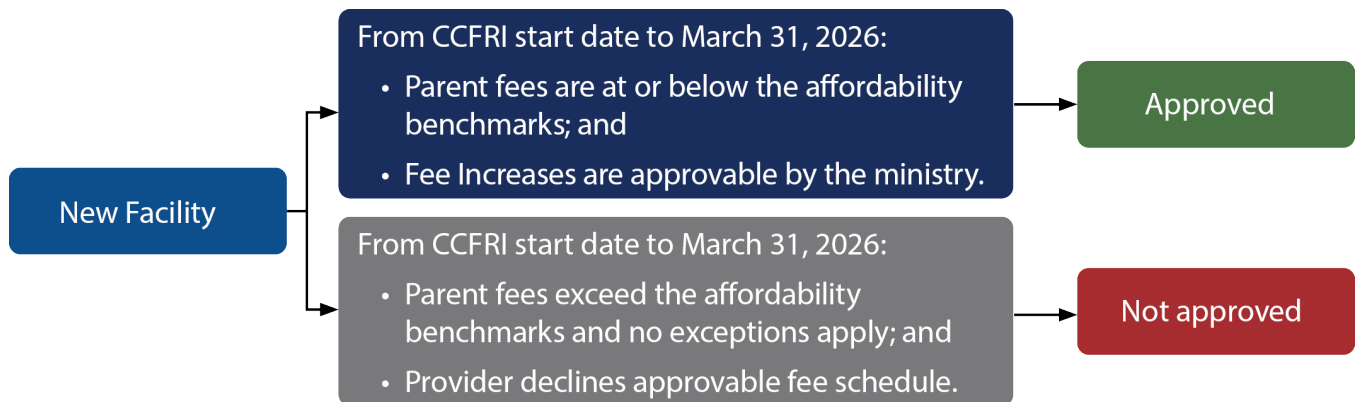
An established facility is any facility approved for the CCFRI for the 2024-25 funding term, that was not terminated (except due to extended closure). Facilities that were not approved to participate in the CCFRI (including after temporary approval) are not established facilities.

- Established facilities are not subject to the affordability benchmarks.
- The ministry will assess fees, including any planned fee increase, from April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026.



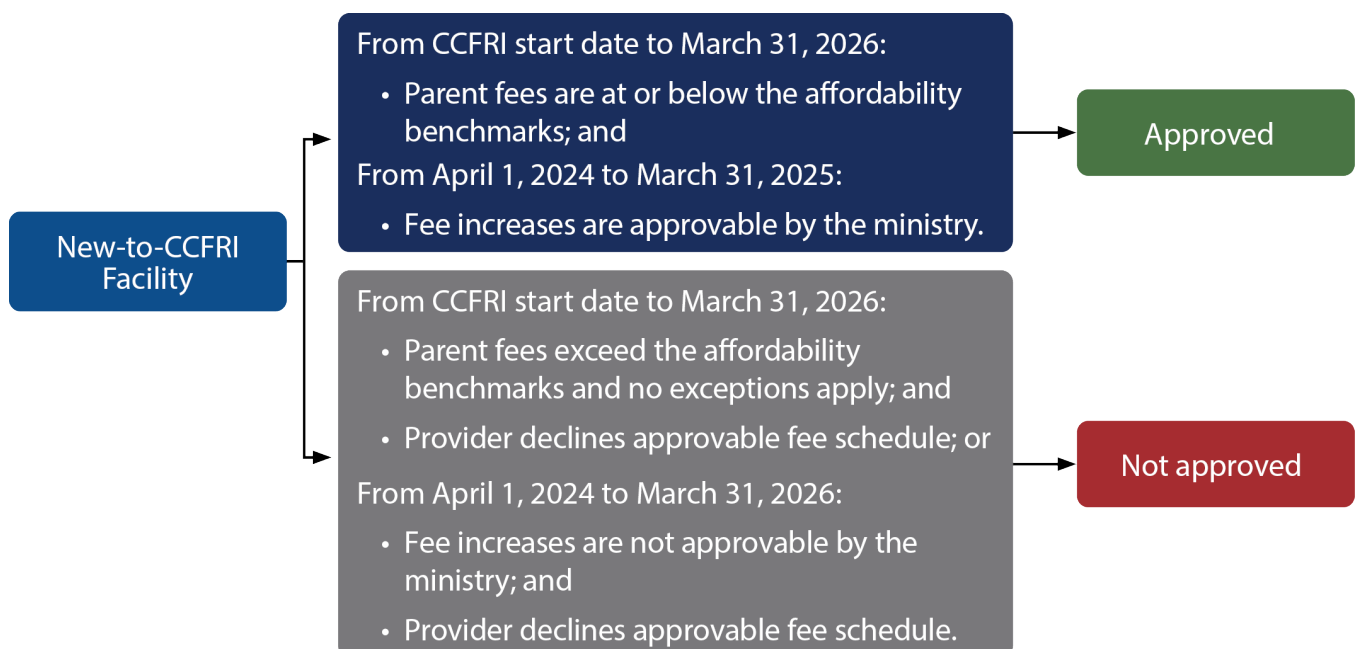
A new facility is any facility with a licence start date on or after April 1, 2025, that joins the CCFRI in their first month of operation.

- New Facilities must set parent fees, including any planned fee increase, at or below the affordability benchmarks ([tables 2 and 3](#)) from the time CCFRI participation begins to March 31, 2026.



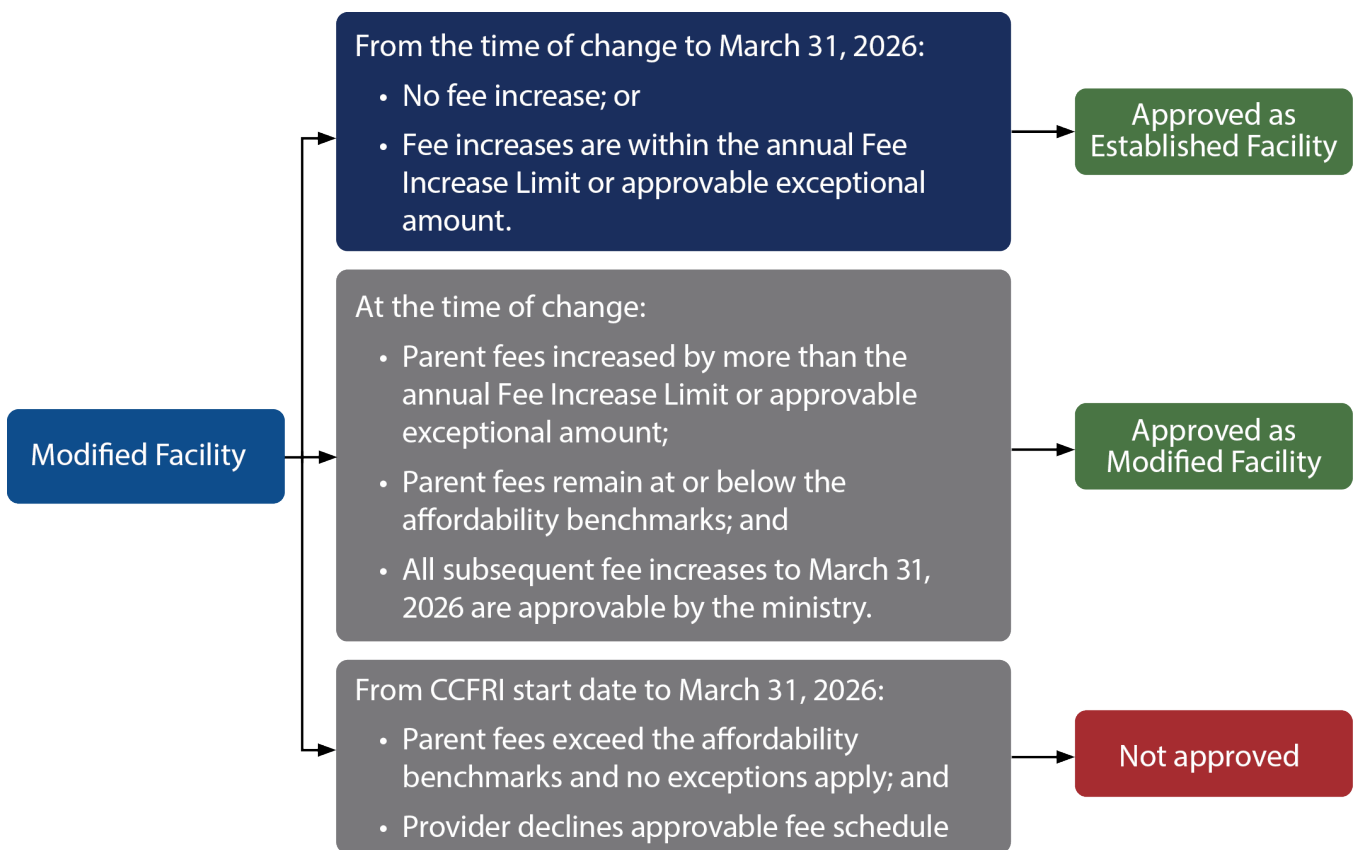
A new-to-CCFRI facility is any facility with a licence start date before April 1, 2025, that has not participated in the CCFRI for either 2024-25 or 2025-26, and facilities licensed on or after April 1, 2025 that join the CCFRI after their first month of operation.

- New-to-CCFRI Facilities must set parent fees, including any planned fee increase, at or below the affordability benchmarks ([tables 2 and 3](#)) from the time CCFRI participation begins to March 31, 2026.



A modified facility is any facility that was continuously enrolled in the CCFRI from 2024-25; that changed location, licensee, or eligibility for group or family rates in 2025-26; and increased parent fees by more than the annual fee increase limit (or approvable exceptional fee increase amount) at the time of that change.

- Modified Facilities must set parent fees, including any planned fee increase, for 2025-26 at or below the affordability benchmarks for their region ([tables 2 and 3](#)) from the time of change to March 31, 2026.
- Facilities are exempt from this policy if, at the time of the location, licensee, or eligibility change there is no increase in fees; or fees increase by no more than the fee increase limit (or approvable exceptional amount).



4.2 Administrative and Optional Fees

Providers must declare all mandatory recurring charges as part of the parent fee on the CCFRI application ([Program Confirmation Form](#)) and may not charge mandatory fees over-and-above the declared parent fee except as described below:

- Administrative fees were frozen at established facilities effective April 1, 2022; established facilities may continue to charge the same administrative fees as they charged before April 2022 but may not increase administrative fees.
- New and new-to-CCFRI facilities may charge administrative fees on an occasional basis (e.g., annual, one-time), but may not increase administrative fees once in the CCFRI.
- New facilities that are added to an existing organization may align their administrative fees with those charged by the broader organization.
- Modified facilities may continue to charge the same administrative fee as immediately before their change of location, licensee or CCOF eligibility.
- Optional fees may be charged as long as families who opt not to pay those fees continue to receive the same usual service for which the parent fee applies.

Facilities that charge administrative or optional fees under the exceptions above are not required to report those fees on the CCFRI application ([Program Confirmation Form](#)). The ministry has the sole discretion to determine whether a fee qualifies as an administrative fee, optional fee, parent fee, or parent fee increase.

5 The Affordability Benchmarks

To be approved to join the CCFRI, new, new-to-CCFRI and modified facilities may not charge parent fees that are higher than most other providers in their region who deliver the same type of care (the ‘affordability benchmarks’). The affordability benchmarks are the fees reported by the majority of facilities in each region. For example, the 80th percentile means 80% of facilities in the region charge this amount or lower, and 20% of facilities charge a higher amount.

- For 2025-26, the affordability benchmarks for each region are set at:
 - The 80th percentile for children under 36 months; and
 - The 75th percentile for all other care categories.
- These benchmarks are reviewed and updated annually based on information collected from child care facilities across the province.
- Affordability benchmarks reflect the maximum parent fees that new, new-to-CCFRI and modified facilities may charge and should not be interpreted as the recommended fees for child care services.

Providers who offer child care at no cost to families may still be eligible to join the CCFRI and are encouraged to contact the ministry for eligibility information.

A new, new-to-CCFRI or modified facility may be approved to set fees above the affordability benchmarks if:

- The provider applied for provincial funding to create the new licensed spaces before April 1, 2021, was approved for that funding, and joined the CCFRI in their first month of operation.
- An established facility adds a new care category at the same physical address.
- The fees are for Young Parent Program (YPP) spaces.

The ministry may consider other exceptions to this policy on a case-by-case basis, to enable more families to benefit from fee reductions, at its sole discretion (e.g., where needed to support inclusivity, cultural safety, or wraparound services at facilities primarily serving families experiencing vulnerability or other underserved populations, including low-income or Indigenous families).

For out-of-school-care facilities that operate full-day summer programs, July and August fees will be assessed against the affordability benchmarks for the 3 years to kindergarten care category.

Affordability benchmarks are provided in tables 2 and 3 below. A list of the regions can be found in [Appendix A](#). Affordability benchmarks are provided as daily amounts in [tables 8 and 9](#) in [Appendix B](#). Regional median fees can be found in [Appendix D](#).

Table 2. Affordability Benchmarks for Group Child Care (Per Month, before CCFRI)

Region	0-18 Months	18-36 Months	3 Years to Kindergarten	Kindergarten	Grade 1 to Age 12	Preschool
Fraser Valley	\$1,725	\$1,718	\$1,156	\$610	\$600	\$540
Kootenay-Boundary	\$1,550	\$1,547	\$1,054	\$567	\$566	\$505
Metro	\$2,062	\$2,019	\$1,510	\$630	\$630	\$630
Northern	\$1,369	\$1,270	\$1,050	\$520	\$520	\$400
Thompson-Okanagan	\$1,515	\$1,492	\$1,063	\$567	\$566	\$500
Vancouver Island	\$1,820	\$1,774	\$1,170	\$524	\$520	\$600

Table 3. Affordability Benchmarks for Family Child Care (Per Month, before CCFRI)

Region	0-18 Months	18-36 Months	3 Years to Kindergarten	Kindergarten	Grade 1 to Age 12
Fraser Valley	\$1,150	\$1,110	\$981	\$668	\$640
Kootenay-Boundary	\$1,098	\$1,120	\$1,101	\$615	\$614
Metro	\$1,440	\$1,470	\$1,202	\$640	\$617
Northern	\$1,000	\$975	\$930	\$600	\$600
Thompson-Okanagan	\$1,095	\$1,098	\$970	\$615	\$614
Vancouver Island	\$1,156	\$1,116	\$1,019	\$625	\$600

6 Maximum Closure Period

Closure periods are any days when a facility is not open and providing licenced child care, not including provincial statutory holidays. To be approved for the CCFRI, facilities must not charge parent fees for closure periods greater than two consecutive weeks per month, up to a maximum of four weeks per funding agreement term.

The ministry may approve a provider to charge parent fees during additional closure periods that align with a history of past closures or are due to circumstances outside of the provider’s control if the facility needs to charge parent fees during the closure period to maintain operational viability. Facilities may not charge parent fees for any closure periods beyond those approved by the ministry in writing.

Information about eligibility for Child Care Operating Funding base funding during emergency closures is available [online](#).

Provincial Statutory Holidays: New Year’s Day, Family Day, Good Friday, Victoria Day, Canada Day, B.C. Day, Labour Day, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, Thanksgiving Day, Remembrance Day and Christmas Day.

7 Parent Fee Increase Assessment

Providers who participate in the CCFRI must apply for, and receive ministry approval of, any parent fee increase before it is implemented.

- Any increase to existing mandatory fees, including any increase to an existing administrative fee or introduction of a new mandatory is considered a parent fee increase and must be reviewed by the ministry in advance of implementation. Applications to increase parent fees must be reported on the CCFRI application ([Program Confirmation Form](#)) for ministry review under these guidelines.
- The introduction of added fees for hours or services that were previously included in the parent fee is also considered a parent fee increase and is therefore subject to prior ministry review and approval prior to implementation.

In the 2024-25 term, the vast majority of providers were approved with a fee increase at or below the annual fee increase limit, or with no fee increase at all.

7.1 No Fee Increase, or Fee Increase within the Fee Increase Limit

The ministry will first assess whether a provider has requested a fee increase, and if that fee increase falls within the annual fee increase limit ([Section 9](#)).

- Established facilities that have no fee increase, or whose fee increase falls within the fee increase limit, will receive automatic approval to participate within a few business days, subject to all other criteria being met.
- New, new-to-CCFRI and modified facilities may request fee increases but must remain under the affordability benchmarks after any proposed fee increase and are not eligible for automatic approval.

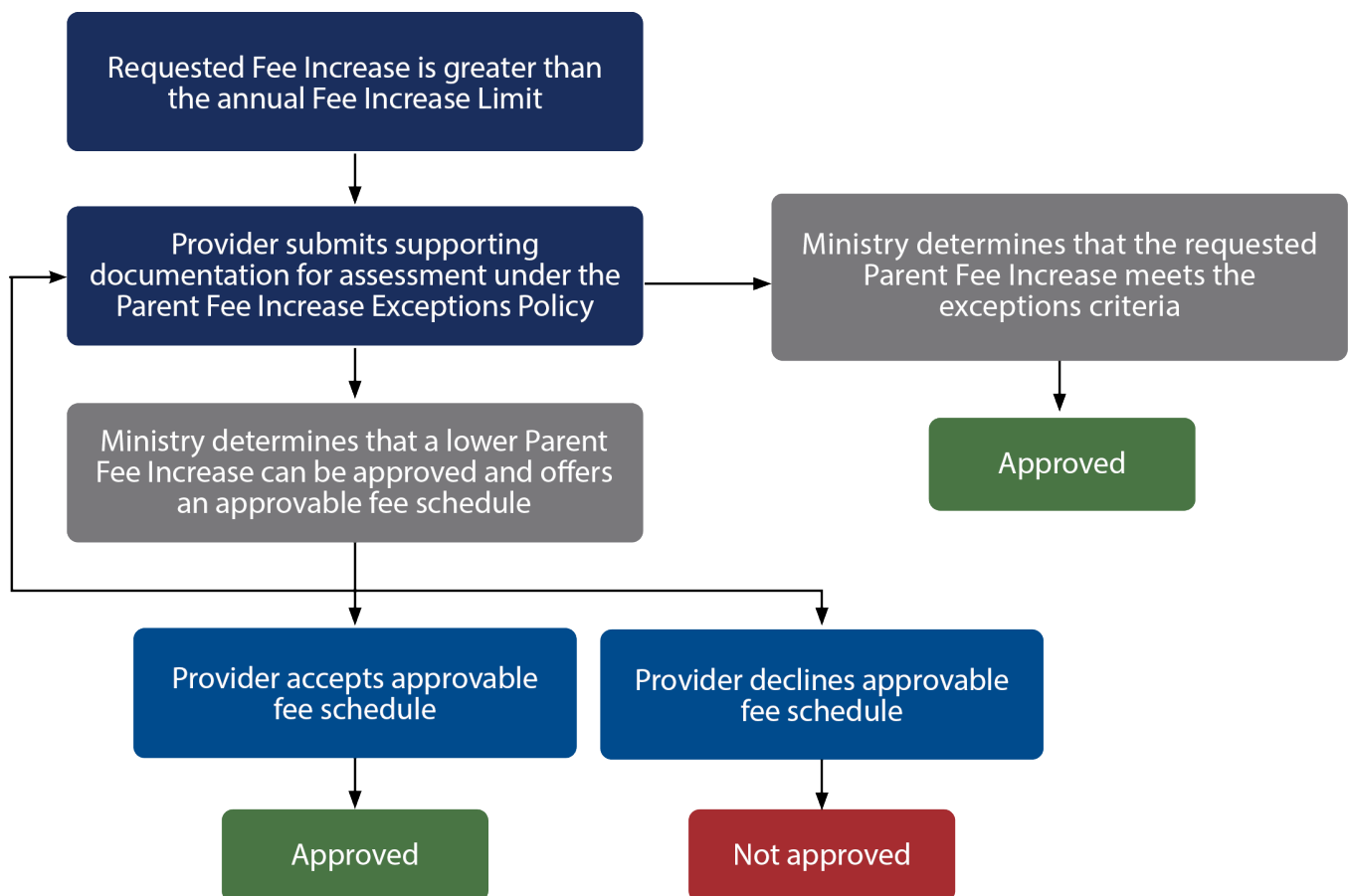


7.2 Fee Increase Request over the Annual Fee Increase Limit

In some circumstances, there may be reasons providers need to increase fees by more than the annual fee increase limit. An exceptional fee increase is any increase that exceeds the 3% fee increase limit.

- The ministry will consider exceptional fee increase requests under the parent fee increase exceptions policy ([Section 10](#)).

- Facilities that have a planned fee increase that is more than the 2025-26 annual fee increase limit for the facility’s region will need to submit more information and/or documentation to be assessed under the fee increase exception policy.
- Subject to all other criteria being met, an established facility may receive temporary approval up to the month that the fee increase takes effect, unless the fee increase is for April 2025.
- If the ministry determines the requested fee increase meets the criteria set out in these guidelines, the facility will be approved to enrol in the CCFRI, subject to all other criteria being met.
- If the ministry rejects the requested fee Increase but determines that a lower fee increase amount could be approved by the ministry, the facility will be offered an approvable fee schedule. If the provider accepts, the facility will be approved to enroll in the CCFRI, subject to all other criteria being met. If the provider declines, the facility will not be approved to participate in the CCFRI.
- A provider who is offered a lower approvable fee schedule may submit new information to support their request, and the facility’s circumstances will be reassessed. This will require additional processing time and may cause payment interruption.
- To avoid payment interruption while the ministry completes its assessment, providers who receive temporary approval may postpone their requested fee increase and receive continuous funding up to the month of the requested fee increase.



8 Mid-Term Fee Increase Requests

In some cases, a provider may need to request a fee increase after their facility has received approval for the CCFRI.

- Providers must request and receive approval before implementing any fee increase.
- For established facilities, requests to increase parent fees after being approved for the CCFRI will be assessed under the annual fee increase limit ([Section 9](#)) and parent fee exceptions policy ([Section 10](#)).
- Requests by new, new-to-CCFRI and modified facilities will be assessed only under the parent fee increase exceptions policy (see [Section 10](#)). The ministry will not consider whether the requested fee increase is within the annual fee increase limit for 2025-26.

9 Annual Fee Increase Limit

To support affordable child care for families, facilities' fee increases are limited while participating in the CCFRI. Limits on fee increases are updated annually based on information collected from child care facilities across the province.

- For 2025-26, the annual fee increase limit is based on 3% of the regional median fee.

Fee increase limits are provided in tables 4 and 5 below. A list of the regions can be found in [Appendix A](#). Fee increase limits are provided as daily amounts in tables 10 and 11 in [Appendix C](#). Regional median fees can be found in [Appendix D](#).

Table 4. Annual Fee Increase Limits for Group Child Care (per month)

Region	0-18 Months	18-36 Months	3 Years to Kindergarten	Kindergarten	Grade 1 to Age 12	Preschool
Fraser Valley	\$44	\$44	\$31	\$17	\$17	\$13
Kootenay-Boundary	\$41	\$35	\$29	\$15	\$14	\$13
Metro	\$52	\$50	\$36	\$16	\$16	\$15
Northern	\$35	\$32	\$27	\$14	\$15	\$10
Thompson-Okanagan	\$41	\$39	\$30	\$15	\$14	\$13
Vancouver Island	\$47	\$45	\$31	\$14	\$14	\$15

Table 5. Annual Fee Increase Limits for Family Child Care (per month)

Region	0-18 Months	18-36 Months	3 Years to Kindergarten	Kindergarten	Grade 1 to Age 12
Fraser Valley	\$31	\$30	\$28	\$17	\$17
Kootenay-Boundary	\$29	\$30	\$29	\$16	\$15
Metro	\$36	\$36	\$30	\$18	\$17
Northern	\$27	\$27	\$27	\$15	\$15
Thompson-Okanagan	\$29	\$29	\$27	\$16	\$15
Vancouver Island	\$30	\$29	\$28	\$17	\$15

10 Parent Fee Increase Exceptions Policy

To support providers who face exceptional cost pressures, the ministry may approve a fee increase that exceeds the annual fee increase limit in limited circumstances. Facilities that request a fee increase that is greater than the annual fee increase limit will be assessed under the fee increase exceptions policy outlined in this section.

In the 2024-25 term, only a minority of providers applied for or were approved under the parent fee increase exceptions policy.

To be approved for an exceptional parent fee increase:

- At least one eligible exception (listed in this section of the guidelines) must apply;
- The provider must submit sufficient evidence of the relevant expenses (e.g., receipts, quotes, financial statements);
- The provider must have exhausted all other ChildCareBC funding available for the expense (e.g., [Maintenance Fund](#));
- The fee increase must be proportional to the related expense, amortized over at least 12 months; and
- The fee increase must not exceed the maximum exceptional fee increase, unless otherwise approved by the ministry (see section 11 below for more information)

The ministry will not consider an exceptional parent fee increase requested for:

- Regular increases or temporary fluctuations in operating costs (e.g., rent, vehicle fuel, food);
- Expenses occurring from an individual not at arm's length from the provider (e.g., a family member raises facility maintenance fees beyond a reasonable amount);
- Expenses occurring due to an expansion in the number/type of licensed spaces;
- Program materials (e.g., consumable art/office supplies, toys/indoor play equipment, books);
- Facility costs such as small appliances/housewares, office equipment, textiles, security systems, gardening supplies, and electronics; and
- Lost revenue related to the removal of waitlist fees.

Exceptional fee increases are considered on a case-by-case basis to determine if the fee increase reason is eligible under one or more of the following exceptions policies:

10.1 Exceptional Circumstances

This exception applies to sudden and unexpected expenses that:

1. Are outside of the organization's control and/or outside of the scope of regular cost increases;
2. Address an immediate health or safety concern or are needed for the facility to operate; and
3. Occur within six months of the requested fee increase.

Eligible Expenses:

- Items named on the eligible expenses list for [Maintenance Fund](#) (if any portion is not funded).
- Refrigerator, stove, dishwasher, washing machine and dryer.
- Replacement of damaged outdoor play equipment.
- Free-standing or window-mounted air conditioners.
- Vehicles used for routinely transporting children.
- Exceptional increases to ongoing expenses (e.g., rent, lease/mortgage, utilities) imposed by an arm's length 3rd party.
- Expenses related to staying open/re-opening after an unusual incident (e.g., exposure to serious infectious illness requiring enhanced cleaning protocols, floods, fires, earthquakes and other natural disasters).

10.2 Direct Care Staff Wage Increases

This exception applies to wage increases for staff who spend at least 50% of their working time providing direct care, if the wage increase is needed because:

- a) The wage increase is part of a collective bargaining agreement at the facility; or
- b) The facility has been unable to hire and/or retain direct care staff, creating challenges in maintaining staff-to-child ratios required under the facility licence. In this scenario, the ministry will consider the facility's current wages, the amount of the wage increase, and how the facility's fees compare to the region.

The ministry will assess the strength of the business case based on the documents provided (e.g., expiring non-renewable staffing exemptions, unfilled spaces or unplanned closures due to insufficient staffing levels, multiple unfilled staff position postings). If the wage increase is for ECEs eligible for the [ECE Wage Enhancement](#) (ECE-WE), the provider must also apply for the ECE-WE to be considered under this exception. The ministry may also consider expenses resulting from the wage increase (e.g., statutory benefits).

10.3 Priority Service Expansion

This exception includes expenses related to the following service expansions:

- a) Expanding or extending the hours of child care service available for all enrolled children; or
- b) Increasing connection to Indigenous community, culture or language for all enrolled children in a facility owned, managed, or governed by at least 51% Indigenous people (e.g., a First Nations government, a Friendship Centre, a Métis organization). Related expenses may include:
 - Participation of an Elder, culture/language teacher and/or family members in the child care program;
 - Children's participation in community, language and/or cultural events or activities; and
 - Language or culture resources for use in the child care program.

10.4 Affordable Child Care for Underserved Populations

Fee increases may be considered under this exception if:

- The facility has historically provided care to underserved populations—including Indigenous or low-income families—at significantly below the regional median fees for their area or at no fee;
- The fee increase will contribute to the operational sustainability of the organization; and
- The fee increase will not greatly increase the out-of-pocket cost of care for families.

11 Maximum Exceptional Fee Increase Limit

For 2025-26, the maximum exceptional fee increase amounts are based on 10% of the regional median fee and are not in addition to the annual fee increase limits. Limits on fee increases are updated annually based on information collected from child care facilities across the province.

Note: These maximums do not apply to fee increases to support affordable child care for underserved populations. Additionally, in rare, extraordinary circumstances, the ministry may, at its sole discretion, approve a necessary fee increase over these maximums.

Maximum exceptional fee increase limits are provided in tables 6 and 7 below. A list of the regions can be found in [Appendix A](#). Maximum exceptional fee increase limits are provided as daily amounts in tables 12 and 13 in [Appendix C](#). Regional median fees can be found in [Appendix D](#).

Table 6. Maximum Exceptional Fee Increase amounts for Group Child Care (per month)

Region	0-18 Months	18-36 Months	3 Years to Kindergarten	Kindergarten	Grade 1 to Age 12	Preschool
Fraser Valley	\$148	\$146	\$102	\$56	\$56	\$44
Kootenay-Boundary	\$136	\$116	\$98	\$51	\$48	\$43
Metro	\$172	\$166	\$120	\$55	\$54	\$51
Northern	\$118	\$108	\$90	\$48	\$50	\$33
Thompson-Okanagan	\$138	\$132	\$99	\$51	\$48	\$43
Vancouver Island	\$156	\$149	\$105	\$48	\$47	\$50

Table 7. Maximum Exceptional Fee Increase amounts for Family Child Care (per month)

Region	0-18 Months	18-36 Months	3 Years to Kindergarten	Kindergarten	Grade 1 to Age 12
Fraser Valley	\$103	\$100	\$92	\$57	\$57
Kootenay-Boundary	\$96	\$101	\$97	\$54	\$50
Metro	\$121	\$120	\$102	\$60	\$56
Northern	\$90	\$90	\$90	\$50	\$50
Thompson-Okanagan	\$96	\$95	\$90	\$52	\$50
Vancouver Island	\$100	\$98	\$95	\$55	\$50

12 Glossary

Administrative Fee: Any mandatory fee that the provider imposes or seeks to impose in respect to administrative costs associated with the enrolment of a child at the facility including, any fee for registration. For clarity, administrative fees do not include waitlist fees.

CCFRI Provider Payment: A payment provided to offset costs associated with participating in the CCFRI, as described in Schedule C of the provider's funding agreement.

Closure Periods: Days when a facility is not open and providing licensed child care, not including provincial statutory holidays.

Direct Care Staff: Staff employed at the facility on either a full-time, part-time, or casual basis who are directly responsible for and engaged in the care and supervision of children at the facility, and includes ECE employees.

Drop-In Space: A child care space, other than an enrolled space, that is occupied by a child on a casual or emergency basis for a specific category of child care services at your facility within the maximum capacity

Enrolled Children: The resignation of children full-time or part-time in any given month, for a specific category of child care services and on specific days at the facility within the maximum capacity. For clarity, any reference to enrolment or enrolled children also refers to children who receive child care services at the facility, but who occupy a drop-in space rather than an enrolled space.

Established Facility: Any facility approved for the CCFRI for the 2024-25 funding term, that was not terminated (except due to extended closure). Facilities that were not approved to participate in the CCFRI (including after temporary approval) are not established facilities.

Facility: A location of child care services, operated by the provider, for which a facility licence has been issued, which is identified in Schedule A of the provider's funding agreement.

Modified Facility: Any facility that was continuously enrolled in the CCFRI from 2024-25, that changed location, licensee, or eligibility for group or family rates in 2025-26, and increased parent fees by more than the annual fee increase limit (or approvable exceptional amount).

New Facility: Any facility with a licence start date on or after April 1, 2025, that joins the CCFRI in their first month of operation.

New-to-CCFRI Facility: Any facility with a licence start date on or after April 1, 2025 that has not participated in the CCFRI for either 2024-25 or 2025-26, and facilities licensed on or after April 1, 2025 that join the CCFRI after their first month of operation.

Optional Fee: Any fee that the provider charges or seeks to charge a parent for optional services which a parent may opt not to pay while still receiving the usual, continuous care at the facility for which the parent fee applies. Optional fees do not include any fees for hours of child care that could reasonably be expected to be included in the parent fee.

Organization or Provider: The funding recipient under an existing CCOF funding agreement.

Parent: A parent or a person standing in the place of a parent with respect to a child enrolled in an enrolled space or a child occupying a drop-in space at the facility.

Parent Fee: The fee that the provider charges a parent or other party for the parent's child to be enrolled in an enrolled space or to occupy a drop-in space at the facility (including any new administrative fee and any increase to an administrative fee, but excluding any optional fee.

Parent Fee Increase or Fee Increase: Any increase to the parent fee and includes without limitation any of the following:

- I. a reduction of hours of operation or services that were previously included in the parent fee and the introduction of the option to purchase such hours or services for an optional fee; and
- II. a new administrative fee or an increase to the administrative fee for some or all children enrolled in an enrolled space or occupying a drop-in space in a care category.

For certainty, the introduction of an optional fee for a service that was not previously included in the parent fee, including an extension of your hours of operation, will not be considered a parent fee increase.

Waitlist Fee: A refundable or non-refundable fee for a child or a parent to be added to or removed from a waitlist for enrolment or for access to a drop-in space at the facility or to maintain or alter such child or parent's position on such waitlist, as determined by the Ministry in its sole discretion. For clarity, administrative fees are not waitlist fees.

Appendix

Appendix A: CCFRI Regions

The CCFRI's regions are aligned with the British Columbia School Superintendents Association (BCSSA) grouping of school districts (SD) into six regional chapters.

- Providers can confirm their region using the tables below, or by entering their facility's postal code in the ministry's online [lookup tool](#).
- A map of the regional boundaries and included school districts can also be found [online](#).
- Facilities in SD93 are not limited to one geographic region and can locate their CCFRI region by entering their facility's postal code in the ministry's online [lookup tool](#).

Fraser Valley
SD33 Chilliwack
SD34 Abbotsford
SD35 Langley
SD42 Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows
SD75 Mission
SD78 Fraser-Cascade
Northern
SD27 Cariboo-Chilcotin
SD28 Quesnel
SD49 Central Coast
SD50 Haida Gwaii
SD52 Prince Rupert
SD54 Bulkley Valley
SD57 Prince George
SD59 Peace River South
SD60 Peace River North
SD81 Fort Nelson
SD82 Coast Mountains
SD87 Stikine
SD91 Nechako Lakes
SD92 Nisga'a
Thompson-Okanagan
SD19 Revelstoke
SD22 Vernon
SD23 Central Okanagan
SD53 Okanagan Similkameen
SD58 Nicola-Similkameen
SD67 Okanagan Skaha
SD73 Kamloops-Thompson
SD74 Gold Trail
SD83 North Okanagan-Shuswap

Kootenay-Boundary
SD05 Southeast Kootenay
SD06 Rocky Mountain
SD08 Kootenay Lake
SD10 Arrow Lakes
SD20 Kootenay-Columbia
SD51 Boundary
Vancouver Island
SD47 qathet
SD61 Greater Victoria
SD62 Sooke
SD63 Saanich
SD64 Gulf Islands
SD68 Nanaimo-Ladysmith
SD69 Qualicum
SD70 Pacific Rim
SD71 Comox Valley
SD72 Campbell River
SD79 Cowichan Valley
SD84 Vancouver Island West
SD85 Vancouver Island North
Metro
SD36 Surrey
SD37 Delta
SD38 Richmond
SD39 Vancouver
SD40 New Westminister
SD41 Burnaby
SD43 Coquitlam
SD44 North Vancouver
SD45 West Vancouver
SD46 Sunshine Coast
SD48 Sea to Sky

Appendix B: Daily Affordability Benchmarks

A list of the regions can be found in [Appendix A](#).

Table 8. Affordability Benchmarks for Group Child Care (per day, before CCFRI)

Region	0-18 Months	18-36 Months	3 Years to Kindergarten	Kindergarten	Grade 1 to Age 12	Preschool
Fraser Valley	\$82.14	\$81.80	\$55.04	\$29.04	\$28.57	\$25.71
Kootenay-Boundary	\$73.80	\$73.66	\$50.19	\$27.00	\$26.95	\$24.04
Metro	\$98.19	\$96.14	\$71.90	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$30.00
Northern	\$65.19	\$60.47	\$50.00	\$24.76	\$24.76	\$19.04
Thompson-Okanagan	\$72.14	\$71.04	\$50.61	\$27.00	\$26.95	\$23.80
Vancouver Island	\$86.66	\$84.47	\$55.71	\$24.95	\$24.76	\$28.57

Table 9. Affordability Benchmarks for Family Child Care (per day, before CCFRI)

Region	0-18 Months	18-36 Months	3 Years to Kindergarten	Kindergarten	Grade 1 to Age 12
Fraser Valley	\$54.76	\$52.85	\$46.71	\$31.80	\$30.47
Kootenay-Boundary	\$52.28	\$53.33	\$52.42	\$29.28	\$29.23
Metro	\$68.57	\$70.00	\$57.23	\$30.47	\$29.38
Northern	\$47.61	\$46.42	\$44.28	\$28.57	\$28.57
Thompson-Okanagan	\$52.14	\$52.28	\$46.19	\$29.28	\$29.23
Vancouver Island	\$55.04	\$53.14	\$48.52	\$29.76	\$28.57

Appendix C: Daily Fee Increase Limits

A list of the regions can be found in [Appendix A](#).

Table 10. Annual Fee Increase Limits for Group Child Care (per day)

Region	0-18 Months	18-36 Months	3 Years to Kindergarten	Kindergarten	Grade 1 to Age 12	Preschool
Fraser Valley	\$2.09	\$2.09	\$1.47	\$0.80	\$0.80	\$0.61
Kootenay-Boundary	\$1.95	\$1.66	\$1.38	\$0.71	\$0.66	\$0.61
Metro	\$2.47	\$2.38	\$1.71	\$0.76	\$0.76	\$0.71
Northern	\$1.66	\$1.52	\$1.28	\$0.66	\$0.71	\$0.47
Thompson-Okanagan	\$1.95	\$1.85	\$1.42	\$0.71	\$0.66	\$0.61
Vancouver Island	\$2.23	\$2.14	\$1.47	\$0.66	\$0.66	\$0.71

Table 11. Annual Fee Increase Limits for Family Child Care (per day)

Region	0-18 Months	18-36 Months	3 Years to Kindergarten	Kindergarten	Grade 1 to Age 12
Fraser Valley	\$1.47	\$1.42	\$1.33	\$0.80	\$0.80
Kootenay-Boundary	\$1.38	\$1.42	\$1.38	\$0.76	\$0.71
Metro	\$1.71	\$1.71	\$1.42	\$0.85	\$0.80
Northern	\$1.28	\$1.28	\$1.28	\$0.71	\$0.71
Thompson-Okanagan	\$1.38	\$1.38	\$1.28	\$0.76	\$0.71
Vancouver Island	\$1.42	\$1.38	\$1.33	\$0.80	\$0.71

Table 12. Maximum Exceptional Fee Increase amounts for Group Child Care (per day)

Region	0-18 Months	18-36 Months	3 Years to Kindergarten	Kindergarten	Grade 1 to Age 12	Preschool
Fraser Valley	\$7.04	\$6.95	\$4.85	\$2.66	\$2.66	\$2.09
Kootenay-Boundary	\$6.47	\$5.52	\$4.66	\$2.42	\$2.28	\$2.04
Metro	\$8.19	\$7.90	\$5.71	\$2.61	\$2.57	\$2.42
Northern	\$5.61	\$5.14	\$4.28	\$2.28	\$2.38	\$1.57
Thompson-Okanagan	\$6.57	\$6.28	\$4.71	\$2.42	\$2.28	\$2.04
Vancouver Island	\$7.42	\$7.09	\$5.00	\$2.28	\$2.23	\$2.38

Table 13. Maximum Exceptional Fee Increase amounts for Family Child Care (per day)

Region	0-18 Months	18-36 Months	3 Years to Kindergarten	Kindergarten	Grade 1 to Age 12
Fraser Valley	\$4.90	\$4.76	\$4.38	\$2.71	\$2.71
Kootenay-Boundary	\$4.57	\$4.80	\$4.61	\$2.57	\$2.38
Metro	\$5.76	\$5.71	\$4.85	\$2.85	\$2.66
Northern	\$4.28	\$4.28	\$4.28	\$2.38	\$2.38
Thompson-Okanagan	\$4.57	\$4.52	\$4.28	\$2.47	\$2.38
Vancouver Island	\$4.76	\$4.66	\$4.52	\$2.61	\$2.38

Appendix D: Median Parent Fees

A list of the regions can be found in [Appendix A](#).

Table 14. Median Parent Fees for Group Child Care Providers (monthly)

Region	0-18 Months	18-36 Months	3 Years to Kindergarten	Kindergarten	Grade 1 to Age 12	Preschool
Fraser Valley	\$1,475	\$1,458	\$1,020	\$556	\$556	\$440
Kootenay-Boundary	\$1,358	\$1,160	\$975	\$509	\$478	\$434
Metro	\$1,723	\$1,659	\$1,195	\$546	\$543	\$512
Northern	\$1,181	\$1,080	\$903	\$475	\$500	\$333
Thompson-Okanagan	\$1,376	\$1,315	\$991	\$510	\$478	\$434
Vancouver Island	\$1,557	\$1,489	\$1,045	\$480	\$473	\$500

Table 15. Median Parent Fees for Family Child Care Providers (monthly)

Region	0-18 Months	18-36 Months	3 Years to Kindergarten	Kindergarten	Grade 1 to Age 12
Fraser Valley	\$1,030	\$1,004	\$920	\$572	\$570
Kootenay-Boundary	\$964	\$1,011	\$972	\$535	\$500
Metro	\$1,211	\$1,200	\$1,015	\$600	\$561
Northern	\$904	\$900	\$900	\$500	\$500
Thompson-Okanagan	\$957	\$950	\$900	\$520	\$500
Vancouver Island	\$1,000	\$978	\$945	\$550	\$500