

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
INFORMATION NOTE**

DATE: November 14, 2018

CLIFF#: 240004

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Children and Family Development
Honourable Katrina Chen, Minister of State for Child Care.

ISSUE: Future direction of the Early Years Professional Development Portal Project

BACKGROUND:

In 2015/16, MCFD invested \$100K to conduct background research and develop the Early Years Professional Development (EYPD) online portal, a website created and maintained by BCcampus that provides a collection of government-funded training for Early Care and Learning (ECL) professionals (e.g. Early Childhood Educators). An additional \$250,000 per year from 2016/17 to 2018/19 was provided to BCcampus to further develop and promote a pilot of the EYPD Portal, and to help learners and service organizations to learn how to use it (See Appendix A for a breakdown of operating costs).

BCcampus is an organization funded primarily by the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training (AEST) that serves post-secondary institutions, government agencies, and non-profit organizations. While it regularly manages large scale projects for BC Ministries, it does not typically run long term projects. The EYPD project is set to conclude on March 31, 2019, and BCcampus is interested in discussing how MCFD would like to handle the close-out.

An important link to this pilot is the Early Childhood Educator (ECE) Registry, which is responsible, in part, for the certification of ECEs and ECE Assistants. As part of maintaining certification, ECEs are required to complete a minimum of 40 hours of professional development within the five years their certificate is valid.

DISCUSSION:

The EYPD Portal has become a well-used professional development resource in BC. In the first three months of 2018 alone, the Portal listed 727 training events hosted by 105 government-funded organizations at 175 different locations, and saw 13,531 unique visits. While the professional development opportunities on the Portal serve an array of professionals working with young children, the vast majority of opportunities are directed at ECL professionals.

Two highly beneficial functions of the Portal are the ability for ECEs to enter their ECE Certificate number and expiry date to create a “renewal countdown”, and to track their professional development hours towards certificate renewal. There has been initial discussion about how the EYPD Portal could potentially “talk” directly to a new ECE Registry certification system, which would allow ECEs to keep records of their professional development on the EYPD Portal, and electronically share this information with the ECE Registry at the time of certificate

renewal, eliminating the need for ECEs to submit—and the ECE Registry to manage—paper records.

BCcampus has suggested it will take a minimum of three months to wind down processes and get the site ready for transfer to government or another contractor, and have indicated interest in extending the project for a limited time if MCFD requires more time to make long term decisions. BCcampus is using the EYPD Portal and its learning for other projects (e.g. the post-secondary professional learning project), suggesting the project has a unique special interest to the organization.

s.12,s.13,s.16

NEXT STEPS:

s.12,s.13,s.16

ATTACHMENTS:

A. Appendix A: Operationalizing the EYPD Web Portal and EYPD Annual Budget

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¹ Westcoast's proposed funding was reduced from \$2.95M to \$2.7M in order to re-allocate \$0.25M to BCcampus. Westcoast will receive funding to deliver/coordinate Leadership/Management Training, ECE Mentorship Program and Professional Development Bursaries for child care workers.

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
INFORMATION NOTE**

DATE: November 2, 2018

CLIFF #: 240184

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Children and Family Development

ISSUE: s.12,s.13
s.12,s.13

BACKGROUND:
s.12,s.13

DISCUSSION:

In 2016 MCFD took some immediate actions to support and respond to the BC opioid crisis:

- On December 21, 2016 Strategic Human Resources issued a provincial directive to all MCFD/Delegated Aboriginal Agency (DAA) staff on minimizing exposure to illegal drugs and opioids.
- A reminder was sent to MCFD/DAA staff about the reportable circumstance policy to report incidents of children and youth in care or receiving services that are related to drug overdoses.
- Overdose awareness and prevention and naloxone training took place in high risk communities for front line practitioners, caregivers and youth at risk. Multiple in person sessions occurred across the province.

MCFD also developed and implemented an Overdose and Prevention Response Plan which is focused on the practice responses to support children and families served by MCFD/DAA's who overdose and/or at risk of overdose. These responses include:

- A practice guideline to support front line practitioners in responding to youth at risk and/or parents who may be using illegal opioids.
- Direction on access to and training on naloxone kits for front line practitioners, caregivers and 'at risk' families.
- Guidance on universal precautions for front line practitioners and caregivers.
- Exposure control plan developed regarding staff precaution and safety.
- Provision of general opioid information for staff and caregivers.
- Access to on-going training on opioid awareness and prevention.

- Ongoing monitoring of reported incidents to ensure appropriate practice response;
- Online Naloxone training, consisting of 3 self- directed modules.
- New Safe Work Procedures for all staff trained to administer Naloxone, was added to the online Naloxone training.

Other activities include:

- MCFD has shared learning/documents with Alberta child welfare, through the Provincial Directors of Child Welfare.
- MCFD has shared learnings (i.e. Risk Assessment) with both Ministry of Education and Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction.
- MCFD provided contact information to the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions to ensure linkages to local CATs (Community Action Teams).
- MCFD participates on a cross sectoral Overdose Emergency Response Centre (OERC) monthly meetings. Members include PSSG, Health Authorities, Ministry of Health and community groups linked to community groups who have *Lived Experience*.
- The Provincial Director of Child Welfare is reviewing opioid overdose deaths involving children and youth served by MCFD/DAAs to potentially identify any learning to strengthen the practice response.

CONCLUSION:

MCFD will continue to participate in the cross-government work related to the opioid response plan and to update our Overdose and Response Plan as necessary.

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MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION NOTE

DATE: November 5, 2018

CLIFF#: 240368

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Children and Family Development and Honourable Katrina Chen, Minister of State for Child Care

ISSUE: ECE Wage Enhancement -- outcomes of October 2018 sector online engagement

BACKGROUND:

The ECE Wage Enhancement (ECE WE) was announced September 6, 2018. At that time, draft Funding Guidelines were publicly released on the Ministry website, and emailed to all Child Care Operating Funding (CCOF) recipients. The ECE WE and associated draft Guidelines had been informed by stakeholder engagement conducted in August 2018 via 18 facilitated telephone interviews with a cross-section of child care sector stakeholders, who had the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback to Ministry staff about various aspects of ECE WE eligibility and program administration, including:

- One interview with members of the Provincial Child Care Council (PCCC);
- One interview with members of the Early Childhood Educators of BC (ECEBC);
- Two interviews with Indigenous stakeholders; and
- Fourteen interviews with licensed Child Care Operators, including private, non-profit, Group and Family providers.

Stakeholder feedback indicated overall support for the proposed approach to implementing a wage enhancement for ECEs, and suggested the Ministry undertake additional consultation after the draft Funding Guidelines had been developed and released, to facilitate program implementation.

Subsequent to the release of the draft Funding Guidelines, engagement with the sector/stakeholders has continued through ongoing consultation with PCCC members, through 1:1 communications with providers contacting MCFD with questions and comments and through a second round of targeted engagement, outlined below.

DISCUSSION:

From October 5-12, 2018, a second round of targeted engagement was conducted through the use of an online tool which allowed the same group of stakeholders that were canvassed in August 2018 to comment directly on the draft Funding Guidelines. Prompting questions encouraged stakeholders to consider areas where the Guidelines or administrative processes could be made clearer or more specific.

Fifty five individual comments were received from nine unique stakeholders through the online consultation process in October. Feedback was of four main types:

1. Approximately 70% of the comments (38) involve unclear language in the Funding Guidelines and/or requests to add hyperlinks, re-order information, etc. for clarity.
2. Four comments requested the document provided by MCFD in September to track ECE hours worked during the Retroactive Period be re-distributed.
3. Thirteen comments are more specific questions about how to interpret parts of the policy, or comments on the policy itself, e.g. providers seeking clarification on how the ECE WE applied in Aboriginal Agencies that are not eligible for CCFRI.
4. Three comments suggesting expansion of the ECE program (eligibility should be expanded to ECE assistants; eligibility for ECEs should not be tied to facility eligibility; the ECE WE should increase by an additional \$1 in 2019).

The feedback received has informed revisions to the Funding Guidelines, targeted engagement with individual providers and organizations, and development of presentation content for two town hall meetings planned for the end of November.

NEXT STEPS:

- The Stakeholder Engagement team will acknowledge all who provided feedback via the online tool with a thank you and a commitment to take their suggestions under consideration as we finalize the guidelines and/or to build their feedback and questions into the town hall sessions.
- The Funding Guidelines are being finalized, and will be released on the Ministry website on Nov.7th.
 - In cases where multiple stakeholders requested clarity or asked questions on the same topic, new FAQs will be published the week of Nov 12th to clarify or provide additional information.
 - In cases where questions or comments were specific to a particular provider's situation, Ministry staff will make a follow-up phone call.
- On Nov. 7 or 8th, the Ministry will send a link to the ECE Retroactive Period hours Tracking tool, or the tool itself, as part of a communication to CCOF providers signaling the upcoming availability of the ECE WE Application Form and Funding Agreement.
- The ECE WE Application and Funding Agreement will be sent to providers between Nov. 15 to 30th (as soon as the Form is available) so they can apply/enroll before the Dec.31st deadline for Retroactive Period funding eligibility.
- Two telephone town hall sessions for providers will take place at the end of November, focusing on clarifying aspects of the policy and reporting process as well as supporting providers through the ECE WE Application process. The sessions will begin with a presentation and then open the floor to questions from stakeholders.
- In January 2019, eligible organizations that submitted an application form on/before December 31st will be able to submit their staff hours for retroactive pay and enter into supplemental funding agreements for hours worked January 1 – March 31, 2019.
- Between February and the end of March 2019, existing CCOF contracts will enter the renewal period for fiscal 2019/20, at which point the ECE WE funding will be incorporated into the standard CCOF agreements going forward.

ATTACHMENTS: ECE WE Timelines

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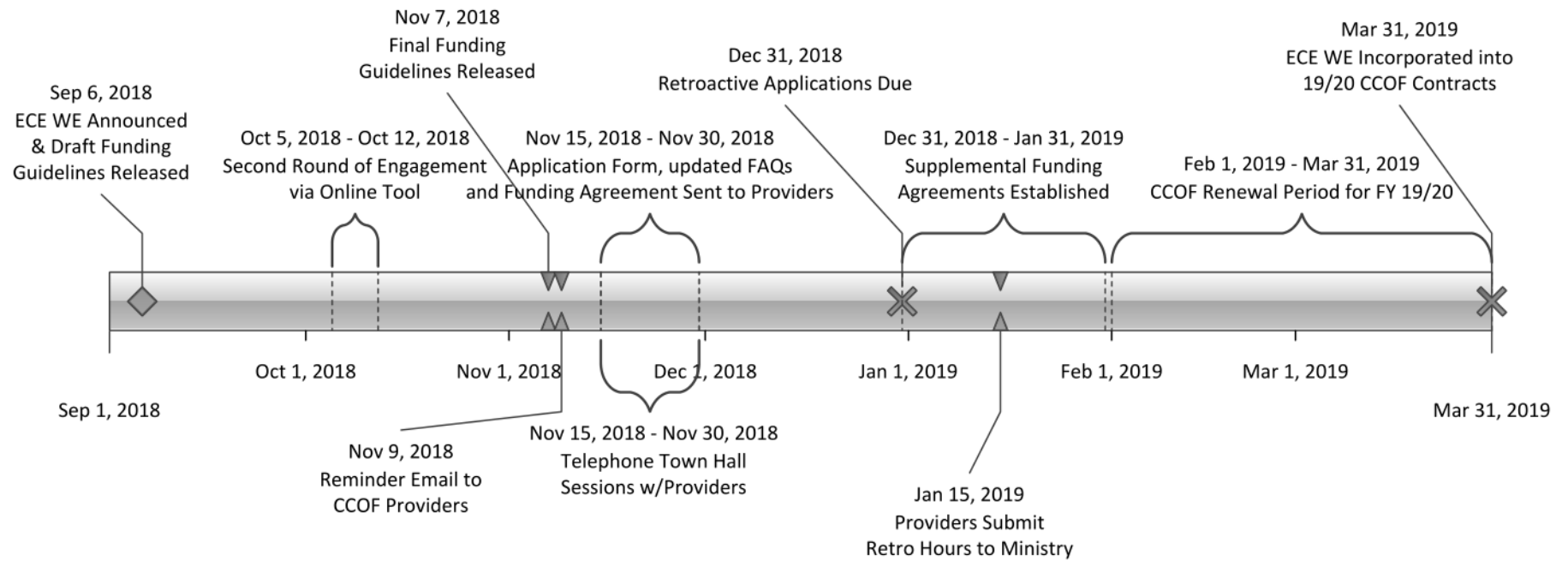
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Appendix A: ECE WE Timelines



MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION NOTE

DATE: November 19, 2018

CLIFF#: 240531

PREPARED FOR: Katrine Conroy, Minister for Children and Family Development

ISSUE: Special Review of 2017/2018 Adoption Placements of Children in Care

BACKGROUND:

The Monitoring team of Child Welfare Branch has completed a special review of adoption placements in 2017/2018. This review was completed at the request of the Deputy Minister to understand the demographics of the children that were placed for adoption.

The review was completed using data from Modelling, Analysis, and Information Management branch (MAIM) and information from individual case files on ICM. It provides information about the group of children and youth who were adopted in 2017/2018 and those with adoption as their plan at the end of the fiscal year.

The review also gathered information from adoption social workers, their team leaders, and other ministry staff to better understand the current context and challenges affecting adoption placement and other paths to permanency.

DISCUSSION:

The findings in the report include:

- 243 children and youth were placed for adoption in 2017/2018, which is 81% of the goal of 300 adoptions. Of these 243 children, 49% were Indigenous (35% First Nations, 11% Métis, 2% Nisga'a, and 1% Inuit), and 26% were considered to have complex needs¹.
- As of March 31, 2018, 985 children and youth had adoption as their permanency plan. Of these children, 64% were Indigenous (49% First Nations, 11%, Métis, and 2% Nisga'a), and 59% were considered to have complex needs.
- The review also included a discussion of the context required to understand the state of adoption in B.C., which includes:
 - MCFD's commitment to reconciliation and the impact on paths to permanency for children and youth
 - Challenges associated with matching children and approved families

¹ In this report, children with complex needs refers to those who are either eligible for Children and Youth with Special Needs (CYSN) funding or clients of Child and Youth Mental Health services

- MCFD's increased focus on promoting family preservation and reunification
- Delays in the adoption process
- Changes to policy (adoption is no longer the default plan for children under 12).

Note: The Modelling, Analysis & Information Management (MAIM) Branch is currently reviewing data in this report to ensure that it is up to date.

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**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
INFORMATION NOTE**

DATE: November 22, 2018
CLIFF#: 240565

RELEVANT CORRESPONDENCE: 239856, 240121

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Children and Family Development and Honourable Katrina Chen, Minister of State for Child Care

ISSUE: Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative Proposed Year 2 Policy Changes & Stakeholder Engagement

BACKGROUND:

In April 2018, the Ministry launched the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative (CCFRI) in order to enhance the affordability of child care by reducing parent fees. Under the CCFRI, eligible providers receive payments in addition to their base Child Care Operating Funding (CCOF), which they are contractually required to pass along to parents in the form of reduced parent fees of up to \$350/month (for group infant/toddler care).

In order to receive the fee reduction funding, providers must be approved to opt-in to the initiative. Applicants are eligible to opt-in if:

- Any fee increases the facility has implemented in the last seven months or plans to implement over the CCOF Funding Agreement term are in line with that facility's historical increases;
- Any past or proposed fee increase are within the regional median range¹; and/or,
- Any past or proposed fee increase is due to a genuine exceptional circumstance that is proportional to the exceptional expense and amortized over a reasonable period of time.

Once providers are approved to participate in the CCFRI, they may request approval from the Ministry to raise their fees beyond what was initially approved during original adjudication, provided the increase is due to a genuine exceptional expense, proportional to that expense, and amortized over a reasonable period of time.

DISCUSSION:

Based on feedback from providers and stakeholders, the Ministry has identified three potential areas that would benefit from further refinement and plans to conduct a focused engagement with sector stakeholders in order to gain greater clarity on these issues. Findings from this engagement will then be used to inform any changes to CCFRI policy and operations prior to April 2019. The Ministry's engagement plan is outlined in Appendix I.

¹ The regional median range of fees is collected in the Annual Provider Profile Survey and calculated by adding the median provider fee in a Service Delivery Area (SDA) to the provincial standard fee increase (for their applicable care type), which is defined as \$50 for Group Child Care, or \$35 for Family Child Care.

1. *Exceptional Circumstances Policy*

The exceptional circumstances policy is used both to adjudicate some providers' eligibility for the CCFRI upon application and/or to adjudicate any fee increases approved providers request mid-contract. This policy allows providers to implement non-standard fee increases if they encounter an unplanned expense, such as a sudden and unexpected increases to rent or operating expenses. In 2018/19, 928 facilities, representing approximately 28% of CCFRI facilities, were approved to the CCFRI under this policy, with fee increases ranging from \$3 up to \$500 per month.

Currently, the exceptional circumstances policy is broad, and allows for providers to be approved for non-standard fee increases under a variety of circumstances. Increasing the precision of the exceptional circumstances policy may better ensure that providers approved to participate in the CCFRI are implementing significant fee increases only where necessary for the ongoing sustainability of their businesses.

2. *Adjudication and Fee Increase Transparency*

In a recent letter to the Honourable Katrina Chen, Minister of State for Child Care, the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC (CCCABC) raised concerns regarding significant child care fee increases under the CCFRI and their impacts on families. The CCCABC recommends the Ministry strengthen CCFRI accountability and transparency by:

- a. Publically reporting providers who raise fees due to exceptional circumstances, and
- b. Enhancing communications and reporting mechanisms for families, and requiring providers enrolled in the CCFRI to publically post their fees (see Appendix II).

Additionally, the Ministry has received a number of requests from parents for increased transparency regarding their facility's CCFRI adjudication status and rational for adjudication decisions.

3. *Diversity of Provider Fee Structures*

Under the current structure of the CCFRI, a facility's eligibility for the initiative is adjudicated on the basis of a single fee reported by the facility for each care type. However, the Ministry has learned that some child care providers charge more than one fee per care type, including different rates for children who have been enrolled in the facility longer or for sibling groups. Additionally, extra optional fees are in some cases added on which increases parents overall fees in some cases minimizing the CCFRI amounts. These lower or optional fees are not required to be reported to the Ministry during adjudication, preventing the Ministry from exercising appropriate oversight to ensure these fees are not increased beyond what is approved under CCFRI policy.

Additionally, in a recent letter to the Honourable Katrina Chen, Minister of State for Child Care, First Call BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition indicated concerns from parents that some providers are charging higher fees for children with extra support needs (see Appendix III). CCFRI staff have also received concerns regarding additional fees charged for children in the care of the Ministry. Due to the current CCFRI reporting structure, providers may not be reporting these higher fees when they apply for the initiative, preventing the Ministry from understanding the full scope of this issue and monitoring any increases in these fees.

NEXT STEPS:

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Attachments:

Appendix I: Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Appendix II: Letter from the CCCABC - Affordability Excerpts

Appendix III: Letter from First Call BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition

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Appendix II: Letter from the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC - Affordability Excerpts

CLIFF #: 239856

September 21, 2018

Honourable Katrina Chen
Minister of State for Child Care
PO Box 9057 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC V8V 9E2

Dear Minister of State Chen:

Recently we have been contacted by parents and child care providers expressing concern about:

1. Child care fees that, from their perspective, are increasing substantially – despite their program’s participation in the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative (FRI)
2. Licensed programs that may be closing, for various publicly-stated reasons.

In the past, we alerted you to individual cases of unusual fee increases in Nanaimo that came to our attention. We are now hearing of large fee increases in other communities, typically in for-profit operations, which have resulted in no, or minimal, fee reductions for families.

Ministry staff have advised they are monitoring the situation closely, and find these are isolated situations. We hope that remains true for both unusual fee increases and program closures.

Certainly, we’ve been hearing lots of concerns about fee increases and program closures for many years.

However, unlike the previous government, your government is making significant investments in lowering parent fees and increasing licensed spaces, so it’s essential to ensure that your child care priorities are not undermined. In addition to the policies and accountability mechanisms already in place, we recommend that government take proactive steps to reduce the possibility of these situations arising, follow-up on individual concerns, and take action where appropriate and necessary.

Parent Fee Increases

As previously discussed, we believe that proactive monitoring of parent fee increases is particularly important now that the Affordable Child Care Benefit (ACCB) has been introduced, due to the potential upward pressure the ACCB will place on parent fees. We have specific recommendations for strengthening public accountability and transparency of government, and of child care providers who receive public funding through the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative and/or the Affordable Child Care Benefit.

Government should:

1. Publicly report on the fee increase guidelines that providers are required to adhere to in order to maintain their participation in the FRI
2. Publicly report on the facilities granted exemption from the above guidelines
3. Provide a mechanism for parents to share any concerns, ensuring anonymity (to reduce concerns about retribution for their families).

Providers should be required to:

1. Publicly share their fee schedules for the last 12 months, at a minimum. This information should be posted on their web sites and displayed prominently in their physical facilities.
2. Provide a full written explanation to families for any increases in excess of the FRI guidelines.

...

We look forward to your prompt consideration of these concerns and recommendations, and would be pleased to discuss them in more detail.

Yours truly,

Sharon Gregson and Lynell Anderson CPA, CGA
Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC

Appendix III: Letter from First Call BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition

CLIFF #: 240121

October 16, 2018

Honourable Katrina Chen
Minister of State for Child Care
PO Box 9057, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Chen,

First Call's Early Childhood Development Roundtable has been discussing concerns arising from the experiences of families who have children with special needs about the fees they are being charged by some child care providers.

As a new publicly-funded child care system is being developed in BC, we are writing to let you know the type of concerns we have been hearing about prior to the announcement of the Fee Reduction Initiative and the Affordable Child Care Benefit, and to ask for some clarity on government policy going forward.

Anecdotally, families have reported that:

- Providers have charged higher fees for their child with extra support needs, than the fees charged for other children.
- Families are charged for the full-time space, but their children with special needs are provided shorter hours of service.
- Parents are paying for additional employee hours that SCDP is not able to cover with funding.
- Parents are paying infant/toddler space fees for their child to attend a 3-5 year old space.

Obviously these experiences raise serious concerns about the rights of children with special needs and accountability from providers when they are receiving public funds.

We recognize that many years of underfunding of child care generally, and the supported child development program (SCDP) and Aboriginal supported child development program (ASCDP), have led to the struggles families are experiencing and challenges for child care providers in meeting the care needs of children with special needs. We write to alert you to these inequities and discriminatory practices and to seek assurance that they will not be supported by public funding in the new child care system.

Can you provide us with more information about how funding for special needs children is being integrated into the new child care system? Does government allow child care providers receiving public funding to charge differential fees for children with special needs?

As a signatory to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, Canada has committed to ensure non-discrimination for children with disabilities, including in education and access to services, as well as to special care. We trust BC's new child care program will embed respect for these rights in policy and practice in order to be truly inclusive of all children.

Thank you for considering these concerns and we look forward to your response to our questions.

Sincerely,

Adrienne Montani
Provincial Coordinator

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
INFORMATION NOTE**

DATE: November 21, 2018
CLIFF#: 240658

DATE OF PREVIOUS NOTE: N/A
PREVIOUS CLIFF #: N/A

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Children and Family Development
and Honourable Katrina Chen, Minister of State for Child Care

ISSUE: Moving Towards Universal Child Care: The Inclusion Pilot

BACKGROUND:

The Prototype sites of Universal Child Care provide an opportunity to explore additional approaches to including children with extra support needs in child care programs. In the interest of ensuring we have a clearer understanding of what the possibilities are, and the best ways we can effectively support families with children with extra support needs, BC is including an Inclusion Pilot Project within a sampling of Prototype sites.

The purpose of the Inclusion Pilot is to explore and evaluate additional approaches to funding inclusion of children with extra support needs in child care programs. The intention is to learn more about the strengths and challenges of different models within different child care settings, and within the climate of moving towards universal child care. The two additional funding models include:

1. The **Inclusion Coordinator Funding Model**, which involves government providing funding to child care operators to hire an Inclusion Coordinator to work within their program.
2. The **Inclusion Support Funding Model**, which involves child care operators collaborating with families to apply directly to government for inclusion support funding for an individual child.

Inclusion models will be evaluated in all Prototype sites. The existing model of inclusion funding (Supported Child Development (SCD) and Aboriginal Supported Child Development (ASCD)) will be evaluated in the majority of the Prototype sites. Twenty-one sites have been invited to pilot one of the additional models of funding and it is expected that 15-18 will accept.

Criteria for invitees included: successful Prototype site application, indicated interest in pilot, some current capacity for inclusion based on the adjudication of the Prototype application, and currently having a child with extra support needs enrolled. A sampling was then identified to ensure representation from all 5 health authority regions, from both rural and urban areas and from some Indigenous agencies.

The additional models of funding inclusive child care were informed by a jurisdictional review of other models in Canada and the historical B.C. experience. The Inclusion Coordinator model uses key elements from the B.C. Aboriginal Head Start program model. The Inclusion Support model has elements of the Inclusion Grant Model in Saskatchewan. The evaluation of these models will help us better understand their strengths and limitations.

DISCUSSION:

Information about this pilot project was shared with the Regional Advisors for SCD and ASCD in the summer of 2018 and they were asked to provide advice on how to make the transition in and out of the pilot as smooth as possible for children and families, child care operators, and the SCD and ASCD programs. In October, information was shared more broadly with SCD and ASCD programs through a teleconference where programs had the opportunity to raise questions and identify concerns. This information was also shared through a members meeting of the BC Association of Child Development and Intervention and through a meeting of the Kids Can't Wait Steering Committee. Print messaging has been disseminated to SCD and ASCD programs. Concerns that were raised around transition in and out of the pilot have informed modifications to the process.

Some SCD programs have raised additional concerns. Key concerns include the following:

- **Concern about the stability of the SCD and ASCD programs.** The evaluation of current and additional models will be one component of ongoing learning and engagement that will inform strategies for inclusive universal child care. These findings will allow government to consider a variety of approaches and potentially a blending of different models.
- **Concern that they were not consulted prior to the launch of the pilot.** Government had a small window of opportunity to try out some new policy approaches on a small scale. Representatives from SCD and ASCD programs will be engaged in developing the evaluation approach and in interpreting the findings of the evaluation.
- **Concern about how the pilot will impact families.** Government is committed to working directly with SCD programs to ensure that a child's level of service is not reduced and that the transition in and out of the pilot is as smooth as possible. The evaluation of the models will include the perception and experiences of families.

NEXT STEPS:

- MCFD is moving forward with piloting additional models of inclusive child care in a sampling of Prototype sites. An evaluation of these additional models as well as the current SCD and ASCD program models will one component of ongoing learning and engagement that will inform strategies for inclusive universal child care.
- MCFD is convening an Inclusive Child Care Reference Group, which will inform planning for inclusive child care more broadly. SCD and ASCD regional advisors will be represented, as well as the BCACDI and the Kids Can't Wait Steering Committee.

ATTACHMENTS:

A. Q&A

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s.16;s.13