



**Child Care Fee
Reduction Initiative
Funding Guidelines
2026-2027**

Released December 2025



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 more affordable for families through the [Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative \(CCFRI\)](#). This program helps reduce and stabilize parent fees at participating facilities.

To be eligible, a facility must receive [Child Care Operating Funding \(CCOF\) base funding](#). To be approved, providers must follow the policies in these funding guidelines, including rules on fees and closures. These policies help ensure families benefit from reduced fees. The Ministry of Education and Child Care may update 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, providers receive monthly CCFRI provider payments which are in addition to CCOF base funding, CCFRI fee reductions for families and the [Early Childhood Educator \(ECE\) Wage Enhancement](#).

In 2026-27, based on a 20-day month, providers participating in CCOF, CCFRI and ECE Wage Enhancement may receive:

- 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 lower parent fees, and
- Up to \$1,170 per month, per eligible ECE employee (based on a maximum of 195 hours per month) to enhance wages

Providers approved for the CCFRI are responsible for complying with specific obligations under their funding agreement, including a requirement to notify parents 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 more information, please call the CCOF program at 1 888 338 6622 (option 2), Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or visit the program [web page](#). To find providers participating in the CCFRI, please refer to the [online estimator](#).

2 What's New for 2026-27

- Child care providers in the CCFRI must offer at least 9.5 hours of care per day before they can charge additional fees for extra hours ([Section 4.6](#)). This policy clarifies expectations so families have a common understanding what hours of care are included in their base parent fee before any additional charges apply.
- Child care providers transitioning from the [\\$10 a Day ChildCareBC program](#) to the CCFRI need to meet specific conditions related to their parent fees and are expected to maintain comparable hours and services, keep staff wages and benefits, and cannot introduce optional fees for previously included services ([Section 4.3](#)).
- A new streamlined pathway is available to allow school board-operated child care programs to increase fees. This process helps boards to set fees that recover reasonable costs, and aligns with [recent legislative changes](#) to enable school districts in B.C. to support families with more care options close to home. School boards can get details by emailing the [Child Care Community Development Team](#) at CCDevSupport@gov.bc.ca.
- Median parent fees for each region have been updated for 2026-27 based on data from more than 90% of child care facilities throughout the province ([Appendix D](#)). Fee increase limits remain based on 3% and 10% of the regional median fee ([Section 9](#) and [Section 10](#)), and affordability benchmarks continue to be set at the 75th and 80th percentile of reported regional fees ([Section 5](#)).

3 Parent Fee Reduction Amounts

Providers participating in the CCFRI receive funding to reduce parent fees by up to the following amounts for full-time enrolment:

Table 1. Maximum Monthly Parent Fee Reduction Amounts

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 will not be reduced below \$200 per month or \$10 per day for full-time care. If the maximum reduction would bring full-time fees below this minimum, the reduction may be less than the amounts listed in Table 1. Limited exceptions may be approved by the ministry.

For children enrolled four hours or less per day, including preschool programs, the minimum parent fee is \$140 per month or \$7 per day. Fee reductions are [pro-rated](#) for children enrolled for four hours or less per day (except preschool) and adjusted for fewer than five days per week.

Children over age 12 who are enrolled at a participating facility (with a Licensing exemption) are also eligible under the “Grade 1 to Age 12” category in Table 1.

4 Applying for the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative

Child care providers must apply each funding year to participate in the CCFRI and be approved by the ministry.

- The funding year runs from April 1 to March 31
- Eligible providers can apply at any time during the funding year
- The ministry determines if providers meet the eligibility requirements and can be approved for the CCFRI

Key Requirements

- All facilities, whether renewing or applying for the first time, must align their fees and closures with CCFRI policies
- Facilities that are new, new-to-CCFRI or modified must also set fees in line with regional affordability benchmarks for their type of care
- Facility types (established, new, new-to-CCFRI or modified) are defined in [Sections 4.1-4.4](#) and determined at the ministry’s sole discretion
- Providers must declare all mandatory recurring charges as part of the parent fee on their CCFRI application ([Program Confirmation Form](#))
 - The ministry has sole discretion to decide whether a fee qualifies as a parent fee, parent fee increase, administrative fee or optional fee

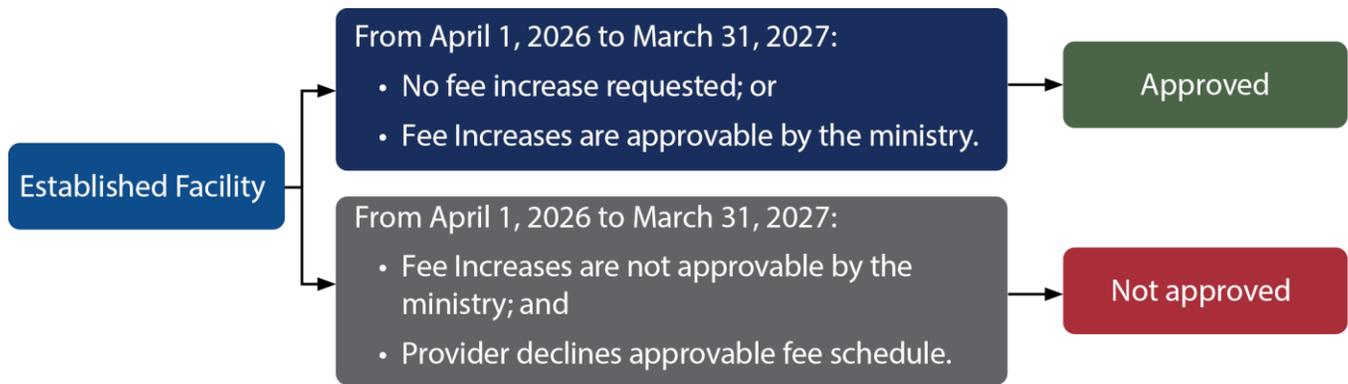
4.1 Established Facilities

An established facility is a facility that the ministry determines to have been continuously enrolled in the CCFRI during 2025-26 and is not classified as new, new-to-CCFRI or modified.

- Facilities not approved to participate in the 2025-26 funding term (including after temporary approval) are not considered established

Key Requirement

- Any planned fee increase between April 1, 2026, to March 31, 2027, must be approved by the ministry

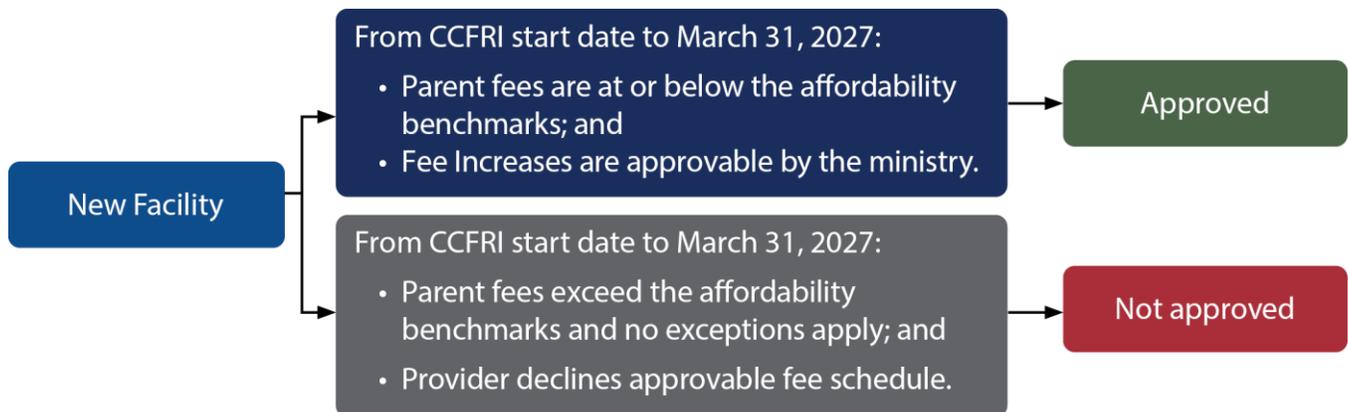


4.2 New Facilities

A new facility is one with a licence start date on or after April 1, 2026, that joins the CCFRI in its first month of operation.

Key Requirement

- Parent fees (including any planned fee increases), must be at or below affordability benchmarks ([Tables 2 and 3](#)) from the time participation begins until March 31, 2027



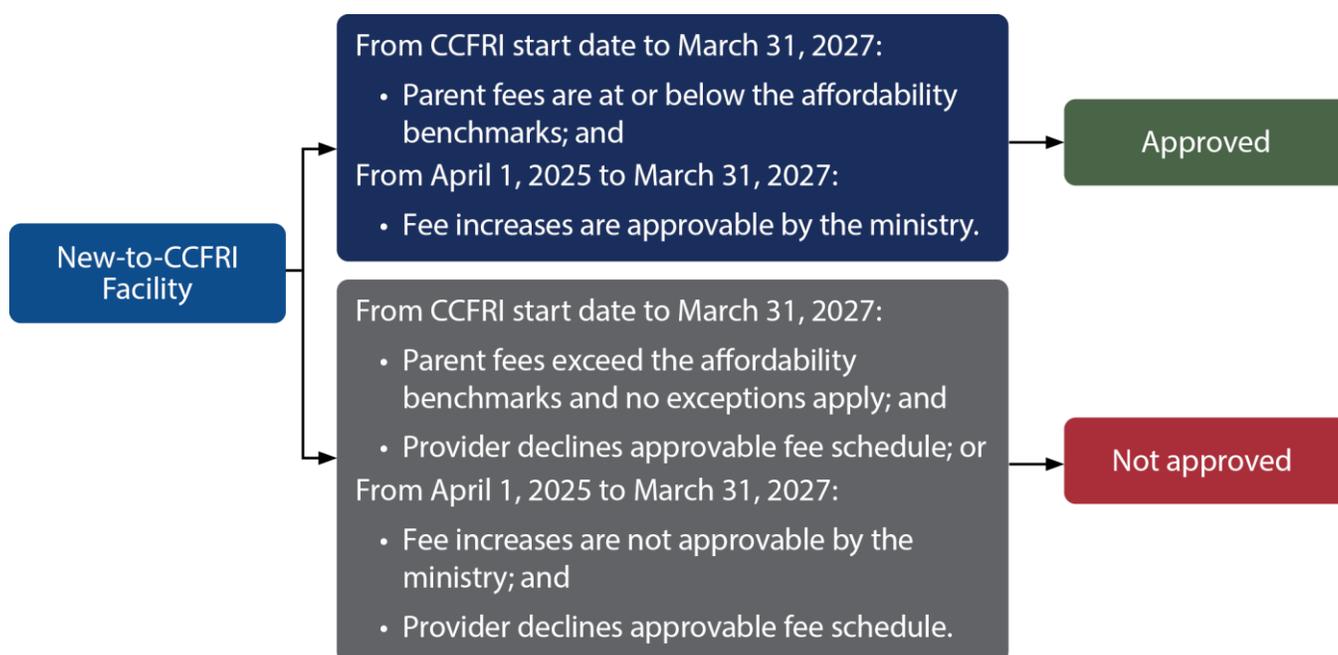
4.3 New-to-CCFRI Facilities

A new-to-CCFRI facility is one with a licence start date before April 1, 2026, that did not continuously participate in the CCFRI for either 2025-26 or 2026-27, or a facility licensed on or after April 1, 2026, that joins the CCFRI after its first month of operation.

Key Requirements

- Parent fees (including planned fee increases) must be at or below affordability benchmarks ([Tables 2 and 3](#)) from the time participation begins until March 31, 2027
- Any fee increase between April 1, 2025, and March 31, 2027, must be approved by the ministry

- To maintain continuity for families and staff, the following additional criteria apply to facilities that previously participated in the \$10 a Day ChildCareBC program:
 - Parent fees must be at or below the most recently approved CCFRI fees before joining the \$10 a Day ChildCareBC program, or affordability benchmarks ([Section 5](#)), whichever is lower
 - If the most recently approved CCFRI fees are below the affordability benchmarks, fee increases up to the 2026-27 fee increase limit ([Section 9](#)) for each funding term since the facility last participated in the CCFRI may be approved, up to a maximum of the affordability benchmarks
 - Facilities must not charge optional fees for hours or services that were included in the most recent CCFRI approved parent fee
 - Hours of operation and services for families, and hours, wages and benefits for staff are expected to be comparable to when the facility participated in the \$10 a Day ChildCareBC Program



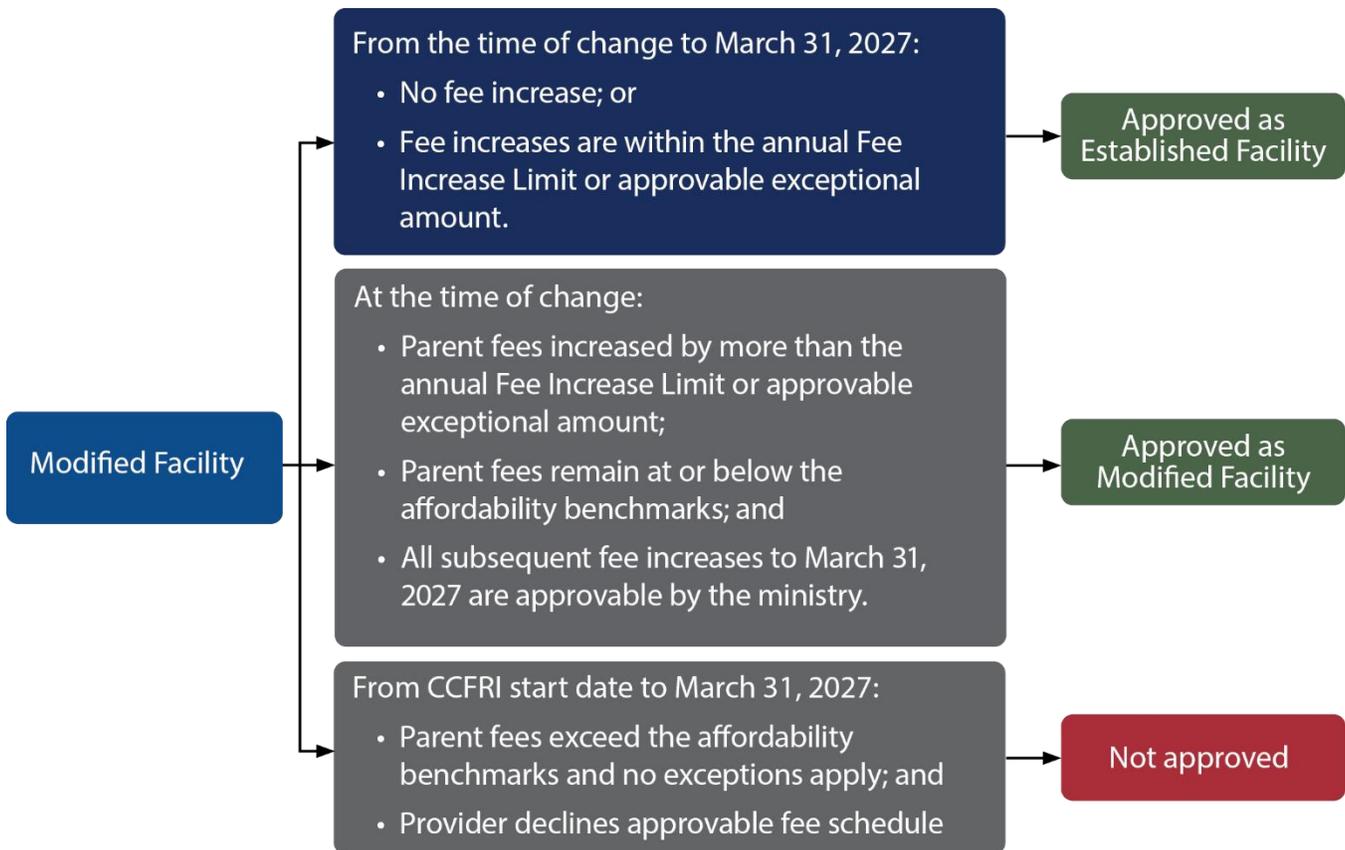
4.4 Modified Facilities

A modified facility is one that was continuously enrolled in the CCFRI from 2025-26 and then changed location, licensee or eligibility for group or family rates in 2026-27, and increased parent fees by more than the annual fee increase limit (or approvable exceptional amount) at the time of the change.

If there is no fee increase or the increase is within the annual fee increase limit, the facility may be considered established instead of modified.

Key Requirement

- Fees for 2026-27 must be at or below affordability benchmarks ([Tables 2 and 3](#)) from the time of change until March 31, 2027



4.5 Administrative Fees

Providers may not charge mandatory fees above the approved parent fee, except administrative fees that meet the following criteria:

Established Facilities

- Administrative fees were frozen as of April 1, 2022
- Established facilities may continue charging the same administrative fees as before April 2022 but cannot increase or add new administrative fees

New and New-to-CCFRI Facilities

- May charge administrative fees on an occasional basis (e.g., annual, one-time)
- Once enrolled in the CCFRI, they cannot increase or add new administrative fees
- New facilities added to an existing organization may align their administrative fees with those charged by the broader organization

Modified Facilities

- May continue charging the same administrative fee as immediately before their change of location, licensee or eligibility

Facilities charging administrative fees under these exceptions do not need to report them on the CCFRI application ([Program Confirmation Form](#)).

4.6 Optional Fees

Providers may only charge optional fees for hours and services if:

- Families who do not pay the optional fee still receive the same usual care covered by the parent fee
- The optional fee is not for hours or services that were previously included in the parent fee, and
- As of April 1, 2026, the optional fee is not for the first 9.5 hours of child care in a day
 - For clarity, facilities may include fewer than 9.5 hours in the parent fee if they do not charge optional fees for extra hours
 - Optional fees for professional development days, spring and winter breaks, early dismissal days and incidental charges such as late pick-up fees or optional fees for services (e.g., meals) are still permitted

5 Affordability Benchmarks

To join the CCFRI, new, new-to-CCFRI and modified facilities must set parent fees at or below the affordability benchmarks for their region.

Providers offering no-fee child care may still be eligible for the CCFRI and should contact the ministry for details.

What Are Affordability Benchmarks?

- Affordability benchmarks represent the fees charged by most facilities in a region for the same type of care. For example, the 80th percentile means 80% of facilities charge this amount or less, and 20% charge more
- Benchmarks are reviewed and updated annually based on data from child care facilities across the province
- They reflect the maximum fees allowed for new, new-to-CCFRI and modified facilities and are not recommended fees

Affordability Benchmarks for the 2026-27 Funding Term

- Children under 36 months: 80th percentile
- All other care categories: 75th percentile

Exceptions

A facility may be approved to set parent 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 its 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, or
- The ministry determines this would help more families benefit from fee reductions – for example, to support inclusivity, cultural safety or wraparound services at facilities primarily serving families experiencing barriers or underserved populations, including First Nations, Métis, Inuit and low-income families

Out-of-School Care

- For facilities operating full-day summer care for Kindergarten and Grade 1 to Age 12, July and August parent fees will be assessed against the affordability benchmarks for the 3 years to Kindergarten care category

Supporting Information

- Affordability benchmarks: [Tables 2 and 3](#)
- List of Regions: [Appendix A](#)
- Affordability benchmarks as daily amounts: Tables 8 and 9 ([Appendix B](#))
- Median fees: Tables 14 and 15 ([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	\$1,760	\$1,741	\$1,195	\$635	\$630	\$560
Kootenay-Boundary	\$1,595	\$1,617	\$1,109	\$571	\$564	\$564
Metro	\$2,090	\$2,050	\$1,525	\$632	\$632	\$630
Northern	\$1,402	\$1,340	\$1,072	\$534	\$534	\$395
Thompson-Okanagan	\$1,591	\$1,589	\$1,096	\$571	\$567	\$551
Vancouver Island	\$1,895	\$1,846	\$1,187	\$524	\$514	\$580

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	\$1,181	\$1,137	\$1000	\$700	\$660
Kootenay-Boundary	\$1,101	\$1,141	\$1,065	\$662	\$637
Metro	\$1,470	\$1,470	\$1,238	\$640	\$640
Northern	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$950	\$646	\$622
Thompson-Okanagan	\$1,100	\$1,100	\$973	\$662	\$637
Vancouver Island	\$1,200	\$1,159	\$1,047	\$630	\$615

6 Maximum Closure Period

A closure period is any day when a facility is not open and providing licensed child care, excluding provincial statutory holidays.

Key Requirements

- Facilities may not charge parent fees for any closure periods beyond those approved by the ministry in writing
- Facilities may not charge parent fees for closure periods longer than:
 - Two consecutive weeks in a month, and
 - Four weeks total per funding agreement term

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.

Exceptions

The ministry may approve a provider to charge parent fees during additional closures if:

- The closures align with the facility's past history, or
- They are due to circumstances beyond the provider's control, and
- Charging fees is necessary to maintain operational viability

7 Parent Fee Increase Assessment

Providers participating in the CCFRI must apply for and receive ministry approval before implementing any parent fee increase.

Applications for fee increases must be reported on the CCFRI application ([Program Confirmation Form](#)) for review.

What is a Parent Fee Increase?

- Any increase to a mandatory fee or introduction of a new mandatory fee
- Adding any fee for hours or services that were previously included in the parent fee

In the 2025-26 funding term, most providers were approved with either no fee increase or an increase within the annual fee increase limit

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

When reviewing a CCFRI application, the ministry first checks whether a provider has requested a parent fee increase and if that increase is within the annual fee increase limit ([Section 9](#)).

Established Facilities

- If there is no fee increase, or the increase is within the annual fee increase limit, the facility will receive automatic approval within a few business days, if all other criteria are met

New, New-to-CCFRI and Modified Facilities

- These facilities may request fee increases, but
 - Fees must remain at or below the affordability benchmarks after any fee increase, and
 - They are not eligible for automatic approval



7.2 Fee Increase Request over the Annual Fee Increase Limit

In some cases, providers may need to increase fees by more than the annual fee increase limit. An exceptional fee increase is any increase that exceeds the annual fee increase limit.

How Exceptional Fee Increases Are Assessed

- Requests are assessed under the Parent Fee Increase Exceptions Policy ([Section 10](#))
- School boards requesting an exceptional fee increase follow a different process and should contact the Child Care Community Development Team at CCDevSupport@gov.bc.ca.

What Providers Need to Do

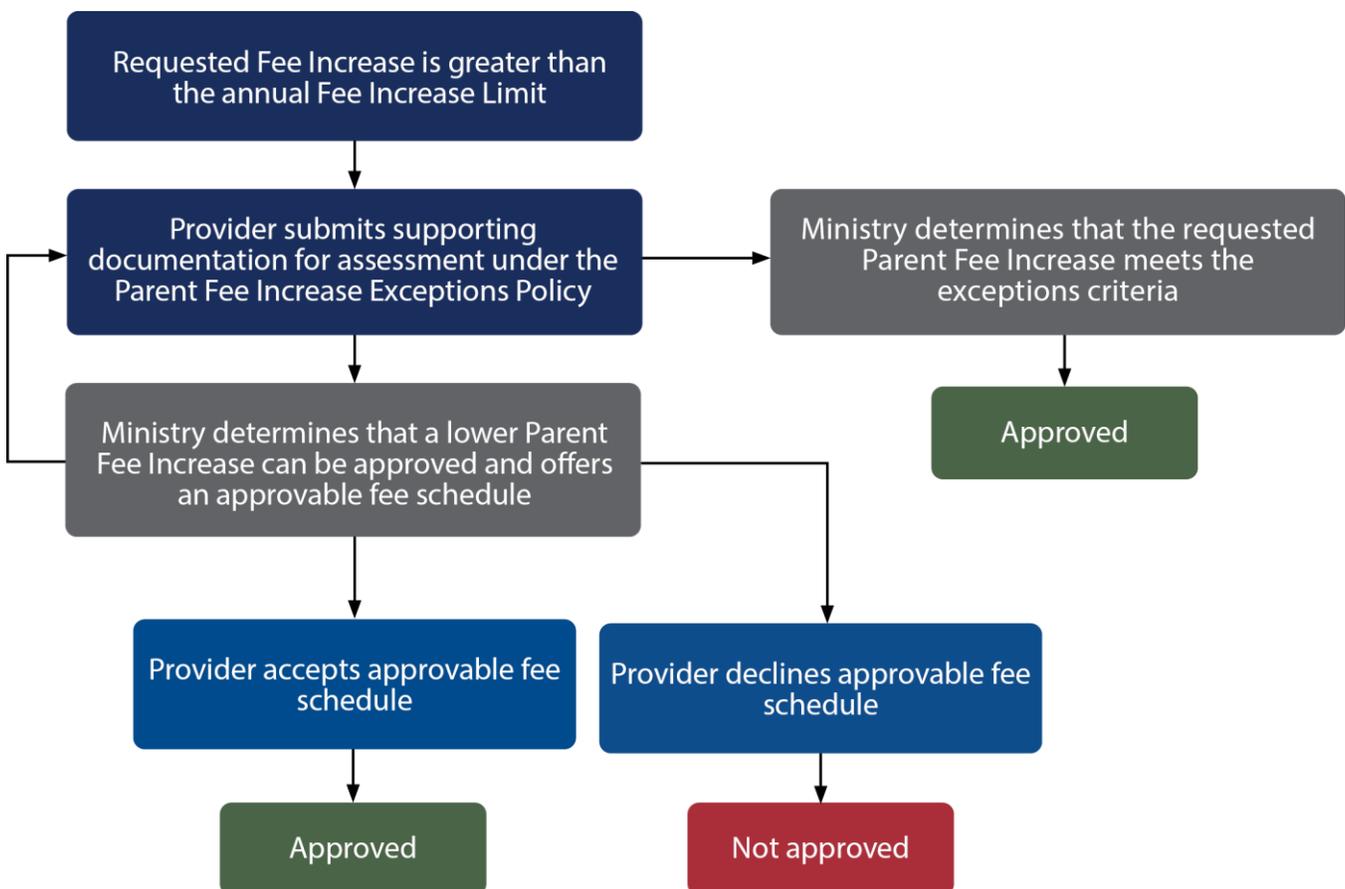
If a provider plans to increase parent fees by more than the 2026-27 annual fee increase limit for their facility's region, they must submit additional information and/or documentation for review.

What the Ministry Will Do

- Approve the facility to enrol in the CCFRI if the fee increase meets the criteria and all other requirements are met, or
- Offer an approvable fee schedule if the requested amount does not meet the criteria
 - If the provider accepts, the facility will be approved to enrol in the CCFRI (if all other requirements are met)
 - If the provider declines, the facility will not be approved
 - The provider may also submit new information for assessment (which may delay a decision from the ministry and cause payment interruptions)

Temporary Approval

- Established facilities may receive temporary approval up to the month their requested fee increase takes effect (except for fee increases starting April 2026)
- To avoid payment interruptions during review, providers can postpone their requested fee increase and be temporarily approved to continue receiving funding until the month the fee increase is scheduled



8 Mid-Term Fee Increase Requests

Sometimes, a provider may need to request a fee increase after being approved for the CCFRI. Providers must request and receive ministry approval before implementing any fee increase.

Established Facilities

- Requests will be assessed under:
 - The annual fee increase limit ([Section 9](#)), and
 - The parent fee increase exceptions policy ([Section 10](#))

New, New-to-CCFRI and Modified Facilities

- Requests will be assessed only under the parent fee increase exceptions policy
- The ministry will not consider whether the requested fee increase is within the annual fee increase limit for 2026–27

9 Annual Fee Increase Limits

To help keep child care affordable, the CCFRI limits how much parent fees can increase during participation.

Fee Increase Limits for the 2026-27 Funding Year:

- The annual fee increase limit is based on 3% of the regional median fee
- Fee increase limits are updated annually using data from child care facilities throughout B.C.

Supporting Information

- Annual fee increase limits: Tables 4 and 5
- List of Regions: [Appendix A](#)
- Fee increase limits as daily amounts: Tables 10 and 11 ([Appendix C](#))
- Median fees: Tables 14 and 15 ([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	\$48	\$46	\$33	\$18	\$17	\$14
Kootenay-Boundary	\$45	\$42	\$31	\$15	\$15	\$14
Metro	\$55	\$54	\$38	\$17	\$17	\$16
Northern	\$39	\$37	\$29	\$15	\$15	\$10
Thompson-Okanagan	\$45	\$43	\$31	\$16	\$15	\$14
Vancouver Island	\$51	\$50	\$33	\$15	\$15	\$14

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	\$32	\$32	\$29	\$19	\$18
Kootenay-Boundary	\$30	\$31	\$30	\$17	\$15
Metro	\$38	\$37	\$32	\$18	\$17
Northern	\$28	\$28	\$27	\$16	\$15
Thompson-Okanagan	\$30	\$30	\$28	\$17	\$15
Vancouver Island	\$32	\$31	\$29	\$17	\$16

10 Parent Fee Increase Exceptions Policy

To support providers facing exceptional cost pressures, the ministry may approve a fee increase that exceeds the annual limit in limited circumstances

- Any request for a fee increase greater than the annual limit will be assessed under the fee increase eligibility criteria outlined in this section
- Each request is assessed on a case by case basis to determine if the fee increase reason meets one or more of the exception policies outlined in this section

In the 2025-26 funding term, only a small number of providers applied for or were approved under the Parent Fee Increase Exceptions Policy

Eligibility Criteria

To be approved for an exceptional fee increase, all of the following criteria must be met:

- At least one eligible exception (listed in [Sections 10.1-10.4](#)) must apply
- The provider must submit sufficient evidence of the related expense:
 - Receipts or quotes for one-time costs, or
 - Documentation showing before and after amounts for ongoing cost increases
- The provider must have exhausted all other ChildCareBC and ministry funding available for the expense (e.g., Maintenance Fund, mandate funding for public sector providers)
- The fee increase must be:
 - Proportional to the expense
 - Amortized over at least 12 months, and
 - Within the maximum exceptional fee increase amount, unless otherwise approved by the ministry ([Section 11](#))

Ineligible Expenses

Exceptional fee increases will not be considered for:

- Regular or temporary fluctuations in operating costs (e.g., rent, fuel, food, benefits, WorkSafeBC, employer health tax)
- Expenses from individuals not at arm's length (e.g., family member raises maintenance fees)

- Costs due to expansion of licensed spaces
- Program materials (e.g., art supplies, toys, books)
- Facility costs (e.g., small appliances, office equipment, textiles, security systems, gardening supplies, electronics)
- Lost revenue from:
 - Removal of waitlist fees
 - Removal of optional fees for the first 9.5 hours of care per day

10.1 Exceptional Circumstances

This exception applies to sudden and unexpected expenses that:

- Are outside the organization’s control and are not regular cost increases
- Address an immediate health or safety concern or are essential for the facility to operate, and
- Occur within six months of the requested fee increase

Eligible Expenses

- Items listed as eligible under the Maintenance Fund (if any portion is not funded)
- Major appliances: refrigerator, stove, dishwasher, washing machine, 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 third party
- Costs related to staying open or reopening after an unusual incident, such as:
 - Exposure to serious infectious illness requiring enhanced cleaning protocols, or
 - Natural disasters (e.g., floods, fires, earthquakes)

10.2 Direct Care Staff Wage Increases

This exception applies when wage increases are needed for staff who spend at least 50% of their time providing direct care, if:

- The wage increase is part of a collective bargaining agreement, or
- The facility has been unable to hire or retain direct care staff, creating challenges in meeting required staff-to-child ratios. In these cases, the ministry will consider:
 - Current wages and the amount of the proposed increase
 - How the facility's fees compare to regional norms, and
 - The strength of the business case based on supporting documents, such as: expiring non-renewable staffing exemptions, records of unfilled spaces or closures due to staffing shortages, or multiple unfilled job postings

If the wage increase is for ECEs eligible for the ECE Wage Enhancement (ECE-WE), the provider must also apply for the wage enhancement.

The ministry may also consider wage increase related expenses, such as higher statutory benefits.

10.3 Priority Service Expansion

This exception applies to expenses for expanding services to benefit families and communities in the following ways:

- Extending or expanding hours of care for all enrolled children, or
- Increasing opportunities for all enrolled children in facilities majority owned, managed or governed by First Nations, Métis, Inuit or Indigenous organizations to connect with Indigenous languages, cultures, and communities. Eligible expenses may include:
 - Participation of an Elder, culture/language teacher or family members in the program
 - Children's participation in community, language or cultural events
 - Language or cultural resources for use in the child care program

10.4 Affordable Child Care for Underserved Populations

Fee increases may be considered if:

- The facility has historically provided care to underserved populations (e.g., First Nations, Métis, Inuit or low-income families) at significantly below regional median fees or at no cost

- The fee increase will help ensure operational sustainability, and
- The fee increase will not significantly raise out-of-pocket costs for families

11 Maximum Exceptional Fee Increase Limits

Exceptional fee increase limits for the 2026–27 Funding Term:

- The maximum exceptional fee increase limits are based on 10% of the regional median fee
- These maximums are not in addition to the annual fee increase limits—they replace them for approved exceptional fee increases
- Fee increase limits are updated annually using data from child care facilities throughout B.C.

Exceptions

- These maximums do not apply to fee increases approved under the Affordable Child Care for Underserved Populations exception
- In rare, extraordinary circumstances, the ministry may approve a fee increase above these maximums at its sole discretion

Supporting Information

- Maximum exceptional fee increase limits: Tables 6 and 7
- List of Regions: [Appendix A](#)
- Maximum exceptional fee increase limits as daily amounts: Tables 12 and 13 ([Appendix C](#))
- Median fees: Tables 14 and 15 ([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	\$159	\$154	\$110	\$59	\$58	\$46
Kootenay-Boundary	\$150	\$140	\$104	\$52	\$50	\$46
Metro	\$185	\$179	\$126	\$56	\$56	\$53
Northern	\$131	\$122	\$98	\$50	\$50	\$33
Thompson-Okanagan	\$151	\$142	\$103	\$53	\$51	\$46
Vancouver Island	\$170	\$167	\$109	\$49	\$49	\$46

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	\$107	\$106	\$96	\$62	\$60
Kootenay-Boundary	\$100	\$103	\$100	\$57	\$51
Metro	\$126	\$124	\$106	\$60	\$58
Northern	\$94	\$93	\$90	\$53	\$51
Thompson-Okanagan	\$100	\$100	\$92	\$55	\$51
Vancouver Island	\$107	\$103	\$98	\$55	\$53

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: Any day when a facility is not open and providing licensed child care, excluding 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 the facility within the maximum capacity.

ECE: An individual who holds an Early Childhood Educator, Infant and Toddler Educator or Special Needs Educator certificate issued by the BC Early Childhood Educator Registry, and such certificate has not been suspended, cancelled or expired.

ECE Employee: An ECE employed at the facility on a full-time, part-time or substitute basis, and includes an owner of a facility, ECEs primarily working in an administrative function, and Supported Child Development support workers or Aboriginal Supported Child Development support workers, provided the supported child development worker is directly employed at the facility, but does not include an ECE engaged as an independent contractor.

Enrolled Children: Children registered 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: A facility that the ministry determines to have been continuously enrolled in the CCFRI during 2025-26 and is not classified as new, new-to-CCFRI or modified. Facilities not approved to participate in the 2025-26 funding term (including after temporary approval) are not considered established.

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: A facility that was continuously enrolled in the CCFRI from 2025-26 and then changed location, licensee or eligibility for group or family rates in 2026-27, and increased parent fees by more than the annual fee increase limit (or approvable exceptional amount) at the time of the change.

New Facility: A facility with a licence start date on or after April 1, 2026, that joins the CCFRI in its first month of operation.

New-to-CCFRI Facility: A facility with a licence start date before April 1, 2026, that did not continuously participate in the CCFRI for either 2025-26 or 2026-27, or a facility licensed on or after April 1, 2026, that joins the CCFRI after its first month of operation.

Optional Fee: Any fee that the provider charges or seeks to charge a parent for optional hours or 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 charged for the first 9.5 hours of child care in each day. For greater certainty, this does not preclude incidental fees (such as late pick-up charges) or other non-routine charges that the ministry determines are reasonable.

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 the facility's 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.

Appendices

Appendix A: CCFRI Regions

The CCFRI uses the same regional structure as the British Columbia School Superintendents Association (BCSSA), which groups school districts 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 Westminster
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	\$83.80	\$82.90	\$56.90	\$30.23	\$30.00	\$26.66
Kootenay-Boundary	\$75.95	\$77.00	\$52.80	\$27.19	\$26.85	\$26.85
Metro	\$99.52	\$97.61	\$72.61	\$30.09	\$30.09	\$30.00
Northern	\$66.76	\$63.80	\$51.04	\$25.42	\$25.42	\$18.80
Thompson-Okanagan	\$75.76	\$75.66	\$52.19	\$27.19	\$27.00	\$26.23
Vancouver Island	\$90.23	\$87.90	\$56.52	\$24.95	\$24.47	\$27.61

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	\$56.23	\$54.14	\$47.61	\$33.33	\$31.42
Kootenay-Boundary	\$52.42	\$54.33	\$50.71	\$31.52	\$30.33
Metro	\$70.00	\$70.00	\$58.95	\$30.47	\$30.47
Northern	\$47.61	\$47.61	\$45.23	\$30.76	\$29.61
Thompson-Okanagan	\$52.38	\$52.38	\$46.33	\$31.52	\$30.33
Vancouver Island	\$57.14	\$55.19	\$49.85	\$30.00	\$29.28

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	\$2.28	\$2.19	\$1.57	\$0.85	\$0.80	\$0.66
Kootenay-Boundary	\$2.14	\$2.00	\$1.47	\$0.71	\$0.71	\$0.66
Metro	\$2.61	\$2.57	\$1.80	\$0.80	\$0.80	\$0.76
Northern	\$1.85	\$1.76	\$1.38	\$0.71	\$0.71	\$0.47
Thompson-Okanagan	\$2.14	\$2.04	\$1.47	\$0.76	\$0.71	\$0.66
Vancouver Island	\$2.42	\$2.38	\$1.57	\$0.71	\$0.71	\$0.66

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	\$1.52	\$1.52	\$1.38	\$0.90	\$0.85
Kootenay-Boundary	\$1.42	\$1.47	\$1.42	\$0.80	\$0.71
Metro	\$1.80	\$1.76	\$1.52	\$0.85	\$0.80
Northern	\$1.33	\$1.33	\$1.28	\$0.76	\$0.71
Thompson-Okanagan	\$1.42	\$1.42	\$1.33	\$0.80	\$0.71
Vancouver Island	\$1.52	\$1.47	\$1.38	\$0.80	\$0.76

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	\$7.57	\$7.33	\$5.23	\$2.80	\$2.76	\$2.19
Kootenay-Boundary	\$7.14	\$6.66	\$4.95	\$2.47	\$2.38	\$2.19
Metro	\$8.80	\$8.52	\$6.00	\$2.66	\$2.66	\$2.52
Northern	\$6.23	\$5.80	\$4.66	\$2.38	\$2.38	\$1.57
Thompson-Okanagan	\$7.19	\$6.76	\$4.90	\$2.52	\$2.42	\$2.19
Vancouver Island	\$8.09	\$7.95	\$5.19	\$2.33	\$2.33	\$2.19

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	\$5.09	\$5.04	\$4.57	\$2.95	\$2.85
Kootenay-Boundary	\$4.76	\$4.90	\$4.76	\$2.71	\$2.42
Metro	\$6.00	\$5.90	\$5.04	\$2.85	\$2.76
Northern	\$4.47	\$4.42	\$4.28	\$2.52	\$2.42
Thompson-Okanagan	\$4.76	\$4.76	\$4.38	\$2.61	\$2.42
Vancouver Island	\$5.09	\$4.90	\$4.66	\$2.61	\$2.52

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	\$1,587	\$1,540	\$1,099	\$590	\$580	\$458
Kootenay-Boundary	\$1,500	\$1,395	\$1,037	\$516	\$502	\$463
Metro	\$1,848	\$1,785	\$1,260	\$558	\$557	\$525
Northern	\$1,313	\$1,220	\$975	\$500	\$500	\$333
Thompson-Okanagan	\$1,514	\$1,424	\$1,029	\$528	\$509	\$455
Vancouver Island	\$1,700	\$1,669	\$1,094	\$492	\$491	\$458

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	\$1,071	\$1,060	\$960	\$620	\$600
Kootenay-Boundary	\$1,000	\$1,025	\$1,000	\$568	\$514
Metro	\$1,256	\$1,236	\$1,057	\$600	\$582
Northern	\$937	\$931	\$900	\$531	\$514
Thompson-Okanagan	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$920	\$553	\$514
Vancouver Island	\$1,068	\$1,030	\$978	\$550	\$526