



Childcare BC Information Session

December 1, 2021



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

Welcome





Session Objectives and Agenda

Webinar Agenda

25
MINS

- **Session Opening, Objectives and Agenda**
-

10
MINS

- **Setting the Context**
-

30
MINS

- **Topics of Interest** (5 minutes each)
-

40
MINS

- **Q&A Panel**
-

5
MINS

- **Interactive Questions**
Participants invited to provide feedback using an interactive tool
-

10
MINS

- **Confirm Next Steps and Close Session**
Reminder about Topic Sessions and Online Feedback Board

Setting the Context



Why are we here today?

- **Build a shared understanding for early learning and child care:**
 - The future we're working together to build
 - Areas where we need your help, your feedback and your expertise
 - Ask what you need to be part of the path forward
 - Raising awareness of ongoing opportunities for further discussion

Where we are now

- We are working towards a future where culturally safe and inclusive early learning and child care is affordable and available to any family that wants it when they need it
- We've decreased the cost of child care, created new spaces, and boosted wages for early learning professionals
- To take it to the next level we need to a more unified approach to funding programs and supports
- We're here to learn from you and work together to shape the future of child care and early learning in B.C.
- **Goals of this session:**
 - Outline what we know is coming in the next few years
 - Share the ways that you can help us shape the future of child care in B.C.
 - Listen and learn from you

Where we are going together

The vision for year 10 of Childcare BC is all children and families will benefit from child care that is:

- **Open to every child and every family** with inclusive care for children up to and including age 12 and higher where needed
- **The best start** delivered by highly qualified professionals who have the training, knowledge, skills and abilities to deliver high-quality, culturally safe and enriching settings aligned with BC's Early Learning Framework and ECE Code of Ethics
- **Affordable** and well supported so that families pay no more than \$10/day per child, or less for lower-income families, for licensed care
- **Available and reliable** with staff that receive appropriate pay and recognition to deliver a service that families, communities and employers can depend on
- **Responsive and respectful** to Indigenous jurisdiction over child care for Indigenous children and families
- **Accessible and inclusive** to children of all backgrounds and abilities

Themes for Discussion

1

Working together to deliver child care and early learning

2

Making child care culturally safe and inclusive of all children

3

Funding child care as a core service families can rely on

4

Supporting childhood professionals who support families

5

Creating more child care spaces





**Working together
to deliver child
care and early
learning**

Working together to deliver child care and early learning

1



Where we're going together

- Providers and partners of all kinds work together with government to deliver early learning and child care opportunities in every part of the province much like they do today
- Early learning and child care services are managed by the Ministry of Education, through regional offices responsive to local needs

What we know so far

- Partners and providers want to work with government, but they want it to be easier and more responsive
- We need providers of every kind to be part of our child care future to meet government's child care commitments
- Child care and early learning are linked together – which is one reason why responsibility for this important service is moving to the Ministry of Education
- Providers are not governed by school boards, or responsible for delivering provincial curriculum
- School districts are not required to provide before and after school care, and existing programs will continue to operate as they do today
- Neither the Ministry of Education nor school districts have any jurisdiction over early learning and child care delivered on reserve

Working together to deliver child care and early learning

1



What is next

- To better respond to local needs, the Ministry of Education will be opening six regional offices that will serve as the new point of contact between government, child care providers and partners
- These offices will not be a new layer of authority, or impede Indigenous jurisdiction over early learning and child care, but will serve as a single point of contact for child care providers, community organizations, First nations, school districts and government
- A distinctions-based approach to early learning and child care will be undertaken separately in a process determined by Indigenous leadership and Indigenous Rights Holders

What we want to explore

- How to better respond to local needs and support families in every part of the province and get services where they are needed most
- How a regional approach can improve connections with First Nations, communities, school districts, child care providers and other partners
- What is needed to make a regional approach successful



Making child care culturally safe and inclusive of all children

Making child care culturally safe and inclusive of all children

2



Where we're going together

- All parents experience child care and early learning as culturally safe and respectful
- Children of all backgrounds and abilities get the best start on their early learning journey
- Child care providers and professionals are supported and trained to offer services to all families, regardless of background or ability

What we know so far

- Cultural safety and inclusion need to be built into the foundation of child care and early learning
- We're not there yet - we have a long way to go to make services culturally safe for First Nations, Metis and Inuit families
- Access to services needs to be improved for Black families, Indigenous families, and families of colour
- Too many children are being turned away from child care and early learning opportunities because they are neurodiverse, disabled, or have other support needs
- More needs to be done to include and support Two Spirit, transgender, and queer families and gender diverse children
- Making all child care culturally safe and inclusive will require training and capacity building
- Quality child care is achieved through building enhanced capacity within the sector

Making child care culturally safe and inclusive of all children

2



What is next

- Continue to offer extra resources and staff so neurodiverse children, children with disabilities, and children with other support needs get the best start on their early learning journey
- Act to make child care and early learning culturally safe and inclusive of all families

What we want to explore

- Ways government, providers and partners can gain the knowledge, empathy, and skills needed to deliver child care and early learning in a way that is culturally safe, accessible, and inclusive for all families
- How we can repair relationships and build trust with children and families who have been hurt by discrimination, exclusion or a lack of cultural safety
- Best practices to support neurodiverse children and children with disabilities in child care and early learning
- What resources are helping today and how we can we build on them



**Funding child
care as a core
service families
can rely on**

Funding child care as a core service families can rely on

3



Where we're going together

- Child care is a core service that is affordable, reliable, and available when parents need it

What we know so far

- Providers would benefit from a more unified approach to funding that is easier to understand and access
- Service providers need consistent, realistic funding that reflects the cost of offering child care and early learning
- Government needs to know how much to budget for early learning and child care now and in the future
- We need to work together to make child care and early learning inclusive and culturally safe
- Parents in every community need to be able to rely on child care and early learning being available
- Child care and early learning professionals need to be well compensated for the important work they do
- It will take time to move to a unified approach to funding child care and the Early Childhood Educator wage enhancement will stay in place until overall compensation for child care professionals is addressed

Funding child care as a core service families can rely on

3



What is next

- Refine how we fund child care and early learning as we work towards making it a core service families can rely on

What we want to explore

- What providers and partners need to help address regional and community needs
- Funding and other resources needed to make child care culturally safe for Indigenous children and families
- What is needed to support neurodiverse children and children with disabilities and other support needs
- How to address the varying needs for different kinds of care in different parts of the province

A photograph of a woman and a man sitting on a couch with a baby. The woman is on the right, smiling and holding the baby. The man is on the left, also smiling and looking at the baby. The baby is wearing a blue denim jacket and white socks. The background is a plain wall. The text "Supporting the professionals that support families" is overlaid on the left side of the image in white, bold font. A yellow horizontal line is positioned below the text.

Supporting the professionals that support families

Supporting the professionals that support families

4



Where we're going together

- Child care and early learning professionals are well compensated and ready to support all children, so we can offer child care to all families that want it, when they need it

What we understand

- We can't offer high-quality child care and early learning without well-educated child care professionals
- We've been working hard to increase the number of Early Childhood Educators in B.C. but we still don't have enough people to meet demand, and turnover remains high
- We need more people to do this important work if we want to offer affordable child care to every family that wants it
- Addressing low overall compensation will give people more incentive to choose and stay in this important profession
- We need to make it easier for people to build careers in early learning and child care and support these professionals with on-going education, professional development aligned with evolving pedagogy

Supporting the professionals that support families

4



What is next

- Explore better ways to compensate early learning and child care professionals
- Consider new ways of educating and training Early Childhood Educators
- Update the ECE Recruitment and Retention Strategy including continuing education and training

What we want to explore

- How to make being an Early Childhood Educator an attractive, long-term career
- Education, training and supports Early Childhood Educators and other child care and early learning professionals need to offer the best start to children of all ages, backgrounds and abilities
- How to support early learning professionals to enable them to provide consistent high-quality services for all families
- Conditions needed to retain early learning professionals in the child care sector

A woman with dark hair, wearing a floral patterned top, is smiling and interacting with children at a light blue table. She is reaching towards a stack of colorful plastic cups. In the foreground, a baby in a red and white striped shirt is looking towards the woman. To the left, another child is playing with a colorful stacking ring toy. In the background, another woman in a white shirt is standing and holding a yellow cup. The setting appears to be a child care center with educational posters on the wall.

Creating more child care spaces

Creating more child care spaces

5



Where we're going together

- Child care space is available for all families who want or need it

What we understand

- Parents need access to child care that is convenient, culturally safe, and inclusive
- Child care services need to be a reliable and stable so parents can work and learn
- Many more spaces are needed to deliver on government's commitment to provide affordable child care and early learning, including before and after school care, to every family that wants it, when they need it
- Families want choice – and we need all kinds of providers to deliver on our vision for the future of child care

Creating more child care spaces

5



What is next

- Maintain support for all kinds of child care providers to address operating costs and help lower fees
- Build more public and non-profit child care spaces to deepen stability and affordability over the long term
- Continue to support unlicensed home-based providers to become licensed

What we want to explore

- Ways we can make sure we are building child care and early learning spaces in communities that need them the most
- What role school districts can play in helping us build the spaces we need
- How regional resources could support improved planning
- Proactive ways to support regional needs

Q&A Session



Thank you

