

# COVID-19 Update

## Child Care Operators/Providers/Partners

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Edition 18



Ministry of  
Children and Family  
Development

### Kamloops Residential School Tragedy

We share in the grief and outrage expressed across B.C., Canada and the world for the trauma and harms done at the Kamloops Residential School, and all residential schools, to so many children, their families, and communities.

The truth that many Indigenous children forced to attend residential schools never made it home has been publicly known; however, the news of this discovery makes that truth present and painful. At this time, our focus is on supporting Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc and other Indigenous communities.



The following [YouTube link](#) from award-winning and best-selling author Monique Gray Smith - a leader in Indigenous relations and truth and reconciliation - has been provided to help support educators, families and adults being called upon to have tender conversations about the tragedy. Included within are suggestions, strategies, and a list of authors to help guide us all forward.

### Child Care Space Creation Continues

The Province [announced last week](#) it has funded nearly 26,000 new licensed child care spaces through the Childcare BC plan.

As the federal government moves forward with its low-cost [national child care plan](#), MCFD will continue to work to deliver the affordable and inclusive universal child care that families need.

### New Child Care Legislation Introduced

On June 8, government brought two pieces of proposed legislation forward that will strengthen our support for British Columbia's Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) and reinforce our commitment to inclusive universal child care.

#### 1. Early Childhood Educators Act

This change removes the regulation of ECEs and ECE Assistants from the [Community Care and Assisted Living Act](#) and creates a new statute under the minister responsible for child care. It also enables the creation of a public online registry of both registered ECEs and ECE Assistants, as well as approved post-secondary ECE programs. This is to improve accountability, strengthen oversight and quality assurance, and speed up investigations.

Other changes would allow for temporary certificates given to ECEs with international credentials who are upgrading their coursework to meet provincial requirements, making it easier for child care providers to hire skilled educators who received their education abroad.

#### 2. Early Learning and Child Care Act

This proposed legislation combines the [Child Care BC Act](#) and the [Child Care Subsidy Act](#). It is part of government's commitment to inclusive universal child care and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous peoples.

This will improve transparency through annual reporting requirements and introduce authority for the minister to enact regulations that could limit child care fees or the increase in fees charged by providers receiving government funding.

If passed, considerable regulation development would be required through stakeholder engagement, and it's anticipated the Acts would not come into effect until 2023.