

# INFO

## FIRST NATIONS EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE UPCOMING FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

August 2019



*“To support the development of high quality, culturally appropriate, sustainable programs, services and supports for children and families through ongoing community engagement, collaborations, partnerships and coordinated approaches to planning, implementation and governance.”*

BC First Nations  
ELCC Framework –  
Draft Mission  
Statement

### Update: Planning for the Children

Nations across BC are having success engaging with their communities, developing a vision, and identifying ways to support early learning and child care (ELCC).

As communities come together to find their vision, the feeling of unity can be inspiring. Bringing that vision to reality is an important step to take as a community.

When the community is united for the children, there is a reason to do the hard work. Sharing conversations to find solutions moves ELCC forward, and it also brings healing.

When asked about her planning process, Lisa Sambo, Director of N’Quatqua Child and Family Development Centre, shared:

*“Values and vision are the medicine to help us work through the hard part. When we have these tools, we are more brave. If we have each other, then it’s easier.”*

### A 10-Year Commitment to First Nations

The BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (BCACCS) has been mandated by the First Nations Leadership Council to be the regional coordinating structure for the implementation of the First Nations ELCC Framework in BC.

The Framework, which was co-developed by the Assembly of First Nations and the government of Canada, is part of a 10-year \$1.1 billion investment by Canada to support quality improvements and access to ELCC services by First Nations families. Under the Framework, BC First Nations will receive \$8.9 million annually starting in 2018-19 in new investments to support the goals of the Framework.

This fall, BCACCS will be releasing several streams of funding:

- Community-Led Development and Planning Funding
- First Nations Wage Enhancement Funding
- Minor Capital Funding
- Service Funding



BC **Aboriginal  
Child Care** Society



### Community-Led Development and Planning Funding

In March 2019, communities across BC received a \$15,000 Community-Led Development and Planning Grant. The intention was to engage communities to imagine a better future for young children and their families, and support them to create an action plan to achieve their vision. Many communities had great success and have requested additional funding to make their action plans a reality, have deeper conversations, and engage the gifts of community members.

### First Nations Wage Enhancement (FNWE) Funding

FNWE Funding was developed to enhance wages for certified Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) working in First Nations communities in licensed and un-licensed ELCC programs. Now entering its second year, FNWE Funding will be disbursed bi-annually. Eligibility covers a range of certification types to bring ECEs closer to the wage benchmarks as determined by our initial research of wages in First Nations' ELCC programs in BC.

### Minor Capital Funding

Minor Capital Funding is for renovation and improvements of buildings, equipment and outdoor play spaces. Eligible projects might include:

- Repairs or renovations to a roof, heating system, windows, or other building improvements
- Playground equipment or improvements
- Large appliances, like dishwashers or stoves
- Computer equipment and technology

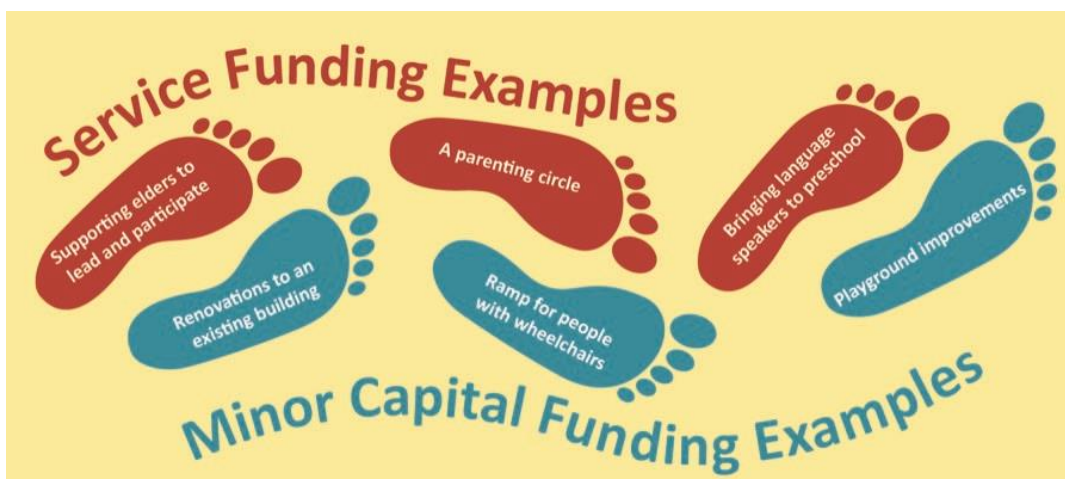


### Service Funding

Service Funding focuses on developing, enhancing, and delivering ELCC programs, services, and activities.

Eligible projects might include:

- Innovative land-based learning programs
- Strengthening or enhancing language and cultural programming (people, resources, equipment)
- Enhancing child health and safety (indoor and outdoor equipment or furnishings)
- Strengthening cultural leadership (wages for Elders, language speakers, and other cultural staff)
- Supporting children and families with extra support needs (child assessments, expressive art therapy; wages for occupational therapists or speech and language pathologists)
- Parent support programs



Community-Led Vision for ELCC