

Province of British Columbia

**Canada-British Columbia Early Learning and Child Care  
Agreement: Report on Progress and Results Achieved in 2022-  
2023**

October 2023

## **Table of Contents**

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Introduction .....   | 3  |
| Description of the ELCC Initiatives .....  | 4  |
| Priority #1: Affordable Child Care .....   | 4  |
| Initiative A: Early Care and Learning \$10 a Day ChildCareBC sites .....   | 4  |
| Priority #2: Underserved Communities.....  | 5  |
| Initiative B: Expand Culturally based Indigenous Child Care .....  | 5  |
| Priority #3: Underserved Communities.....  | 7  |
| Initiative C: Continued Enhanced Funding to Supported Child Development Programs for Children with Support Needs ..... | 7  |
| Priority #4: Accessibility.....  | 10 |
| Initiative D: Early Care and Learning Scans .....  | 10 |
| Priority #5: Quality .....   | 11 |
| Initiative E: Quality Assessment Framework for Child Care .....  | 11 |
| Priority #6: Quality .....   | 12 |
| Initiative F: Early Care and Learning Summit .....   | 12 |
| Results on Innovation .....  | 13 |
| Financial Summary.....   | 13 |
| Progress on BC-ELCC Initiatives According to Baseline Indicators.....  | 15 |
| Results Achieved Compared to the Indicators of the Multilateral ELCC Framework .....                                   | 16 |
| Impact on Families More in Need .....  | 21 |

## Introduction

In February 2018, the Government of British Columbia (B.C.) and the Government of Canada (Canada) signed the bilateral Canada-British Columbia Early Learning and Child Care Agreement – 2017 to 2020 (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 (ELCC) system. The Agreement was extended for an additional year in July 2020, providing \$52.6 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. On June 28, 2023, the Government of Canada extended the ELCC agreement, now set to expire on March 31, 2026, in alignment with the Canada-British Columbia Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement - 2021 to 2026 (CW-ELCC Agreement).

B.C.'s priority areas of investments under the 2022/23 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 \$70.1M in 2022/23 through the ELCC Agreement to maintain existing programs that improve child care affordability and enhance equity through targeted investment in underserved communities.

B.C. achieved progress in a number of key areas in 2022/2023 under the ELCC Agreement, including:

- Continuing to support \$10 a Day ChildCare BC Initiative to deliver over 2,500 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;
- Increasing enhanced funding for Supported Child Development (SCD) and Aboriginal Supported Child Development (ASCD), to address unmet need and growing demand and enable more families to access services and increase hours of support where needed; and
- Developing a quality assessment framework for child care to support early childhood professionals in reflecting on and continuously improving their child care programs.

The Federal funding provided to B.C. under this ELCC Agreement complements the \$3.6-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 four years of ChildCare BC towards the Province's ten-year commitment to implement an affordable and inclusive system of child care that families can rely on. This report provides an update on progress on each of the initiatives included in the 2022/23 ELCC Agreement Action Plan. Funding also complements the approximately \$3.2B over five years investment through the CW-ELCC Agreement.

## Description of the ELCC Initiatives

### Priority #1: Affordable Child Care

#### Initiative A: Early Care and Learning \$10 a Day ChildCareBC sites

##### Six Year ELCC Budget Allocation

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

|                    | Year 1<br>(2017/18) | Year 2<br>(2018/19) | Year 3<br>(2019/20) | Year 4<br>(2020/21) | Year 5<br>(2021/22) | Year 6<br>(2022/23) |
|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Budget</b>      | -                   | \$30.0              | \$30.0              | \$31.0              | \$31.0              | \$32.7              |
| <b>Expenditure</b> | -                   | \$18.6 <sup>1</sup> | \$30.4              | \$30.0              | \$30.6              | \$32.1              |

##### Description of the Activities and Results of the ELCC Initiative

B.C. has been testing and learning about publicly funded models of child care since 2018 when the province converted approximately 2,500 existing licensed child care spaces into low-cost spaces at over 50 facilities in communities throughout B.C. Each \$10 a Day ChildCareBC site (formerly known as Prototype Sites or PT Sites) in the 2018 cohort is required to offer licensed infant/toddler care (i.e., for children under 3 years) at a minimum and families accessing the care at a site pay a maximum of \$200 per month (or \$10/day) per child for regular full-time care. Some families are eligible to receive additional support through the Province’s income-tested Affordable Child Care Benefit (ACCB) so that they pay less than \$200 per month, and in many cases, nothing at all.

Compared to 2020/21 and 2021/22, which were marked by the COVID-19 pandemic and extreme weather events, 2022/23 was relatively stable for participating \$10 a Day Centres. B.C. streamlined reporting requirements and invited providers to sign on for longer funding terms in order to reduce administrative effort and support continued participation. B.C. was also focused on expanding access to low cost child care and added approximately 6,000 more \$10 a Day spaces by early 2023.

Since the original 2018 intake of \$10 a Day Centres, B.C. has converted over 10,000 more spaces through a combination of provincial and federal funding via the CW-ELCC Agreement.<sup>2</sup> These 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. B.C. continues to expand access to \$10 a Day child care and plans to convert approximately 50 more centres and 2,400 spaces for a total of more than 15,000 total \$10 a Day spaces by the end of 2023/24 through a combination of provincial and federal funding via the CW-ELCC Agreement.

<sup>1</sup> 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).

<sup>2</sup> 2,500 spaces funded under the ELCC Agreement.

**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 setting<sup>3</sup> for 2022/23 fiscal year was \$1,480 per infant and \$1,425 per toddler. The maximum monthly parent fee at \$10 a Day sites for the same type of care is \$200, less than 15% 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 quality time; and reduced family stress and social isolation. Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) reported positive impacts including increased pay and benefits, training opportunities, and levels of well-being; and lowered levels of stress.

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 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 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 2022/23, within the 2018 \$10 a Day cohort, an average of 117 children per month attended a \$10 a Day Site and received SCD services; and an average of 26 Indigenous children per month attended a \$10 a Day Site and received ASCD services.

**Priority #2: Underserved Communities**

**Initiative B: Expand Culturally based Indigenous Child Care**

**Six Year ELCC Budget Allocation**

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

|                    | Year 1<br>(2017/18) | Year 2<br>(2018/19) | Year 3<br>(2019/20) | Year 4<br>(2020/21) | Year 5<br>(2021/22) | Year 6<br>(2022/23) |
|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Budget</b>      | \$10.0              | \$10.0              | \$10.0              | \$10.0              | \$10.0              | \$10.0              |
| <b>Expenditure</b> | \$10.0              | \$10.0              | \$10.0              | \$10.0              | \$10.0              | \$10.2              |

<sup>3</sup> 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.

## 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 from birth to five 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 2022/23 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 were incorporated into the curriculum models for each site. AHS child care providers have the ongoing support of advisors from AHSABC and FNHA working to support them with their ongoing operations. FNHA operates 19 sites with 340 operational spaces; AHSABC operates 12 sites representing 303 spaces, 283 which are operational. The focus of funding in fiscal year 2022 to 2023 is the maintenance of operations for current sites to ensure continued service for families.

## Impact on More Vulnerable or Underserved Communities

AHS sites continue to provide participating families with Indigenous-led child care based in culture and connections 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 health and educational outcomes for children; and
- Improved access to additional supports due to a wrap-around approach (early intervention therapies).

By 2022/23, 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. AHS site services resumed to full child care services for 2022/23.

## Description of the Consultation Process

In fall 2017, the Ministry of Children and Family Development (“MCFD”)<sup>4</sup> led an engagement process that resulted in contracts with AHSABC and the FNHA to lead the AHS expansion process. Now under the Ministry of Education and Child Care effective April 2022, Ministry staff meet with AHS partners monthly

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<sup>4</sup> 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 22/23, references to “the Ministry” refer to MCFD, not ECC.

to receive updates on these programs and receive program and financial reporting from the AHS partners twice per year.

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 FNHA and AHSABC, as the partners administering this program, to monitor progress, celebrate successes and identify any emerging issues or concerns.

### Priority #3: Underserved Communities

#### Initiative C: Continued Enhanced Funding to Supported Child Development Programs for Children with Support Needs

##### Six-Year ELCC Budget Allocation

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

|                    | Year 1<br>(2017/18) | Year 2<br>(2018/19) | Year 3<br>(2019/20) | Year 4<br>(2020/21) | Year 5<br>(2021/22) | Year 6<br>(2022/23) |
|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Budget</b>      | -                   | \$10.0              | \$10.0              | \$10.0              | \$10.0              | \$26.8              |
| <b>Expenditure</b> | -                   | \$20.9 <sup>5</sup> | \$10.2              | \$10.0              | \$10.0              | \$21.8              |

##### Description of the Activities and Results of the ELCC Initiative

Inclusive child care means that all children, including children who are neurodiverse, children with a disability, and children with other support needs, are supported to fully belong in a child care program of the family’s choosing. B.C. is focusing on increasing capacity across the child care sector for inclusive child care by: (1) supporting increased knowledge and skills among child care providers; and (2) increasing access to inclusive child care supports through the SCD and ASCD programs.

SCD and ASCD are community-based programs that offer a range of consulting and support services to children, families, and child care centres. They provide services that assess children with support needs, create individual plans, provide guidance to child care centres and, where needed, fund extra staffing within the child care centre. ASCD programs support unique Indigenous service needs and are responsive to local Indigenous culture and communities.

The SCD and ASCD programs received a \$10M annual federal enhancement through the ELCC Agreement – 2017 to 2020, which was allocated to Service Delivery Areas set by MCFD using an equity-driven approach. In 2022-23, an enhanced investment of \$16.80M was added to the bilateral ELCC Agreement \$10M base investment for a total of \$26.80M. Total budgeted funding for SCD/ASCD in 2022/23 through the bilateral ELCC Agreement (\$26.80M), the CW-ELCC Agreement (\$15M), and

<sup>5</sup> \$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.

provincial funding (\$70M), was \$111.80M. MCFD experienced challenges in fully spending the enhanced funding, due in part to recruitment and retention challenges in the sector, and \$5M was carried forward to 2023/24 to support other initiatives under the agreement.

**Table 4. Average Monthly Number of Children Accessing SCD and ASCD Services 2017/18 to 2022/23**

| 2017/18<br>(Baseline) | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22            | 2022/23 |
|-----------------------|---------|---------|---------|--------------------|---------|
| 5,975                 | 6,506   | 7,166   | 6,264   | 7,528 <sup>6</sup> | 7,704   |

**Table 5. Total Number of Children Accessing SCD and ASCD Services by Year 2017/18 to 2022/23**

| 2017/18<br>(Baseline) | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22             | 2022/23 |
|-----------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------------------|---------|
| 9,862                 | 11,330  | 11,634  | 9,233   | 11,848 <sup>7</sup> | 12,552  |

**Table 6. Total Number of Direct SCD and ASCD Service Hours by Year 2017/18 to 2022/23**

| 2017/18<br>(Baseline) | 2018/19   | 2019/20   | 2020/21   | 2021/22   | 2022/23   |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1,354,462             | 1,580,778 | 1,766,840 | 1,393,206 | 1,757,479 | 1,987,828 |

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 7,528, indicating a return to pre-pandemic service levels. In 2022/23, this number increased to 7,704 children. Overall, the total number of children accessing SCD and ASCD services each year has increased from 9,862 in 2017/18 to 12,552 in 2022/23 (Figure 1).

<sup>6</sup> The original estimate reported in *Canada-British Columbia Early Learning and Child Care Agreement: Report on Progress and Results Achieved in 2021/2022* was 7,382. The Ministry of Children and Family Development revised their 2021/22 estimates based on a more robust methodology.

<sup>7</sup> The original estimate reported in *Canada-British Columbia Early Learning and Child Care Agreement: Report on Progress and Results Achieved in 2021/2022* was 11,758. The Ministry of Children and Family Development revised their 2021/22 estimates based on a more robust methodology.



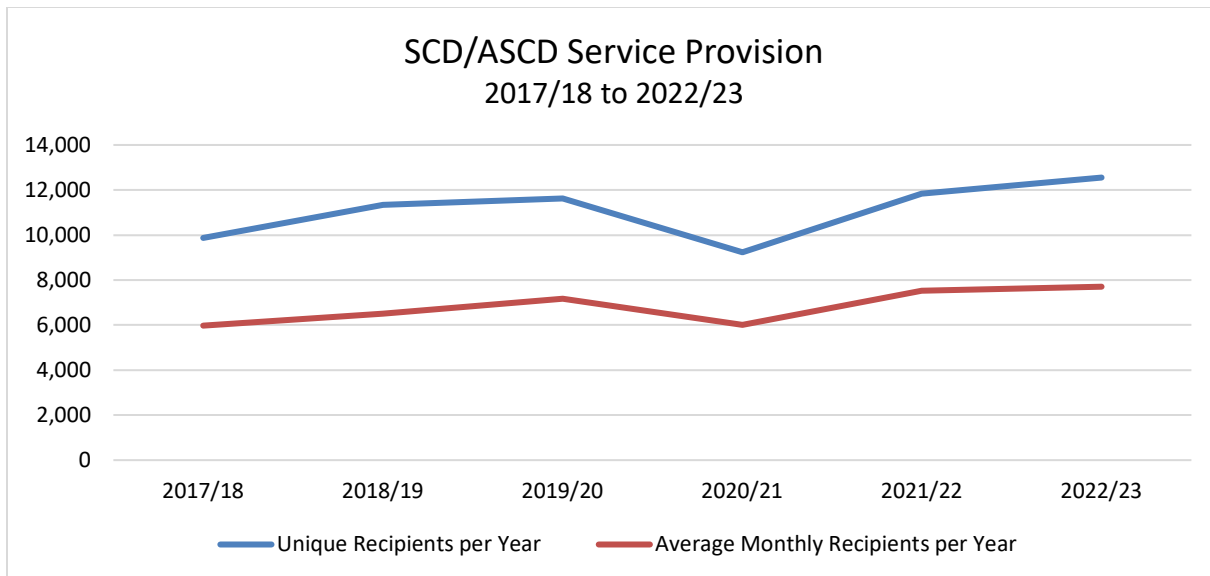


Figure 1 Trend of SCD/ASCD Service Provision from 2017/18 to 2022/23

The continued annual investments are intended to:

- Increase the number of children served by ASCD/SCD each month, resulting in reduction of wait times for children and families and enabling increased access to inclusive child care.
- Where need is identified, increase the number of service hours by increasing consultation services and/or enhanced staffing supports to children currently receiving services.
- Where possible, address service disparity between ASCD and SCD programs. Service Delivery Areas were required to spend a minimum amount of the funding on ASCD programs, to increase equity in service availability.
- Enable SCD and ASCD Programs to increase emphasis on capacity building within child care settings, through training and mentorship opportunities.

From 2019/20 to 2022/23, both the average number of children served each month and the annual number of children served increased by 8%. Additionally, the number of direct service hours provided increased by 12.5%, indicating that the level of service increased for children already on SCD/ASCD caseload whose needs were not fully met, and enabled more hours of inclusive child care.

Consistent with the intent behind the enhanced investment, some of the funds were used by SCD and ASCD programs to increase their emphasis on building capacity for inclusion across child care programs, through training and mentorship opportunities. B.C. is learning about how SCD/ASCD programs are supporting capacity building through targeted consultation with SCD/ASCD programs.

### 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

B.C. is currently developing an Inclusive Child Care Strategy, which will lay a pathway for ensuring that child care as a core service is inclusive of all children and can be equitably accessed by families. Consultation to date has included inclusion and equity stakeholders, such as advocacy organizations, SCD and ASCD programs, and Child Care Resource and Referral programs. This strategy will consider existing SCD/ASCD programming within the larger context of building an inclusive core service.

Development of the strategy is required to meet B.C.’s commitment under the CW-ELCC Agreement to develop a plan and make progress to ensure children experiencing vulnerability and children from diverse populations, including but not limited to children living in low income; Indigenous children; Black and other racialized children; children with disabilities and children needing enhanced or individual supports; children of newcomers to Canada; and official language minorities, have equitable access to licensed child care spaces, in proportion to their presence in the population.

### Priority #4: Accessibility

#### Initiative D: Early Care and Learning Scans

##### ELCC Budget Allocation

Table 7. ELCC Budget and Expenditures for Early Care and Learning Scans for 2021/22 and 2022/23 (\$M)

|                    | 2021/22          | 2022/23 |
|--------------------|------------------|---------|
| <b>Budget</b>      | \$1.2            | \$1.2   |
| <b>Expenditure</b> | \$0 <sup>8</sup> | \$1.2   |

##### Description of the Activities and Results of the ELCC Initiative

In 2022/23, B.C. funded 60 boards of education to complete environmental scans of the early care and learning programs on school grounds in their jurisdiction. The environmental scan was designed to support school districts to consider how early care and learning is already situated in their districts, and how they could help build a strong foundation through local partnerships and infrastructure planning.

The Ministry developed a data template to support consistent data collection which was distributed to school districts in Fall of 2022. Ministry staff have supported districts to complete the report over the 2022/23 school year and reports have been received from all 60 school districts as of September 2023. The Ministry has begun reviewing and cleaning the data and will complete the final analysis for

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<sup>8</sup> Project deferred to 2022/23.

provincial presentations to school districts by February 2024. The information collected will be used as a baseline data set to support future space creation planning.

As expected, feedback from school districts on their reflective process ranges. Some school districts found the process provided significant opportunity for learning, engagement, and growth; others indicated that much of the information was already known by the district.

**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. Data collected through the environmental scans will allow for a more detailed understanding of early care and learning on school grounds, building on earlier consultations.

**Priority #5: Quality**

**Initiative E: Quality Assessment Framework for Child Care**

**ELCC Budget Allocation**

Table 8. ELCC Annex 3: Early Childhood Workforce Funding for fiscal year 2021/22 (\$M)

|                    | 2021/22 | 2022/23          |
|--------------------|---------|------------------|
| <b>Budget</b>      | \$0.2   | \$0 <sup>9</sup> |
| <b>Expenditure</b> | \$0.2   | \$0              |

**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 provincially endorsed quality assessment framework to support early childhood professionals in reflecting on and continuously improving their practice within child care programs. The development of the framework began in 2022/23, with consultation and engagement with First Nations and Métis partners and other ELCC stakeholders throughout the sector.

Drafting of the framework is underway, with completion expected in 2023/24. B.C. is also developing an approach to pilot the draft in child care programs across the province in 2023/24, including Indigenous-

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<sup>9</sup> Funding of \$0.2M was expended in 2021/22 and was not carried over into 2022/23; however, deliverables under this investment began in 22/23.

led programs and programs in rural and remote communities. These learnings will inform refinements to the framework and its broader roll-out in the future.

**Impact on More Vulnerable or Underserved Communities**

Once developed, the framework will support quality care in all licensed child care settings including those in rural and remote areas, Indigenous communities; 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 9. ELCC Budget and Expenditures for Early Care and Learning Summit for 2021/22 (\$M)

|                    | 2021/22           | 2022/23           |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Budget</b>      | \$0.15            | \$0.15            |
| <b>Expenditure</b> | \$0 <sup>10</sup> | \$0 <sup>11</sup> |

**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 have been invited to share their knowledge and perspectives.

While the Early Care Learning Summit 2021 was expected to take place in the 2021-22 fiscal year, the event was postponed due to COVID-19 and given the pending transition of the Child Care Division to the Ministry of Education and Child Care. The Early Care and Learning Summit 2023 has been scheduled to take place on October 13, 2023 with the purpose of having a dialogue between representatives from the child care sector and business, municipal, and community leaders about innovative ways of improving child care services across the province.

**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 will improve the continuity of services for children and families at a local level.

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<sup>10</sup> Project deferred to FY 2022/23.

<sup>11</sup> Project deferred to FY 2023/24

## 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 ELCC programs.

Table 10. Results on Innovation under the ELCC Agreement

| Initiative  | Innovation  | Results  |
|---|---|--|
| <b>\$10aDay ChildCareBC sites – operational funding</b> | <b>Targeted operational grants</b> – operators will continue to receive supply-side funding, enabling them to offer families significantly reduced-cost child care spaces, up to a maximum of \$200/month.  | 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 is gathering 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. |
| <b>Indigenous child care</b>                            | <b>New funding arrangements</b> – In order to better coordinate services provided within Indigenous communities, funds available to the Province will continue to flow through two existing Indigenous organizations that have expertise in Indigenous-led early learning and child care. The investment approach exemplifies planning that is community driven and co-developed with several partners. | Hearing the need expressed by our AHS partners to support sites through this high inflationary time, an additional 2% in funding was provided. This allowed sites the opportunity to ensure wages for Early Childhood Educators could keep pace with the market to maintain staffing levels. Engagement with AHS partners and now directly with First Nations communities is informing decision-making for the future of AHS.  |

## Financial Summary

Table 11. 2022/23 Budget and Expenditures under BC-Canada ELCC Agreement (\$M)

| Initiative   | 2022/23 Budget | 2022/23 Expenditures |
|--|----------------|----------------------|
| \$10aDay ChildCareBC sites   | \$32.7         | \$32.1               |
| Expand Culturally Based Indigenous Child Care  | \$10.0         | \$10.2               |
| Continued Enhancement to Supported Child Development for Children with Support Needs | \$26.8         | \$21.8               |

|  |                |               |
|--|----------------|---------------|
| Early Care and Learning Environmental Scans  | \$1.2          | \$1.2         |
| Quality Assessment Framework <sup>12</sup>   | \$0            | \$0           |
| Early Care and Learning Summit <sup>13</sup> | \$0.15         | \$0           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                 | <b>\$70.85</b> | <b>\$65.3</b> |

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<sup>12</sup> Funding of \$0.2M was expended in 2021/22 and was not carried over into 2022/23; however, deliverables under this investment were completed in 22/23.

<sup>13</sup> Project deferred to FY 2023/24.

## Progress on BC-ELCC Initiatives According to Baseline Indicators

Table 12. Progress According to Baseline Indicators

| Objectives/programs                         | Outputs/ outcomes   | Indicators  | Targets (by March 31, 2023)  | Actual Results 2022/23  |
|---|---|---|--|---|
| <b>Priority #1: Affordability</b>           | \$10aDay ChildCareBC sites                                    | Number of children benefitting from affordable child care spaces, including the number of children from underserved communities (see Table 13).     | 2,500 spaces   | On average, over 2,600 spaces per month at \$10 a day facilities  |
| <b>Priority #2: Underserved Communities</b> | Expand culturally based Indigenous child care                 | Number of child care spaces providing culturally based Indigenous services, off-reserve and on-reserve  | 643 child care spaces  | 643 child care spaces continue to be maintained   |
| <b>Priority #3: Underserved Communities</b> | Enhance SCD and ASCD programs for children with support needs | Number of children with support needs accessing SCD or ASCD programs  | Progress toward an average of up to 1,500 more children receiving SCD/ASCD services per month by 2024/25 | Approximately 29% more, or 1,729 additional children, accessing SCD or ASCD on average per month since 2017/18 (an increase of 8%, or 538, since 2019/20) <sup>14</sup> |
| <b>Priority #4: Accessibility</b>           | Early Care and Learning Scans                                 | Number of early care and learning scans completed   | 60 scans   | Scans due 2023/24   |
| <b>Priority #5: Quality</b>                 | Early Care and Learning Summit                                | Plan and host a successful two day in-person and/or virtual summit with national and international experts in the field of early care and learning. | Early Care and Learning Summit hosted  | Project postponed to FY 2023/24. Hosted October 13, 2023.   |
|   | Quality Assessment Framework for Child Care                   | Development of one or more quality assessment frameworks to evaluate \$10 per day sites, including in Indigenous child care settings                | Quality assessment tool(s) developed   | Initial drafting of the quality assessment tool began in 2022/23. The tool will be completed in 2023/24 with a corresponding implementation plan.                       |

<sup>14</sup> This increase reflects the combined investments of the bilateral ELCC agreement and the CW-ELCC agreement.

## Results Achieved Compared to the Indicators of the Multilateral ELCC Framework

Table 13. Results Achieved According to Indicators of the Multilateral ELCC Framework

| Indicator  | Results (2020/21)   | Results (2021/22)   | Results (2022/23)   |
|--|---|---|---|
| <p><b>Number and proportion of providers with Early Childhood Education (ECE) certification and/or participating in professional development or training</b></p> | <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 (2021/22).</p>   | <p>As of March 31, 2023, there were 24,733 ECEs and 9,894 ECE Assistants certified in B.C.</p>  |
| <p><b>Number and proportion of providers adopting innovative new tools, such as an evidence-based curriculum framework for early learning and child care</b></p> | <p>Early care and learning (ECL) professionals continue to integrate B.C. Early Learning Framework (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 working in school districts are engaged in professional development using the B.C. ELF,</p> | <p>The B.C. ELF remains a voluntary document for use in child care programs, and many professional learning opportunities exist to support its use. B.C. does not currently track its use or participation in related professional learning opportunities. B.C. is continuing to develop a quality assessment framework to help early childhood professionals reflect on and continuously</p> |



| Indicator  | Results (2020/21)   | Results (2021/22)   | Results (2022/23)  |
|--|---|---|--|
|  |   | given its expanded applicability to children in the primary grades.   | improve their practice, in alignment with the ELF. B.C. intends to finalize a draft that can be piloted in programs across B.C. in 2023/24.  |
| <b>Number and percentage of children who have access to regulated child care spaces and/or early learning programs</b> | <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> | <p>Average monthly number of Group and Family child care spaces in facilities receiving Child Care Operating Funding (CCOF), 2022/23 fiscal: 130,600.</p> <p>Average monthly number of Group and Family child care spaces at \$10 a Day ChildCare BC centre sites, 2022/23 fiscal: 8,600.</p> <p>Average monthly number of Group and Family child care spaces at government supported facilities (CCOF and \$10 a Day), 2022/23 fiscal: 139,200.</p> <p>Average monthly percentage of children aged 0-12 accessing government-supported child care, 2022/23 fiscal: 22%.</p> |
| <b>Number of children receiving subsidies or other financial supports</b>  | The ACCB <sup>15</sup> continues to support low- and middle-income families with their child care costs. In 2020/21, 31,000 children on average each month received the ACCB.   | The ACCB continues to support low and middle-income families with their child care costs. In 2021/22, 39,200 children on average each month received the ACCB.  | The ACCB continues to support low and middle-income families with their child care costs. In 2022/23, 37,900 children on average each month received the ACCB.   |

<sup>15</sup> Affordable Child Care Benefit (ACCB) reporting changed from claim date to service data reporting as of March 2023. Service date is the date the benefit was received by the child rather than the date the benefit was claimed by the provider. Since claims are often made months after the date of service and multiple claims were bundled together, claim date data was underreporting the number children receiving benefits. Service date provides more accurate reporting of when benefits were actually received. Service date numbers are higher and provide a better representation of the number of children receiving ACCB benefits. Data for 2020/21 and 2021/22 have been updated with service date data so all years are reported on the same basis.

| Indicator   | Results (2020/21)  | Results (2021/22)  | Results (2022/23)  |
|---|--|--|--|
| <b>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</b>  | <p>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.</p> <p>Three projects indicated an intention to offer services outside of core business hours.</p>   | <p>Not available.</p>  | <p>Not available.</p>  |
| <b>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> | <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Francophone families – zero 2020/21 projects (5 projects overall)</li> <li>• Lower income families – five 2020/21 projects (18 projects overall)</li> <li>• Children with extra support needs – five 2020/21 projects (18 projects overall)</li> <li>• Indigenous children and families – five 2020/21 projects (18 projects overall)</li> <li>• Children of young parents – five 2020/21 projects (16 projects overall)</li> <li>• Children of single parents – five 2020/21 projects (16 projects overall)</li> <li>• Immigrant and refugee families – four 2020/21 projects (14 projects overall)</li> <li>• Families from minority cultures or language groups – four 2020/21 projects (12 projects overall)</li> </ul> | <p>No additional spaces were funded through the Community Child Care Space Creation in 2021/2.</p> <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, potentially benefitting as many or more than 643 First Nations, Métis and Inuit families in B.C.</p> <p>\$10 a Day sites funded through the ELCC Agreement have been collecting demographic data which indicates that in fiscal 2021/22 approximately:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 3% of families were Francophone;</li> <li>- 10% of families self-identified as Indigenous;</li> <li>- 0.7% were children who were new to Canada</li> <li>- 3.4% were children of young parents (under 25 years); and</li> <li>- 14.3% children were from single parent families.</li> </ul> | <p>The AHS 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 as or more than 643 First Nations, Métis and Inuit families in B.C.</p> <p>At \$10 a Day sites approximately:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2.4% of families were Francophone;</li> <li>- 19.8% of families self-identified as Indigenous;</li> <li>- 1.3% were children who were new to Canada</li> <li>- 2.7% were children of young parents (under 25 years); and</li> <li>- 11.6% children were from single parent families in fiscal 2022/23.</li> </ul> |

| Indicator | Results (2020/21)   | Results (2021/22) | Results (2022/23) |
|-----------|---|-------------------|-------------------|
|           | <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"> <li>- 2.4% of families were Francophone;</li> <li>- 10% of families self-identified as Indigenous;</li> <li>- 0.7% were children who were new to Canada</li> <li>- 3.4% were children of young parents (under 25 years); and</li> <li>- 14.3% children were from single parent families.</li> </ul> |                   |                   |

| Indicator   | Results (2020/21)   | Results (2021/22)  | Results (2022/23)   |
|---|---|--|---|
| <b>Number of children with additional support needs participating in early learning and child care programs</b>                           | Average monthly number of children receiving supports through SCD/ASCD in 2020/21: 6,264 (service levels impacted by pandemic).   | Average monthly number of children receiving supports through SCD or ASCD in 2021/22: 7,582.<br><br>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. | Average monthly number of children receiving supports through SCD or ASCD in 2022/23: 7,704.  |
| <b>The number and proportion of children from low- and middle-income families participating in early learning and child care programs</b> | In 2020/21, 31,000 children on average per month received the ACCB <sup>16</sup> .<br><br>In 2020/21, an average of 459 children per month attending Prototype Sites received additional support through ACCB and a total of 758 children attending a Prototype Site received child care at no cost for at least one month. | The ACCB continues to support low and middle-income families with their child care costs.<br><br>In 2021/22, 39,200 children on average each month received the ACCB.  | The ACCB continues to support low and middle-income families with their child care costs.<br><br>In 2022/23, 37,900 children on average each month received the ACCB. |

<sup>16</sup> Affordable Child Care Benefit (ACCB) reporting changed from claim date to service data reporting as of March 2023. Service date is the date the benefit was received by the child rather than the date the benefit was claimed by the provider. Since claims are often made months after the date of service and multiple claims were bundled together, claim date data was underreporting the number children receiving benefits. Service date provides more accurate reporting of when benefits were actually received. Service date numbers are higher and provide a better representation of the number of children receiving ACCB benefits. Data for 2020/21 and 2021/22 have been updated with service date data so all years are reported on the same basis.

## Impact on Families More in Need

Table 14 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 14. Impact on Families More in Need

| Families more in need                      | Brief Description  | Quantitative Impact   |
|--|--|---|
| <b>Lower-income families</b>               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All families accessing \$10 a Day ChildCare BC sites pay a maximum of \$200 per month per child for regular full-time care.</li> <li>Low/moderate income families receive support through the Province's ACCB. The amount of support a family receives through ACCB depends on factors including family income, with the highest benefit amounts available to families with the lowest incomes.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2022/23, over 2,600 spaces funded under this agreement were offered to families at \$10 a day.</li> <li>In 2022/23, 37,900 children on average each month received the ACCB.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Indigenous families</b>                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The AHS 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, family supports, and connections to community.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Several initiatives continue to support ECEs to advance their education and professional development.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2022/23, AHS programs served Indigenous children and their families through 303 spaces in urban areas and 340 spaces in First Nations communities.</li> <li>In 2022/23, approximately 10% of families attending \$10 a Day Sites identified as Indigenous.</li> <li>In 2022/23, 158 bursaries were awarded to Indigenous students to support the completion of their ECE programs.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Single-parent families</b>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Single-parent families continue to benefit from low-cost care at \$10 a Day ChildCare BC Sites, with a maximum fee of \$200/month.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2022/23, approximately 12% of children attending \$10 a Day Sites were from single parent families.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Families in underserved communities</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2022/23, approximately 2.4% of families attending \$10 a Day Sites were Francophone.</li> </ul>   |

| Families more in need                                | Brief Description  | Quantitative Impact  |
|--|--|--|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Several initiatives continue to support ECEs (including francophone ECEs) to advance their education and professional development.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>94 students who identified as Francophone received bursary funding, accounting for roughly 2.3% of the total bursaries awarded.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Families working non-standard hours</b>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MCFD is looking at ways to encourage child care operators to offer flexible child care.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three projects have indicated an intention to offer services outside of core business hours.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Families with children with varying abilities</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2022/23, 538 additional children accessed SCD or ASCD on average each month (an approximately 8% increase since 2019/20).</li> <li>In 2022/23, an average of 117 children per month attended a \$10 a Day Site and also received SCD services; and 26 Indigenous children per month attended a \$10 a Day site and also received ASCD services.</li> </ul> |