



November 22, 2022

Ref: 283840

Their Worship Simon Yu
Mayor of the City of Prince George
Email: mayor@princegeorge.ca

Dear Mayor Yu:

I am writing to follow up on a meeting held on Tuesday, September 13, 2022, at the Union of BC Municipalities Convention (UBCM) in Whistler.

The last couple of years have been challenging for all levels of government including communities and families having to navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic. It has been inspiring to see the innovation, collaboration, and nimbleness undertaken to ensure everyone across the province have the supports required during these unfamiliar times.

I appreciated hearing about the city's success in creating 216 child care spaces to better support families living and working in the City of Prince George. The City of Prince George is a great example of the work that is being done to identify opportunities to open new child care spaces and support the local economy and workforce. As you know, on May 31, 2022, the 2022/23 ChildCareBC New Spaces Fund program opened to new applications with the expanded space creation budget of \$292 million for 2022/23. Child care is a critical community service that is supported by every level of government, and we continue to welcome opportunities to partner with the City of Prince George and encourage the City to identify further opportunities to improve access.

We know there is more work to be done to make sure families in every part of BC can access the child care they need and I appreciate your partnership as we continue to make child care more accessible, more affordable, and more inclusive for all families in our province.

Sincerely,

Katrina Chen
Minister of State for Child Care

Attachments: Child Care Resources Fact Sheet

pc: Patricia Boyle, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education and Child Care

QUALITY	2018	2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Estimated Early Childhood Educator (ECE) workforce: 11,000 » \$1/hour ECE wage enhancement to 9,100 ECEs » Median ECE wage: \$19/hour with wage enhancement » The ECE Education Support Fund enhanced & expanded in partnership with ECEBC 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Estimated ECE workforce: 13,200 » \$4/hour wage enhancement to 12,400 ECEs » Median ECE wage: \$26/hour with wage enhancement » 40% higher enrolment in public post-secondary ECE programs » Prioritizing ECEs under the Provincial Nominee Program » Invested \$22 million+ in the ECE Education Support Fund, providing 12,300+ bursaries to support 6,500+ ECE students
AFFORDABILITY		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Launched Affordable Child Care Benefit for eligible families with savings up to \$1,250 a month per child » Introduced fee reductions of up to \$350 a month per child, kindergarten and under » Launched \$10 a Day ChildCareBC program with 50 sites supporting 2,500 spaces » Introduced fee increase oversight for providers caring for children kindergarten and under 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Continued savings through the Affordable Child Care Benefit up to \$1,250 a month per child » Increased fee reductions up to \$900 a month per child beginning December 2022 » Expanding \$10 a Day ChildCareBC program to 12,500 spaces by December 2022 » Introduced fee caps for new child care providers caring for children kindergarten and under
ACCESSIBILITY		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » 114,600 spaces at 4,700 facilities receiving child care funding 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » 137,300 spaces at 5,200 facilities receiving child care funding » More than 20,000 additional spaces are under development
INDIGENOUS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Lack of Indigenous-led child care spaces for Indigenous children » Expanded support for Aboriginal Head Start (AHS) program in B.C. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Number of AHS spaces is expected to increase from 600 to about 1,500 by the end of 2022 » 2,052 Indigenous-led child care spaces have been funded for creation with the ChildCareBC New Spaces Fund
INCLUSION		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » 6,000 children/month receiving support services 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » 7,400 children/month receiving support services
INVESTMENTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Provincial: \$406 million » Federal: \$51 million » Total: \$457 million 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Provincial: \$817 million » Federal: \$464 million » Total: \$1.3 billion » Increase of \$823 million or 280% since 2018/19 » Five year cumulative total: \$3.9 billion

AFFORDABLE CHILD CARE BENEFIT

» www.gov.bc.ca/affordablechildcarebenefit

CHILD CARE FEE REDUCTION INITIATIVE

» www.gov.bc.ca/childcare/optin

CHILD CARE OPERATING FUNDING

» www.gov.bc.ca/childcareoperatingfunding

CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL CENTRES

» www.gov.bc.ca/ChildCareResourceReferralCentres

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR REGISTRY

» www.gov.bc.ca/earlychildhoodeducator

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR - WAGE ENHANCEMENT

» www.gov.bc.ca/childcare/wage-enhancement

MAINTENANCE FUND

» www.gov.bc.ca/ccmaintenancefund

NEW SPACES FUND

» www.gov.bc.ca/childcare/newspacesfund

START-UP GRANTS (HOME BASED FACILITIES)

» www.gov.bc.ca/childcare/startupgrants

\$10 A DAY CHILDCAREBC CENTRES

» www.gov.bc.ca/10adaychildcare

YOUNG PARENT PROGRAM

» <https://tinyurl.com/2u9rr9bp>