

## **Childcare BC New Spaces Fund**

### **FAQ – *for Minister's use***

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Updated: July 12, 2019

#### **Top messages:**

- Public sector organizations, Indigenous Governments, and non-profit societies can now access more money to create child care spaces through the Childcare BC New Spaces Fund.
- The 2019/20 Childcare BC New Spaces Fund has tripled the funding maximums for these groups—up to \$3 million per facility for public sector organizations and Indigenous Governments, and up to \$1.5. million for non-profit societies.
- We're making this change to recognize that in many communities, high capital costs can be a barrier to creating child care spaces.
- By increasing funding maximums, more communities can access the Childcare BC New Spaces Fund, and more families will benefit from access to licensed child care

#### **1. Why is the Province prioritizing the public sector and Indigenous Governments?**

- We know that child care is not a one-size fits all model, and that each family has unique needs.
- That's why the Childcare BC plan provides funding to a diverse array of providers to build more spaces, including public sector organizations, Indigenous Governments, non-profit societies, and businesses or incorporated companies.
- We're working to engage all areas of the child care sector to build spaces to meet the needs of families in B.C.
- The public sector has untapped capacity to create stable, long-term child care spaces in communities throughout B.C.

#### **2. Why is more funding available to the public and non-profit societies than to the private-sector providers?**

- We know that B.C.'s child care system is diverse, and supporting all types of providers helps make life better for families.
- That's why we've ensured public sector, non-profit societies, and for-profit organizations are eligible to apply for funding through this program.
- More funding is available to public sector and non-profit societies because they will build assets that will remain publicly or community-owned.

#### **3. Why is the Province focused on building new child care spaces when we won't be able to staff them?**

- The Province is aware of the challenges in child care in terms of unaffordability, shortage of spaces, and lack of qualified Early Childhood Educators to support the system.
- That's why the 10-year Childcare BC plan has initiatives for each of these areas, including plans to recruit and retain ECEs into the system and improve compensation in the sector.

- Child care spaces take time to create—especially stable, long-term spaces requiring capital investment—and we’re acting now with programs like the New Spaces Fund.
- Support for Early Childhood Educator recruitment and retention is embedded in the Childcare BC New Spaces Fund application.

**4. I have already successfully applied for the Childcare BC New Spaces Fund at the lower funding amount. Can I receive more money now that the funding maximum has increased?**

- The Ministry will review requests for additional funding from organizations that have applied under the previous thresholds on a case by case basis.
- If an organization would like to discuss their previous application, I encourage them to contact the program staff within the Ministry.

**Follow-up: What if we’ve already spent some of the funding provided?**

- Organizations with specific questions about their funding and the New Spaces Fund program changes should contact Ministry staff.
- Staff will discuss their Agreement directly with them.

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