

Policy and Provincial Services Division: Overview and Early Years and Child Care

June 2017



Ministry of
Children and Family
Development

Policy and Provincial Services Division (PPSD)

The division is comprised of eight branches:



PPSD leads strategic and operational policy development for five of the Ministry's six service lines, manages the Ministry's research, legal and intergovernmental processes and administers multiple provincial funding programs.

DIVISIONAL BUDGET AND FTEs

2017/18 Budget

- Policy, Early Years Office and IGR: \$44.8 million
- Provincial Services: \$367.4 million

2017/18 Full Time Equivalents:

- Policy, Early Years Office and IGR: 93
- Provincial Services: 238

Early Years Strategy

- The 'early years', a period of pregnancy through school transition (0-6) , includes parent education, developmental screening, maternal child health services, early intervention supports, mental health services, etc.
- Early Years Office – Sets strategic, cross-ministry direction
- Early Years Strategy was launched in 2013, outlining government's long term vision to support children and families.s.13

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Including:

- Key ministries providing services: MCFD, Health and Education
- MCFD programs: ECD – achieving developmental milestones, community development, parenting, early intervention supports
- MOH: early learning – StrongStart, Ready, Set, Learn
- Health – screening, maternal child health, immunizations, public health nursing

Aligns with interest in early intervention and prevention

EY Centres – under review – 47 funded across the province^{s.13}

- in all five health authorities, all 13 of the ministry's Service Delivery Areas, and in 39 of 60 school districts. They are hosted by schools, community agencies, and child development centres.

- BC Early Years Centres provide families with one-stop access to a range of early years services and supports, information and referrals

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CHILD CARE RESPONSIBILITIES

➤ Child Care and Early Childhood Development Policy

- Policy and program development
- Child care strategic policy
- Child care legislation and standards
- Provincial Child Care Council

➤ Provincial Services:

- Child Care Subsidy (CCS) – 2017/18 Budget: \$101.4 million
- Child Care Operating Funding (CCOF) - 2017/18 Budget: \$94.4 million
- Child Care Major Capital – 2017/18 Budget: \$33 million
- Child Care Minor Capital – 2017/18 Budget: \$0.4 million
- Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) – 2017/18 Budget: \$10.0 million
- Early Childhood Educators (ECE) Registry - included in Child Care Programs and Services Administration Budget

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- MCFD – programs and policy
- MOH – licensing and inspections – health & safety
- EDUC – no child care programs (StrongStart & Ready, Set, Learn) – Leg authority for ECE Registry

Sector

- Unlicensed – fewer than 3 kids. 56% of spaces, 70% of providers
 - Registered licensed-not-required – through CCRR – higher subsidy rate and referrals
- Licensed – CCALA – 44% of spaces – 30% of providers
 - License categories – Group (centre-based, either to specific ages or mixed), Family (in-home, up to 7 kids), In-home multi-age (ECE in own home for up to 8 kids)
- Non-profit and private – Spaces: 44% non profit 56% private. Facilities: 70% of group and family facilities private. 70% of private group spaces are “registered company” (50 family and 1,001 group facilities).
- Subsidy – Low income families. Rates set by regulation. Costs to MCFD going down.
 - Fund licensed and unlicensed
- Currently, families earning up to \$40K may receive full subsidy.
- Typically gap between “full subsidy” and full cost of care, eg: Avg IT fee \$1,050 (\$52.50/day); subsidy = \$750. So parent pays \$300 per month (\$15/day)
- Almost 19,000 kids supported per month, aged 0-12
- Trend going down

CCOF – licensed only

- Required to report, accept subsidy clients and be on the online map
- Fund about 4,900 facilities for almost 116,000 spaces (2016/17)
- Covers 11 – 14% of operating costs
- Costs increasing

Major capital – Since 2014, \$26M for 4,300 spaces. (Original commitment – 13,000 by 2020 – 8,700 left)

- non-profit – up to \$500K or 90%; private – up to \$250K or 50%

CCRRs – 38 agencies, including BCACCS

ECE Registry – certifies ECEs for practice; investigates complaints; approves pse programs

- Almost 17,000 ECEs registered; 6300 ECE Assistants; 33 psis

PCCC – Wayne Robertson, Chair

- 14 -21 members – currently at 18 members representing child care, Indigenous, education, business/law, non-

profit, and supported child development

Child Care Availability, Quality, and Affordability

➤ **Child Care in B.C.**

- Government provides subsidies to parents and capital and operating grants to child care operators that are independent businesses.
- Responsibility for child care is split between the ministry and the Ministry of Health (MOH). The ministry is responsible for child care programs and the Ministry of Health (MOH) oversees licensing and monitoring of child care facilities.

➤ **Affordability and Availability**

- BC has the second highest child care fees in the country, after Ontario. The median monthly fee for licensed group child care for children ages 0-18 months is \$1,050.
- Child care is more expensive in urban centres. Fees in Metro Vancouver for infant/toddler care can be greater than \$2,000 per month.
- Waitlists exist in particular for infant/toddler care in urban centres.

➤ **Recruiting and Retaining Early Childhood Educators (ECEs)**

- Child care facilities experience difficulties with hiring and/or retaining qualified ECEs, especially ECEs with an Infant/Toddler Certification.
- Issues contributing to high turnover include: low wages; a lack of benefits, pensions, and professional-development days; employee burnout; and a lack of respect for the profession.

Child Care Major Capital Funding

- The **Child Care Major Capital Funding Program** supports new equipment and building or renovating existing child care facilities to create new licensed child care spaces.
- The **BC Early Years Strategy** includes the eight-year goal of creating 13,000 new licensed child care spaces by 2020.
- With three intakes since 2014, the Province spent \$26.5M to support the creation of nearly 4,300 new licensed child care spaces across B.C. through Child Care Major Capital Funding.
- Approximately 2,225 new child care spaces need to be funded annually to reach this goal.
- The **Fourth Child Care Major Capital Funding intake** opened on **March 15** with a \$33M budget to support the creation of licensed child-care spaces and other child care initiatives.
- A new two stage application process was introduced along with six funding streams: on school grounds, co-located or in a hub, indigenous, child development centre, employer-based and regular.
 - In Stage 1, the ministry received 346 applications requesting \$117M
 - Stage 2 is on hold pending direction from government. If approved, proponents will be advised of their selection and final decisions are expected in late Fall.

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Major capital – Since 2014, \$26M for 4,300 spaces. (Original commitment – 13,000 by 2020 – 8,700 left)

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Stream	Non-Profit	Private	Total # of Projects	Provincial Funding Request (rounded \$M)	Spaces to be Created
On School Grounds	43	13	56	\$24.5	2,029
Co-Located or in a Hub	10	1	11	\$5.3	359
Child Development Centre	5	0	5	\$2.5	112
Indigenous	29	1	30	\$15.0	861
Employer-based	1	5	6	\$3.0	184
Regular	30	208	238	\$67.0	10,291
TOTAL	118	228	346	\$117.3	13,836

Before and After School Recreation Programming

- *Budget 2017* allocated \$20 million for the creation of new child care spaces and new recreational programming spaces.
- Out of the \$20 million, \$2.4 million is expected to create 5,000 – 8,000 new before and after school recreation spaces over 3 years focused on a specific recreational, artistic, musical, or athletic skill.
 - Note that these are not licensed child care spaces
- MOU with the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture
 - BCRPA (\$0.9M) will new create new spaces or expand current programming through a province wide community grant program.
 - DASH BC (\$1.5M) will expand After School Sports and Arts Initiatives in schools.

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Since 2014, 733 group school age spaces in 34 organizations were created through Major Capital Funding.

Intake 1 had 11 projects, Intake 2 had 11 and intake 3 had 12.

This represents over 16 percent of spaces funded to be created (733/4,435 total announced spaces).

Of the 34 organizations, 19 were non-profit representing 427 spaces and 15 were private with 306 spaces.

\$10aDay Child Care Plan

- **Governance:** Ministry of Education oversight, delivered by Boards of Education
- **Early Years Centres (EYCs):** licensed child care providers that receive additional government funding to adhere to 5 accountability requirements:
 - Cap parent fees at \$10/day FT, \$7/day PT, no fee for families earning <\$40K/year,
 - ECE wages at average of \$25/day + benefits and improved education levels,
 - Welcome all children, including with extra support needs,
 - Address community need for spaces,
 - Programming consistent with Early Learning Framework or Indigenous framework.
- **Early Years Networks:** EYCs clustered together in neighbourhoods, joined together to form a network
- **New Early Care and Learning Act:** To establish children's and families' rights to child care, governance, and funding structures
- **Training:** Establish diploma as minimum credential for all child care workers: ECEs, family child care providers, and school-age providers. Bachelor of ECE as new educational standard – one Bachelor trained ECE required in every EYC, Kindergarten, Grade 1 and school age care program

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12 to 18 months – Potential Actions

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- Accessibility
 - Announce successful applicants from Major Capital process (12 months)

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