

Province of British Columbia

**Canada-British Columbia Early Learning and Child Care
Agreement: Report on Progress and Results Achieved in
2024/2025**

October 2025

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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 B.C. with approximately \$155.7 million over three years for the purpose of enhancing its early learning and child care (ELCC) system. The Agreement has since been extended and/or re-signed several times (Figure 1), most recently in March 2025 when both the ELCC and CW-ELCC Agreements were extended for an additional 5 years, now set to expire March 31, 2031. This Agreement extension provides B.C. with \$456.9 million in ELCC funding, with a 3% funding escalator starting in 2027/2028.

Figure 1: Timeline for Canada-British Columbia ELCC Agreements



B.C. received approximately \$76.5 million in 2024/2025 to support and maintain priority areas of investments under the 2021-2025 ELCC Agreement extension including:

1. Maintaining increased affordability of child care through \$10 a Day ChildCareBC Centres;
2. Maintaining enhanced equity for underserved communities through targeted investment in programs that enable inclusion, including continued enhanced support for families with children with support needs through Supported Child Development (SCD) and Aboriginal Supported Child Development (ASCD) programs; and
3. Maintaining and improving quality at existing culturally based Indigenous-led no-fee programs.

B.C. achieved progress in several key areas in 2024/2025 under this Agreement, including:

- Continued support for the \$10 a Day ChildCareBC initiative to deliver over 2,500 low-cost, affordable child care spaces¹ in communities across B.C.;
- Support for Aboriginal Head Start Association of B.C. to continue operations at 12 Aboriginal Head Start (AHS) expansion sites (303 spaces), delivering the AHS model of child care to Indigenous families off reserve and enhanced funding provided to the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) to support equity at 19 AHS sites located on reserve, increasing the number of spaces from 340 to 395;²

² As of March 2025, there were over 2,000 AHS spaces in BC, including the 698 funded under this Agreement. Of the remaining spaces, some are provincially funded, and some are funded under the CW-ELCC.

- Continued enhanced funding for SCD and ASCD to maintain the number of children receiving inclusive child care supports and to build capacity among child care providers for inclusive practice; and
- Continued engagement towards the development of a draft quality assessment framework for child care to support early childhood professionals to reflect on and continuously improve their child care programs.

The Federal funding provided under this Agreement complements approximately \$3.33 billion invested over five years through the 2021-2026 CW-ELCC as well as investments that B.C. has made since 2018, building on the momentum achieved in the first six years of the ChildCareBC Plan. Since 2018/19, over \$8 billion has been invested in child care, of which Canada has invested over \$2.7 billion to date.

Description of the ELCC Initiatives

Priority: Affordable Child Care

Initiative: \$10 a Day ChildCareBC Centres

Eight Year ELCC Budget Allocation

Table 1. Eight-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)	Year 6 (2022/23)	Year 7 (2023/24)	Year 8 (2024/25)
Budget	-	\$30.0	\$30.0	\$31.0	\$31.0	\$32.7	\$32.8	\$33.6
Expenditure	-	\$18.6 ⁴	\$30.4	\$30.0	\$30.6	\$32.1	\$35.8	\$37.3

Description of the Activities and Results of the ELCC Initiative

B.C. has been testing 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 Centre is required, at a minimum, to offer licensed infant/toddler care (i.e., for children under 3 years), and fees for families are limited to \$200 per month (or \$10 a day) per child for full-time care. Families eligible for the Province's Affordable Child Care Benefit (ACCB)⁵ may pay less than \$200 per month and in certain circumstances, nothing at all.

The Province's continued learning about operating expenses supported the December 2023 launch of the formula-based Operating Funding Model (OFM) with select \$10 a Day ChildCareBC Centres, which will be refined iteratively.

³ This amount includes the Infrastructure Fund.

⁴ Expenditures in 2018/19 were lower than budgeted, due to a mid-year implementation of the first \$10-a-Day ChildCareBC sites (in November 2018, instead of April 2018 as originally budgeted).

⁵ The [Affordable Child Care Benefit](#) is an income-tested program. The Ministry uses annual income, less deductions for family size and children who have support needs, to determine eligibility. Families earning up to \$111,000 per year (after deductions) may qualify.

In 2024/2025 all \$10 a Day ChildCareBC Centres from the 2018 cohort were transitioned out of the original “revenue replacement” funding model.⁶ Of these 50 facilities, 36% were transitioned into the test of the OFM , and 64% are participating in the Eligible Expenses model (distinct from the revenue replacement model) which is currently better suited to address their expenses and/or business structures (e.g. sites with unionized staff, home-based sites).

B.C. continues to expand access to \$10-a-day child care.⁷ In 2024/2025, 1,860 spaces at 44 \$10 a Day ChildCareBC Centres were added, for a total monthly average number of almost 15,300 spaces at over 310 facilities. B.C. is projected to increase the number of \$10 a Day ChildCareBC spaces to 20,000 by spring 2026 through the latest \$10-a-day intake, launched in August 2025.

Impact on Vulnerable or Underserved Communities

The positive financial impact of the \$10 a Day ChildCareBC program on families is significant. The Province’s suite of affordability programs has reduced average child care costs for children under six from \$56 per day to \$20 per day.⁸ At \$10 a Day ChildCareBC Centres, the maximum monthly parent fee of \$10 per day is a reduction of 81%.

Selected \$10 a Day ChildCareBC Centres reflect the diversity of B.C.’s geography, populations and family needs. The 2024/2025 intake focused on not-for-profit providers serving communities without \$10-a-Day centres, children birth to 5 years, and low-income families, with specific considerations for providers serving Indigenous and underserved communities.

Families with children who have support needs⁹ attending \$10 a Day ChildCareBC Centres also benefited from B.C.’s SCD and ASCD programs. In 2024/2025, within the 2018 \$10 a Day ChildCareBC cohort supported under this Agreement, an average of 105 children per month received SCD services and an average of 14 Indigenous children per month received ASCD services.

⁶ Under the revenue replacement model, a centre self-declared their previous year’s revenue, which was fully funded, minus parent fees, without consideration for profit margins or the suitability of expenses being funded.

⁷ Most growth in the \$10-a-day initiative is funded through B.C.’s CW-ELCC Agreement.

⁸ Affordability programs: \$10 a Day ChildCareBC Centres, the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative, ACCB, and AHS.

⁹ Children with support needs: children experiencing, or with increased likelihood of experiencing, developmental delay or disability and who require support to optimize their development, functional abilities and quality of life.

Priority: Indigenous-led Child Care

Initiative: Expand Culturally based Indigenous Child Care – Aboriginal Head Start program

Eight Year ELCC Budget Allocation

Table 2. Eight-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)	Year 6 (2022/23)	Year 7 (2023/24)	Year 8 (2024/25)
Budget	\$10.0	\$10.0	\$10.0	\$10.0	\$10.0	\$10.0	\$15.1	\$17.2
Expenditure	\$10.0	\$10.0	\$10.0	\$10.0	\$10.0	\$10.2	\$15.1	\$17.2

Description of the Activities and Results of the ELCC Initiative

AHS programs support activities focused on early learning and development for Indigenous children from birth to five years, and are designed and delivered by Indigenous communities in a way that meets their unique needs and aim to support children’s spiritual, emotional, intellectual and physical growth.

AHS child care providers have ongoing support from the Aboriginal Head Start Association of B.C. (AHSABC) and the FNHA¹⁰:

- In 2024/2025, AHSABC and FNHA worked closely with Indigenous communities and child care providers to ensure that community needs were incorporated into curriculum.
- 2024/2025 funding focused on maintaining operations via inflationary increases and equalizing funding for the 19 AHS sites located on reserve to ensure consistent quality standards.
- AHSABC and FNHA completed maintenance assessments to support providing minor capital in 2025/2026 through the CW-ELCC.

Administrator	Spaces	# of Sites	Location
FNHA	395	19	On reserve
AHSABC	303	12	Off reserve
Total	698	31	N/A

Impact on Vulnerable or Underserved Communities

Families participating in AHS programs often experience:

- An increased sense of cultural identity and belonging;
- Access to no-cost child care;
- Language revitalization and preservation;
- Improved health and educational outcomes for children; and
- Improved access to wrap-around supports (e.g., early intervention, health resources, outreach services and home visits).

¹⁰ FNHA administers funding for 395 AHS spaces across 19 facilities, and AHSABC administers funding for 303 AHS spaces across 12 sites. As of March 31, 2025, BC had 2,292 AHS spaces in BC, including 698 funded under this Agreement, with the remainder funded provincially (319 spaces) or through the CW-ELCC (1,275 spaces).

Description of the Consultation Process

Since fall 2017 the Province has contracted with AHSABC and FNHA to lead the AHS expansion process. Ministry staff continue to regularly receive program and financial reporting from AHS partners and meet with them to discuss updates, successes and opportunities.

Consultations with First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) staff continued in 2023/2024 to guide engagement and short-term funding approaches with B.C. First Nations. In parallel, the Province collaborated with FNLC and Canada to develop the Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on ELCC, which was signed in September 2024; the MOU acknowledges First Nations' inherent rights to self-determination, including the right to control the design, delivery, and administration of an ELCC system for First Nations that reflects their unique needs, priorities, and aspirations.

In spring 2024 the Province worked with five Indigenous Partner organizations to co-develop and co-host a series of in-person regional engagement sessions to hear from communities about their priorities for Indigenous child care; the following key themes of needs were identified:

- Wraparound supports for families in ELCC programs, particularly for children with support needs, to be built into the design of new spaces and operational funding.
- Enhanced supports for new ECEs, including paid practicums, offering ECE training in communities (particularly rural and remote communities) and improved wages and benefits to reflect the rising cost of living. Housing shortages were also referenced as another barrier to recruitment..
- Increased funding to address the high cost of building new spaces, particularly in rural and remote communities with limited access to qualified architects, builders and material, and to allow for cultural spaces (e.g., kitchens, space for Elders to be involved in ELCC).
- Advancement of jurisdiction for Indigenous Peoples over their ELCC programs, corresponding flexible¹¹, multi-year operational funding and simplified, well-supported processes.

¹¹ First Nations to determine how the funding can best meet their unique needs

Priority: Inclusion

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

Eight-Year ELCC Budget Allocation

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

	Year 1 (2017/18)	Year 2 (2018/19)	Year 3 (2019/20)	Year 4 (2020/21)	Year 5 (2021/22)	Year 6 (2022/23)	Year 7 (2023/24)	Year 8 2024/25
Budget	-	\$10.0	\$10.0	\$10.0	\$10.0	\$26.8	\$26.8	\$26.8
Expenditure	-	\$20.9 ¹²	\$10.2	\$10.0	\$10.0	\$21.8	\$26.8	\$26.8

Description of the Activities and Results of the ELCC Initiative

Inclusive child care means that all children, including children from diverse backgrounds or family circumstances and children who have support needs, have equitable access to quality child care. Inclusive child care recognizes the individual strengths of each child and supports belonging and learning through play in a program of the family's choosing. B.C. is focusing on increasing capacity for inclusive child care across the sector for by supporting increased knowledge and skills among child care providers and maintaining access to inclusive child care supports through SCD and ASCD programs.

SCD and ASCD are community-based programs offering a range of consulting and support services to children, families and child care centres, including assessing children's support needs, creating individual plans, providing guidance to child care providers and funding extra child care staffing where needed. ASCD supports unique Indigenous service needs and are responsive to local Indigenous cultures and communities.

SCD and ASCD programs received a \$10 million annual federal enhancement through the 2017 to 2020 ELCC Agreement, which was allocated to Service Delivery Areas set by the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) using an equity-driven approach¹³. In 2022/2023, an enhanced investment of \$16.8 million was added to the bilateral ELCC Agreement for a total of \$26.8 million. Total budgeted funding for SCD/ASCD in 2024/2025 was \$111.8 million: \$26.8 million through this Agreement, \$15 million through the CW-ELCC and \$70 million in provincial funding (\$70 million).

Table 4. Average Monthly Number of Children Accessing SCD and ASCD Services 2017/2018 to 2024/2025

2017/18 (Baseline)	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
5,975	6,506	7,166	6,000	7,528 ¹⁴	7,704	8,986	8,413

¹² \$10M budget was deferred from 2017/2018 as there were no expenditures against it in 2017/2018. A small amount of funding was transferred from underspends in other initiatives for the \$0.9M over the \$20M.

¹³ A socio-economic statistical model was used that includes factors such as population, Indigenous population, schools success rates, and labour and health variables.

¹⁴ 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, which has been revised using more robust methodology.

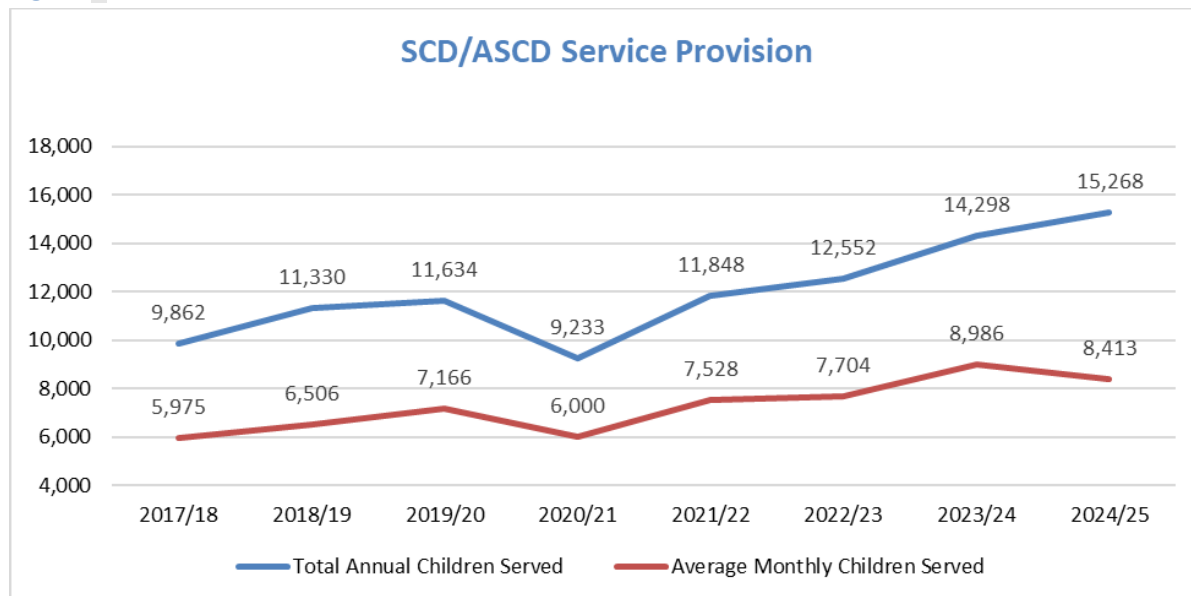
Table 5. Total Number of Children Accessing SCD and ASCD Services by Year 2017/2018 to 2024/2025

2017/18 (Baseline)	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
9,862	11,330	11,634	9,233	11,848 ¹⁵	12,552	14,298	15,268

Table 6. Total Number of Direct SCD and ASCD Service Hours by Year 2017/2018 to 2024/2025

2017/18 (Baseline)	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
1,354,462	1,580,778	1,766,840	1,393,206	1,757,479	1,987,828	2,395,729	2,257,941

Since initially increasing investments in SCD/ASCD programs in 2017/2018 (baseline), the average number of children served and overall service hours have increased significantly.¹⁶ In 2024/2025 the total direct SCD/ASCD service hours decreased by 6% compared to 2023/2024, but has increased 67% since the 2017/2018 baseline (Table 6). Similarly, the average number of children accessing SCD/ASCD services per month decreased by 6% compared to 2023/2024, but has risen by 41% since baseline levels in 2017/2018 and remains above the target of an average of up to 1,500 more children receiving services per month by 2025/2026. Further, the total number of unique children accessing SCD/ASCD services has increased by 7% in 2024/2025 and by 55% since baseline levels in 2017/2018 (Figure 2).¹⁷

Figure 2 Trend of SCD/ASCD Service Provision from 2017/2018 to 2024/2025

¹⁵ 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.

¹⁶ 2020/2021 service levels were reduced due to the pandemic, exceeding pre-pandemic levels the following year.

¹⁷ While the average number of children served monthly (a point in time) and the average number of service hours decreased increased in 2024/25, the total number of unique children served over the year increased. This suggests that some SCD/ASCD programs have increased their focus on supporting child care providers to build capacity for inclusion, enabling SCD/ASCD programs to provide time-limited support and increasing the overall number of children accessing inclusive child care. B.C. will be monitoring this trend in subsequent years.

The continued annual investments were intended to:

- Increase the number of children served by SCD/ASCD, reducing wait times and enabling increased access to inclusive child care.
- Increase the number of service hours, where needed, by increasing child-specific SCD/ASCD consultation services and/or enhanced staffing supports to children currently receiving services.
- Address service disparity, where possible, between ASCD and SCD programs by requiring Service Delivery Areas to spend a minimum of 10% of the funding on ASCD programs.
- Enable SCD and ASCD programs to emphasize capacity building through training and mentorship which are highly valued by child care staff and SCD/ASCD programs when available.

Impact on Vulnerable or Underserved Communities

Children with support needs, including those with disabilities, experience unique barriers in accessing child care. SCD and ASCD programs help families and children access and participate in fully inclusive child care settings. ASCD programs support Indigenous families and children, delivering services within a cultural model, respecting traditional protocol, language, traditions and focusing on cultural safety.

Description of the Consultation Process

In June 2024, B.C. released its [Inclusive Child Care Strategy](#), which describes a system-wide approach to inclusion and equity in child care. The strategy was informed by engagement with inclusion and equity interested parties, families and child care providers.¹⁸ In 2024/2025 the Province continued engagement with interested parties, including \$10 a Day ChildCareBC participants, to learn more about enabling equitable access to inclusive child care for all B.C. families.

B.C. will continue to learn about barriers families are facing in accessing child care, including for families who are newcomers to Canada, Indigenous families, families with low-income, and families experiencing vulnerability. B.C. is committed to building relationships with parents, child care professionals, and advocates to ensure that government policy is responsive to their concerns and interests.

¹⁸ Engagement outcomes are described in the [2024 Equity, Inclusion and Child Care in B.C.: Engagement Report](#).

Priority: Quality

Initiative: Quality Assessment Framework for Child Care

ELCC Budget Allocation

Table 9. ELCC Annex 3: Early Childhood Workforce Funding for fiscal year 2024/2025 (\$M)

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Budget	\$0.2	\$0 ¹⁹	\$0	\$0
Expenditure	\$0.2	\$0	\$0	\$0

Description of the Activities and Results of the ELCC Initiative

In 2021/2022, B.C. provided \$0.22M to BCcampus²⁰ to develop a quality assessment framework to support early childhood professionals to continuously improve their practice. In 2022/2023 through 2023/2024, the framework was developed in consultation with anti-racism and gendered-language editors, and Indigenous partners were engaged on the framework early 2024/2025. Feedback will inform further iterations and refinements to the framework and its broader roll out in the future.

¹⁹ Funding of \$0.2M was expended in 2021/2022 and was not carried over into 2022/2023; however, deliverables under this investment began in 2022/2023 and are ongoing in 2023/2024 and 2024/2025.

²⁰ BCcampus is a government agency that facilitates and shares innovative teaching and learning approaches across B.C public sector post-secondary institutions.

Results on Innovation

ELCC programs operate in increasingly complex and challenging environments. As part of the funding provided under this Agreement, and as illustrated in Table 10, B.C. is working to define, promote and deliver innovative approaches to enhance ELCC programs.

Table 10. Results on Innovation under this Agreement

Initiative	Innovation	Results
\$10 a Day ChildCareBC Centres – operational funding	Targeted operational grants – 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 per month.	This initiative allows B.C. to test new funding models for child care and to gather information regarding the costs of delivering child care in a variety of settings, which will help inform the development of child care as a core service.
Indigenous child care	New funding arrangements –To better coordinate services in Indigenous communities, funding will continue to flow through two Indigenous organizations that hold the expertise in Indigenous-led ELCC. The investment planning approach is community driven and co-developed with Indigenous partners.	To improve equity between the on-reserve sites and the provincially-funded AHS and off-reserve sites, B.C. provided an additional \$4.9 million starting in 2023/2024. This supported AHS sites to maintain quality standards and ensure wages for ECEs keep pace with the market. Some sites have also been able to expand AHS spaces.

Financial Summary

Table 11. 2024/2025 Budget and Expenditures under BC-Canada ELCC Agreement (\$M)

Initiative	2024/2025 Budget	2024/2025 Expenditure
\$10 a Day ChildCareBC Centres	\$33.6	\$37.3
Expand culturally based Indigenous child care	\$17.2	\$17.2
Continued enhancement to Supported Child Development for children with support needs	\$26.8	\$26.8
Quality Assessment Framework ²¹	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$77.6	\$81.3

Progress on BC-ELCC Initiatives According to Baseline Indicators

²¹ Funding of \$0.2M was expended in 2021/22 and was not carried over into 2022/23; deliverables under this investment began in 2022/23 and are ongoing.

Table 12. Progress According to Baseline Indicators under this Agreement

Objectives	Outputs/ outcomes	Indicators	Targets (by March 31, 2025)	Actual Results 2024/2025
Priority: Affordability	\$10 a Day ChildCareBC Centres	Number of children benefitting from affordable spaces, including those from underserved communities (see Table 14.	2,500 spaces	On average, 2,500 spaces per month at \$10 a Day ChildCareBC Centres.
Priority: Indigenous-led child care	Expand culturally based Indigenous child care designed and delivered by Indigenous organizations	Number of spaces providing culturally based Indigenous services, off reserve and on reserve	643 spaces – 340 serving First Nations and 303 serving Indigenous families off-reserve.	698 spaces – 395 spaces serving First Nations and 303 serving Indigenous families off-reserve.
Priority: Inclusion	Enhance SCD and ASCD programs for children with support needs	Number of children with support needs accessing SCD or ASCD programs	An average of up to 1,500 more children receiving SCD/ASCD services per month	Approximately 41% more, or 2,438 additional children, accessing SCD or ASCD on average per month since 2017/18 (an increase of 17%, or 1,247 since 2019/20) ²²
Priority: Quality	Quality Assessment Framework for Child Care	Development of one or more quality assessment frameworks to evaluate \$10 a Day ChildCareBC Centres	Quality assessment tool(s) developed	The draft and implementation plan are in progress. Engagement feedback in early 2024 indicated a crucial need to re-evaluate its development process to ensure alignment with the <i>Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act</i> . The Province is exploring next steps and currently does not have an expected date of completion.

²² 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 Framework²³

Indicator	Results (2021/2022)	Results (2022/2023)	Results (2023/2024)	Results (2024/2025)
Number and proportion of providers with ECE certification and/or participating in professional development or training	As of March 31, 2022, there were over 19,800 ECEs and over 9,200 ECE Assistants certified in B.C. ²⁴	As of March 31, 2023, there were over 21,000 ECEs and over 9,800 ECE Assistants certified in B.C.	As of March 31, 2024, there were over 23,600 ECEs and over 12,200 ECE Assistants certified in B.C.	As of March 31, 2025, there were over 26,700 ECEs and over 17,200 ECE Assistants certified in B.C.
Number and proportion of providers adopting innovative new tools, such as an evidence-based curriculum framework for ELCC	Child care professionals continue to voluntarily integrate the B.C. Early Learning Framework (ELF) as a curriculum for ELCC.	Use of the B.C. ELF remains voluntary and many professional learning opportunities exist to support its use. B.C. does not track related data.	Ongoing	Ongoing
Number and percentage of children who have access to regulated child care spaces	Average monthly funded spaces: - Child Care Operating Funding (CCOF): 129,200. \$10 a Day ChildCareBC Centres: 2,800. - Total: 132,000 Spaces per 100 children aged five and under: 36	Average monthly funded spaces: - Child Care Operating Funding (CCOF): 130,500. \$10 a Day ChildCareBC Centres: 8,600. - Total: 139,100	Average monthly funded spaces: - Child Care Operating Funding (CCOF): 134,700. \$10 a Day ChildCareBC Centres: 13,400. Total: 148,100 Spaces per 100 children aged five and under: 41	Average monthly funded spaces: - Child Care Operating Funding (CCOF): 145,200. \$10 a Day ChildCareBC Centres: 15,300. - Total: 160,500 Spaces per 100 children aged five and under: 47

²³ Some historic numbers have had minor changes due to audits, corrections, and data collection improvements. These numbers have been restated.

²⁴ The number of ECE Assistants in 2021/2022, 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 were rested due to improved data systems that identified duplicate records.

Indicator	Results (2021/2022)	Results (2022/2023)	Results (2023/2024)	Results (2024/2025)
		Spaces per 100 children aged five and under: 38	AHS spaces: over 1,750 ²⁵	AHS spaces: 2,292 ²⁶
Number of children receiving subsidies or other financial supports	Average monthly children receiving the ACCB: 39,200	Average monthly children receiving the ACCB: 38,100	Average monthly children receiving the ACCB: 36,200	Average monthly children receiving the ACCB: 35,000 ²⁷
Number of flexible ELCC arrangements (e.g., irregular hours, weekend and emergency services) and geographic distribution of spaces for harder-to-serve populations	Not available.	Not available.	Facilities offering Flexible Care Arrangements: Number of facilities 3,529 Percent of facilities 67% Geographic Distribution of Flexible Care Arrangements Metro 64% Vancouver Island 66% Northern 69% Thompson-Okanagan 74% Fraser Valley 75% Kootenay-Boundary 82% BC 67%	Facilities offering Flexible Care Arrangements - Number of facilities: 3,673 - Percent of facilities: 65% Geographic Distribution of Flexible Care Arrangements Metro 62% Northern 65% Vancouver Island 67% Fraser Valley 68% Thompson-Okanagan 68% Kootenay-Boundary 81% BC 65%

²⁵ 643 funded under the Bilateral ELCC Agreement (340 on reserve and 303 off reserve), 319 funded through Provincial Budget and 788 funded under the CW-ELCC as of March 31, 2024.

²⁶ 698 funded under the Bilateral ELCC Agreement (395 on reserve and 303 off reserve), 319 funded through Provincial Budget and 1,275 funded under the CW-ELCC as of March 31, 2025.

²⁷ The ACCB is a statutory, demand-driven entitlement. Declining uptake since 2021/2022 likely reflects reduced need due to other affordability measures, including the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative and the expansion of \$10 a Day ChildCareBC spaces, which lower out-of-pocket costs and reduce reliance on ACCB.

Indicator	Results (2021/2022)	Results (2022/2023)	Results (2023/2024)	Results (2024/2025)
Number of children benefiting from programs and/or the number of programs designed to serve children from diverse populations (e.g., linguistic minority communities, Indigenous people off-reserve, recent immigrants and refugees)	The AHS expansion funds operations of 31 AHS programs (12 off reserve and 19 on reserve) delivering 643 AHS spaces in B.C.	The AHS expansion funds operations of 31 AHS programs (12 off reserve and 19 on reserve) delivering 643 AHS spaces in B.C.	Through combined investments AHS spaces grew to over 1,750.	Through combined investments AHS spaces grew to 2,292. AHS spaces are expected to continue growing to over 2,300 by the end of 2026.
	At \$10 a Day ChildCareBC Centres: • 3% of children were Francophone • 10% of children self-identified as Indigenous • 1% of children were new to Canada • 3% of children had parents under age 25 • 14% of children were from single-parent families	At \$10 a Day ChildCareBC Centres: • 2% of children were Francophone • 20% of children self-identified as Indigenous; • 1% of children were new to Canada • 3% of children had parents under age 25 • 12% of children were from single-parent families	At \$10 a Day ChildCareBC Centres: • 3% of children were Francophone • 8% of children self-identified as Indigenous • 2% of children were new to Canada • 3% of children had parents under age 25 • 10% of children were from single-parent families	At \$10 a Day ChildCareBC Centres ²⁸ : • 4% of children were Francophone • 7% of children self-identified as Indigenous • 2% of children were new to Canada; • 2% of children had parents under 25 years • 9% of children were from single parent families

²⁸ This information reflect all \$10-a-Day ChildCareBC centres regardless of funding source.

Indicator	Results (2021/2022)	Results (2022/2023)	Results (2023/2024)	Results (2024/2025)
Number of children with support needs participating in ELCC programs	Average monthly children receiving SCD/ASCD supports: 7,582. The annualized \$10 million investment contributed to 1,407 more children accessing SCD/ASCD supports, on average per month and over 500,000 more hours of direct service. B.C. also provided \$11 million in one-time funding to address immediate need and in anticipation of ELCC funding increases beginning in 2022/2023.	Average monthly children receiving SCD/ASCD supports: 7,704.	Average monthly children receiving SCD/ASCD supports: 8,986. The annualized \$26.8 million investment under this Agreement and \$15 million through the CW-ELCC resulted in 3,011 more children accessing SCD/ASCD supports, on average per month (50% more than 2017/2018) and 1,041,267 more hours of direct service (77% more than 2017/2018).	Average monthly children receiving SCD/ASCD supports: 8,413. The annualized \$26.8 million investment under this Agreement and \$15 million through the CW-ELCC resulted in 2,438 more children accessing SCD/ASCD supports, on average per month (41% more than 2017/2018) and 903,479 more hour of direct service (67% more than 2017/2018).
Number and proportion of children from low-/middle-income families participating in ELCC programs	The ACCB²⁹ continues to support low and middle-income families with their child care costs. Average monthly children receiving ACCB: 39,200	The ACCB continues to support low and middle-income families with their child care costs. Average monthly children receiving ACCB: 38,100	The ACCB continues to support low and middle-income families with their child care costs. Average monthly children receiving ACCB: 36,200	The ACCB continues to support low and middle-income families with their child care costs. Average monthly children receiving ACCB: 35,000

²⁹ The [Affordable Child Care Benefit](#) is an income-tested program. The Ministry uses annual income, less deductions, or adjustments, to determine eligibility. Generally speaking, families that earn up to \$111,000 may qualify for funding. Families that earn more than \$111,000 but have considerable deductions for family size or children who have support needs may also apply.

Impact on Families More in Need

Table 14. Impact on Families More in Need

Families	Brief Description	Quantitative Impact (2024/2025)
Lower-income families	- Families accessing \$10 a Day ChildCareBC Centres pay up to \$200 per month per child for regular full-time care. - Low-/moderate-income families may receive the ACCB.	2,500 \$10 a Day ChildCareBC Centre spaces were funded under this agreement. 35,000 children received the ACCB per average month.
Indigenous families	Indigenous children and families continue to benefit from: - The AHS program - Low-cost care at \$10 a Day ChildCareBC Centres - Several initiatives supporting Indigenous ECEs to advance their education and professional development.	- AHS programs provided 303 spaces in urban areas and 395 spaces in First Nations communities.³⁰ - Approximately 7% of families attending \$10 a Day ChildCareBC Centres identified as Indigenous. - Over 160 bursaries were awarded to Indigenous students in ECE programs, accounting for 3% of the total bursaries awarded.
Single-parent families	Single-parents accessing \$10 a Day ChildCareBC Centres pay up to \$200 per month.	Approximately 9% of children attending \$10 a Day ChildCareBC Centres were from single-parent families.
Families in underserved communities	- Families in underserved (including francophone) communities accessing \$10 a Day ChildCareBC Centres pay up to \$200 per month. - Several initiatives support ECEs to advance their education and professional development.	- Approximately 4% of children attending \$10 a Day ChildCareBC Centres were francophone. - Over 150 students identifying as francophone received bursaries through the ECE Education Support Fund, accounting for 8% of the total bursaries awarded.
Families working non-standard hours	B.C. is considering ways to encourage child care operators to offer flexible child care.	65% of all facilities offered at least one flexible care arrangement.³¹

³⁰ As of March 31, 2025, there were 2,292 AHS spaces: 698 funded under this Agreement with the remainder were funded provincially or under the CW-ELCC.

³¹ Includes part-time enrolment, drop-in care, pre-arranged extended hours, irregular enrolment enrollment, weekend care, overnight care, and extended hours. This question was redesigned in 2023/24, and 2023/24 and 2024/25 results are not comparable with 2022/23.

Families	Brief Description	Quantitative Impact (2024/2025)
		85% of full day child care providers (89% of infant; 86% of toddler; 84% of 3-5 year old care providers) were open for 9 or more hours per day.
Families with children with support needs	- The SCD and ASCD programs support children to access and participate in child care by helping overcome barriers to their inclusion. - ASCD programs support inclusion in culturally safe child care for Indigenous children with support needs.	On average, per month: 2,438 (41%) more children accessed SCD/ASCD since 2017/18 (1,247 or 17% more since 2019/20). - Average of 536 children attending a \$10 a Day ChildCareBC Centre received SCD services. 124 Indigenous children attending a \$10 a Day ChildCareBC Centre received ASCD services.