



## BC Budget short on details about child care spending

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 25, 2020

**COAST SALISH TERRITORY/ VANCOUVER** – Steps taken by the BC government in the last year show an acknowledgement of the importance of early learning and child care for society, the economy and for families.

BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (BCACCS) applauds the continued commitment in the 2020 BC Budget to make investments in BC child care for the upcoming fiscal year; \$1.4 billion for Childcare BC for total investment in child care programs of \$2 billion across three years. However, there is concern where the investment will be focused especially if it continues to be on fee cost reduction and child care space increases.

Though there has been some initiative to help support wages, more is required to be done to engage the interest of young people searching for a career and to support the people that work in this sector already. It will not be possible to staff the spaces that are being created without a further dedicated investment to increase the number of qualified early childhood education professionals and retain those already working in the field.

“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,” said Karen Isaac, BCACCS Executive Director.

We appreciate the steps BC has taken to commit to work in partnership with Indigenous communities. Though details are not clear, BCACCS looks forward to working together to further the effort to ensure Indigenous peoples 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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