

Province of British Columbia

**Canada-British Columbia Early Learning and Child Care
Agreement: Report on Progress and Results Achieved in
2021/2022**

November 2022

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Introduction

In February 2018, the Government of British Columbia (B.C.) and the Government of Canada (Canada) signed the bilateral 2017/18-2019/20 Canada-British Columbia Early Learning and Child Care Agreement (the Agreement). This Agreement provided the Province with approximately \$155.7 million over three years for the purpose of enhancing its early learning and child care system (ELCC). The Agreement was extended for an additional year in July 2020, providing \$52.9 million in 2020/21 to provide continued support for ELCC initiatives in B.C. In July 2021, Canada and B.C. extended the bilateral ELCC Agreement for an additional four-year term, providing a total of \$272.3 million.

B.C.'s priority areas of investments under the 2021/22 Agreement extension include:

1. Maintaining increased affordability of child care, prioritizing facilities offering care to Infants and Toddlers; and
2. Maintaining enhanced equity through targeted investment in underserved communities – Indigenous families and families with children with extra support needs.

B.C. received approximately \$52.9M in 2021/22 through the ELCC Agreement to maintain existing programs that improve child care affordability and enhance equity through targeted investment in underserved communities.

The 2021/22 bilateral ELCC Agreement included Annex 3: Early childhood workforce funding for fiscal year 2021 to 2022 (the Annex) providing a total of \$49.2 million in 2021/22 to support the attraction and retention of a qualified workforce, through training, professional development, wages, bursary programs, tuition support and grants. The ECE Bursaries (including Indigenous specific bursaries) initiative, previously funded under B.C.'s ELCC Action Plan for 2017/18 to 2020/21, received funding in 2021-22 from the Workforce Funding provided via the Annex 3 of the ELCC Agreement.

B.C. achieved progress in a number of key areas during the 2021/2022 ELCC Agreement, including:

- Continuing to support \$10 a Day ChildCare BC Initiative to deliver over 2,700 low-cost, affordable child care spaces;
- Supporting the First Nations Health Authority and Aboriginal Head Start Association of B.C. to continue operations at 31 Aboriginal Head Start (AHS) expansion sites, delivering the AHS model of child care to Indigenous families on and off reserve;
- Continuing the \$10M enhancement for Supported Child Development (SCD) and Aboriginal Supported Child Development (ASCD), to maintain enhanced service levels; and
- Investing in the recruitment and retention of Early Childhood Workforce.

The Federal funding provided to B.C. under this ELCC Agreement complements the \$2.7-billion investment that B.C. has made under the [ChildCare B.C. Plan since 2018](#), and helps to build on the momentum achieved in the first three years of ChildCare BC towards the Province's ten-year commitment to implement an affordable and inclusive system of child care that is available for every

family that wants or needs it. This report provides an update on progress on each of the initiatives included in the 2021/22 ELCC Agreement.

Description of the ELCC Initiatives

Priority #1: Affordable Child Care

Initiative A: \$10 a Day ChildCare BC initiative (formerly known as the Early Care and Learning Prototype Sites)

Five Year ELCC Budget Allocation

Table 1. Five-Year ELCC Budget and Expenditures for the \$10 a Day ChildCareBC initiative (\$M)

	Year 1 (2017/18)	Year 2 (2018/19)	Year 3 (2019/20)	Year 4 (2020/21)	Year 5 (2021/22)
Budget	-	\$30.0	\$30.0	\$31.0	\$31.0
Expenditure	-	\$18.6 ¹	\$30.4	\$30.0	\$30.6

Description of the Activities and Results of the ELCC Initiative

In order learn more about publicly funded models of child care, in 2018, British Columbia converted approximately 2,500 existing licensed child care spaces into low-cost spaces at over 50 facilities throughout the province (formerly known as Prototype Sites or PT Sites). Each \$10 a Day ChildCareBC site is required to offer licensed infant/toddler care (i.e., for children under 3 years). Families accessing the care at a \$10 a Day facility pay a maximum of \$200 per month (or \$10/day) per child for regular full-time care with some families eligible to receive additional support through the Province’s income-tested Affordable Child Care Benefit (ACCB) paying less than \$200 per month, and in many cases, nothing at all.

By 2021/22, all \$10 a Day sites that had temporarily closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic had re-opened and enrolment at most facilities returned to pre-pandemic levels. Throughout 2021/22, \$10 a Day facilities continued to provide quality, affordable child care services while adapting to changing COVID-19 related restrictions and recommended best practices.

In the summer and fall of 2021, B.C. experienced a number of extreme weather events, including a heat dome, wildfires, and flooding, some of which impacted \$10 a Day facilities.

As a result of the Lytton Creek wildfire, on June 30, 2021, the Nzen’man’ Child Care facility closed due to Evacuation Orders. Much of the village of Lytton burned down, including the Nzen’man’ Child Care facility, and two people lost their lives in the fire. The Nzen’man’ facility remained closed for several

¹ Expenditures in 2018/19 were lower than budgeted, due to a mid-year implementation of the first ECL Prototype Sites (in November 2018, instead of April 2018 as originally budgeted).

months but was able to restart their Funding Agreement and re-open 44 spaces in April 2022, serving families in two smaller locations while their facility is rebuilt.

On July 13, 2021, the White Rock Lake wildfire started and grew to an estimated 300 hectares in size in just one day². The fire continued to burn and grow for several weeks, scorching more than 83,000 hectares and destroying dozens of homes across the Southern Interior. The Okanagan Indian Band, who operate the Snc'c'amala?tn Early Childhood Education Centre, had been on either Evacuation Alerts or Evacuation Orders throughout the month of July due to the wildfire. A decision was made by the Snc'c'amala?tn Early Childhood Education Centre on August 3rd to close for August 4th, however, due to the ongoing danger of the fire and resulting displacement of families and facility staff, the facility remained closed until Sept 13, 2021, when they re-opened at a reduced capacity (58 spaces compared to a licensed capacity of 92).

Fortunately, the 2021 Pacific Northwest floods did not cause any service disruptions or facility damage at any \$10 a Day ChildCare BC centres.

Under B.C.'s Budget 2021, B.C. converted an additional 4,015 child care spaces at 84 facilities into provincially funded \$10 a Day spaces. This 2021 cohort of \$10 a Day spaces operate under a different funding model than the 2018 cohort, allowing B.C. to study and learn more about how to deliver child care as a core service. In addition, and under the Canada-British Columbia Canada-wide ELCC Agreement, the total number of \$10 a Day spaces is projected to increase to roughly 12,500 province-wide by early 2023.

Impact on More Vulnerable or Underserved Communities

The positive financial impact on families with children attending \$10 a Day Sites is significant. In B.C., the median monthly parent fee for licensed Infant/Toddler care delivered in a Group setting³ for 2021/22 fiscal year was \$1,350 per infant and \$1,250 per toddler. The maximum monthly parent fee at \$10 a Day sites for the same type of care is \$200, less than 20% of these amounts.

Results from the [evaluation of the Prototype Site initiative](#) (now called \$10 a Day ChildCare BC initiative) show positive outcomes for both families and the workforce. The vast majority of families reported improved financial wellbeing, including increased savings, household and disposable income, housing stability; reduced debt; and improved participation in the workforce and/or school. Families also reported improved family well-being, quality of life, work-life balance, mental and physical health; increased family time; and reduced family stress and social isolation. Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) reported positive impacts including increased pay and benefits; and training opportunities; improved levels of well-being and lowered levels of stress; and increased job satisfaction.

The selection of the \$10 a Day Sites reflects the diversity of B.C.'s geography, populations, and parent needs. There are specific considerations given to providers that serve Indigenous families, single parent

² <https://www.castanet.net/news/Vernon/345066/White-Rock-Lake-wildfire-a-timeline-from-start-to-its-control>

³ Median monthly fees reflect the median monthly cost to the family for full-time child care, prior to any eligible discounts, including the provincial ACCB and/or the provincial Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative.

families, families in underserved communities, and parents working non-standard hours. Families with children with support needs attending \$10 a Day Sites also benefited. B.C.’s Supported Child Development (SCD) and Aboriginal SCD programs provide consultation to child care providers and families, and when needed, extra staffing to enable children with support needs to participate in child care programming. In fiscal 2021/22, an average of 101 families per month attended a \$10 a Day Site and received SCD services; and an average of 19 Indigenous families per month attended a \$10 a Day Site and received ASCD services.

Priority #2: Underserved Communities

Initiative B: Expand Culturally based Indigenous Child Care

Five Year ELCC Budget Allocation

Table 2 Five-Year ELCC Budget and Expenditures for Culturally based Indigenous Child Care (\$M)

	Year 1 (2017/18)	Year 2 (2018/19)	Year 3 (2019/20)	Year 4 (2020/21)	Year 5 (2021/22)
Budget	\$10.0	\$10.0	\$10.0	\$10.0	\$10.0
Expenditure	\$10.0	\$10.0	\$10.0	\$10.0	\$10.0

Description of the Activities and Results of the ELCC Initiative

Aboriginal Head Start (AHS) programs support activities focused on early childhood learning and development for Indigenous children up to six years of age. The programs are designed and delivered by Indigenous communities in a way that meets their unique needs. The goal is to support the spiritual, emotional, intellectual, and physical growth of children. Throughout the 2021/22 fiscal year, both the Aboriginal Head Start Association of B.C. (AHSABC) and the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) worked closely with Indigenous communities and child care providers to ensure that community needs as well as capacity were central to funding decisions. Throughout the process AHS child care providers had the support of advisors from both AHSABC and FNHA working to support them to become operational. As a result, 31 AHS programs representing 643 new AHS spaces are operational for Indigenous children and their families.

Impact on More Vulnerable or Underserved Communities

AHS sites continue to provide participating families with Indigenous-led child care based in culture and connected to community. Families participating in AHS programs often experience:

- An increased sense of cultural identity and belonging;
- Access to no cost child care for Indigenous families;
- Language revitalization and preservation;
- Improved outcomes for children; and
- Improved access to additional supports due to a wrap-around approach (early intervention therapies).

By 2021/22, all AHS sites had resumed regular programming after any temporary closures due the COVID-19 pandemic. Many AHS sites had to pivot their child care services during temporary closures to provide continued services to families by offering virtual connections and language learning sessions with Elders and distributing food hampers.

Description of the Consultation Process

In fall 2017, the Ministry of Children and Family Development (“MCFD” or “the Ministry”)⁴ led an engagement process that resulted in contracts with AHSABC and the FNHA to lead the AHS expansion process. The Ministry meets with AHS partners monthly to receive updates on these programs.

Through the Indigenous led process, these organizations engaged with several other Indigenous partners. Throughout 2018/19, as part of regular engagement opportunities with the Indigenous Early Years Advisory Circle, AHSABC and FNHA provided regular updates regarding the expansion of AHS programs. Since that time the Ministry holds monthly meetings with the partners administering this program to monitor progress, celebrate successes and identify any emerging issues or concerns.

Priority #3: Underserved Communities

Initiative C: Maintain Enhancement to Supported Child Development Programs for Children with Extra Support Needs

Five-Year ELCC Budget Allocation

Table 3 Five-Year ELCC Budget and Expenditures for Children with Extra Support Needs (\$M)

	Year 1 (2017/18)	Year 2 (2018/19)	Year 3 (2019/20)	Year 4 (2020/21)	Year 5 (2021/22)
Budget	-	\$10.0	\$10.0	\$10.0	\$10.0
Expenditure	-	\$20.9 ⁵	\$10.2	\$10.0	\$10.0

Description of the Activities and Results of the ELCC Initiative

The SCD and ASCD programs enable children who require additional support to participate in inclusive child care. The Province contracts with community-based organizations to deliver these two programs throughout B.C. These organizations work with all types of child care providers and preschools to provide training, consultation services, and when required, additional staffing in order to support inclusive practices across child care programs. ASCD is designed to specifically meet the needs of Indigenous children with support needs in a manner that promotes cultural safety.

⁴ Responsibility for child care shifted from the Ministry of Children and Family Development to the Ministry of Education and Child Care (ECC) as of April 1, 2022. Since the scope of this report is FY 21/22, references to “the Ministry” refer to MCFD, not ECC.

⁵ \$10M budget was deferred from 17/18 as there were no expenditures against it in 17/18. A small amount of funding was transferred from underspends in other initiatives for the \$0.9M over the \$20M.

The SCD and ASCD programs received a \$10M annual federal enhancement through the 2017/18-2019/20 ELCC Agreement, which was allocated to Service Delivery Areas set by the Ministry of Children and Family Development using an equity-driven approach. In 2020/21, the COVID-19 pandemic had significant impacts on the number of children receiving services, primarily because of child care facility closures. Continued investments in 2021/22 have supported SCD and ASCD services to return to, and be maintained at, pre-pandemic levels.

Table 4 Average Monthly Number of Children Accessing SCD and ASCD Services 2017/18 to 2021/22

2017/18 (Baseline)	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
5,975	6,506	7,166	6,000	7,382

Table 5 Total Number of Children Accessing SCD and ASCD Services by Year 2017/18 to 2021/22

2017/18 (Baseline)	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
9,862	11,330	11,634	9,233	11,758

In 2019/20, the \$10M investment in SCD and ASCD services resulted in an average of 1,191 more children accessing SCD and ASCD services each month than during the baseline year (2017/18), for a total average of 7,166 served each month. As indicated in Figure 1, in 2020/21, the average number of children served each month dropped to 6,000 due to the pandemic. In 2021/22, the average number of children served per month increased to 7,382, indicating a return to pre-pandemic service levels. Overall, the total number of children accessing SCD and ASCD services each year has increased from 9,862 in 2017/18 to 11,758 in 2021/22 (Figure 1).

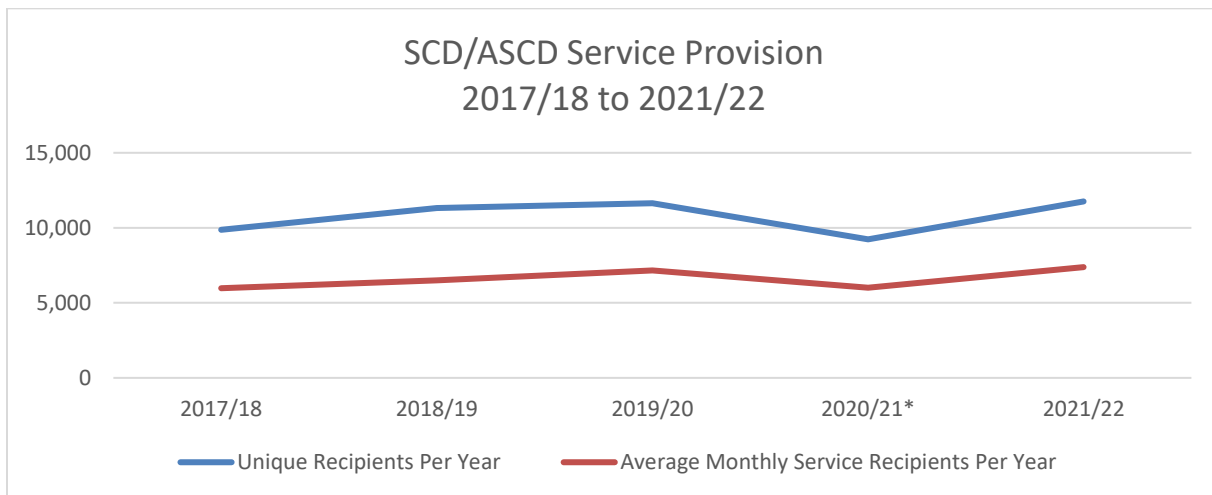


Figure 1 Trend of SCD/ASCD Service Provision from 2017/18 to 2021/22

Impact on More Vulnerable or Underserved Communities

The SCD and ASCD programs support children’s access to and participation in child care programs by helping to overcome barriers to inclusion. Communities with diverse and unique needs, including Indigenous communities, minority language, cultural groups, and French speaking communities, can benefit from these specialized supports to access inclusive child care settings as needed. Additionally, ASCD services are delivered within a cultural model, respecting traditional protocol, language, traditions and focusing on cultural safety.

Description of the Consultation Process

In 2021/22, the Province engaged child care providers, SCD program staff, and ASCD program staff through a survey to identify professional learning needs specific to providing inclusive child care. Results from this engagement are informing the development of resources and training to support child care providers in developing foundational knowledge for providing inclusive child care.

Priority #4: Accessibility

Initiative D: Early Care and Learning Scans

ELCC Budget Allocation

Table 6 ELCC Budget and Expenditures for Early Care and Learning Scans for 2021/22 (\$M)

	Year 1 (2021/22)
Budget	\$1.2M
Expenditure	\$0 ⁶

Description of the Activities and Results of the ELCC Initiative

In 2021/22, B.C. budgeted \$1.2 million to fund 60 boards of education to complete environmental scans of the early care and learning programs on school grounds in their jurisdiction. The province has been working with boards to expand the number of child care spaces located at schools and these environmental scans will serve as baseline information from which to grow early care and learning programs.

Boards of education in B.C. have varying levels of knowledge of early care and learning systems, and while there is no legislative mandate for boards to expand child care on school grounds, there is a legislative mandate for boards to develop a policy promoting the use of board property for child care.⁷ The environmental scan process was designed to support the boards of education to consider how early care and learning is already situated within their districts, and how they could help build a strong

⁶ Project deferred to next year.

⁷ S.85.1(2) of BC’s [School Act](#)

foundation in early care and learning through local partnerships and infrastructure planning. Due to the pressures on B.C. school districts in the 2021/22 school year, the initiative has been deferred to the 2022/23 school year.

The reporting tool for the environmental scan is being finalized for distribution to school districts. B.C. will receive final reports and results of the initiative in July 2023.

Impact on More Vulnerable or Underserved Communities

Improving access to child care on school grounds will support an integrated approach to learning for children and families, easing transitions into school.

Description of the Consultation Process

Throughout the development of this initiative, B.C. has consulted with school district staff and provincial early years stakeholders to understand the existing knowledge gap and develop a reporting tool to address it.

Priority #5: Quality

Initiative E: Quality Assessment Framework for Child Care

ELCC Budget Allocation

Table 7 ELCC Annex 3: Early Childhood Workforce Funding for fiscal year 2021/22

	Year 1 (2021/22)
Budget	\$0.2
Expenditure	\$0.2

Description of the Activities and Results of the ELCC Initiative

In 2021/22, B.C. provided \$0.22M to BCcampus to administer the development of a quality assessment framework. Currently, B.C. does not have a standardized, provincially endorsed, quality assessment framework for use in reflecting on and evaluating the quality of child care programs on an ongoing basis. Developing a quality assessment framework will support continuous improvement throughout the sector and help ensure accountability for public investments in child care.

The development of the framework has been deferred into 2022/23 to provide sufficient time for consultation and engagement with First Nations and Métis partners and stakeholders throughout the child care sector.

Impact on More Vulnerable or Underserved Communities

Once developed, the framework will support quality care in all licensed child care settings; in rural, remote, and Indigenous communities; in minority and French language settings; and in settings that care for children with support needs.

Priority #6: Quality

Initiative F: Early Care and Learning Summit

ELCC Budget Allocation

Table 8 ELCC Budget and Expenditures for Early Care and Learning Summit for 2021/22 (\$M)

	Year 1 (2021/22)
Budget	\$0.15M
Expenditure	\$0 ⁸

Description of the Activities and Results of the ELCC Initiative

In 2021/22, B.C. allocated \$0.15M to plan and host an Early Care and Learning Summit. The Summit is intended to gather participants from across the education and child care sectors to share information and dialogue on the topic of integration of early care and learning. The event will explore evidence-based changes in policy, lessons learned from cross-jurisdictional integration of child care within Ministries of Education, and effective development of integrated systems. Local, national, and international experts will be invited to share their knowledge and perspective.

The Summit was postponed as B.C. was undergoing a transition to establish the Ministry of Education and Child Care.

Impact on More Vulnerable or Underserved Communities

The Summit will support improved cohesion across education and child care sectors, creating shared language and culture. This level of integration improves the continuity of services for children and families at a local level.

⁸ Project deferred to next year.

Results on Innovation

ELCC programs operate in increasingly complex and challenging environments. New, innovative practices can help identify solutions that better meet the needs of children and families and can support more integrated and higher quality ELCC programs. As part of the funding provided under the ELCC Agreement, and as illustrated in Table 9, B.C. is working to define, promote, and deliver innovative approaches to enhance the quality, accessibility, affordability, flexibility, and inclusivity of ELCC programs.

Table 9 Results on Innovation under the ELCC Agreement

Initiative	Innovation	Results
\$10 a Day ChildCare BC initiative	Licensed child care operators in B.C. receive funding enabling them to offer child care spaces at low cost to families, regardless of family income.	This initiative allows the Ministry to test new types of operating funding models for child care programs while also supporting affordable, accessible, high-quality child care. Through this initiative, the Ministry gathers information regarding the costs associated with delivering low- and/or no-cost child care in a variety of settings/programs, which will help inform future policies contributing to the development of child care as a core service.
Aboriginal Head Start	The funding process exemplifies planning that is community driven and co-developed with several partners. Engaging federal and provincial funding partners in evaluation of applications, FNHA-maximized funding impact by aligning resources. AHSABC engaged an advisory circle that included Elders to guide decision-making.	Funding decisions were Indigenous led and considered community need and capacity. The process was transparent and prioritized funding communities that did not have AHS but demonstrated both need and capacity.
Supported Child Development and Aboriginal Supported Child Development	<p>These community-based programs assess children’s needs, work with child care providers and families to develop strategies for inclusion, and hire support workers, if needed, to ensure children with support needs are fully included.</p> <p>ASCD services are delivered within a cultural model, respecting the traditional protocols, language, and traditions of the communities they support.</p>	SCD and ASCD funds are delivered to contracted agencies within communities, and these agencies determine how to allocate the resources based on local needs. These programs help families and children access and participate in fully inclusive child care settings.

Initiative	Innovation	Results
Early Care and Learning Scans	School districts will complete a comprehensive environmental scan of licensed and unlicensed Early Care and Learning programs on school grounds. This work supports school districts to develop an understanding of Early Care and Learning which will build their capacity for expanding programs on school grounds.	Project deferred to 2022/23. School districts will begin the environmental scan in Fall 2022.
Quality Assessment Framework for Child Care	The development of a quality assessment framework for ongoing reflection and evaluation of child care program quality in B.C. will support continuous improvement across the sector and ensure accountability for public investments.	Project deferred to 2022/23.
Early Care and Learning Summit	The event will bring together the education and child care sectors to foster a culture of collaboration and support a strong future system of early care and learning in B.C.	The event is targeted for Spring 2023.

Financial Summary

Table 10 2021/22 Budget and Expenditures under BC-Canada ELCC Agreement (\$M)

Initiative	2021/22 Budget	2021/22 Expenditures
\$10 a Day ChildCare BC initiative	\$31.0	\$30.6
Expand Culturally Based Indigenous Child Care	\$10.0	\$10.0
Maintain Enhanced Supported Child Development for Children with Support Needs	\$10.0	\$10.0
Early Care and Learning Environmental Scans ⁹	\$1.2	\$0
Quality Assessment Framework	\$0.2	\$0.2
Early Care and Learning Summit ¹⁰	\$0.15	\$0

⁹ Project deferred to next year.

¹⁰ Project deferred to next year.

Progress on BC-ELCC Initiatives According to Baseline Indicators

Table 11 Progress According to Baseline Indicators

Objectives/programs	Outputs/ outcomes	Indicators	Targets (by March 31, 2022)	Actual Results 2021/22
Priority #1: Affordability	\$10 a Day ChildCare BC initiative	Number of children benefitting from affordable child care spaces, including the number of children from underserved communities	2,500 spaces	On average, 2,769 spaces per month at \$10 a day facilities
Priority #2: Underserved Communities	Expand culturally based Indigenous child care	Number of child care programs providing culturally based Indigenous services, off-reserve and on-reserve	Aboriginal Head Start programs off-reserve 303 spaces	Aboriginal Head Start programs off-reserve 303 spaces
	Enhance SCD and ASCD programs for children with extra support needs	Number of children with extra support needs accessing SCD programs or ASCD programs	1,192 additional children accessing SCD or ASCD per month	1,407 additional children accessing SCD or ASCD per month
Priority #3: Quality	Early Care and Learning Scans	Number of early care and learning scans completed	60 scans	Project deferred to 2022/23. School districts will begin the environmental scan in Fall 2022.
Priority #3: Quality	Early Care and Learning Summit	Number of participants	400 participants	Project deferred to 2022/23.
	Quality Assessment Framework for Child Care	Development of one or more quality assessment frameworks to evaluate \$10 per day sites, including Indigenous child care settings	Quality assessment tool(s) developed	Project deferred to 2022/23.

Results Achieved Compared to the Indicators of the Multilateral ELCC Framework

Table 12 Results Achieved According to Indicators of the Multilateral ELCC Framework

Indicator	Results (2019/20)	Results (2020/21)	Results (2021/22)
<p>Number and proportion of providers with Early Childhood Education (ECE) certification and/or participating in professional development or training</p>	<p>As of March 31, 2020, there were 20,049 ECEs and 7,920 ECE Assistants certified in British Columbia.</p> <p>In 2019/20, approximately 4,400 bursaries were disbursed through the ECE Education Support Fund.</p> <p>Professional Development Funding has resulted in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The launch of the B.C. Early Years Professional Development Hub online platform; - Awarding 159 Indigenous early years scholarships and bursaries to 122 postsecondary Indigenous students; - Transitioning of online professional-development repository/portal to a new host agency; - Bursaries to assist organizations in offering, and individuals in accessing, professional-development offerings; and, - The launch of a provincial peer-to-peer mentorship program for new and experienced ECEs, in 19 locations with over 200 ECEs participating. 	<p>As of March 31, 2021, there were 21,502 ECEs and 9,022 ECE Assistants certified in British Columbia.</p> <p>Since launch in Summer 2018, approximately 9,400 bursaries were disbursed through the ECE Education Support Fund as of April 2021.</p>	<p>As of March 31, 2022, there were 22,972 ECEs and 9,159 ECE Assistants certified in B.C.</p> <p>Further results related to ECE recruitment and retention are summarized throughout this report.</p>
<p>Number and proportion of providers adopting innovative new tools, such as an evidence-based curriculum framework for early learning and child care</p>	<p>The B.C. Early Learning Framework (ELF) was updated in 2019/20 to recognize the new realities of children, families and communities. Updates included:</p>	<p>Early care and learning (ECL) professionals continue to integrate B.C. ELF as a curriculum framework for early learning and child care</p>	<p>ECL professionals continue to integrate the B.C. ELF as a curriculum for ELCC programs by engaging in ongoing professional development and participating in communities of practice. Increasingly, educators</p>

Indicator	Results (2019/20)	Results (2020/21)	Results (2021/22)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expanded focus to children from infancy to eight years of age (previously five years of age); - Increased focus on reconciliation and Indigenous worldviews; - Increased focus on inclusive practices; - Connects with new K-12 curriculum, core competencies and primary program principles; - Focus on integrating theory with practice; and, - Updated inquiry questions address all early learners. 		working in school districts are engaged in professional development using the B.C. ELF, given its expanded applicability to children in primary school.
Number and percentage of children who have access to regulated child care spaces and/or early learning programs	<p>Average monthly number of Group and Family child care spaces in facilities receiving Child Care Operating Funding (CCOF), 2019/20 fiscal: 118,500.</p> <p>Average monthly number of Group and Family child care spaces at Prototype (PT) Sites, 2019/20 fiscal: 2,500.</p> <p>Average monthly number of Group and Family Child Care spaces at government funded facilities (CCOF and PT Sites), 2019/20 fiscal: 121,000.</p> <p>Average monthly percentage of children aged 0-12 with access to licensed child care, 2019/20 fiscal: 19.5%.</p>	<p>Average monthly number of Group and Family child care spaces in facilities receiving Child Care Operating Funding (CCOF), 2020/21 fiscal: 123,300.</p> <p>Average monthly number of Group and Family child care spaces at Prototype Sites, 2020/21 fiscal: 2,400.</p> <p>Average monthly number of Group and Family Child Care spaces at government funded facilities (CCOF and PT Sites), 2020/21 fiscal: 125,700.</p> <p>Average monthly percentage of children aged 0-12 with access to licensed child care, 2020/21 fiscal: 20%.</p>	<p>Average monthly number of Group and Family child care spaces in facilities receiving Child Care Operating Funding (CCOF), 2021/22 fiscal: 129,200.</p> <p>Average monthly number of Group and Family child care spaces at \$10 a Day ChildCare BC centre sites, 2021/22 fiscal: 2,800.</p> <p>Average monthly number of Group and Family child care spaces at government supported facilities (CCOF and \$10 a Day), 2021/22 fiscal: 132,000.</p> <p>Average monthly percentage of children aged 0-12 accessing government-supported child care, 2021/22 fiscal: 21%</p>
Number of children receiving subsidies or other financial supports	The ACCB continues to support low-and middle-income families with their child care costs. In 2019/20, 32,400 children	The ACCB continues to support low-and middle-income families with their child care costs. In	The ACCB continues to support low and middle-income families with their child care costs. In 2021/22, 30,500

Indicator	Results (2019/20)	Results (2020/21)	Results (2021/22)
	on average each month received the ACCB. ¹¹	2020/21, 24,200 children on average each month received the ACCB.	children on average each month received the ACCB.
Number of flexible early learning and child care arrangements (example: non-traditional arrangements such as flexible/irregular hours, weekend and emergency services; and geographic distribution of spaces) for harder-to-serve populations of children	No additional programs funded in 2019/20 have indicated an intention to offer spaces outside of core hours.	In 2020/21 remaining funding under the Community Child Care Space Creation Program funded under the 2017 ELCC Agreement (Early Care and Learning Partnerships) supported an additional five space creation projects. Three projects indicated an intention to offer services outside of core business hours.	Not available.
Number of children benefiting from programs and/or a number of programs designed to serve children from diverse populations, which could include but not limited to: children from French and English linguistic minority communities, Indigenous people off-reserve, recent immigrants and refugees	B.C. does not collect specific demographic data on children/families that access programs in general. However, with increased funding through provincial affordability programs including the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative (CCFRI) and ACCB, it is expected that a significantly higher percentage of lower-income families from diverse populations are now able to afford licensed child care. Of the 16 Community Child Care Space Creation projects, all have indicated an intention to serving at least one underserved priority population: • Francophone families – two 2019/20 projects (5 projects overall)	Of the five Community Child Care Space Creation projects funded in 2020/21, all have indicated an intention to serving at least one underserved priority population: • Francophone families – zero 2020/21 projects (5 projects overall) • Lower income families – five 2020/21 projects (18 projects overall) • Children with extra support needs – five 2020/21 projects (18 projects overall) • Indigenous children and families – five 2020/21 projects (18 projects overall)	No additional spaces were funded through the Community Child Care Space Creation in 2021/2. The Aboriginal Head Start expansion initiative funds operations of 31 AHS expansion programs (12 off reserve and 19 on reserve) delivering 643 AHS spaces in the province, potentially benefitting as many or more than 643 First Nations, Métis and Inuit families in B.C. \$10 a Day sites funded through the ELCC Agreement have been collecting demographic data which indicates that in fiscal 2021/22 approximately: - 3% of families were Francophone;

¹¹ For the 2021/22 report, the average monthly number of children receiving ACCB is used to better reflect the size of the group of children receiving benefits over the course of the year.

Indicator	Results (2019/20)	Results (2020/21)	Results (2021/22)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower income families – six 2019/20 projects (13 projects overall) • Children with extra support needs – eight 2019/20 projects (13 projects overall) • Indigenous children and families – seven 2019/20 projects (13 projects overall) • Children of young parents – five 2019/20 projects (11 projects overall) • Children of single parents – five 2019/20 projects (11 projects overall) • Immigrant and refugee families – five 2019/20 projects (10 projects overall) • Families from minority cultures or language groups – four 2019/20 projects (8 projects overall) <p>Prototype/\$10 a Day ChildCareBC Sites funded through the ELCC Agreement have been collecting demographic data which indicates that in fiscal 2019/20 approximately:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2% of families were Francophone; - 10% of families self-identified as Indigenous; - 4% children of young parents (under 25 years); and - 17% children were from single parent families. <p>The Aboriginal Head Start (AHS) expansion program has created 235 off-reserve spaces and 314 on-reserve spaces for Indigenous children and families. Information on number of</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children of young parents – five 2020/21 projects (16 projects overall) • Children of single parents – five 2020/21 projects (16 projects overall) • Immigrant and refugee families – four 2020/21 projects (14 projects overall) • Families from minority cultures or language groups – four 2020/21 projects (12 projects overall) <p>The Aboriginal Head Start expansion initiative funds operations of 31 AHS expansion programs (12 off reserve and 19 on reserve) delivering 643 AHS spaces in the province (599 of which are currently operational), potentially benefitting as many or more than 643 First Nations, Métis and Inuit families in B.C.</p> <p>Prototype Sites funded through the ELCC Agreement have been collecting demographic data which indicates that in fiscal 2020/21 approximately:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2.4% of families were Francophone; - 10% of families self-identified as Indigenous; - 0.7% were children who were new to Canada 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 10% of families self-identified as Indigenous; - 0.7% were children who were new to Canada - 3.4% children of young parents (under 25 years); and - 14.3% children were from single parent families.

Indicator	Results (2019/20)	Results (2020/21)	Results (2021/22)
	<p>children specifically is not collected by B.C.</p> <p>Through the ECE Education Support Fund, 104 francophone students received bursaries (2.3% of all recipients) and 329 Indigenous students received bursaries (7.5% of all recipients) in 2019/20.</p>	<p>- 3.4% children of young parents (under 25 years); and</p> <p>- 14.3% children were from single parent families.</p>	
<p>Number of children with additional support needs participating in early learning and child care programs</p>	<p>Average monthly number of children receiving supports through SCD/ASCD in 2019/2020: 7,166.</p> <p>As of March 31, 2020, the total investment of \$30 million toward the SCD and ASCD programs was able to support an average of 1,192 additional children with extra support needs to access fully inclusive child care programming per month and resulted in over 412,000 hours of extra direct service intervention per year.</p> <p>In 2019/20, an average of 114 families per month attended a Prototype Site and also received SCD services and 34 families attended a Prototype Site and also received ASCD services.</p>	<p>Average monthly number of children receiving supports through SCD/ASCD in 2020/21: 6,264 (service levels impacted by pandemic).</p>	<p>Average monthly number of children receiving supports through SCD or ASCD in 2021/22: 7,382.</p> <p>The annualized investment of \$10 million has contributed to a monthly average of an additional 1,407 children accessing SCD/ASCD supports and over 500,000 hours of direct service intervention. In 2021/22, the Province supplemented this investment with \$11 million in one-time-only funding to address immediate need and in anticipation of ELCC funding increases beginning in 2022/23.</p>
<p>The number and proportion of children from low- and middle-income families participating in early learning and child care programs</p>	<p>In 2019/20, 32,400 children on average per month throughout the Province received ACCB.</p> <p>In 2019/20, an average of 774 children per month attending Prototype Sites received additional support through ACCB and a total of 1,168 children attending a Prototype Site received</p>	<p>In 2020/21, 24,200 children on average per month received the ACCB.</p> <p>In 2020/21, an average of 459 children per month attending Prototype Sites received additional support through ACCB and a total of 758 children</p>	<p>The ACCB continues to support low and middle-income families with their child care costs.</p> <p>In 2021/22, 30,500 children on average each month received the ACCB.</p>

Indicator	Results (2019/20)	Results (2020/21)	Results (2021/22)
	child care at no cost for at least one month.	attending a Prototype Site received child care at no cost for at least one month.	

Impact on Families More in Need

Table 13 summarizes the impacts of the initiatives funded under the BC-Canada ELCC Agreement on families more in need, including families that have limited access to programs and services in their official language.

Table 13 Impact on Families More in Need

Families more in need	Brief Description	Quantitative Impact
Lower-income families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families accessing \$10 a Day ChildCare BC sites pay a maximum of \$200 per month per child for regular full-time care. Some families receive additional support through the Province’s ACCB, and pay less than \$200 per month, to no fee at all. The amount of additional support a family receives through ACCB depends on factors including family income, with the highest benefit amounts available to families with the lowest incomes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2021/22, a total of 758 children attending a \$10 a Day Site received child care at no cost for at least one month.
Indigenous families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The AHS expansion provides participating families with a no-fee Indigenous-led, culturally based child care with wrap around supports including access to healthy foods, language and cultural teachings, referrals to early intervention therapies and family supports, and connections to community. Indigenous children and families continue to benefit from low-cost care at \$10 a Day ChildCare BC Sites, with a maximum fee of \$200/month. Several initiatives continue to support ECEs (including Indigenous ECEs) to advance their education and professional development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2021/22, AHS programs served Indigenous children and their families through 303 off-reserve spaces and 340 on-reserve spaces. In 2021/22, approximately 10% of families attending \$10 a Day Sites identified as Indigenous. 212 bursaries were awarded to students who self-identified as Indigenous, to support the completion of their ECE programs.
Single-parent families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single-parent families continue to benefit from low-cost care at \$10 a Day ChildCare BC Sites, with a maximum fee of \$200/month. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2021/22, approximately 12% of children attending \$10 a Day Sites were from single parent families.
Families in underserved communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families in underserved communities, including Francophone children and families, continue to benefit from low-cost care at \$10 a Day ChildCare BC Sites, with a maximum fee of \$200/month. Several initiatives continue to support ECEs (including francophone ECEs) to advance their education and professional development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2021/22, approximately 2.4% of families attending \$10 a Day Sites were Francophone. 77 students who identified as Francophone received bursary funding, accounting for over 2.8% of the total bursaries awarded.

Families more in need	Brief Description	Quantitative Impact
Families working non-standard hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MCFD is looking at ways to encourage child care operators to offer flexible child care. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three projects have indicated an intention to offer services outside of core business hours.
Families with children with varying abilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SCD and ASCD programs support children’s access to, and participation in, child care settings by helping to overcome barriers to their inclusion. ASCD programs are specifically designed around the need for inclusion in culturally safe and sensitive child care programs for Indigenous children with support needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2021/22, 1,407 additional children accessed SCD or ASCD each month (service levels significantly impacted by pandemic). In 2021/22, an average of 101 families per month attended a \$10 a Day Site and also received SCD services; and 19 Indigenous families per month attended a \$10 a Day site and also received ASCD services.

Early Childhood Workforce Agreement

Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) are the heart of the child care sector and the key driver of quality through their interactions with children. The importance of the ECE workforce has been particularly pronounced during the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery period, enabling parents to work, helping businesses and organizations remain viable, and supporting children to learn, grow, and flourish.

As more child care spaces are built throughout the province, the demand for qualified staff will continue to grow. In response to the growing need, B.C. launched the Early Care and Learning Recruitment and Retention Strategy in September 2018 and has since made significant investments in workforce development through the ChildCare BC Plan, including through the Canada-BC ELCC Agreement.

Early data suggests these investments are having a positive impact. The number of new ECE certifications has been trending upward, with notable growth in ECE Five-Year, Special Needs Educator (SNE), and Infant Toddler Educator (ITE) certificates¹² (see Figure 2). There are also positive indicators related to retention, with 91% of ECEs receiving the ECE Wage Enhancement WE in 2020/21 continuing to work in child care in 2021/22.

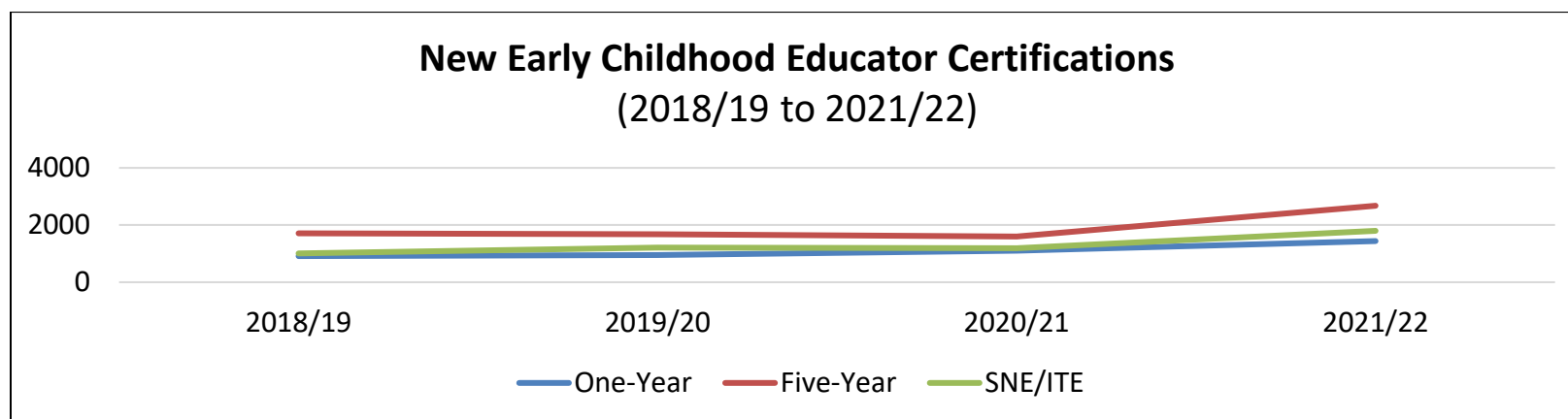


Figure 2 New Early Childhood Educator Certifications from 2018/19 to 2021/22

¹² Five-Year ECE Certificate holders have completed a minimum of 902 hours of post-secondary education at a recognized institution, as well as an additional 500 hours of work experience (separate from practicum requirements) supervised by a certified ECE (1-Year ECE Certificate holders have not yet completed their 500 hours). SNE and ITE Certificate holders have completed additional post-secondary education (minimum 450 hours each, inclusive of practicum) in inclusive practices or working with children from birth to age three.

Table 14 ECE Workforce Initiatives, Budget and Results

Program Initiative	Indicators	Targets	Funding Allocated (2021/22)	Funding Spent (2021/22)	Results (2021/22)
Priority Area #1: Post-Secondary Access					
ECE Bursaries, including Indigenous stream	Number of ECE bursaries paid	March 31, 2022: 1,000 Overall: 11,400	\$25.500M	\$25.500M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding was provided to Early Childhood Educators of British Columbia (ECEBC) to administer the project. 2,741 bursaries were disbursed, 212 of which were provided to Indigenous students.¹³ Between summer 2018 and March 31, 2022, 10,019 bursaries were disbursed to more than 5,700 unique ECE students.
Work Integrated Learning (WIL) Model	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanded WIL opportunities for 140 students through post-secondary institutions recognized to deliver ECE programs. Developed and implemented a province wide ECE WIL learning framework Increased partnerships between post- 	March 31, 2022: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a province wide ECE WIL learning framework Complete Call for Proposals for up to 18 public post-secondary institutions Overall: 140 post-secondary seats	\$2.300M	\$2.300M ¹⁴	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An ECE-WIL Framework was developed in 2021/22 to create greater consistency and certainty for ongoing program delivery and provide more learning opportunities for ECEs across B.C. The Call for Proposals was completed, resulting in WIL program investments that will support approximately 151 students beginning in September 2022 and continuing through to 2023/24.

¹³ The Fund prioritizes applications from those who self-identify as First Nations, Metis, or Inuit, and the ECE Workforce Development Bursary Program targets underserved communities, including Indigenous peoples, through its advertising campaigns. Through consultation with Indigenous partner organizations on the approach to distinctions-based bursary funding, it was determined that a separate stream of funds for Indigenous students was not necessary and that it is more effective to provide Indigenous students with resources and support in applying for funds.

¹⁴ All funds were provided to public post-secondary institutions in 2021/22; \$0.600M was spent by the institutions as of March 31, 2022

Program Initiative	Indicators	Targets	Funding Allocated (2021/22)	Funding Spent (2021/22)	Results (2021/22)
	secondary institutions and child care providers to provide quality training				
Dual Credit ECE Programs	Number of ECE courses supported	March 31, 2022: Funds distributed to 10 school districts and planning underway for 2022/23 intakes Overall: Up to 400 ECE courses	\$1.150M	\$0.0977M ¹⁵	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With complementary provincial funding, 18 school districts were provided with funding to support up to 400 course enrolments (to be delivered in 2022).
Priority Area #2: Professional Development					
Early Years Professional - Development Bursary Program	Number of ECEs supported	March 31, 2022: 250 Overall: 3,500	\$3.000M	\$3.00M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding was provided to Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre to administer the project. As of March 31, 2022, funding had supported 468 educators through subsidized conference costs, a community of practice, and a workshop to be held in October 2022.
Peer Mentoring project	Number of ECEs supported	200 Number of communities supported: 17	\$0.500M	\$0.500M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding was provided to ECEBC to administer the project. Approximately 146 ECEs across 17 communities were engaged in the program through communities of practice, with approximately 25% living in rural or remote areas. Continued funding in 2022/23 is expected to help further incentivize educator participation.

¹⁵ Funds totalling \$1.150MM were provided to school districts in 2021/22. \$0.977M was spent by the districts as of March 31, 2022. The remaining \$0.173M has been carried over to 2022/23.

Program Initiative	Indicators	Targets	Funding Allocated (2021/22)	Funding Spent (2021/22)	Results (2021/22)
Professional Learning Opportunities	Number of ECL professionals accessing opportunities	<p>March 31, 2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agencies are identified, and development of professional learning has begun Participants have begun accessing available online learning on the Early Years Professional Development (EYPD) Hub <p>Overall: 300 professionals</p>	\$2.750M	\$2.75M ¹⁶	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding was provided to BCcampus, to administer the development of professional learning. Project implementation was deferred to 2022/23. Funding was provided to ECEBC for the EYPD Hub. The EYPD Hub currently has 4,019 registered users, 2,018 of which have accessed online learning content.
Priority Area #3: Underserved Communities					
Inclusion Support Training – Supporting Behaviour	Professional learning modules developed and made available to ECEs across the province	<p>March 31, 2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working Group established Research and engagement are complete <p>Overall: Professional learning modules completed and available</p>	\$1.000M	\$1.000M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding was provided to CanAssist at the University of Victoria. Using previous ELCC funding, CanAssist launched the <i>Foundations of Inclusive Child Care</i> online course in April 2021.¹⁷ Current funding will support a second online course focused on positive approaches to behaviour. CanAssist has established the core advisory group and initiated the research and engagement phase of the project.

¹⁶ All funds were provided to BCcampus in 2021/22. \$0.254M was spent by BCcampus as of March 31, 2022.

¹⁷ With this course launching in 2022/23, BC will be targeting 800 learners by March 31, 2023.

Program Initiative	Indicators	Targets	Funding Allocated (2021/22)	Funding Spent (2021/22)	Results (2021/22)
Professional Learning for Deaf/Hard of Hearing Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New and existing professional development offerings for educators are more accessible for deaf and hard of hearing educators Educators feel better prepared to support deaf and hard of hearing children and families 	<p>March 31, 2022: Agencies are identified, and work has begun to develop professional learning and improve accessibility</p> <p>Overall: Accessible professional learning opportunities and resources are completed and available</p>	\$0.250M	\$0.250M ¹⁸	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding was provided to BCcampus to administer the project. Project implementation was deferred to 2022/23.
Support for translation of Francophone or International ECE Docs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of applicants supported Increase in number of applications received by the ECE Registry 	<p>March 31, 2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agencies are identified and funding policy/criteria are developed ECE applicants are able to start applying for funding <p>Overall: 250 applicants</p>	\$0.750M	\$0	Project was deferred to 2022/23.
Priority Area #4: Recruitment and Retention					
Retention Incentives: New Certificate Holders	Increase in number of applications received by the ECE Registry	<p>March 31, 2022: Program developed and communicated</p> <p>Overall: 5,000 new ECEs in the workforce</p>	\$11.612M	\$11.612M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program was announced in February 2022. Funding was provided to ECEBC to administer the program. Program development will continue through 2022/23.

¹⁸ All funds were provided to BCcampus in 2021/22. As project implementation was deferred, no funds were spent by BCcampus of March 31, 2022.