

Bull, Debbie MCF:EX

From: MCF Early Years MCF:EX
Sent: Thursday, March 22, 2018 8:38 AM
To: 'Sarah MacDonald'

Dear Sarah MacDonald,

Thank you for your reply.

For more information on the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative, please refer to the Child Care Operating Funding program [website](#), which includes FAQs for both [parents](#) and [providers](#). If you have any further questions, please contact the Child Care Operating Funding program at: 1 888 338-6622 (option 2).

More information on the details of the new affordable child care benefit will be available in the coming months, including information on eligibility. Please continue to check the Child Care Subsidy program [website](#) as more information becomes available.

Thank you for writing.

MCF Child Care Policy

From: Sarah MacDonald [mailto:sarah@buddings.ca]
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 4:09 PM
To: MCF Early Years MCF:EX
Subject: Re: Budding Children's Garden & Daycare (second email)

Hello,

Thank you for your response. Am I correct in my understanding that, with an occasional care license, we are ineligible to receive Child Care Operating Funding? This is really what I was trying to get at in my original email, as we have had several families who attend our program ask about it.

I'm also wondering if you can give me more details on eligibility for the affordable child care benefit that will be phased in beginning in September 2018. From what I've read, the benefit will begin to be phased in for licensed infant/toddler care in 2018; but, will families with toddlers who attend our centre, which has an occasional care license, be eligible to receive this benefit? As I mentioned in my initial email, we are a licensed flexible care centre for children ages 18 months to 5 years old. The vast majority of families who attend our program have toddlers. Since it is almost impossible to find full-time or even part-time spaces for toddlers in Vancouver, I would hope that these families will not be excluded from this benefit because they choose to send their children to our program in order to meet their child-care needs.

Many thanks,

Sarah

--

Sarah MacDonald
Daycare Manager
Budding Children's Garden & Daycare

On Fri, Mar 9, 2018 at 3:30 PM, MCF Early Years MCF:EX <EarlyYears@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Dear Sarah MacDonald,

Thank you for your e-mail, regarding eligibility for the child care fee reduction initiative.

Licensed Group and Family providers (including In-Home-Multi-Age Care providers), already receiving Child Care Operating Funding (CCOF) and providing Infant/Toddler and/or ages 3-5 care, will receive their 2018/19 contract in March 2018, and may elect to participate in the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative at that time. Once approved by the Ministry to participate, providers will be notified in writing. Licensed child care providers approved to elect to participate in the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative will receive funding to reduce parent fees under the terms of their CCOF contracts by:

- \$350/month/space for group infant/toddler care
- \$200/month/space for family infant/toddler care
- \$100/month/space for group care for children aged 3-5 years
- \$60/month/space for family care for children aged 3-5 years

In addition to the funding to reduce parent fees, participating providers will receive a 10% increase in their current CCOF base funding to put towards administrative and other operational costs.

Additionally, starting in 2019-20, the ministry will provide enhanced funding through CCOF for child care providers to offer child care outside regular business hours, to support the many parents and caregivers in B.C. who have shift work or other schedules.

Information explaining the initiative will be posted on the program webpage and emailed to CCOF providers in the weeks leading up to contract renewal. Any further questions about eligibility and joining can be directed to the Child Care Operating Funding Program at [1-888-338-6622](tel:1-888-338-6622) (select Option 2).

Thank you for writing.

MCF Child Care Policy

From: Sarah MacDonald [mailto:sarah@buddings.ca]
Sent: Thursday, March 8, 2018 12:47 PM
To: MCF Early Years MCF:EX
Cc: Buddings Info
Subject: Budding Children's Garden & Daycare

Hello,

I'm inquiring about the government's recent budget announcement on child care funding.

Budding Children's Garden & Daycare is a flexible daycare located in Vancouver, BC with an occasional care license. We provide care for over 200 families in Metro Vancouver.

I've received several inquiries from our clients about whether or not our daycare will qualify for or participate in the fee reduction initiative. After reading all of the material on the government's website, I'm still unsure about whether or not we qualify. The Child Care B.C. Blueprint mentions the importance of flexibility on page 14, noting that "families who have different needs, such as irregular work hours, have even less access." This lack of access was really the driving force for the creation of our centre, which enables parents to book their children in by the hour, in order to accommodate irregular schedules.

Are you able to confirm whether we will qualify for the program? I sincerely hope we will, as I would love to make our services more affordable for families in Vancouver who require flexible care.

Many thanks,

Sarah

--

Sarah MacDonald

Daycare Manager

Budding Children's Garden & Daycare

Sarah MacDonald

Daycare Manager

Budding Children's Garden & Daycare

Page 05 to/à Page 06

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

NR

Bull, Debbie MCF:EX

From: MCF Early Years MCF:EX
Sent: Thursday, May 10, 2018 1:29 PM
To: s.22
Subject: Response From Child Care Policy Team, Ministry of Children and Family Development

VIA E-MAIL
Ref: 237561

s.22

E-mail: s.22

Dear s.22

Thank you for your e-mail dated April 24, 2018, sent to the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD), Child Care Policy Branch, regarding your request for further information on the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative (CCFRI).

Any licensed infant/toddler and/or 3-5 years child care provider who is eligible for Child Care Operating Funding is eligible to apply to participate in the CCFRI. Parents do not have to enrol or apply in order to receive the reduced fees. If your licensed child care provider has chosen to opt in and has been approved to participate in the initiative, your provider will reduce your child care fees.

Participating providers will also receive funding to reduce parent fees by a prescribed amount, depending on the type of care provided and the age of children, as follows:

- o \$350/month/space for group infant/toddler care;
- o \$200/month/space for family infant/toddler care;
- o \$100/month/space for group 3-5 year care; and
- o \$60/month/space for family 3-5 year care.

At the time of application, providers will be asked to confirm their parent fees for each type of care (as of September 1, 2017, January 1, 2018 and April 1, 2018), and confirm any pre-planned parent fee increases for the duration of the contract term. The Ministry will assess the provider's historical, current and future (planned) fees in order to ensure the intended benefit for parents is not diluted through fee increases.

Providers must disclose and receive prior approval for any pre-planned, reasonable parent fee increases during the duration of the contract. Providers with recent or planned fee increase(s) that are outside of the historical fee pattern for their facility and are higher than the regional median range of fees for their area/community will have those proposed fee increase(s) reviewed by the Ministry.

Providers facing extraordinary circumstances beyond those stated in their 2018/19 fee schedule will be required to contact the Ministry and be assessed on a case by case basis. The list of providers who have opted in to the initiative can be found [here](#). This list will be updated each week as more providers are approved to participate.

For any additional questions regarding the CCFRI, please consult our recently-updated FAQs for Parents and Providers: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/family-and-social-supports/child-care/child-care-operating-funding/faqs_for_parents_and_providers_updated_april_16.pdf

Should you have any further questions, please contact the Child Care Subsidy Service Centre at 1-888-338-6622. Phones are answered Monday to Friday, excluding Statutory Holidays, from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Thank you for writing.

*Child Care Policy Team
Early Years and Inclusion Division
Ministry of Children and Family Development*

Bull, Debbie MCF:EX

From: MCF Early Years MCF:EX
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2018 2:27 PM
To: s.22
Subject: Response From Child Care Policy Team, Ministry of Children and Family Development

VIA E-MAIL
Ref: 237595

s.22

E-mail: s.22

Dear s.22

Thank you for your e-mail dated April 25, 2018, sent to the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD), Child Care Policy Branch, regarding your request for further information on the new Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative (CCFRI).

The intention of the CCFRI is to provide immediate relief to families by reducing their monthly child care fees. To ensure that the fee reduction is passed along to families as intended, the Ministry reviews each provider's past and planned fee increases when they apply. In the event that a provider has recently increased their fees (within the past seven months) or will implement a fee increase over the course of the contract term, the Ministry reviews the application further to ensure the benefit to families is not being unreasonably diluted. Such a review may include determining whether the fee increase is similar to the provider's historical increases, whether the increase is in line with other fees in the region, and/or whether the increase is due to bona fide, material, and unexpected expenses.

For additional details on the CCFRI assessment process, please refer to our FAQs for Parents and Providers: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/family-and-social-supports/child-care/child-care-operating-funding/faqs_for_parents_and_providers.pdf

Should you have any further questions, please contact the Child Care Subsidy Service Centre at 1-888-338-6622. Phones are answered Monday to Friday, excluding Statutory Holidays, from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Thank you for writing.

*Child Care Policy Team
Early Years and Inclusion Division
Ministry of Children and Family Development*

Bull, Debbie MCF:EX

From: MCF Early Years MCF:EX
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2018 2:30 PM
To: s.22
Subject: Response From Child Care Policy Team, Ministry of Children and Family Development

VIA E-MAIL
Ref: 237605

s.22

E-mail: s.22

Dear Mr. Dolynny:

Thank you for your e-mail dated April 24, 2018, sent to the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD), Child Care Policy Branch, regarding your request for further information on the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative (CCFRI).

The intention of the CCFRI is to provide immediate relief to families by reducing their monthly child care fees. To ensure that the fee reduction is passed along to families as intended, the Ministry reviews each provider's past and planned fee increases when they apply. In the event that a provider has recently increased their fees (within the past seven months) or will implement a fee increase over the course of the contract term, the Ministry reviews the application further to ensure the benefit to families is not being unreasonably diluted. Such a review may include determining whether the fee increase is similar to the provider's historical increases, whether the increase is in line with other fees in the region, and/or whether the increase is due to bona fide, material, and unexpected expenses.

For additional details on the CCFRI assessment process, please refer to our FAQs for Parents and Providers: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/family-and-social-supports/child-care/child-care-operating-funding/faqs_for_parents_and_providers.pdf

Thank you for writing.

*Child Care Policy Team
Early Years and Inclusion Division
Ministry of Children and Family Development*

From: MCF Early Years MCF:EX
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2018 9:42 AM
To: s.22
Subject: Response From Child Care Policy Team, Ministry of Children and Family Development

VIA E-MAIL

Ref: 237765

s.22

Email: s.22

Dear s.22

Thank you for your email dated April 30, 2018, as well as May 22, 2018, regarding further concerns related to the implementation of the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative. I would also like to thank you for offering your recommendations regarding the initiative. I apologize for the delay in responding.

As mentioned in my April 9, 2018 email, the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative is intended to support families by lowering their monthly child care fees. The amount of fee reduction available for families is based on Ministry data collected annually from licensed Group and Family child care providers in receipt of operational funding from government, which indicates that, on average, parent fees at Group facilities are higher than those charged at Family facilities. Given the diversity of B.C.'s child care sector, and the regional variances in fees across the province, I can appreciate that this general rule will not apply in every circumstance; however, the Ministry scaled the amount of fee reduction available for families in order to target the available funding based on the available evidence.

While the amount of fee reduction available does vary depending on the age of the child and the type of provider, each provider approved to opt-in to the initiative will receive the same, approximate 10 percent lift on their operational funding (for the spaces approved under this initiative), in recognition of any increase in administration required for providers to pass the savings on to parents. Further supports for providers will be introduced over the course of the B.C. Child Care Plan, including supports for smaller, family-based child care facilities.

With regard to your concern around lack of consultation prior to the rollout of this initiative, the Ministry has been actively engaging with the sector and partners since August 2017 regarding the development of BC's Child Care Plan. In the fall of 2017 an on-line survey was carried out by Ipsos to seek feedback from all licensed child care organizations in receipt of Child Care Operating Funding (CCOF). The overall survey response rate was 40.4% of the 3,295 organizations invited by email to participate.

In addition, a forum entitled "Towards Universal Early Care and Learning in BC" was held November 15-16, 2017, with over one hundred stakeholders present, including private and not-for-profit child care providers. Child care providers and other stakeholders provided feedback on affordability measures, including fee reduction measures. The Provincial Child Care Council (PCCC), representing both not-for-profit and private child care, has also provided feedback on fee-reduction measures.

I appreciate this initiative represents a significant change for providers. Please know that the ministry understands the need for stability by business owners and child care operators, which is one of the reasons why the majority of initiatives announced through Budget 2018, including the CCFRI, operate within the existing system by providing supports through the current contracting mechanism. I understand that some providers require more time to determine whether they wish to opt-in to the CCFRI. Government is working with providers so that we may better understand their concerns. We want to ensure that providers have the information they need to make an informed choice as to whether they will opt-in.

In addition to recently updating CCFRI FAQs for Parents and Providers on the Child Care Operating Funding web site, we hosted seven Province-wide teleconferences and have spoken with providers from around the Province since the February announcement.

Over the past few weeks, the ministry has heard from some owners and operators concerned about their new contracts. In response to this feedback, the Child Care Operating Funding (CCOF) Program sent out an e-mail to all CCOF recipients on March 31, 2018 advising that Schedule C had been revised to provide further clarity of payments made under the CCFRI and how contractors are to calculate the amount by which they are required to reduce parent fees. If you still have questions or concerns regarding the contract, please contact the CCOF Program area at 1-888-338-6622 (option 2) and staff will be pleased to assist.

With regard to your suggestion that the funding be provided directly to parents, please note that a review of this type of funding in other jurisdictions indicates that funding directed to parents is often accompanied by parent fee increases as providers try to defray their operational expenses. It may interest you to know that a second affordability initiative will be introduced in September 2018 to replace the existing Child Care Subsidy program with a new Affordable Child Care Benefit to help to further reduce child care fees based on family income. Families with pre-tax incomes up to \$111,000 may be eligible, and parents will be able to apply online. Together, these initiatives will contribute to increased child care affordability, with targeted investment for families that need it the most.

Please note that participation in the CCFRI is optional, and providers can choose to apply to opt-in at any time during the 2018/19 contract term. However, the ministry encourages providers to opt in, as the CCFRI provides funding to help licensed providers reduce their parent fees, and keep their program competitive with other programs in their communities, while also supporting families in their programs by providing them with a break in their monthly child care costs.

The Ministry will continue to check in with providers, identify lessons learned, address unintended consequences and ensure in the end we achieve our goal of accessible, affordable and quality child care.

Thank you again for writing and sharing your concerns.

Respectfully,

Teresa Butler
A/Executive Director
Child Care Policy

Bull, Debbie MCF:EX

From: MCF Early Years MCF:EX
Sent: Monday, June 4, 2018 10:56 AM
To: s.22
Subject: Response From Child Care Policy Team, Ministry of Children and Family Development

VIA E-MAIL
Ref: 237854

s.22

E-mail: s.22

Dear ^{s.22}

Thank you for your e-mail, sent to the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD), Child Care Policy Branch, regarding the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative (CCFRI). We apologize for the delay in responding.

The intention of the CCFRI is to provide immediate relief to families by reducing their monthly child care fees. To ensure that the fee reduction is passed along to families as intended, the ministry reviews each provider's past and planned fee increases when they apply. In the event that a provider has recently increased their fees (within the past seven months) or will implement a fee increase over the course of the contract term, the ministry reviews the application further to ensure the benefit to families is not being unreasonably diluted. Such a review may include determining whether the fee increase is similar to the provider's historical increases, whether the increase is in line with other fees in the region, and/or whether the increase is due to bona fide, material, and unexpected expenses.

For additional detail on the CCFRI assessment process, please refer to our FAQs for Parents and Providers: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/family-and-social-supports/child-care/child-care-operating-funding/faqs_for_parents_and_providers.pdf

Participation in the child care fee reduction initiative is optional, and providers can choose to apply to opt-in at any time during the 2018/19 contract term. However, the ministry encourages providers to opt-in, as the initiative provides funding to help licensed providers reduce their parent fees, which will help to keep their program competitive with other programs in their community, while also supporting the families in their programs by providing them with a break in their monthly child care costs.

If an eligible licensed provider chooses not to enrol in this voluntary initiative, they will remain eligible for their base Child Care Operating Funding (CCOF) rates; however, they will not be eligible for the 10% increase on top of their current CCOF base funding for spaces for children under 36 months and aged 3 years to Kindergarten. Please follow this link for a list of participating providers: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/caring-for-young-children/running-daycare-preschool/child-care-operating-funding/child-care-fee-reduction-initiative-provider-opt-in-status>

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Child Care Program and Service Centre via e-mail or telephone at 1 888 338-6622. Phones are answered Monday to Friday, excluding Statutory Holidays, from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Thank you for writing.

*Child Care Policy Team
Early Years and Inclusion Division
Ministry of Children and Family Development*

Bull, Debbie MCF:EX

From: MCF Early Years MCF:EX
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2018 11:30 AM
To: s.22
Subject: Response From Child Care Policy Team, Ministry of Children and Family Development

VIA E-MAIL
Ref: 237855

s.22

E-mail: s.22

Dear s.22

Thank you for your e-mail dated May 1, 2018, sent to the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD), Child Care Policy, regarding your request further information pertaining to the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative (CCFRI) and care provider fees.

The intention of the CCFRI is to provide immediate relief to families by reducing their monthly child care fees. To ensure that the fee reduction is passed along to families as intended, the ministry reviews each provider's past and planned fee increases when they apply. In the event that a provider has recently increased their fees (within the past seven months) or will implement a fee increase over the course of the contract term, the ministry reviews the application further to ensure the benefit to families is not being unreasonably diluted. Such a review may include determining whether the fee increase is similar to the provider's historical increases, whether the increase is in line with other fees in the region, and/or whether the increase is due to bona fide, material, and unexpected expenses. For additional detail on the CCFRI assessment process, please refer to our FAQs for Parents and Providers: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/family-and-social-supports/child-care/child-care-operating-funding/faqs_for_parents_and_providers_updated_april_16.pdf.

Participation in the CCFRI is optional and providers can choose to opt-in at any time during the 2018/19 contract term. As part of this new initiative, providers approved to join will also receive an increase of 10 percent on their base Child Care Operating Funding (CCOF) rates that will help to address inflationary cost pressures and any increased administrative costs associated with decreasing fees for parents. Providers that apply to opt-in to the new initiative by April 20, 2018, and are approved to participate, will begin receiving enhanced funding effective April 2018, at which point they will be contractually required to reduce their parent fees by the prescribed amounts outlined above.

Providers approved to opt-in after April 20, 2018, will begin receiving enhanced funding on the first day of the following month, at which point they will be contractually required to reduce their parent fees.

The new affordable child care benefit, coming in September 2018, will help to further reduce child care fees based on family income. Families with pre-tax incomes up to \$111,000 (based on a two-person family) may be eligible, and parents will be able to apply online. Please continue to check the [ministry Web site](#) for more information in the coming months. The benefit will be phased in, with amounts increasing over three years, beginning with licensed infant and toddler care (2018-19), and then expanding to three- to five-year-old care in 2019-20. Government will be providing an online benefit calculator to help parents budget for what they will receive based on their income and the type of licensed care. These changes will extend the benefit to approximately 86,000 families by the end of 2020-21, approximately 60,000 more families than were previously being supported through the Child Care Subsidy program.

For further details on the new child care benefit, we have included Web links to the Child Care BC Blueprint and the Budget 2018 Child Care Information Web page. Please also refer to the FAQs for parents and providers.

Thank you for writing.

*Child Care Policy Team
Early Years and Inclusion Division
Ministry of Children and Family Development*

Bull, Debbie MCF:EX

From: MCF Early Years MCF:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 13, 2018 2:17 PM
To: s.22
Subject: Response From Child Care Policy Team, Ministry of Children and Family Development

VIA E-MAIL
Ref: 237954

s.22

E-mail s.22

Dear s.22

Thank you for your e-mail, sent to the Honourable John Horgan, Premier of British Columbia, regarding your application to the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative (CCFRI). Your e-mail has been forwarded to me for response and I apologize for the delay in responding.

As you may already be aware, the intention of the CCFRI is to provide immediate relief to families by reducing their monthly child care fees. To ensure that the fee reduction is passed along to families as intended, the ministry reviews each provider's recent and planned fee increases when they apply. In the event that a provider has recently increased their fees (within the past seven months) or will implement a fee increase over the course of the contract term, the ministry reviews the application further to ensure the benefit to families is not being unreasonably diluted. Such a review may include determining whether the fee increase is similar to the provider's historical increases, whether the increase is in line with other fees in the region, and/or whether the increase is due to bona fide, material, and unexpected expenses.

For additional detail on the CCFRI assessment process, please refer to our FAQs for Parents and Providers: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/family-and-social-supports/child-care/child-care-operating-funding/faqs_for_parents_and_providers.pdf

The CCFRI is part of a multi-step childcare expansion in the province, increasing access and affordability for all parents. The new affordable child care benefit, coming in September 2018, will help to further reduce child care fees for families, based on family income.

Please monitor the BC Government's Child Care Subsidy webpage for further updates about the affordable child care benefit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/caring-for-young-children/running-daycare-preschool/child-care-subsidy>.

As government takes its first steps towards universal child care, we welcome the ongoing participation and engagement with parents and providers. If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Child Care Program and Service Centre via e-mail or telephone at **1 888 338-6622 (option 2)**. Phones are answered Monday to Friday, excluding Statutory Holidays, from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Thank you for writing.

Respectfully,

Teresa Butler
A/Executive Director
Child Care Policy Team
Ministry of Children and Family Development

Bull, Debbie MCF:EX

From: MCF Early Years MCF:EX
Sent: Monday, June 4, 2018 1:27 PM
To: s.22
Subject: Response From Child Care Policy Team, Ministry of Children and Family Development

VIA E-MAIL
Ref: 237999

s.22

E-mail: s.22

Dear s.22 :

Thank you for your e-mail dated May 17, 2018, sent to the Ministry of Children and Family Development, Child Care Policy Branch, regarding your concerns about the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative (CCFRI).

Providers that are approved to opt in to the CCFRI will begin to receive enhanced funding and will be contractually required to reduce their parent fees by prescribed amounts. Fee reduction amounts are prescribed by the B.C. government and are based on the type of care and full-time enrolment (part-time enrolments will receive a pro-rated amount), as follows:

- Group infant/toddler (under 36 months) care by \$350/month
- Family infant/toddler care by \$200/month
- Group child care for 3 years to Kindergarten by \$100/month
- Family child care for 3 years to Kindergarten by \$60/month

The intention of the CCFRI is to provide immediate relief to families by reducing their monthly child care fees. To ensure that the fee reduction is passed along to families as intended, the ministry reviews each provider's past and planned fee increases when they apply. In the event that a provider has recently increased their fees (within the past seven months) or will implement a fee increase over the course of the contract term, the ministry reviews the application further to ensure the benefit to families is not being unreasonably diluted. Such a review may include determining whether the fee increase is similar to the provider's historical increases, whether the increase is in line with other fees in the region, and/or whether the increase is due to bona fide, material, and unexpected expenses. Providers facing unplanned, exceptional circumstances will need to advise the Ministry to make changes to their approved fee schedule. These requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

For additional detail on the CCFRI assessment process, please refer to our FAQs for Parents and Providers: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/family-and-social-supports/child-care/child-care-operating-funding/faqs_for_parents_and_providers.pdf

We would like to take this opportunity to ensure you are aware of the Child Care Subsidy program, which is available to help parents and guardians with the cost of full- or half-day child care. You can read more about the Child Care Subsidy, including how to apply, here: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/caring-for-young-children/running-daycare-preschool/child-care-subsidy>

Starting in September 2018, a new affordable child care benefit will help to reduce child care fees further. Families with incomes up to \$111,000 may be eligible, and parents will be able to apply online. The benefit will be phased in, with amounts increasing over three years, beginning with licensed infant and toddler care (2018-19), and then expanding to three- to five-year-old care in 2019-20. Your family's eligibility for the benefit will depend on a number of factors, including your gross family income, your family size, and the type of child care your children are attending. More information on the details of the new benefit will be available in the coming months, and an online calculator will be available to enable families to estimate how the affordable child care benefit may assist them with their child care costs. Please monitor the Child Care Subsidy program website to receive updates about the benefit.

Should you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Child Care Program and Service Centre via e-mail or telephone at **1 888 338-6622**. Phones are answered Monday to Friday, excluding Statutory Holidays, from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Thank you for writing.

*Child Care Policy Team
Early Years and Inclusion Division*

Bull, Debbie MCF:EX

From: MCF Early Years MCF:EX
Sent: Monday, June 4, 2018 1:36 PM
To: s.22
Subject: Response From Child Care Policy Team, Ministry of Children and Family Development

VIA E-MAIL
Ref: 238010

s.22

E-mail: s.22

Dear s.22

Thank you for your e-mail dated May 22, 2018, sent to the Ministry of Children and Family Development, Child Care Policy Branch, regarding the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative (CCFRI).

Providers that are approved to opt-in to the CCFRI will begin to receive enhanced funding and will be contractually required to reduce their parent fees by prescribed amounts. Fee reduction amounts are prescribed by the B.C. government and are based on the type of care and full-time enrolment (part-time enrolments will receive a pro-rated amount), as follows:

- Group infant/toddler (under 36 months) care by \$350/month
- Family infant/toddler care by \$200/month
- Group child care for 3 years to Kindergarten by \$100/month
- Family child care for 3 years to Kindergarten by \$60/month

The intention of the CCFRI is to provide immediate relief to families by reducing their monthly child care fees. To ensure that the fee reduction is passed along to families as intended, the ministry reviews each provider's past and planned fee increases when they apply. In the event that a provider has recently increased their fees (within the past seven months) or will implement a fee increase over the course of the contract term, the ministry reviews the application further to ensure the benefit to families is not being unreasonably diluted. Such a review may include determining whether the fee increase is similar to the provider's historical increases, whether the increase is in line with other fees in the region, and/or whether the increase is due to bona fide, material, and unexpected expenses. Providers facing unplanned, exceptional circumstances will need to advise the Ministry to make changes to their approved fee schedule. These requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

For additional detail on the CCFRI assessment process, please refer to our FAQs for Parents and Providers: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/family-and-social-supports/child-care/child-care-operating-funding/faqs_for_parents_and_providers.pdf

If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Child Care Program and Service Centre via e-mail or telephone at 1 888 338-6622. Phones are answered Monday to Friday, excluding Statutory Holidays, from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Thank you again for writing.

*Child Care Policy Team
Early Years and Inclusion Division
Ministry of Children and Family Development*

Bull, Debbie MCF:EX

From: MCF Early Years MCF:EX
Sent: Monday, July 9, 2018 7:54 AM
To: s.22
Subject: Response From Child Care Policy Team, Ministry of Children and Family Development

VIA E-MAIL
Ref: 238297

s.22

E-mail: s.22

Dear s.22

Thank you for your follow-up e-mail dated June 13, 2018, sent to the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD), Child Care Policy Branch, regarding your request for further clarification on the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative (CCFRI).

Child care providers who are unsuccessful in their application to the CCFRI are informed of the decision and the reason(s) for the Ministry's decision in writing. If the child care provider believes the Ministry has made an error in the assessment of the facility's eligibility for the CCFRI based on the criteria, or if they have new, relevant information not previously submitted, the child care provider may request a reconsideration of the decision in writing. All providers, including those that have been previously unsuccessful in their application to the CCFRI, can choose to enroll at any time during the 2018/19 contract term.

With regard to your question as to why the Ministry chose to flow this funding through eligible providers rather than directly to parents – this option was reviewed during the program development; however, based on experiences in other jurisdictions, we know that providing direct funding to parents with no accompanying accountability mechanism for providers has historically been accompanied by increased parent fees, which absorbs the intended benefit for families. As such, the CCFRI has been designed to ensure providers are not implementing fee increases that unnecessarily dilute the intended benefit for families.

We would like to thank you for taking the time to share your concerns over the CCFRI. As with any new initiative, the Ministry is closely monitoring implementation and will continue to review feedback and suggestions such as yours. This input helps guide our work as we develop a child care system that will provide affordable, accessible and high-quality care and early learning to every child whose family wants or needs it.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Child Care Program and Service Centre via e-mail or telephone at **1 888 338-6622**. Phones are answered Monday to Friday, excluding Statutory Holidays, from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Thank you again for writing and sharing your concerns.

*Child Care Policy Team
Early Years and Inclusion Division
Ministry of Children and Family Development*