



BC Budget encouraging but lacks transparency about additional spending in child care

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COAST SALISH TERRITORY/ VANCOUVER – The BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (BCACCS) welcomes the 2019 BC Budget’s continued and much needed investments in early learning and child care.

BCACCS congratulates the BC government for the enormous steps taken forward in the 2018 budget of making the largest investment in child care in BC’s history and their dedication to carrying out their promises throughout the fiscal year. This shows a commitment and acknowledgement of the importance of the early learning and child care that had previously been lacking.

While the 2019 BC Budget raises investment in child care by a \$9-million-per-year increase and extends the funding for the plan into the 2021-22, there is a worry that the focus of this extra money will be on programs similar to last year (e.g. child-care fee-reduction initiative, maintenance fund, startup grants, and affordable child-care benefit) that focused on fee cost reduction and child care space increases. Although these are important pieces of the system, if more isn’t done to support the people that work in this sector there could be dire consequences.

Without an increase of qualified early childhood education professionals, the maintenance of quality spaces will get increasingly more difficult. Without the resources to provide culturally relevant, spiritually enriching programs we lose the ability to immerse our children in our culture, language, and retain quality of early learning and child care programs for our communities.

“In 2019, the International Year of Indigenous Languages; we hope that some of the additional \$9-million-per-year will be used to support early years professionals’ wage equality, language revitalization, and Indigenous self-determination about early learning and child care in our communities,” said Karen Isaac, BCACCS Executive Director.

We know BC has committed to work in partnership with Indigenous communities to create a joint vision of reconciliation and all provincial ministers have been tasked with finding ways to implement the calls to action. BCACCS looks forward to working together to help them achieve these goals and support Indigenous peoples to determine and develop their own priorities and strategies in the early learning and child care field and BC First Nations early Learning and Child Care Framework.

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BCACCS is committed to nurturing excellence through community outreach, education, research, and advocacy to ensure every Aboriginal child in BC has access to spiritually enriching, culturally relevant, high quality early learning and child care services. [Link to BCACCS website](#)

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