



# BC-CANADA EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE AGREEMENT

REPORT ON PROGRESS  
AND RESULTS ACHIEVED  
IN YEAR 2 (2018/2019)

OCTOBER 1, 2019

**Table of Contents**

**Introduction .....3**

**Description of the ELCC Initiatives .....4**

**Priority 1: Accessible Child Care.....4**

**Initiative: Early Care and Learning Partnerships .....4**

**Priority 2: Affordable Child Care .....6**

**Initiative: Early Care and Learning Prototype Sites.....6**

**Priority 3: Quality Child Care .....9**

**Initiative: Training Fund to Support Recruitment and Retention of Early Childhood Educators.....9**

**Priority 4: Underserved Communities .....10**

**Initiative: Expand Culturally Based Indigenous Child Care .....11**

**Initiative: Enhance Supported Child Development for Children with Extra Support Needs .....12**

**Initiative: CanAssist Inclusive Child Care Toileting Initiative .....13**

**Initiative: Enhanced Funding for Young Parent Programs.....14**

**Results on Innovation .....16**

**Financial Table .....17**

**Progress on BC-ELCC Initiatives According to Baseline Indicators .....18**

**Results Achieved According to the Indicators of the Multilateral ELCC Framework.....20**

Funded by the Government of Canada  
 through the Early Learning and Child Care  
 Agreement



## INTRODUCTION

In February 2018, the Government of British Columbia (B.C.) and the Government of Canada signed the Canada-BC Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Agreement (the Agreement), which provides the Province of B.C. with approximately \$155.6 million over three years for the purpose of enhancing its early care and learning system.

Funding provided through the Agreement is being used to advance a number of different initiatives, ranging from creating child care spaces, improving child care affordability, supporting inclusive child care, developing early care and learning programs for Indigenous children, further developing the Early Childhood Educator workforce, and supporting young parents in completing their high school education.

B.C. achieved progress in a number of key areas during the second year of the ELCC Agreement. These achievements included:

- Fully completing the first intake of the Child Care Community Space Creation Grant;
- Successfully creating 53 Childcare BC Universal Prototype Sites to deliver more than 2,500 low-cost, affordable child care spaces, serving over 2,900 children, and helping to set the stage for the implementation of a model of universal child care;
- Allocating funding for professional training opportunities in multiple areas, including but not limited to ethics, sexual abuse prevention, and family child care training, and the development of multiple online learning platforms;
- Creating 643 new spaces in Aboriginal Head Start programs to deliver culturally appropriate and safe full-day child care programming to Indigenous children and families, with 181 spaces becoming operational in the second year;
- Providing additional funding to Supported Child Development and Aboriginal Supported Child Development programs to assist 339 more children per month who require additional support to access child care programs;
- Making amendments to the Child Care Subsidy Regulation to enable enhancements to the Young Parent Program, which covers child care costs for young parents completing their high school education.

The funding provided to B.C. through the Canada-BC Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Agreement complements the three-year, \$1.3-billion investment that B.C. made in order to set the foundation for the Province's ten-year commitment to implement a universal child care system.

While B.C. is currently in its third year of the ELCC Agreement, this report provides an update on progress on each of the ELCC Agreement initiatives in its second year, which covers the 2018/19 fiscal year.

# DESCRIPTION OF THE ELCC INITIATIVES

## PRIORITY 1: ACCESSIBLE CHILD CARE

### Initiative: Early Care and Learning Partnerships

#### Three Year ELCC Budget Allocation

Table 1. Three-Year ELCC Budget for the Early Care and Learning Partnerships

Year 1 (2017/18)	Year 2 (2018/19)	Year 3 (2019/20)
\$0 (\$13.7 million deferred to 2018/19)	\$13.7 million (an additional \$4.8 million was included from unspent revenue) Total 2018/19 expenditure \$18.5 million	\$0

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

Under the BC-Canada ELCC Agreement, the Province created the Community Child Care Space Creation Program, which provides funding to local governments (municipalities and regional districts) to create new licensed child care spaces for children aged 0-5 years. As a condition of receiving funding, the new child care spaces must be on property that local governments either own, or lease on a long-term basis.

The Ministry of Children and Family Development (the Ministry) partnered with the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) to design and implement this initiative. In the program’s first intake, following its launch in September 2018, UBCM received 13 applications from local governments, with nine of them being approved. A total of \$6.86 million in funding was committed during the first intake period.

Overall, the approved projects will help create 247 spaces, of which 67 will be for children aged 0-3 years, and the remaining 180 spaces for children 3-5 years. These spaces will help address the shortage of child care services in communities throughout B.C. and promote the Ministry’s goal of increasing the number of spaces owned by public sector institutions, including local governments.

Given that this is the first time local governments have been engaged by the Province in planning for or building child care spaces, and that many municipalities have not historically worked on child care, the response to this initial intake of applications is a positive first step. The program was announced shortly before the 2018 General Local Elections (i.e., municipal elections), making it more complicated for councils to undertake an application. UBCM remains confident that many local governments are interested in this opportunity to create more child care spaces.

In September 2019, the Ministry and UBCM announced a second intake of applications for additional local governments interested in creating new child care spaces for children under school-age. This intake will close on November 22, 2019.

### **Impact on More Vulnerable or Under-served Communities**

The UBCM evaluated applications based on a number of considerations, including whether the proposed child care programs would serve Indigenous families and communities, children with extra support needs, lower-income families, single-parent families, parents under 25, and minority language and cultural groups, including francophone families, recent immigrants, and refugees.

In addition, the Ministry considered the extent to which the communities already had an adequate supply of child care, with those that have a shortage receiving priority.

### **Description of the Consultation Process**

The Community Child Care Space Creation Program continues to be delivered in partnership with UBCM. The program was first announced in September 2018 at UBCM's annual convention. In conjunction with announcing the new program, Ministry staff led a two-hour workshop to inform local government representatives about the new opportunity. A second intake was announced at the 2019 UBCM Convention.

**PRIORITY 2: AFFORDABLE CHILD CARE**

**Initiative: Early Care and Learning Prototype Sites**

**Three Year ELCC Budget Allocation**

Table 2. Three-Year ELCC Budget for the Early Care and Learning Prototype Sites

Year 1 (2017/18)	Year 2 (2018/19)	Year 3 (2019/20)
\$0	\$30 million (\$7.691 million of which was allocated to other priorities in 2018/19 and \$3.835 million of which was deferred to 2019/20) Total 2018/19 expenditure \$18.474 million	\$30 million

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

Through the ELCC Agreement, British Columbia is modelling the introduction of universal child care by investing \$60 million over two years to convert 53 existing licensed child care facilities into Universal Child Care Prototype Sites (Prototype Sites). These sites support more than 2,500 licensed child care spaces offering low- and/or no-cost spaces to more than 2,900 children, significantly exceeding the program’s initial target of 1,768 spaces. The priority for the program is supporting infant and toddler spaces (i.e., for children under 3 years). Families accessing the Prototype Sites pay a maximum of \$200 per month per child for regular full-time care. Some families receive additional support through the Province’s Affordable Child Care Benefit, and pay less than \$200 per month, to no fee at all.

The 53 approved Prototype Sites are helping to test the funding and operational models that will be required to move B.C. toward a universal child care system over a ten-year period.

**Evaluation**

In 2018, the Ministry entered into contract with R.A. Malatest & Associates Ltd. (Malatest) to conduct an arms-length evaluation of the 53 Prototype Sites and two Aboriginal Head Start sites as part of the Prototype sites evaluation initiative. In addition, each Prototype Site submits monthly reports to the Ministry. This reporting captures operational and financial metrics, with a focus on the dual role of ensuring effective operational oversight as well as supporting Ministry learning objectives.

Malatest is collecting information on Prototype Sites that will support the Ministry’s learning objectives, including:

- Parent surveys and focus groups;
- Provider and staff surveys and interviews;
- Community partner interviews; and

- Quality assessments based on the City of Toronto’s Assessment for Quality Improvement (AQI) tool, and the *Learn, Observe, Value, Inspire, Transform* (LOVIT)<sup>1</sup> tool currently being developed by the Aboriginal Head Start Association of British Columbia.

Malatest’s final evaluation report is due in June 2020.

### **Improving Quality at Prototype Sites through Targeted Grants**

In addition to receiving an enhanced level of operating funding that will allow facilities to offer low- and/or no-fee child care, Prototype Sites received a Quality Improvement (QI) Grant to implement site-specific quality enhancements. The grant could be used to implement:

- Improvements to structural safety, and/or improvements to the physical space that enhance the provision of Child Care Services;
- Enhanced cultural inclusivity for children and/or staff;
- Improvements to inclusiveness to support equitable access for children of all abilities, including those with extra support needs;
- Enhanced ongoing experience and/or learning of children in the provider’s care currently and in the future; and/or
- Enhanced access to professional development and training for the site operator and/or other staff.

### **Impact on More Vulnerable or Underserved Communities**

The positive financial impact on families with children attending Prototype Sites is significant. In B.C., the median monthly fee for licensed Infant/Toddler care delivered in a Group setting in the 2016/2017 fiscal year was \$1,050 per child. The maximum monthly fee at the Prototype Sites for the same type of care is less than 20% of this amount.

In addition, the selection of the Prototype Sites reflects the diversity of B.C.’s geography, populations and parent needs, with specific consideration being given to providers that serve Indigenous families, single-parent families, families in underserved communities, and parents working non-standard hours.

A subset of the Prototype Sites are also piloting two alternate models of funding to deliver inclusive child care for children with diverse/extra support needs. These alternate models, and the existing Supported Child Development (SCD) and Aboriginal Supported Child Development (ASCD) models, are being evaluated in terms of sustainability, cost effectiveness, perception, and experiences of families and child care operators.

### **Description of the Consultation Process**

The Prototype Sites are the first step in testing the funding and operational models of a more affordable and sustainable universal child care system. These sites were implemented following feedback from the

---

<sup>1</sup> The LOVIT Way tool and culturally-sensitive program evaluation process is based on the Aboriginal Head Start Principles and Guidelines. This tool is used to aid in the development of high-quality early learning programs.

fall 2017 Child Care Forum, which called for increased operational funding for licensed child care operators.

The Ministry has contracted a third party to consult with Prototype Sites on a variety of qualitative and quantitative issues related to providing universal child care and supporting various types of child care province-wide. The consultation includes monthly reporting from all Prototype Sites, in-person interviews with child care providers, confidential surveys to staff, families and community partners, and focus groups at each Prototype Site with staff and families. A Final Childcare BC Universal Child Care Evaluation Report is due in June 2020.



**PRIORITY 3: QUALITY CHILD CARE**

**Initiative: Training Fund to Support Recruitment and Retention of Early Childhood Educators**

**Three-Year ELCC Budget Allocation**

Table 3. Three-Year ELCC Budget for the Training Fund to Support Recruitment and Retention of Early Childhood Educators

Year 1 (2017/18)	Year 2 (2018/19)	Year 3 (2019/20)
\$10 million	\$6.3 million (all of which was deferred from 2017/18. An additional \$1.9 million was spent) Total 2018/19 expenditure \$8.2 million	\$0

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

Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) are critical to the quality of early care and learning in licensed facilities. Government cannot build a universal child care system without a qualified and well-supported workforce. The need for qualified ECEs will increase proportionately with the planned expansion of child care spaces across the province.

In 2018/19, \$6.3M in ELCC funding was allocated towards professional development (pro-d) in the following areas:

- Updating of ECE ethics, childhood sexual abuse prevention (ECEBC), and family child care training (BC Family Child Care Association);
- Development of an online learning platform for the above programs, as well as other pro-d offerings by partner agencies (partnership between ECEBC, BCFCCA, Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre);
- Funding an Indigenous early years bursary program for post-secondary students (New Relationship Trust Foundation);
- Development of an online platform and training for the LOVIT Way program assessment (Aboriginal Head Start Association of BC);
- Completion of writing of new ECE Standards of Practice and revised Occupational Competencies documents (BCcampus);
- Transitioning of online professional-development repository/portal to a new host agency (BCcampus); and
- Bursaries to assist organizations in offering, and individuals in accessing, professional-development offerings (Westcoast).

In addition, the ECE Education Support Fund, which was funded in 2017/18, launched in September 2018 (although some of the funding started rolling out in summer 2018), and received an additional

\$1.9M in funding in 2018/19. Between the summer 2018 semester and the winter 2019 semester, 3,153 bursaries were disbursed, amounting to over \$5.5M in funding. The ECE Education Support Fund aims to reach 4,000 ECE students by March 31, 2020.

In addition, with professional development funding allocated in 2018/19, stakeholders are partnering to develop an online eLearning platform to offer professional learning opportunities across multiple agencies. This platform will make it easier for child care professionals across B.C. to access quality professional development.

### **Description of the Consultation Process**

The ECE Education Support Fund, delivered through the Early Childhood Educators of BC (ECEBC), receives on-going feedback from current bursary recipients and prospective applicants that aid in improvements to service delivery. MCFD staff engage with ECEBC through monthly meetings to discuss feedback from the sector and to support the delivery of the bursary program.

More broadly, the Ministry engages in on-going community outreach throughout the province on key initiatives of the Childcare BC Plan. Recent feedback from stakeholders has indicated that awareness of the ECE Education Support Fund has been low in some communities, especially more northern, rural and remote communities. ECEBC has developed a communications strategy to improve awareness of the Bursary/Education Support Fund for 2019/20.

While bursary uptake is lower in some regions, program statistics from the Winter 2019 semester (up to April 30, 2019) indicate that ECEBC has already reached over 75% of their target bursary disbursement goal and is expected to expend its current funding during the Fall 2019 semester. In Spring 2020, ECEBC will engage past bursary recipients to evaluate the impact of the program; inclusive of program completion rates, impact on employment and wages, staff retention and identify successes and challenges of the bursary application process.

# PRIORITY 4: UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES

## Initiative: Expand Culturally Based Indigenous Child Care

### Three-Year ELCC Budget Allocation

Table 4. Three-Year ELCC Budget for Expanding Culturally Based Indigenous Child Care

Year 1 (2017/18)	Year 2 (2018/19)	Year 3 (2019/20)
\$10 million	\$10 million	\$10 million

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

Aboriginal Head Start (AHS) Programs support activities focused on early childhood learning and development for Indigenous children up to six years of age. The programs are designed and delivered by Indigenous communities in a way that meets their unique needs. The goal is to support the spiritual, emotional, intellectual and physical growth of children.

Throughout the 2018/19 fiscal year, both the Aboriginal Head Start Association of BC (AHSABC) and the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) worked closely with Indigenous communities and child care providers to ensure that community needs as well as capacity were central to funding decisions.

This was accomplished through an application process that included dedicated advisors (AHS/FNHA) working with applicants to support them through the process. As a result, 31 new AHS programs will be operational and providing early care and learning support to 643 Indigenous children and their families.

181 ELCC-funded Aboriginal Head Start spaces are in operation, with 74 of these being on-reserve, and a further 107 off-reserve. Agreements have been signed which will result in a total of 643 new spaces by March 2020 (340 being on-reserve and 303 off-reserve).

### Impact on More Vulnerable or Underserved Communities

The AHS expansion provides participating families with Indigenous-led child care based in culture and connected to community. Families participating in AHS programs often experience:

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

### Description of the Consultation Process

In fall 2017, the Ministry led an engagement process that resulted in contracts with Aboriginal Head Start BC (AHSBC) and the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) to lead the Aboriginal Head Start expansion process. Through the Indigenous led process, these organizations engaged with several other

Indigenous partners and throughout 2018/19, as part of regular engagement opportunities with the Indigenous Early Years Advisory Circle, AHSBC and FNHA provided regular updates regarding the expansion of AHS programs. The Indigenous Early Years Advisory Circle is representative of key provincial Indigenous early years and child care stakeholders.

**Initiative: Enhance Supported Child Development for Children with Extra Support Needs**

**Three-Year ELCC Budget Allocation**

Table 5. Three-Year ELCC Budget for Enhancing Supported Child Development for Children with Extra Support Needs

Year 1 (2017/18)	Year 2 (2018/19)	Year 3 (2019/20)
\$0	\$20 million (\$10 million of which was deferred from 2017/18.) Total 2017/28 expenditure was \$19,884 million	\$10 million

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

The Supported Child Development (SCD) and Aboriginal Supported Child Development (ASCD) programs assist children who require additional support to access inclusive child care programs. The Ministry holds contracts with organizations that deliver these two programs across B.C. These organizations work with all types of child care providers and preschools to provide training, consultation services, and when required, additional staffing. The intent is to support inclusive practices for children with a demonstrated need for extra support. ASCD is designed to specifically meet the needs of Indigenous children with extra support needs in a manner that promotes cultural safety.

In 2018/19, the funding was allocated to Service Delivery Areas using an approach that considers equity. This process uses the Socio-Economic Formula (SEF) of 2006 and the newer Relative Demand Model (RDM) of 2011 in analyzing and assessing allocation decisions. Both are statistical models that consider factors such as population size, Indigenous population size, geography, school success rates, and other variables in calculating need. Service Delivery Areas then developed local spending plans based on their more detailed knowledge of local program pressures, including which programs were oversubscribed.

Approximately 44% of the \$30 million designated to expand culturally based Indigenous child care was allocated to ASCD programs, which increase access for Indigenous children with extra support needs across B.C.

This funding has resulted in an average of an additional 339 children accessing service each month. In addition, this funding has resulted in increased hours of direct extra support to children accessing SCD or

ASCD. The number of direct service hours has increased by an estimate 12.3% per recipient since the start of the ELCC initiative.

**Impact on More Vulnerable or Underserved Communities**

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 extra support needs.

**Description of the Consultation Process**

In the Fall and Winter of 2019, as part of the Ministry’s evaluation of Prototype Sites, Malatest will examine the impacts of implementing two additional models of funding inclusive child care for children with extra support needs within select Prototype Sites. This project will examine the strengths and limitations of these additional approaches as well as the existing program, within different child care settings. As part of this exploration, Malatest will consult with both SCD and ASCD programs.

**Initiative: CanAssist Inclusive Child Care Toileting Initiative**

**Three Year ELCC Budget Allocation**

Table 6. Three-Year ELCC Budget for the CanAssist Inclusive Child Care Toileting Initiative

Year 1 (2017/18)	Year 2 (2018/19)	Year 3 (2019/20)
\$0	\$1 million	\$0

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

Under the ELCC Agreement, B.C. received \$1 million to fund a grant for CanAssist, which is a University of Victoria-based organization that develops and delivers technologies, programs, and services that help people with physical and cognitive barriers to improve their quality of life, with a focus on promoting independence and inclusion.

As a result of this funding, CanAssist will develop assistive technologies or other tools and processes that support independent toileting in child care programs. This initiative will assist with common challenges related to toileting which cause barriers to accessing child care with the understanding that while some children with extra support needs face challenges in this area, toileting challenges are experienced by many children. This initiative and any proposed solutions will focus on inclusive practices for all children.

**Impact on More Vulnerable or Underserved Communities**

Challenges around toileting pose a significant barrier to accessing child care services for some children, as many child care operators require that children be toilet trained in order to participate in their

programs. The technologies or processes that CanAssist is developing will help mitigate this significant barrier to access.

**Description of the Consultation Process**

As part of this initiative, CanAssist will conduct research and analysis to determine the viability of developing new technologies that address toileting challenges in child care settings. CanAssist is in the process of consulting with a range of early-intervention sector stakeholders, experts in childhood development, and child care operators, to understand key needs in this area and to determine the most effective solutions. These various groups are highly collaborative and engaged in working with CanAssist to identify practical solutions to the challenges some children experience with respect to independent toileting practices.

**Initiative: Enhanced Funding for Young Parent Programs**

**Three-Year ELCC Budget Allocation**

Table 7. Three-Year ELCC Budget for Enhancing Funding for Young Parent Programs

Year 1 (2017/18)	Year 2 (2018/19)	Year 3 (2019/20)
\$615,000	\$1 million (\$0.385 million of which was deferred from 2016/17, and \$0.916 million was deferred to 2019/20) Total 2017/18 expenditure \$0.469 million	\$1 million

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

Young Parent Programs (YPP) throughout B.C. offer child care services for children of young parents who are working toward completion of their high school education. The aim of YPPs is to enable young parents to obtain the education required to maximize their opportunities for professional success, support them in their caregiving roles, and promote their child’s development through access to quality child care.

YPPs provide full- or part-time care to children while their parents are attending school. They also provide additional wrap-around services to meet the needs of young parents and their children. These wrap-around services could include:

- Provision of meals/food;
- Nutrition and health education/supports (for example, on-site visits by registered nutritionists, public health nurses, dental practitioners, etc.);
- Housing supports;
- Counselling, or access to counselling;

- Transportation;
- Assistance with referrals to other community agencies; and/or
- Any other supports that assist young parents and their families.

Prior to the implementation of the ELCC Agreement, parents enrolled in a YPP could receive up to \$1,000 per month toward their child care costs through the Ministry's former Child Care Subsidy (replaced in September 2018 by the Affordable Child Care Benefit) – an amount that exceeded the maximum level of funding available for non-YPP Child Care Subsidy clients. However, the full cost of providing care and the wrap-around services often exceeded the maximum level of available funding, and as a result, many providers sustained a financial deficit in order to continue providing care and services to YPP children and families. For example, in a 2015 report by the BC Council for Families, 46 percent of surveyed YPPs reported the amount they received through the Child Care Subsidy Program did not cover the full costs of providing their YPP program. This shortfall in funding has resulted in program closures and has undermined the viability of others.

The Ministry implemented amendments to the Child Care Subsidy Regulation to significantly enhance the YPP. This enabled the Province to use ELCC funding to increase the maximum monthly amount available to 216 YPP clients to \$1,500 in order to promote the sustainability of the programs and help ensure young families receive this much-needed support.

The regulatory amendments, which came into effect September 1, 2018, also made funding available on an enrollment basis, rather than an attendance basis, thus providing enhanced stability for YPP facilities, and removing barriers to accessing the benefit that some parents experienced.

### **Impact on More Vulnerable or Underserved Communities**

YPPs are designed to support young parents under the age of 25 years who may otherwise lack the opportunity to complete their secondary education. Many YPP families are low income and/or single parents and would have difficulty completing school in the absence of child care and supplemental wrap-around services. In addition, some YPPs offer specific Indigenous programming, including language immersion, partnerships with local First Nations councils and agencies, drumming, Indigenous liaison and support workers, weekly visits by elders, and Indigenous circles to provide critical cultural connections for YPP families.

### **Description of the Consultation Process**

Over the last year, Ministry staff attended regular meetings of the Alliance for Professionals Serving Young Parents (APSYP) provincial coordinators through the BC Council of Families, as well as the APSYP annual conference in October 2018 (and will attend again in October 2019). Input received by Ministry staff has been instrumental in better understanding requirements and options for enhancing supports to YPP programs.

## RESULTS ON INNOVATION

Early learning and child care programs are operating 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 early learning and child care programs. As part of the funding provided under the ELCC Agreement, and as illustrated in Table 8, B.C. is working to define, promote, and deliver identifiable innovative approaches to enhance the quality, accessibility, affordability, flexibility, and inclusivity of early learning and child care programs.

Table 6. Results on Innovation under the ELCC Agreement

Initiative	Innovation	Results
<b>Early Care and Learning Infant/Toddler Partnership Sites - New Capital Grants (Community Child Care Space Creation Program)</b>	A new emphasis on partnership with public-sector organizations will help to ensure that investments are used as effectively as possible. Because local organizations will be involved in planning and support for space creation, the types of spaces created are likely to be aligned with local community needs.	Progress toward the creation of 1,370 new child care spaces serving children 0-5 years, with priority given to spaces serving infants and toddlers, serving underserved populations, operating outside of core business hours, and operated by a public body or non-profit organization.
<b>Universal Child Care Prototype Sites – Operational Funding</b>	For the first time in B.C., licensed child care operators will receive funding enabling them to offer child care spaces at low cost to families regardless of family income.	This initiative represents a new funding model for child care programs, supporting affordable, accessible, high-quality child care. Through this initiative, the Ministry will gather 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 long-term development of a universal child care system in the province.
<b>ECE Training Fund</b>	Providing enhanced funding support for both new and existing child care professionals to complete their ECE certification, including funding to offset wages while attending post-secondary studies for individuals employed in the child care sector in order to support growth in the sector.	As of September 2018, more students have access to funding, which will cover a greater portion of education costs than what was covered under the previous iteration of the program. This initiative also helps those working in the sector with opportunities to access courses to gain, maintain or upgrade ECE qualifications.
<b>Indigenous Child Care</b>	The investment exemplifies planning that is community driven and co-developed with several partners. Engaging federal and provincial funding partners in evaluation of applications, FNHA-maximized funding impact by aligning resources. AHSABC engaged and advisory circle that included Elders to guide decision-making.	Funding decisions considered community need and capacity. The process was transparent and prioritized funding communities that did not have AHS but demonstrated both need and capacity.



## FINANCIAL TABLE

The table below summarizes the funding provided under the BC-Canada ELCC Agreement for the 2018/2019 fiscal year, including amounts deferred to the 2019/2020 fiscal year.

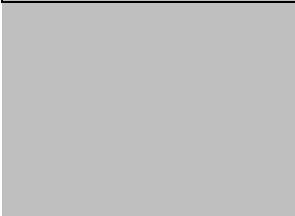
Initiative	2018/19 Budget
Early Care and Learning Partnerships	\$13.7 million (an additional \$4.8 million was spent). Total 2018/19 expenditure was \$18.5 million
Early Care and Learning Prototype Sites	\$30 million (\$7.691 million of which was allocated to other priorities in 2018/19 and \$3.835 million of which was deferred to 2019/20). Total 2018/19 expenditure was \$18.474 million
Training Fund to Support Recruitment and Retention of Early Childhood Educators	\$6.3 million (all of which was deferred from 2017/18). An additional \$1.9 million was spent with a total 2018/19 expenditure of \$8.2 million
Expand Culturally Based Indigenous Child Care	\$10 million
Enhance Supported Child Development for Children with Extra Support Needs	\$20 million (\$10 million of which was deferred from 2017/18). Total expenditure was \$19.884 million
CanAssist Inclusive Child Care Toileting Initiative	\$1 million
Enhanced Funding for Young Parent Programs	\$1 million (\$0.385 million of which was deferred from 2016/17. \$0.916 million was deferred to 2019/20). Total 2018/19 expenditure \$0.469 million
Administration Cost:	\$0.107 million

## PROGRESS ON BC-ELCC INITIATIVES ACCORDING TO BASELINE INDICATORS

Objectives/programs	Outputs/outcomes	Indicators	Targets (by March 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2020)	Actual Results 2018-2019
<b>Priority #1: Accessible Child Care</b>	Capital spaces	New group/toddler and 3-5 child care	1,370 child care spaces	247 new group toddler and 3-5 spaces
<b>Priority #2: Affordable Child Care</b>	Early Care and Learning Prototype sites	Number of children benefitting from affordable infant/toddler, 3-5, preschool, and school-age child care spaces, including children from underserved communities/groups	893 monthly no-cost spaces for families earning less than 45K total income/year	765 children received no-cost child care monthly
			1,786 total spaces	2,518 total spaces overall <sup>2</sup>
<b>Priority #3: Quality Child Care</b>	Training fund to support recruitment and retention of Early Childhood Educators (ECEs)	Number of ECEs accessing training	4,000 students receiving ECE bursaries	3,153 bursaries were disbursed
<b>Priority #4: Underserved Communities</b>	Expand culturally-based Indigenous child care	Number of child care programs providing culturally-based Indigenous services, off-reserve and on-reserve	Aboriginal Head Start programs <b>off-reserve 303 spaces</b>	12 Aboriginal Head Start programs <b>off-reserve 107 spaces</b>
			Aboriginal Head Start programs <b>on-reserve 340 spaces</b>	19 Aboriginal Head Start programs <b>on-reserve 84 spaces</b>
	Enhance Supported Child Development (SCD) and	Number of children with special needs accessing SCD	1,428 additional children accessing	339 additional children accessing SCD

<sup>2</sup>2,954 children enrolled (number as of March 31, 2019)

Objectives/programs	Outputs/outcomes	Indicators	Targets (by March 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2020)	Actual Results 2018-2019
	Aboriginal Supported Child Development (ASCD) programs for children with special needs	programs or ASCD programs	SCD or ASCD per month	or ASCD per month <sup>3</sup>
	Enhance funding for Young Parent Program	Number of children benefiting from Young Parent Programs	249 children	216 children <sup>4</sup>



<sup>3</sup> Please note that due to several challenges related to ensure data quality, this number should be considered an estimate. The Province is still collecting data and early results are trending positively showing more children receiving increased hours of direct services. We are experiencing some data quality issues and will be in a better position to report by March 31, 2020.

<sup>4</sup> This represents the number of children approved for YPP, however not all children would have received this funding. The Ministry provides other financial support through the Affordable Child Care Benefit and the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative. If the sum of these supports fully covered the cost for that child, then the child care program would not receive the YPP funding for that individual child.

## RESULTS ACHIEVED ACCORDING TO THE INDICATORS OF THE MULTILATERAL ELCC FRAMEWORK

Indicator	Results (2017-18)	Results (2018-19)
<b>High-quality</b>		
<p><b>Number and proportion of providers with Early Childhood Education (ECE) certification and/or participating in professional development or training</b></p>	<p>In 2017/18, \$16.3M of funding through the ELCC Bi-lateral Agreement was allocated towards ECE training and professional development.</p> <p>Out of the \$16.3M, \$10M was awarded to the Early Childhood Educators of BC (ECEBC) to expand and enhance the ECE Bursary Program, beginning in the Fall (September to December) 2018 semester. The enhancements/expansion included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introducing the Workforce Development Bursary, which awards up to \$5,000 per semester to staff currently working in a licensed or registered child care program who wishes to upgrade their credential. This funding covers the cost of schooling (tuition, books, materials); ancillary costs that create barriers to study, such as travel, accommodation, tutoring, and/or informal child care; and a partial wage replacement for staff who need to complete practicum placements outside their place of employment;</li> <li>- Increasing the base bursary amount for the ECE Student Bursary, from the previous maximum of \$1,500 per semester to a maximum \$4,000 per semester. This funding covers the cost of schooling only (tuition, books, materials) and is intended for students</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- As of March 31, 2019, there were 19,298 ECEs and 7,073 ECE Assistants certified in British Columbia.</li> <li>- In 2018/19, 3,153 bursaries were disbursed through the ECE Education Support Fund.</li> </ul> <p>Programs receiving professional development funding through the ELCC Agreement will report out on the following targets for the 2018/19 fiscal year, on or before May 31, 2020 (if applicable to their specific program):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The scope or topic of programs or courses funded;</li> <li>- The total number of ECEs engaged through the program;</li> <li>- The number of training sessions completed during this funding period broken down by location for each of the funded programs;</li> <li>- The number of training sessions completed historically for comparison, by location (if applicable);</li> <li>- An evaluation of any online pilot programs, including information on the development and implementation, the challenges and barriers experienced, successes, and the viability of the online</li> </ul>

	<p>new to ECE, or those who are working but do not require, or don't qualify for, the Workforce Development Bursary;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bursary reporting is done 3 times a year, in November (Summer), March (Fall), and July (Winter);</li> <li>- In summer 2018, the program saw 536 bursaries paid, at just over \$600,000;</li> <li>- In contrast, in 2017/18, the ECE Bursary Program paid out approximately 1,446 bursaries at a total cost of just over \$1.5M for the entire academic year;</li> <li>- The remaining \$6.3M was deferred to 2018/19, as per the terms of the Agreement.</li> </ul>	<p>service delivery models specific to each funded program; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Detailed information about the improvements made to training access for Indigenous populations, and ECEs in rural or remote locations.</li> </ul>
<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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- B.C.'s Early Learning Framework (ELF)<sup>5</sup> includes learning principles and key areas of learning for children up to five years old. The Framework is mandatory in all StrongStart BC programs. However, it is also voluntarily used in child care settings, pre-schools, and other early childhood development or child health programs.</li> </ul>	<p>In 2018/19, the B.C. Ministry of Education reviewed and worked to update the ELF. The objectives of the review were to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Align the ELF with the re-designed elementary curriculum which extends the definition of 'early years' from 0-5 years-old to include 0-8-year-old children;</li> <li>- Integrate Indigenous perspectives and world views;</li> <li>- Integrate principles of inclusion to support children with diverse abilities;</li> <li>- Integrate more robust connections between theory and practice; and</li> <li>- Expand resources on supports for ECL professionals and families of young children.</li> </ul>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/early-learning/teach/early-learning-framework>

Accessible, Affordable, Flexible		
<p><b>Number and percentage of children who have access to regulated child care spaces and/or early learning programs</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Average monthly number of Group &amp; Family child care spaces in facilities receiving Child Care Operating Funding, 2017/2018: 111,035<sup>6,7</sup></li> <li>- Average monthly percentage of children aged 0-12 with access to licensed child care as 18.4%<sup>8</sup>.</li> </ul> <p>Over 2019/20, B.C. is actively working to increase the number of child care spaces in the Province, in support of its goal of creating 24,000 new spaces by 2020/21.</p> <p>B.C. is investing \$237 million in Provincial funding over three years in order to create 22,000 spaces through various space creation initiatives, including the Childcare BC New Spaces Fund and the Start Up Grant program for the creation of licensed home-based child care facilities.</p> <p>The Community Child Care Space Creation Program, which is funded through the BC-Canada ELCC Agreement, is investing \$18.5 million to</p>	<p>The Province of BC currently provides operating funding to licensed child care facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Average monthly number of Group and Family child care spaces in facilities receiving Child Care Operating Funding (CCOF), 2018/2019 fiscal: 113,600.</li> <li>- Average monthly percentage of children aged 0-12 with access to licensed child care, 2018/19 fiscal: 18.6%.<sup>9</sup></li> </ul> <p>B.C. is continuing to work to increase the availability of child care for children and families in the province through a combination of Provincial<sup>10</sup> and Federal ELCC funding (administered by the Union of BC Municipalities)</p> <p>In July 2019, the Province increased the maximum amount of funding available per project to non-profit societies and public sector organizations from \$0.5 to \$1.5 million, and from \$1 million to \$3 million, respectively.</p>

<sup>6</sup> Data is as of March 2018. The data presented here includes only child care providers/spaces in receipt of Child Care Operating Funding (CCOF) provided by the B.C Ministry of Children and Family Development. As CCOF is a voluntary program, the actual number of licensed child care spaces may be higher.

<sup>7</sup> Data source: Ministry of Children and Family Development Early Years Case Data and Trends, obtained May 29, 2019:

<https://mcfcd.gov.bc.ca/reporting/services/early-years/case-data-and-trends>

<sup>8</sup> Data source: Ministry of Children and Family Development Early Years Case Data and Trends, obtained May 29, 2019:

<https://mcfcd.gov.bc.ca/reporting/services/early-years/case-data-and-trends>

<sup>9</sup> CCOF Data

<sup>10</sup> Provincial funding for child care spaces is provided through the New Spaces Fund , [Start-Up Grants](#), [Neighbourhood Learning Centres](#), and through a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Vancouver.

	create child care spaces for children aged 0-5 in facilities that local governments either own or lease on a long-term basis.	It is anticipated that this will further incentivize space creation by these types of organizations.
<b>Number of children receiving subsidies or other financial supports</b>	<p>The BC-Canada ELCC Agreement is investing \$60 million over two years to convert existing licensed child care facilities into Universal Child Care Prototype Sites. Families using the Prototype Sites will pay a maximum fee of \$10 per day – or \$200 per month – per child, while some lower-income families will receive additional support through the Province’s Affordable Child Care Benefit, and may pay no fee at all.</p> <p>Prototype Sites received a Quality Improvement Grant in March 2019 to implement site-specific quality enhancements that will be recommended following an initial evaluation. The grant can be used to implement new programs, initiatives, and/or make facility improvements aimed at supporting the delivery of quality child care.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In March 2019, there were 2,330 full-time equivalent child care spaces offered through the Prototype Sites, with 2,954 unique children enrolled.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- B.C. provides funding for child care subsidies to support low and middle-income families under the Affordable Child Care Benefit (ACCB). Average monthly number of distinct children receiving the ACCB, 2018/19 fiscal: 22,796</li> </ul> <p>British Columbia is collecting data from child care providers participating in the ELCC Funded Prototype site Quality Improvement Grants in order to establish operational metrics to support Ministry learning objectives. Based on the information collected, an interim report on the Quality Improvement Grants has identified a number of recommendations, including improving indoor and outdoor play space, introducing varied learning and development toys and materials, professional development for staff, and improvements to communications and interaction tools and methods.</p>
<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>	The Ministry is looking at options to incentivize child care operators to offer flexible child care services, including during non-standard hours (e.g., before 6am and after 7pm, and on weekends).	The Ministry is looking at ways to encourage child care operators to offer flexible child care.

Inclusive		
<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>	<p>Under the ELCC Agreement with Canada, British Columbia is targeting funding into program areas that could be of benefit to French-language communities (e.g. Bursaries, one of the priority areas for selecting prototype sites was offering French programming, French linguistic communities or groups supporting Francophone programming can apply for Capital Grants through new spaces fund).</p>	<p>Under the ELCC Agreement, the Province is continuing to provide funding to programs that could be of benefit to French-language communities.</p> <p>B.C. does not collect specific demographic data on children/families that access programs in general, however with increased funding through provincial affordability programs including the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative (CCFRI) and ACCB, it is expected that a significantly higher percentage of lower income and families from diverse populations are now able to afford licensed child care.</p> <p>Prototype Sites funded through Federal ELCC Funds have been collecting demographic data which indicates that in March 2019 approximately</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 3% of families were Francophone;</li> <li>- 12% self-identified as Indigenous;</li> <li>- 4% linguistic minorities;</li> <li>- 4% children of young parents (under 25 yrs);</li> <li>- 16% children were from single parent families.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, 27% of families attending prototype sites received additional support for fees through the ACCB due to family income level and/or social worker referral.</p> <p>French speakers accessing the ELCC funded ECE Education Support Fund:</p>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fall 2018 (September to December) – 14 (or 1% of total recipients)</li> <li>- Winter 2019 (January to April) – 5 (or 0.01% of total recipients)</li> </ul>
<b>Number of children with additional support needs participating in early learning and child care programs</b>	<p>The Supported Child Development (SCD) and Aboriginal Supported Child Development (ASCD) programs help the families of children who require additional support to access inclusive child care programs. The Ministry holds contracts with organizations from across the province in order to deliver these two programs. These organizations work with child care centres, preschools, family child care providers, and out-of-school-care programs, and provide consultation services and extra staffing to ensure inclusive practices for children who have a demonstrated need for extra support. ASCD is designed to specifically meet the needs of Indigenous children with extra support needs in a manner that ensures cultural safety and sensitivity for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit children and families.</p> <p>The 2017/2018 fiscal year expenditure to enhance SCD and ASCD programs was deferred to the 2018/2019 fiscal year, enabling an investment of \$10 million in one-time-only funding and \$10 million to enhance the SCD and ASCD baseline funding amount.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Average monthly number of children receiving supports through Supported Child Development or Aboriginal Supported Child Development in 2018/2019: 6,310.</li> </ul> <p>It is anticipated that by March 31, 2020, the total investment of \$30 million toward the SCD and ASCD programs will enable an additional 1,428 children with extra support needs to access fully inclusive child care programming and result in over 350,000 hours of direct service intervention.</p>
<b>The number and proportion of children from low-income and middle-class families participating in early learning and child care programs</b>	B.C. does not systematically collect data on the socio-economic status of children participating in early learning and child care programs.	N/A