



Budget continues to support a positive trend for Indigenous children and families

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COAST SALISH TERRITORY/ VANCOUVER – The BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (BCACCS) welcomes the federal government’s 2019 budget plan to spend \$4.5 billion over the next five years to lessen the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people as part of a plan to support Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action.

BCACCS is optimistic that almost a quarter (in new spending) over five years, of a total budget of \$20 billion was earmarked for Indigenous investment.

The \$333.7 million earmarked for helping to revitalize Indigenous languages over the next five years, supports legislation introduced in February and will help prevent the extinction of the remaining Indigenous languages in Canada. “Our languages are deeply entwined with the fabric of our cultures and spiritual identities. They help our children know their communities, grow strong, support well-being, and give them a strong sense of pride,” said Karen Isaac, BCACCS Executive Director. A commitment by the federal government to this is most welcome, especially in the designated Year of Indigenous Languages by the United Nations.

We applaud the pledge of \$1.2 billion over three years to develop a long-term approach for services for First Nations children and continue the implementation of Jordan's Principle, but worry that Bill C-92, *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis children, youth and families*, does not seem to have any designated funds to support it.

Though the commitment of up to \$1.7 billion over 10 years to strengthen early learning and child care programs and services for Indigenous children and families still stands from 2018-19. We are concerned that no additional funding has been added to this area to ensure that the money gets to communities as quickly as possible and is shared in ways that continue to support self-determination.

We look forward to creating a shared path forward for Indigenous early learning and child care. We will continue to work with First Nation leadership, provincial and federal governments, and Indigenous early childhood educators and their communities to support capacity building, positive structural and systems changes and ensure Indigenous children, their families, cultures and nations, continue to thrive.

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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 childhood development and care services. [Link to BCACCS website](#)

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