

Province of British Columbia

**BC-Canada Early Learning and Child Care Agreement: Report on
Progress and Results Achieved in Year 3 (2019/2020)**

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Introduction

In February 2018, the Government of British Columbia (BC) and the Government of Canada signed the 2017/18-2019/20 Canada-BC Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Agreement (the Agreement), which provided the Province of BC with approximately \$155.7 million over three years for the purpose of enhancing its early care and learning system. BC and Canada have renewed this Agreement for an additional year, which provides an additional \$52.4 million for the 2020/21 fiscal year.

Funding under the Agreement supports BC to further build its early learning and child care system by addressing local, regional and system priorities that have an impact on families more in need. This is done by increasing the quality, accessibility, affordability, flexibility and inclusivity in early learning and child care, towards achieving the objectives of:

1. Enhancing the accessibility of child care options by increasing the number of spaces;
2. Increasing affordability of child care, beginning with Infant/Toddler care;
3. Enhancing the quality of licensed child care programs by supporting the training and professional development of early childhood educators; and
4. Enhancing equity through targeted investment in underserved communities – Indigenous families, families with children with special needs, and young parents completing their secondary education – improving access to inclusive, affordable, and flexible child care programs.

Funding provided through the Agreement was used to advance a number of different initiatives, ranging from supporting the creation of licensed 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 (ECE) workforce, and supporting young parents to complete their high school education.

BC achieved progress in a number of key areas during the third year (2019/20) of the ELCC Agreement. These achievements included:

- Completing the second intake of the Child Care Community Space Creation Grant, committing a further \$8.41M to create 181 new spaces;
- Continuing to support over 50 Universal Child Care Prototype Sites to deliver over 2,500 low-cost, affordable child care spaces, and gathering information to help inform next steps in the implementation of universal child care;
- Continuing to support professional learning opportunities for ECEs and other early learning and care professionals in multiple areas¹, including, but not limited to: ethics, sexual abuse prevention, mentoring, and family child care training, and developing multiple online learning platforms;
- Continuing to support ECE post-secondary education through student and workforce bursaries;

¹ Through ELCC funding allocated by BC in 2018/19.

- Continuing to support Aboriginal Head Start (AHS) programs to deliver culturally appropriate and safe full-day child care programming to Indigenous children and families, resulting in 26 of the 31 new AHS programs becoming operational by March 31, 2020;
- Continuing to provide enhanced funding to Supported Child Development and Aboriginal Supported Child Development programs to assist approximately 1,200 additional children per month who require additional support to access child care programs; and
- Continuing to provide enhanced child care funding for young parents who are completing their high school education through the Young Parent Program.

The Federal funding provided to BC complements the \$1.3-billion investment that BC has made under the [Childcare BC Plan](#) in order to set the foundation for the Province's ten-year commitment to implement a universal child care system.

This report provides an update on progress on each of the ELCC Agreement initiatives in the third year of the Agreement, which covers the 2019/20 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 and Expenditures for the Early Care and Learning Partnerships (\$M)

	Year 1 (2017/18)	Year 2 (2018/19)	Year 3 (2019/20)
Budget	\$13.7	-	-
Expenditure	- ²	\$18.5 ³	-

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. To receive funding, the new child care spaces must be located on property that local governments own or lease on a long-term basis.

The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) partnered with the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) to design and implement this initiative as a multi-year project with deliverables in 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21.

In the program's first intake (2018/19 fiscal year), UBCM received 13 applications from local governments and seven projects were approved. A total of \$5.41 million in funding was committed during this intake period. Nine projects were originally approved, prior to two local governments withdrawing due to prohibitive project costs. The approved projects are creating 188 new spaces, of which 47 will be for children aged 0-3 years, with the remaining 141 spaces for children 3-5 years old.

In the program's second intake (2019/20 fiscal year), UBCM received 12 applications from local governments. Nine applications were approved, committing a total of \$8.41M to create 181 new spaces. 116 of these spaces will be for children aged 0-3 years and 65 spaces will be for children aged 3-5 years.

Overall, the program has committed \$13.8M to date to 16 projects creating 369 new spaces. These spaces will help address the shortage of child care services in communities throughout B.C. and promote MCFD's goal of increasing the number of spaces owned by public sector institutions, including local governments. Additional projects are being considered for the remaining funding.

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

² Due to the timing of the signing of the Agreement (February 2018), the 2017/18 (Year 1) budget was deferred to 2018/19 (Year 2).

³ In addition to the \$13.7M that was deferred from 2017/18, an additional \$4.8M was also allocated to this initiative in 2018/19 (re-allocated from other ELCC initiatives).

response to this program is a positive first step. The cost per space for projects has been higher than anticipated. This is primarily due to the focus on infant/toddler child care, which has smaller group sizes that raise the cost of projects, and the comparatively higher cost of public sector space creation projects, which are more likely to be ground-up builds. These projects are also more likely to be part of a broader community infrastructure project.

The lifespan of the public-sector projects supported through this agreement are a strength of this investment. These builds have higher construction standards, but are also expected to provide greater longevity, making them an effective and long-term investment for the community.

Additionally, evidence from provincial child care data suggests that public sector projects, such as those supported through this agreement, deliver high quality programs at a more affordable price for families.

Impact on More Vulnerable or Underserved Communities

UBCM and MCFD 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, young parents/families, and minority language and cultural groups, including francophone families, recent immigrants, and refugees.

Of the 16 approved Community Child Care Space Creation projects in 2018/19 and 2019/20, all have indicated an intention to serving at least one underserved priority population:

- Francophone families – 5 projects overall (2 projects in 2019/20)
- Lower income families – 13 projects overall (6 projects in 2019/20)
- Children with extra support needs – 13 projects overall (8 projects in 2019/20)
- Indigenous children and families – 13 projects overall (7 projects in 2019/20)
- Children of young parents – 11 projects overall (5 projects in 2019/20)
- Children of single parents – 11 projects overall (5 projects in 2019/20)
- Immigrant and refugee families – 10 projects overall (5 projects in 2019/20)
- Families from minority cultures or language groups – 8 projects overall (4 projects in 2019/20)

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, MCFD 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. The second program intake was adjusted to permit land purchase by local governments as an eligible program expense. This change was made in response to feedback from local governments that many did not have community assets available for child care space creation, particularly among smaller local governments.

Priority 2: Affordable Child Care

Initiative: Early Care and Learning Prototype Sites

Three Year ELCC Budget Allocation

Table 2. Three-Year ELCC Budget and Expenditures for the Early Care and Learning Prototype Sites (\$M)

	Year 1 (2017/18)	Year 2 (2018/19)	Year 3 (2019/20)
Budget	-	\$30.0	\$30.0
Expenditure	-	\$18.6 ⁴	\$30.4

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 converting approximately 2,500 existing licensed child care spaces across B.C. into low-cost spaces at over 50 facilities across the province (known as Prototype Sites). Each Prototype Site was required to offer infant/toddler care (i.e. for children under 3 years). Families accessing the Prototype Sites pay a maximum of \$200 per month (or \$10/day) per child for regular full-time care. Some families are eligible to receive additional support through the Province's Affordable Child Care Benefit (ACCB) and may pay less than \$200 per month. In 2019/20, over 2,800 children attended a Prototype Site, including both full and part-time enrolments.

Description of the Evaluation and Preliminary Results

In 2018, MCFD contracted with R.A. Malatest & Associates Ltd. (Malatest) to conduct an arms-length evaluation of the 53 Prototype Sites and two Aboriginal Head Start sites⁵. In addition, each Prototype Site was required to submit monthly data reports to MCFD. This reporting captures operational and financial metrics, with a focus on the dual role of ensuring effective operational oversight as well as supporting MCFD learning objectives.

Malatest collected information from several sources and in several formats including:

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

⁴ Due to the timing of the signing of the ELCC Agreement (February 2018), Sites were not selected and in receipt of funding until November 2018, which resulted in an underspend of \$11.4M in 2018/19. Of this underspend, \$7.5M was reallocated to other initiatives in 2018/19 and \$3.9M was deferred to 2019/20 (\$0.4M was allocated to the Prototype Sites initiative while \$3.5M was directed to other initiatives).

⁵ Two Aboriginal Head Start (AHS) sites were included, to ensure learnings from the AHS model were also incorporated into the evaluation. The AHS model is an Indigenous-led model of low-cost child care, is evidence based and supports 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.

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

Preliminary results of the evaluation indicate positive outcomes for both families and the workforce. The vast majority of families reported improved financial wellbeing, including increased savings, household and disposable income, housing stability, reduced debt, and improved participation in the workforce and/or school. Families also reported improved family well-being, quality of life, work-life balance, mental and physical health, increased family time, and reduced family stress and social isolation. ECEs reported positive impacts including increased pay and benefits⁶, and training opportunities, improved levels of well-being and lowered levels of stress, and increased job satisfaction.

A subset of the Prototype Sites also piloted two alternate models of funding to deliver inclusive child care for children with support needs: 1) the Inclusion Coordinator Model provided funding for facilities to hire an Inclusion Coordinator to support and enhance inclusion in programs; and 2) the Inclusion Support Model provided a set amount of funding per child with support needs to offset expenses related to their individual needs. These two alternate models were compared and contrasted with existing Supported Child Development (SCD) and Aboriginal Supported Child Development (ASCD) models, and were evaluated in terms of sustainability, cost effectiveness, perception, and experiences of families and child care operators.

The main strength of the Inclusion Coordinator Model was its ability to provide support for the centre and program as a whole, as the Inclusion Coordinator had the ability to focus primarily on incorporating inclusion into curriculum development, program planning, and activities. Meanwhile, the main strength of the Inclusion Support Model reported by staff and educators at participating Prototype Sites was that the process was simple and that centres were able to access funding directly. The Pilot Models also allowed for better communication between parents and educators compared to communication between parents and SCD/ASCD consultants, primarily because SCD/ASCD consultants did not work exclusively at the PTSs and therefore support was provided from an outside agency rather than internally. Recruiting qualified staff was identified as the most significant limitation of both the Inclusion Coordinator and Inclusion Support Models.

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 parent fee for licensed Infant/Toddler care delivered in a Group setting⁷ in the 2019/20 fiscal year was \$1,250 per infant and \$1,100 per toddler. The maximum monthly parent fee at the Prototype Sites for the same type of care is less than 20% of these amounts.

⁶ While the initiative was not designed to specifically raise staff/educator wages, many Prototype Sites did implement planned wage increases during the course of the initiative.

⁷ Median monthly fees reflect the median monthly cost to the family for full-time child care, prior to any eligible discounts, including the provincial ACCB and/or the provincial Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative.

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

Families with children with special needs attending Prototype Sites also benefited. BC's SCD and ASCD programs provide extra staffing supports and staff training to child care providers and ECEs to enable children with extra support needs to participate in child care programming. In fiscal 2019/20, an average of 114 families per month attended a Prototype Site and received SCD services; and an average of 34 Indigenous families per month attended a Prototype Site and received ASCD services.

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 and Expenditures for the Training Fund to Support Recruitment and Retention of Early Childhood Educators (\$M)

	Year 1 (2017/18)	Year 2 (2018/19)	Year 3 (2019/20)
Budget	\$16.3	-	-
Expenditures	\$10.0	\$8.2 ⁸	\$4.0 ⁹

Description of the Activities and Results of the ELCC Initiative

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.

- Significant progress was achieved in 2019/20 on professional development and training opportunities that were initiated in 2018/19. The Early Childhood Educators of BC (ECEBC), BC Family Child Care Association (BCFCCA), and Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre (Westcoast) updated their respective professional development programs, including creating e-learning modules and hiring master trainers to train cohorts of ECEs through in-person and online versions of the following programs:
 - Ethical practice in early childhood education;
 - Childhood sexual abuse prevention;
 - Family child care training; and
 - Child care administration and management.
- Three organizations (Early Childhood Educators of BC, BC Family Child Care Association, FCCA, and Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre) partnered to develop and build the BC Early Years Professional Development (EYPD) Hub, which launched in May 2020.
 - The EYPD Hub is a shared online platform that will host their above-noted e-learning modules, as well as other courses, communities of practice, and networking opportunities.
 - As of October 2020, this platform already has 500 members and makes it easier for child care professionals across B.C. to access quality professional development at a distance.
- New Relationship Trust Foundation provided 159 financial awards, totalling \$0.9M to support 122 post-secondary Indigenous students in BC through the Indigenous Early Years Scholarships and Bursaries program. Funds were distributed to eligible First Nations, Metis and Inuit students

⁸ Includes \$6.3M carried forward from 2017/18 budget, and an additional \$1.9M in ELCC funding re-allocated in 2018/19 from other ELCC initiatives.

⁹ Additional \$4.0M was re-allocated in 2019/20 from other ELCC initiatives.

enrolled in recognized ECE programs or aligned early years programs (e.g. Child & Youth Care, Occupational Therapy).

- The Aboriginal Head Start Association of BC developed an online platform and expanded training for the LOVIT Way Program Evaluation Process, including the distribution of over 400 copies of the tool to non-Aboriginal Head Start programs.
- BCcampus completed work on ECE Standards of Practice and Occupational Competencies documents.
- BCcampus worked with MCFD to transition the Early Years Professional Development (EYPD) Portal to ECEBC.
- Westcoast developed a Professional Development Bursaries program to assist organizations in offering, and individuals in accessing, professional development such as workshops, conferences, and/or communities of practice, with an emphasis on supporting Indigenous ECEs and ECEs in rural and remote communities. As of May 2020, more than 2,200 ECEs were able to access professional development opportunities or communities of practice through this program.
- Westcoast supported researchers at Thompson Rivers University in the pilot of a provincial peer-to-peer mentorship program for new and experienced ECEs. The ECE Peer Mentoring project saw 19 facilitators across 17 communities support the ongoing professional development needs of 200 beginning and experienced Early Childhood Educators. Specifically, this project's aim is to expand the current infrastructure of support for both new and experienced Early Childhood Educators, with a goal of reducing the number of ECEs who leave the sector each year.

In addition, the ECE Education Support Fund, which was originally allocated \$10M in 2017/18 to support 4,000 ECE students, has shown higher than expected student demand, resulting in the re-allocation of ELCC funding for an additional \$1.9M in 2018/19 and \$4M in 2019/20 for a total of \$15.9M. While final numbers for the 2019/20 academic year are still being finalized, it is estimated that in total the program will have awarded approximately 7,800 bursaries to over 5,000 students.

Impact on More Vulnerable or Underserved Communities

Professional development initiatives included requirements for updates to cultural competence content, to ensure that professionals completing these programs have the competencies and cultural awareness to properly care for and support Indigenous children and families.

Additionally, the launch of the BC EYPD Hub online platform has granted access to professional development and networking opportunities to Early Care and Learning (ECL) professionals across the province, including those in rural and Indigenous communities and low-income individuals without the time and/or resources to travel for in-person training.

Within the ECE Education Support Fund, 329 bursaries were awarded to students who self-identified as Indigenous, to support the completion of their ECE programs, and the fund aims to ensure that a representative proportionate number of bursaries are provided to Indigenous students. MCFD is

exploring further mechanisms to support Indigenous students, such as prioritized funding. Further, the New Relationship Trust Foundation (NRTF) has provided bursaries to 89 Indigenous ECE students from Summer 2019 to Winter 2020.

Description of the Consultation Process

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

In 2019/20, MCFD also undertook an internal evaluation of the ECE Education Support Fund, which included stakeholder engagement with bursary recipients, ECEBC program staff and MCFD support staff responsible for oversight of the program. This evaluation found that program completion rates have increased following implementation, that the bursaries had an impact on students' decisions to begin or continue their ECE education, and that the majority of program graduates who have received bursaries plan to be working as an ECE in five years time. The findings of this evaluation are also being used to determine the impact of new program changes, and to provide future direction for the program.

Priority 4: Underserved Communities

Initiative: Expand Culturally Based Indigenous Child Care

Three-Year ELCC Budget Allocation

Table 4. Three-Year ELCC Budget and Expenditures for Expanding Culturally Based Indigenous Child Care (\$M)

	Year 1 (2017/18)	Year 2 (2018/19)	Year 3 (2019/20)
Budget	\$10.0	\$10.0	\$10.0
Expenditure	\$10.0	\$10.0	\$10.0

Description of the Activities and Results of the ELCC Initiative

Aboriginal Head Start (AHS) Programs are evidence based and 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 2019/2020 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. From 2017 to March 2020, 26 of the 31 new AHS programs became operational and are providing early care and learning support to Indigenous children and their families. 549 of the 643 spaces are operational, with 314 of these spaces on-reserve and 235 off-reserve. Delays in opening remaining sites were due to COVID-19.

FNHA and AHSABC support program quality through observation and evaluation of programs once they are delivering services. AHS expansion sites use the AHS LOVIT Way Program Evaluation Process, a culturally sensitive evaluation tool developed by AHSABC, to identify strengths and gaps in program areas, support ongoing program monitoring and planning, and measure growth and improvement. AHSABC has begun facilitating LOVIT Program Evaluation Process (PEP) virtually during COVID-19 closure of facilities.

Impact Vulnerable or Underserved Communities

The AHS expansion provides participating families with Indigenous-led child care based in culture and connected to community. Indigenous families participating in AHS programs have access to no-cost child care and improved access to additional supports due to a wrap-around approach (e.g. family support and early intervention therapies). Many families also experience:

- An increased sense of cultural identity and belonging;
- Language revitalization and preservation; and

- Improved outcomes for children including improved school readiness, increase language, motor and academic skills and other developmental benefits, and increase connection to culture and language.

Description of the Consultation Process

In fall 2017, MCFD led an engagement process that resulted in contracts with AHSBC and FNHA to lead the Aboriginal Head Start expansion process. Through the Indigenous-led process, these organizations engaged with several other Indigenous partners. Throughout 2019/20, 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 and Expenditures for Enhancing Supported Child Development for Children with Extra Support Needs (\$M)

	Year 1 (2017/18)	Year 2 (2018/19)	Year 3 (2019/20)
Budget	\$10.0	\$10.0	\$10.0
Expenditure	_ ¹⁰	\$19.9	\$10.0

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 Province 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.

The funding has been allocated to MCFD 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 three-year investment was designated to expand culturally-based Indigenous child care and was allocated to ASCD programs, which increase access for Indigenous children with extra support needs across B.C.

In 2019/20, a data quality project was undertaken to remedy reporting challenges from contracted agencies. As a result, the 2018/19 results are now being restated alongside 2019/20 results.

This funding resulted in an average of an additional 531 children accessing services each month in 2018/19 (up from the previously reported 339 children), and an additional 661 children accessing services in 2019/20, for a total of almost 1,200 more children accessing services each month since the start of the ELCC initiative. In addition, this funding has resulted in an estimated 30% increase in hours of direct extra support to children accessing SCD or ASCD since the start of the ELCC initiative, or more than 412,000 additional direct service hours per year.

¹⁰ Due to the timing of the ELCC Agreement (February 2018), the budget for 2017/18 was carried forward to 2018/19.

Impact on 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 MCFD's evaluation of Prototype Sites, Malatest examined the impacts of implementing two additional models of funding inclusive child care for children with extra support needs within select Prototype Sites. This project examined the strengths and limitations of these additional approaches as well as the existing program, within different child care settings. Please see Initiative #2 above for more detail.

Initiative: CanAssist Inclusive Child Care Toileting Initiative

Three Year ELCC Budget Allocation

Table 6. Three-Year ELCC Budget and Expenditures for the CanAssist Inclusive Child Care Toileting Initiative (\$M)

	Year 1 (2017/18)	Year 2 (2018/19)	Year 3 (2019/20)
Budget¹¹	-	-	-
Expenditure	-	\$1.0	\$0.2

Description of the Activities and Results of the ELCC Initiative

As a result of an underspend in the 2018/190 fiscal year, \$1 million was provided as a grant to CanAssist, which is a University of Victoria-based organization that develops and delivers technologies, programs, and services that help people with disabilities improve their quality of life, with a focus on promoting independence and inclusion.

Through this grant, CanAssist will develop, produce, and deliver assistive technologies or 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, specifically among children with extra support needs who require additional support in this area.

Impact on More Vulnerable or Underserved Communities

Toileting challenges pose a significant barrier to accessing child care services for some children with extra support needs, as many child care operators require that children be toilet trained in order to participate in their programs. The technologies or processes that CanAssist has been developing will help mitigate this significant barrier to access. This project is expected to be fully complete by March 2021.

Description of the Consultation Process

As part of this initiative, CanAssist has conducted research and analysis to determine the viability of developing new technologies that address toileting challenges in child care settings. CanAssist has consulted 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 mechanism for delivery.

Based on the consultation feedback, CanAssist has developed a collapsible step system that includes a wide platform for stability and turning, handles for climbing and sitting, locking knobs, non-slip surface, and toilet paper access. The toileting step system will be piloted throughout child care centres in BC.

¹¹ Not budgeted in the original ELCC submission. Funds were re-allocated as the result of an underspend in 2018/19.

CanAssist will recruit pilot sites with variability regarding ages and sizes, abilities and supports needs, multi-use spaces, bathroom dimensions, regions of the province, and different styles of toilets.

CanAssist is also evaluating quality resources to develop an understanding for guidelines to facilitate parent-provider communication about toileting expectations and support needs, and questions and considerations for children's bathrooms in purpose-built facilities and renovations.

Initiative: Enhanced Funding for Young Parent Programs

Three-Year ELCC Budget Allocation

Table 7. Three-Year ELCC Budget and Expenditures for Enhancing Funding for Young Parent Programs (\$M)

	Year 1 (2017/18)	Year 2 (2018/19)	Year 3 (2019/20)
Budget	\$1.0	\$1.0	\$1.0
Expenditures	\$0.6	\$0.5	\$0.3

Description of the Activities and Results of the ELCC Initiative

Offered at 26 facilities across BC (as of Aug 2019), Young Parent Programs (YPPs) offer full- and/or part-time child care services for children of parents under the age of 25 who are working toward completion of their high school education. YPPs must be designated by MCFD, and assist young parents to obtain their secondary education to help 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 additional wrap-around services to meet the needs of young parents and their children, including for example:

- 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 2017/18 - 2019/20 ELCC Agreement, parents enrolled in a YPP could receive up to a maximum of \$1,000 per month per child for child care costs through the MCFD's former Child Care Subsidy program (replaced by the Affordable Child Care Benefit in 2018). The YPP benefit exceeded the maximum level of funding available to non-YPP Child Care Subsidy clients at the time. However, the actual cost (to the provider) of providing care and the wrap-around services was often higher than the maximum level of available funding, and as a result, many child care providers incurred a financial deficit in order to continue providing care and services to YPP children and families.

In 2018, the Province allocated ELCC funding to increase the maximum per child monthly amount available to YPP clients from \$1,000 to \$1,500 in order to promote the sustainability of the programs and help ensure young families received enhanced support. This YPP benefit exceeds the maximum level of funding available to non-YPP Affordable Child Care Benefit clients. Additionally, YPP funding was made available on an enrollment basis, rather than on an attendance basis, thus providing enhanced stability for YPP facilities, and removing barriers to accessing the benefit that some parents experienced.

Families of 165 children were approved to receive YPP funding in 2019/20.

Impact on More Vulnerable or Underserved Communities

YPPs support young parents under the age of 25 years who may not otherwise have the opportunity to complete their high school education. Many YPP families are low income and/or single parents who may have difficulty completing school without access to child care and supplemental wrap-around services. In addition, some YPPs offer specific Indigenous programming, including language immersion, drumming, partnerships with local First Nations councils and agencies, 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

The BC Alliance for Professionals Serving Young Parents (hosted through the BC Council for Families), provides a province-wide network of support to YPPs, family service workers, researchers and family service workers to connect and collaborate. This Alliance provides MCFD with critical information regarding the impact and reach of YPPs, and by extension, the young families they serve.

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, BC is working to define, promote, and deliver innovative approaches to enhance the quality, accessibility, affordability, flexibility, and inclusivity of early learning and child care programs.

Table 8. Results on Innovation under the ELCC Agreement

Initiative	Innovation	Results
1. Early Care and Learning Partnership (Community Child Care Space Creation Program)	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.	16 high-quality public-sector child care projects in 15 local governments were funded demonstrating successful partnerships for space creation. These public sector projects are anticipated to have a long-lifespan through which they will continue to serve the communities in which they are situated.
2. Early Care and Learning Prototype Sites	For the first time in BC, licensed child care operators received 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, MCFD has gathered 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.
3. Training fund to Support Recruitment and Retention of ECEs	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 the Winter 2020 Semester, more students have accessed funding, which covers a greater portion of education costs than what was covered under the previous iteration of the program. The Workforce Development Bursary has also provided nearly 700 bursaries to assist those already working in the sector with opportunities to gain or upgrade their ECE qualifications.
4. Expand Culturally Based Indigenous Child Care	The investment exemplifies planning, alignment and coordination of investments in partnership with the FNHA and AHSABC for an Indigenous-led approach to establishing new AHS programs that include child care. FNHA and AHSABC take a community driven and co-development approach to expanding AHS programs across BC.	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 Summary

Table 9. 2019/20 Budget and Expenditures under BC-Canada ELCC Agreement (\$M)

Initiative	2019/20 Budget ¹²	2019/20 Expenditures
Early Care and Learning Partnerships	-	-
Early Care and Learning Prototype Sites	\$30.0	\$30.4
Training Fund to Support Recruitment and Retention of Early Childhood Educators	-	\$4.0
Expand Culturally Based Indigenous Child Care	\$10.0	\$10.0
Enhance Supported Child Development for Children with Extra Support Needs	\$10.0	\$10.0
CanAssist Inclusive Child Care Toileting Initiative	-	\$0.2
Enhanced Funding for Young Parent Programs	\$1.0	\$0.3

Progress on BC-ELCC Initiatives According to Baseline Indicators

Table 10. Progress According to Baseline Indicators

Objectives/ programs	Outputs/outcomes	Indicators	Targets (by March 31 st , 2021)	Actual Results
Priority 1: Accessible Child Care	Early Care and Learning Partnerships (Community Child Care Space Creation Program)	New licensed infant/toddler, 3-5 child care, and preschool spaces	1,370 child care spaces	181 new 0-5 child care spaces in 2019/20 (369 new spaces overall)
Priority 2: Affordable Child Care	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	1,168 children received child care at no cost for at least one month in 2019/20
			1,786 total spaces	2,475 total spaces overall
Priority 3: Quality Child Care	Training fund to support recruitment and retention of Early Childhood Educators (ECEs)	Number of ECEs accessing training	4,000 students receiving ECE bursaries	Approximately 4,400 bursaries were disbursed in 2019/20.

¹² Reflects original estimated total budget of \$51M for 2019/20 and does not include \$1.37M increase to 2019/20 ELCC funding based on increases to Canadian population.

Objectives/ programs	Outputs/outcomes	Indicators	Targets (by March 31 st , 2021)	Actual Results
Priority 4: Underserved Communities	Expand culturally-based Indigenous child care	Number of child care programs providing culturally-based Indigenous services, off-reserve and on-reserve	Aboriginal Head Start programs off-reserve 303 spaces	235 off-reserve spaces overall
			Aboriginal Head Start programs on-reserve 340 spaces	314 on-reserve spaces overall
	Enhance SCD and ASCD programs for children with extra support needs	Number of children with extra support needs accessing SCD programs or ASCD programs.	1,428 additional children accessing SCD or ASCD per month	1,192 additional children accessing SCD or ASCD per month in 2019/20 ¹³
	Enhance funding for Young Parent Program	Number of children benefiting from Young Parent Programs.	249 children	165 children ¹⁴

¹³ Please note that due to several challenges related to ensure data quality, this number should be considered an estimate. A data quality project has provided more accurate numbers for 2018/19: 531 in addition to the numbers for 2019/20 661 for a cumulative total of 1,192.

¹⁴ This represents the number of children approved to receive the provincial ACCB at a designated YPP; however, not all children would have received ELCC funding, as MCFD provides other financial supports through the ACCB and the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative. If the sum of these provincial supports fully covered the cost for a child attending a YPP, then the ELCC funding that individual child would not be required. While a total of 165 children received the provincial ACCB while attending a designated YPP in 2019/20, 71 of these children received the ELCC funding (which covered the difference between the previous provincial maximum of 1,000 per child, and the new combined provincial/federal maximum of \$1,500 per child).

Impact on Families in Need

Table 11 summarizes the impacts of the initiatives funded under the BC-Canada ELCC Agreement on families more in need, including families that have limited access to programs and services in their official language.

Table 11. Impact on Families More in Need

Families in need	Brief Description	Quantitative Impact
Lower-income families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families accessing 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 ACCB, and pay less than \$200 per month, to no fee at all. The amount of additional support a family receives through ACCB depends on factors including family income, with the highest benefit amounts available to families with the lowest incomes. Funding under the Community Child Care Space Creation Program is prioritized for projects indicating an intention to serve an underserved community, including lower income families. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2019/20, a total of 1,168 children received child care at no cost for at least one month. Of the 16 approved Community Child Care Space Creation projects, 13 have indicated an intention to provide services to lower income families.
Indigenous families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Aboriginal Head Start (AHS) expansion provides participating families with a no-fee Indigenous-led, culturally based child care with wrap around supports including access to healthy foods, language and cultural teachings, referrals to early intervention therapies and family supports, and connections to community. Funding under the Community Child Care Space Creation Program is prioritized for projects indicating an intention to serve an underserved community, including Indigenous families and communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2019/20, AHS programs served Indigenous children and their families through 235 off-reserve spaces and 314 on-reserve spaces. Of the 16 approved Community Child Care Space Creation projects, 13 have indicated an intention to creating spaces serving Indigenous children and families. In 2019/20, approximately 10% of families attending Prototype Sites identified as Indigenous. Through the New Relationship Trust Foundation, provided 159 financial awards, totalling \$898,250, to support 122 post-secondary Indigenous students in BC through the Indigenous

Families in need	Brief Description	Quantitative Impact
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous children and families continue to benefit from low-cost care at Prototype Sites, with a maximum fee of \$200/month. • Several initiatives continue to support ECEs (including Indigenous ECEs) to advance their education and professional development. • Some Young Parent Programs (YPPs) offer specific Indigenous programming, including language immersion, drumming, partnerships with local First Nations councils and agencies, Indigenous liaison and support workers, weekly visits by elders, and Indigenous circles to provide critical cultural connections for YPP families. 	<p>Early Years Scholarships and Bursaries program. Funds were distributed to eligible First Nations, Metis and Inuit students enrolled in recognized ECE programs or aligned early years programs (e.g. Child & Youth Care, Occupational Therapy).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through the ECE Education Support Fund, 329 Indigenous students received bursaries (7.5% of all recipients) in the Summer and Fall 2019 and Winter 2020 semesters.
Lone-parent families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single-parent families continue to benefit from low-cost care at Prototype Sites, with a maximum fee of \$200/month. • YPPs support young parents under the age of 25 years who may not otherwise have the opportunity to complete their high school education. Many YPP families are low income and/or single parents who may have difficulty completing school without access to child care and supplemental wrap-around services. • Funding under the Community Child Care Space Creation Program is prioritized for projects indicating an intention to serve an underserved community, including single-parent families. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2019/20, approximately 17% of children attending Prototype Sites were from single parent families. • Families of 165 children were approved to receive YPP funding in 2019/20. • Of the 16 approved Community Child Care Space Creation projects, 11 have indicated an intention to creating spaces serving children of single parents.

Families in need	Brief Description	Quantitative Impact
Families in underserved communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families in underserved communities, including Francophone children and families, continue to benefit from low-cost care at Prototype Sites, with a maximum fee of \$200/month. Funding under the Community Child Care Space Creation Program is prioritized for projects indicating an intention to serve an underserved community, including Francophone families, immigrant and refugee families, and families from minority cultures or language groups. Several initiatives continue to support ECEs (including francophone ECEs) to advance their education and professional development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2019/20, approximately 2% of families attending Prototype Sites were Francophone. Of the 16 approved Community Child Care Space Creation projects, the following have indicated an intention to serve the following underserved communities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Francophone families – 5 projects Immigrant and refugee families – 10 projects Families from minority cultures or language groups – 8 projects Through the ECE Education Support Fund, 104 francophone students received bursaries (2.3% of all recipients) in the Summer and Fall 2019 and Winter 2020 semesters.
Families working non-standard hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding under the Community Child Care Space Creation Program is prioritized for projects indicating an intention to provide child care services outside of core business hours. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three projects, creating 72 new spaces, approved through the Community Child Care Space Creation Program have indicated an intention to provide child care services outside of core business hours.
Families with children with varying abilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Supported Child Development (SCD) and Aboriginal Supported Child Development (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. Funding under the Community Child Care Space Creation Program is prioritized for projects indicating an intention to serve an underserved community, including children with extra support needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2019/20, 1,192 additional children accessed SCD or ASCD per month. In 2019/20, an average of 114 families per month attended a Prototype Site and received SCD services; and 34 Indigenous families per month attended a PT site and received ASCD services. Of the 16 approved Community Child Care Space Creation projects, 13 have indicated an intention to creating spaces serving children with extra support needs.

Results Achieved According to the Indicators of the Multilateral ELCC Framework

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

Indicator	Results (2017-18)	Results (2018-19)	Results (2019-20)
High-quality			
Number and proportion of providers with Early Childhood Education (ECE) certification and/or participating in professional development or training	<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"> - 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As of March 31, 2019, there were 19,298 ECEs and 7,073 ECE Assistants certified in British Columbia. - In 2018/19, 3,157 bursaries were disbursed through the ECE Education Support Fund. <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"> - The scope or topic of programs or courses funded; - The total number of ECEs engaged through the program; - The number of training sessions completed during this funding period broken down by location for each of the funded programs; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As of March 31, 2020, there were 20,049 ECEs and 7,920 ECE Assistants certified in British Columbia. - In 2019/20, approximately 4,400 bursaries were disbursed through the ECE Education Support Fund. <p>Professional Development Funding has resulted in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The launch of the BC Early Years Professional Development Hub online platform; - Awarding 159 Indigenous early years scholarships and bursaries to 122 post-secondary Indigenous students; - Transitioning of online professional-development repository/portal to a new host agency; - Bursaries to assist organizations in offering, and individuals in accessing,

Indicator	Results (2017-18)	Results (2018-19)	Results (2019-20)
	<p>replacement for staff who need to complete practicum placements outside their place of employment;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 new to ECE, or those who are working but do not require, or don't qualify for, the Workforce Development Bursary; - Bursary reporting is done 3 times a year, in November (Summer), March (Fall), and July (Winter); - In summer 2018, the program saw 536 bursaries paid, at just over \$600,000; - 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; - The remaining \$6.3M was deferred to 2018/19, as per the terms of the Agreement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The number of training sessions completed historically for comparison, by location (if applicable); - 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 service delivery models specific to each funded program; and - Detailed information about the improvements made to training access for Indigenous populations, and ECEs in rural or remote locations. 	<p>professional-development offerings; and,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The launch of a provincial peer-to-peer mentorship program for new and experienced ECEs, in 19 locations with over 200 ECEs participating.

Indicator	Results (2017-18)	Results (2018-19)	Results (2019-20)
Number and proportion of providers adopting innovative new tools, such as an evidence-based curriculum framework for early learning and child care	B.C.'s Early Learning Framework (ELF) ¹⁵ 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.	In 2018/19, the BC Ministry of Education reviewed and worked to update the ELF. The objectives of the review were to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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; - Integrate Indigenous perspectives and world views; - Integrate principles of inclusion to support children with diverse abilities; - Integrate more robust connections between theory and practice; and - Expand resources on supports for ECL professionals and families of young children. 	The B.C. ELF was updated in 2019/20 to recognize the new realities of children, families and communities. Updates included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expanded focus to children from infancy to eight years of age (previously five years of age); - Increased focus on reconciliation and Indigenous worldviews; - Increased focus on inclusive practices; - Connects with new K-12 curriculum, core competencies and primary program principles; - Focus on integrating theory with practice; and, - Updated inquiry questions address all early learners.
Accessible, Affordable, Flexible			
Number and percentage of children who have access to regulated child care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Average monthly number of Group & Family child care spaces in facilities receiving Child Care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Average monthly number of Group and Family child care spaces in facilities receiving Child Care Operating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Average monthly number of Group and Family child care spaces in facilities receiving Child Care Operating Funding

¹⁵ <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/early-learning/teach/early-learning-framework>

Indicator	Results (2017-18)	Results (2018-19)	Results (2019-20)
spaces and/or early learning programs	<p>Operating Funding, 2017/2018: 111,035^{16,17}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Average monthly percentage of children aged 0-12 with access to licensed child care: 18.4%¹⁸. <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 create child care spaces for children aged 0-5 in facilities that local governments either own or lease on a long-term basis.</p>	<p>Funding (CCOF), 2018/2019 fiscal: 113,600.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Average monthly percentage of children aged 0-12 with access to licensed child care, 2018/19 fiscal: 18.6%.¹⁹ <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. It is anticipated that this will further incentivize space creation by these types of organizations.</p>	<p>(CCOF), 2019/20 fiscal: 118,500.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Average monthly percentage of children aged 0-12 with access to licensed child care, 2019/20 fiscal: 19.5%.²⁰
Number of children receiving subsidies or other financial supports	The BC-Canada ELCC Agreement is investing \$60 million over two years to convert existing licensed child care	B.C. provides the ACCB to support low and middle-income families. In 2018/19, 50,850	The ACCB continues to support low-and middle-income families with their child care costs. In

¹⁶ Data is as of March 2018. The data includes only child care providers/spaces in receipt of CCOF. As CCOF is a voluntary program, the actual number of licensed child care spaces may be higher.

¹⁷ MCFD Early Years Case Data and Trends, obtained May 29, 2019: <https://mcf.gov.bc.ca/reporting/services/early-years/case-data-and-trends>

¹⁸ MCFD Early Years Case Data and Trends, obtained May 29, 2019: <https://mcf.gov.bc.ca/reporting/services/early-years/case-data-and-trends>

¹⁹ MCFD Early Years Case Data and Trends, obtained May 29, 2019: <https://mcf.gov.bc.ca/reporting/services/early-years/case-data-and-trends>

²⁰ MCFD Early Years Case Data and Trends, obtained August 29, 2020: <https://mcf.gov.bc.ca/reporting/services/early-years/case-data-and-trends>

Indicator	Results (2017-18)	Results (2018-19)	Results (2019-20)
	<p>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 ACCB and may pay no fee at all.</p>	<p>distinct children received the ACCB; of these, 10,484 children received child care at no cost for at least one month.</p> <p>In March 2019, there were 2,330 full-time equivalent child care spaces offered through the Prototype Sites, with 2,954 unique children enrolled.</p>	<p>2019/20, 63,841 distinct children received the ACCB; of these, 11,226 children received child care at no cost for at least one month.</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>MCFD 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).</p>	<p>MCFD is looking at ways to encourage child care operators to offer flexible child care.</p> <p>Three projects, creating 72 new spaces, approved through the Community Child Care Space Creation Program in 2018/19 have indicated an intention to provide child care services outside of core business hours.</p>	<p>No additional programs funded in 2019/20 have indicated an intention to offer spaces outside of core hours.</p>
Inclusive			
<p>Number of children benefiting from programs and/or number of programs designed to serve children from diverse populations, which could include but not limited to: children from French and English linguistic minority</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</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>With increased funding through provincial affordability programs including the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative (CCFRI) and</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</p>

Indicator	Results (2017-18)	Results (2018-19)	Results (2019-20)
<p>communities, Indigenous people off-reserve, recent immigrants and refugees</p>	<p>programming can apply for child care space creation funding through the Community Child Care Space Creation Program).</p>	<p>ACCB, it is expected that a significantly higher percentage of lower-income 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"> - 3% of families were Francophone; - 12% self-identified as Indigenous; - 4% linguistic minorities; - 4% children of young parents (under 25 yrs.); - 16% children were from single parent families. <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>	<p>lower-income families from diverse populations are now able to afford licensed child care.</p> <p>Of the 16 Community Child Care Space Creation projects, all have indicated an intention to serving at least one underserved priority population:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Francophone families – 2 2019/20 projects (5 projects overall) • Lower income families – 6 2019/20 projects (13 projects overall) • Children with extra support needs – 8 2019/20 projects (13 projects overall) • Indigenous children and families – 7 2019/20 projects (13 projects overall) • Children of young parents – 5 2019/20 projects (11 projects overall) • Children of single parents – 5 2019/20 projects (11 projects overall) • Immigrant and refugee families – 5 2019/20 projects (10 projects overall)

Indicator	Results (2017-18)	Results (2018-19)	Results (2019-20)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fall 2018 (September to December) – 14 (or 1% of total recipients) - Winter 2019 (January to April) – 5 (or 0.01% of total recipients) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families from minority cultures or language groups – 4 2019/20 projects (8 projects overall) <p>Prototype Sites funded through the ELCC Agreement have been collecting demographic data which indicates that in fiscal 2019/20 approximately</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2% of families were Francophone; - 10% of families self-identified as Indigenous; - 4% children of young parents (under 25 years); and - 17% children were from single parent families. <p>In addition, an average of 774 children per month attending Prototype Sites received additional support for fees through the ACCB due to family income level and/or social worker referral.</p> <p>The Aboriginal Head Start (AHS) expansion program has created 235 off-reserve spaces and 314 on-reserve spaces for Indigenous children and families. Information on number of children specifically is not collected by BC.</p>

Indicator	Results (2017-18)	Results (2018-19)	Results (2019-20)
			<p>Through the ECE Education Support Fund, 104 francophone students received bursaries (2.3% of all recipients) and 329 Indigenous students received bursaries (7.5% of all recipients) in 2019/20.</p>
<p>Number of children with additional support needs participating in early learning and child care programs</p>	<p>The SCD and ASCD programs help the families of children who require additional support to access inclusive child care programs. MCFD 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>Average monthly number of children receiving supports through SCD or ASCD in 2018/2019: 6,506.²¹</p>	<p>Average monthly number of children receiving supports through SCD/ASCD in 2019/2020: 7,166.</p> <p>As of March 31, 2020, the total investment of \$30 million toward the SCD and ASCD programs was able to support an average of 1,192 additional children with extra support needs to access fully inclusive child care programming per month, and resulted in over 412,000 hours of extra direct service intervention per year.</p> <p>In 2019/20, an average of 114 families per month attended a Prototype Site and also received SCD services and 34 families attended a Prototype Site and also received ASCD services.</p>

²¹ As the result of a data quality project conducted in 2019/20, numbers for 2018/19 have been revised from Year 2 (2018/19) report.

Indicator	Results (2017-18)	Results (2018-19)	Results (2019-20)
	<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>		
<p>The number and proportion of children from low-income and middle-class families participating in early learning and child care programs</p>	<p>B.C. does not systematically collect data on the socio-economic status of children participating in early learning and child care programs.</p>	<p>While B.C. does not systematically collect data on socio-economic status of children, the ACCB, which was introduced in September 2018, is an income-tested monthly payment to help eligible families with the cost of child care. Factors like income, family size, and type of care determine how much support families can get. Families with incomes up to \$111,000 are eligible to receive ACCB, with the highest benefit rates targeting low-income families.</p>	<p>In 2019/20, 63,841 distinct children across the Province received ACCB; of these, 11,226 children received child care at no cost for at least one month.</p> <p>In 2019/20, an average of 774 children per month attending Prototype Sites received additional support through ACCB and a total of 1,168 children attending a Prototype Site received child care at no cost for at least one month.</p>