



## **A federal budget that invests in the needs of Indigenous families and communities**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 21, 2021

**COAST SALISH TERRITORY/ VANCOUVER** – The BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (BCACCS) welcomes the federal government’s 2021 budget plan to spend a proposed investment of \$2.5 billion over the next five years to continue progress towards an early learning and child care system that meets the needs of Indigenous families, wherever they live.

“BCACCS is pleased to see that the 2021 budget builds on the Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care (IELCC) Framework and acknowledges that early learning and child care programs designed by and with Indigenous families and communities give Indigenous children the best start in life, lessen the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, and support Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action,” said Karen Isaac, BCACCS Executive Director.

With monies designated to offer more flexible and full-time hours of care as well as build, train and retain a skilled workforce BCACCS can see that the federal government has understood the importance of treating early childhood educators as the professionals they are.

It is clear to see that quality and access are also being acknowledged as important in the government’s commitment to create up to 3,300 new spaces, fund after-school care, and make dollars available to repair, renovate, build or maintain Indigenous early learning and child care centres.

Mary Teegee, BCACCS Board President said, “It will be a significant step for government to enshrine the principles of a Canada-wide child care system in law and ensure the IELCC Framework is committed to. We look forward to supporting the consultation efforts and witnessing as history is made.”

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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