

Early Learning and Child Care Action Plan

Virtual Discussion

April 2023

Dear Chief, Council and Early Learning and Child Care Professionals:

The Ministry of Education and Child Care is developing a 2023 – 2026 Action Plan for the [Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement \(CW-ELCC\)](#). This Action Plan will outline the key goals and initiatives to support quality, affordable, accessible and inclusive early learning and child care in B.C., including priorities for First Nations early learning and child care. To date, the CW-ELCC Agreement has supported First Nations-led early learning and child care through:

- The expansion of the Aboriginal Head Start program in partnership with the First Nations Health Authority providing no-fee, culturally based child care to over 720 First Nations families through federal and provincial funding,
- The creation of approx. 2000 licensed child care spaces through the New Spaces Fund, and
- First Nations Early Learning and Child Care Grants to support First Nations distinct early learning and child care needs (in progress).

You are invited to participate in an upcoming virtual discussion to share your priorities for First Nations-led early learning and child care programs and services and to inform the planning of future conversations. Ministry staff will briefly share information about the CW-ELCC Agreement and then participants will be invited to join small group discussions to share what they would like to see reflected in the Action Plan.

If you or anyone in your community are interested in attending, please register for one of the discussion sessions by **Monday, April 17, 2023**. These sessions will be the same, so please select the session date that works best for you.

Register for a discussion:

- **Tuesday, April 18 at 11:30am -1:00pm** — [Register via Zoom](#)
- **Wednesday, April 19 at 1:30pm – 3:00pm** — [Register via Zoom](#)
- **Wednesday, April 19 at 6:00pm – 7:30pm** — [Register via Zoom](#)

Once you have registered via one of the links above, you will receive a confirmation email from Zoom with the link to join the session. If you require any accommodations or support with technology for this meeting, please let us know. We also welcome written feedback via email if you are unable to attend one of the sessions. The two primary questions we will be discussing during the session are:

1. What your priorities are for early learning and child care in your community and what is needed to support those priorities?
2. How would you like to be engaged on child care going forward?

Supporting First Nations children and their families is at the heart of our work in ChildCareBC. We know there is much work ahead to ensure that every family who needs or wants child care has access to safe, culturally appropriate, and inclusive care. This is part of our commitment to working with First Nations communities towards lasting and meaningful reconciliation. We hope that you will be able to participate in this important discussion and thank you in advance for your time.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to reach out.



ChildCareBC

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