



# IELCC in BC: 2022-2023 Annual Report

**Prepared by the BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (IELCC TI Agreement CRF: 016648065)  
Prepared for the First Nations Leadership Council**

## **Background/Context**

The First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) - comprised of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, BC Assembly of First Nations and the First Nations Summit - mandated the BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (BCACCS) to lead the 2017 regional engagement work, and ultimately to serve as the Regional First Nations ELCC Coordinating Structure for the development and implementation of the First Nations IELCC Framework in BC. As such, BCACCS’s mandate includes regional coordination, community engagement, leadership, policy development support, research, partnership development, and accountability for key deliverables.

In November 2019, Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) and BCACCS finalized the IELCC Transformation Initiative Agreement number CRF: 016648065, outlining key terms, activities, and deliverables. Since that time, BCACCS has worked with FNLC, First Nations across the region, Indigenous organizations and stakeholders, and both federal and provincial governments to (a) implement the ongoing investment of resources, (b) apply the learning from previous years, and (c) respond to emerging opportunities. This report provides a brief overview of progress on key investments, activities, milestones, and accountabilities for 2022-2023.

## **INVESTMENTS**

Since 2019, IELCC investments have been designed to respond to the three key pillars in the IELCC (First Nations) Framework: Access, Capacity, and Quality<sup>1</sup>.

**ACCESS:**  
Increasing access of Indigenous families to quality IELCC services and supports

**CAPACITY:**  
Increasing the capacity of the IELCC sector, including leaders and practitioners

**QUALITY:**  
Increasing the quality of IELCC services and supports

FY 2022-2023 was the **fourth full year of implementing** the *IELCC Investment Strategy in BC*, and maintained many of the previous years’ investment approaches, balancing the ongoing need to simultaneously develop relationships, policies, and systems, providing the foundation upon which this 10+ year transformation initiative will grow. This approach takes time and resources, and is fundamentally necessary *“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 – Mission Statement).

<sup>1</sup> Further outlined in *BCACCS Elements of Quality Child Care from the Perspectives of Aboriginal Peoples in British Columbia* [BCACCS, 2005].

**Budget**

**Table 1: IELCC Budget for FY 2022-2023**

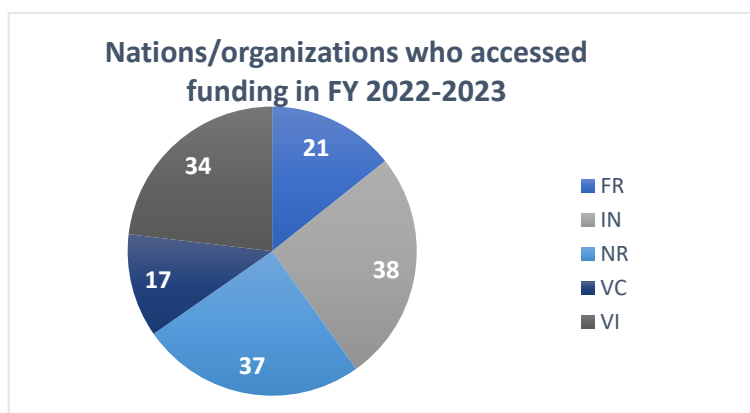
Budget 2022-2023		
Funds available for use FY 2022-2023		
Carry-forward from 2021-2022	\$ 20,384,757.95	
Allocation received 2022-2023	\$ 28,415,709.00	Received March 2023
<b>Total available funds</b>	<b>\$ 48,800,466.95</b>	
Funds invested/spent FY 2022-2023		
Community funding	\$ 8,008,104.81	
Community engagement & governance	\$ 110,793.54	
BCACCS admin costs	\$ 1,432,746.77	
<b>Total funds invested/spent</b>	<b>\$ 9,551,645.12</b>	
<b>Balance to be carried forward for use in FY 2023-2024</b>	<b>\$39,248,821.83</b>	

**Communities accessing funding**

The primary flow of IELCC funding is through direct-to-community investments. The IELCC team actively seeks to connect with all First Nations communities across BC, with staff located in each region. In FY 2022-2023, 147 Nations/organizations accessed IELCC funding. This is an 11% decrease from the previous year, when 165 Nations/organizations accessed IELCC funding. Analysis is ongoing to understand the decreased access to IELCC funding, but anecdotal information suggests that the difference is primarily due to an exceptionally high uptake of IELCC funding in FY 2021-2022 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and struggles to achieve sufficient capacity to interact with funders (and therefore access funding), particularly as communities respond to health and climate crises (COVID-19 and other viral infections, wildfires, flooding, etc.).

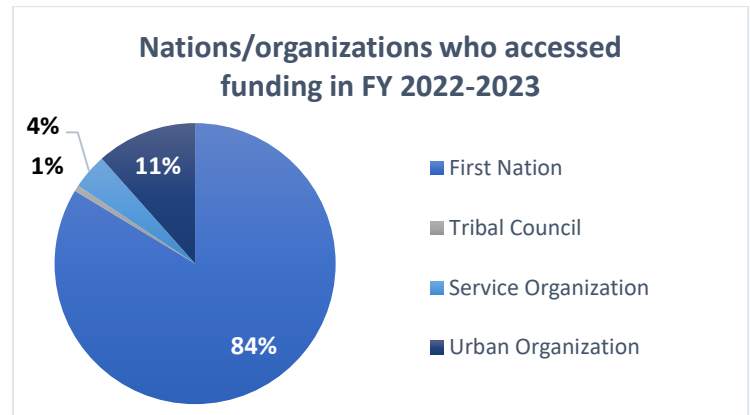
**Table 2: Analysis of communities accessing funding: by region**

Region	Nations/organizations who accessed funding in FY 2022-2023
FR	21
IN	38
NR	37
VC	17
VI	34
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>147</b>



**Table 3: Analysis of communities accessing funding: by organizational type**

Organization type	Nations/organizations who accessed funding in FY 2022-2023
First Nation	123
Tribal Council	1
Service Organization	6
Urban Organization	17
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>147</b>



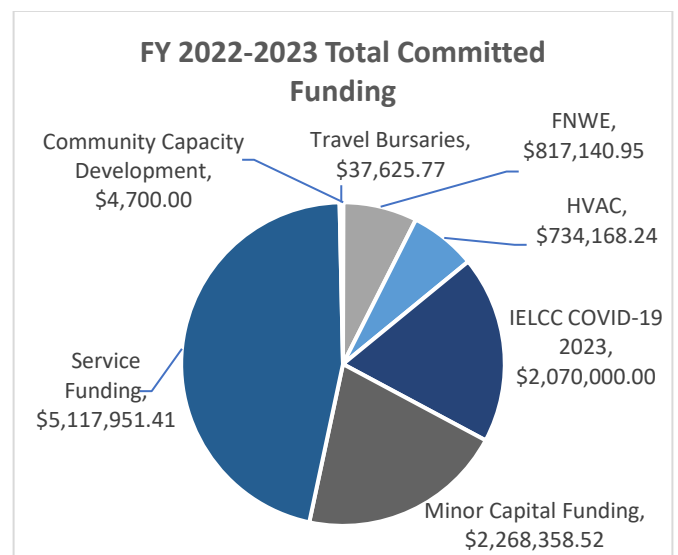
**Funding commitments**

In FY 2022-2023, a total of \$11,049,944.89 was committed to Nations/organizations through seven funding streams (368 funding requests), as detailed below.

Funding flows to community through a needs-based model; communities submit funding applications to achieve their vision for early learning and child care. Funding applications are reviewed to ensure alignment with the goals of the IELCC Framework and the terms of the IELCC Transformation Initiative Contribution Agreement. Strong support throughout the funding process is offered by the IELCC Transformation Initiative team at BCACCS, with 1-2 staff dedicated to supporting communities in each region to access funding. This approach seeks to prioritize communities with limited capacity to access funding and realize their IELCC goals.

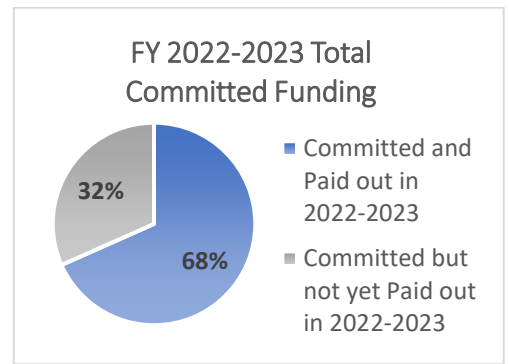
**Table 4: Committed funding for FY 2022-2023, by funding stream**

Funding Type	Committed Funding	Requests Processed
Community Capacity Development	\$ 4,700.00	1
FNWE	\$ 817,140.95	95
HVAC	\$ 734,168.24	52
IELCC COVID-19 2023	\$ 2,070,000.00	138
Minor Capital Funding	\$ 2,268,358.52	22
Service Funding	\$ 5,117,951.41	44
Travel Bursaries	\$ 37,625.77	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 11,049,944.89</b>	<b>368</b>

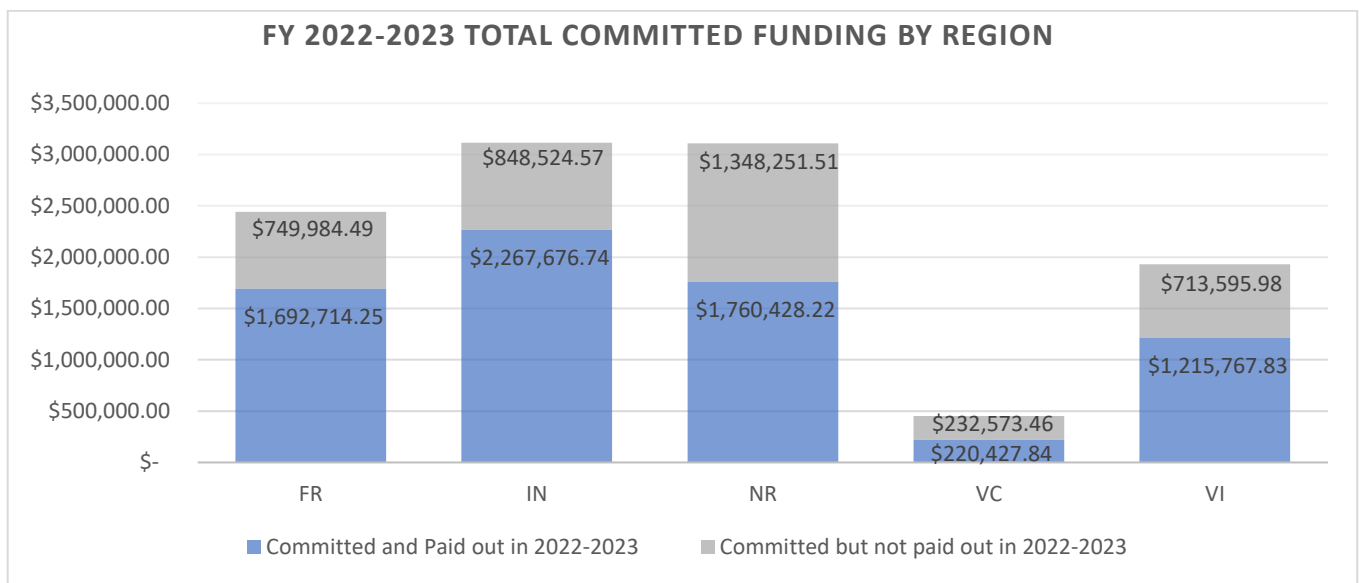


**Table 5: Committed funding for FY 2022-2023, with break-down by region and payment status**

Region	Committed and paid out in 2022-2023	Committed but not paid out in 2022-2023*	Total committed
FR	\$ 1,692,714.25	\$ 749,984.49	\$ 2,442,698.74
IN	\$ 2,267,676.74	\$ 848,524.57	\$ 3,116,201.31
NR	\$ 1,760,428.22	\$ 1,348,251.51	\$ 3,108,679.73
VC	\$ 220,427.84	\$ 232,573.46	\$ 453,001.30
VI	\$ 1,215,767.83	\$ 713,595.98	\$ 1,929,363.81
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 7,157,014.88</b>	<b>\$ 3,892,930.01</b>	<b>\$ 11,049,944.89</b>



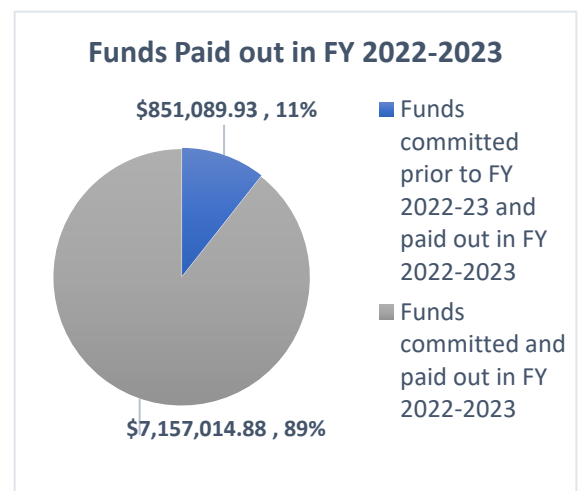
\* Funds not yet paid out are expected to be disbursed in FY 2023-2024, upon completion of request processing and/or report processing.



**Funding Disbursements**

Total community funding paid out in FY 2022-2023 (\$8,008,104.81) includes funding that was committed in previous fiscal years, as shown at right. Two main factors cause funding to be disbursed across multiple fiscal years. (1) BCACCS maintains a “rolling” request intake, so requests are received and processed throughout the year. This means that funds can be committed in one fiscal year, and paid out in a subsequent fiscal year. This approach provides the most supportive approach for First Nations, as they do not need to submit funding requests according to rigid deadlines. (2) Payment of community funding streams is typically disbursed in 2-3 payments. The first payment is disbursed after the funding request is processed, while subsequent payments are disbursed after progress reports are submitted and processed.

**Graph A: Funds paid out in FY 2022-2023**



**Funding streams**

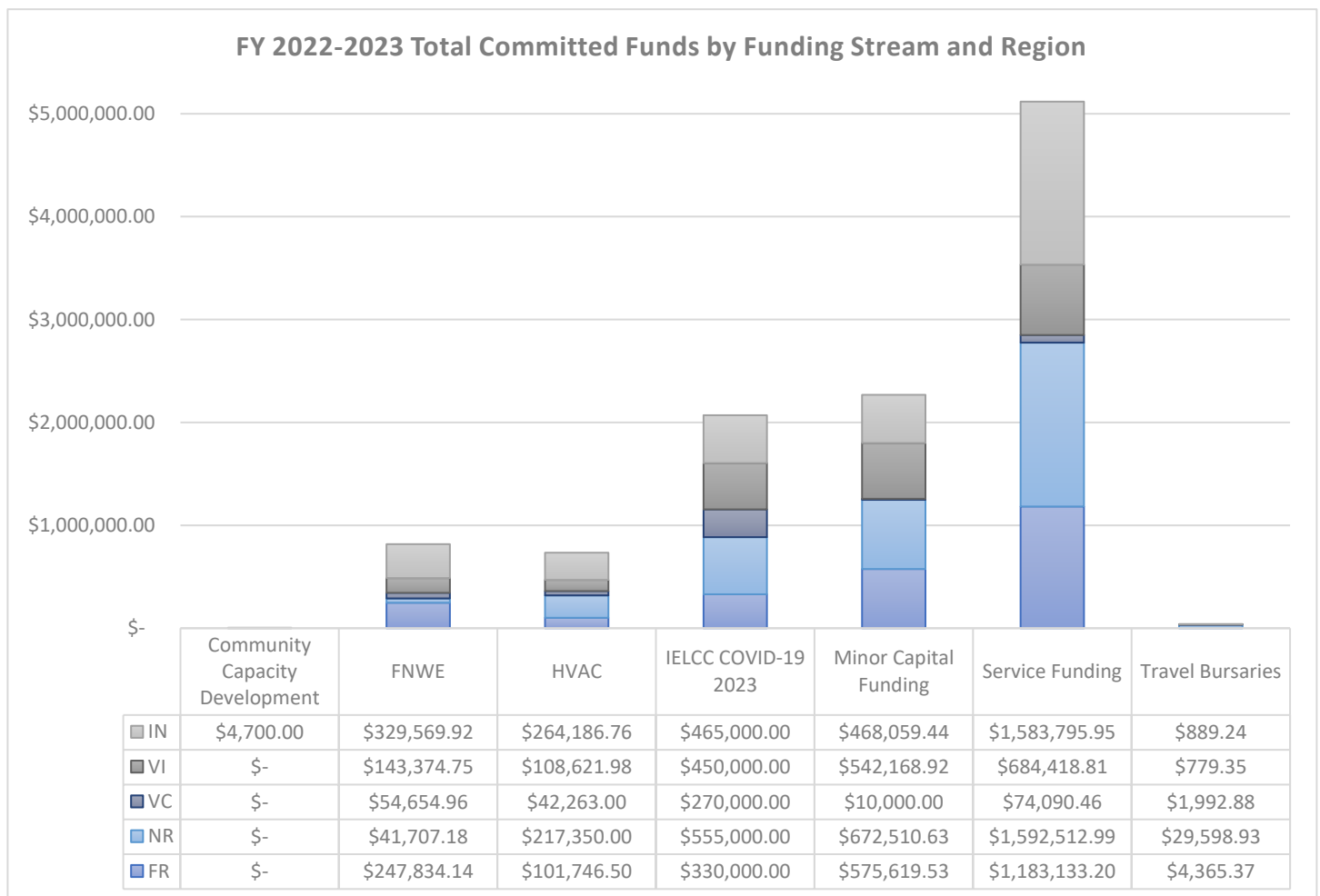
In FY 2022-2023, direct-to-community funding flowed through seven primary funding streams:

- 1) Community Capacity Development Funding
- 2) First Nations ECE Wage Enhancement (FNWE) Funding
- 3) Air Quality (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning [HVAC] improvements)
- 4) Ongoing COVID-19 Response (“IELCC COVID-19 2023”)
- 5) Minor Capital Funding for IELCC (“Minor Capital”)
- 6) IELCC Service Development and Enhancement Funding (“Service Funding”)
- 7) Travel Bursaries

Note that further details on each funding stream is provided in later sections in this report.

In total across all funding streams, \$11,049,944.89 was committed in direct-to-community investments for ELCC supports. The graph below details funding commitments by funding stream and by region.

**Graph B: Total committed funds in FY 2022-2023, by funding stream and region**



## 1. **Community Capacity Development Funding (Capacity):**

This funding stream allows provision of both funding and direct supports to First Nations communities as they undertake planning, whether to develop ELCC programs, services, and/or supports for their community, or to enhance and/or expand existing ELCC programs, services, and/or supports. Communities can undertake planning themselves (through the activities of community champions, staff, and/or the hiring of consultants), with the assistance of BCACCS staff and/or consultants, or through a combination of models.

**Table 6: Community Capacity Development funding requests and investments in FY 2022-2023**

<b>Capacity Funding – Requests and investments</b>				
<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Requests processed</b>	<b>Children served</b>	<b>Total investment</b>	<b>Total disbursed</b>
2022-2023	1	<i>No data – indirect impact</i>	\$ 4,700.00	\$ 4,700.00

## 2. **First Nations ECE Wage Enhancement Funding (FNWE):**

FNWE Funding seeks to enhance the wages of certified early childhood educators (ECEs) and assistants (ECEAs) to support the recruitment and retention of these valuable staff. While the first year of FNWE funding had a defined application intake period (intake closed on March 4, 2019), in consideration of the hardships experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic, BCACCS continues to process applications for previous years (many Nations were unable to submit necessary information for the calculation of the wage enhancement as they responded to COVID-19). Therefore, the numbers below show historic data as well as data specifically for funding allocated in FY 2022-2023.

**Table 7: Requests received, requests processed, and investments made in FY 2022-2023**

<b>FNWE Funding – Requests and investments</b>						
<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>FY 2022-2023</b>			<b>To date</b>		
	<b>Requests received</b>	<b>Requests processed</b>	<b>Investments</b>	<b>Requests received</b>	<b>Requests processed</b>	<b>Investments</b>
2018-19 (full year)	0	0	-	98	98	\$1,528,200.70
2019-20 (P1: April - September)	1	2	\$5,940.00	83	82	\$860,063.77
2019-20 (P2: October - March)	3	4	\$17,950.40	76	74	\$ 766,697.12
2020-21 (P1: April - September)	8	15	\$100,926.13	63	58	\$ 523,609.61
2020-21 (P2: October - March)	18	22	\$235,992.67	52	45	\$ 455,087.81
2021-22 (P1: April - September)	30	30	\$289,168.89	37	30	\$ 289,168.89
2021-22 (P2: October - March)	32	22	\$167,162.86	33	22	\$ 167,162.86
2022-23 (P1: April - September)	12	0	-	12	0	-
2022-23 (P2: October - March)	<i>Application intake opens after this reporting period</i>					

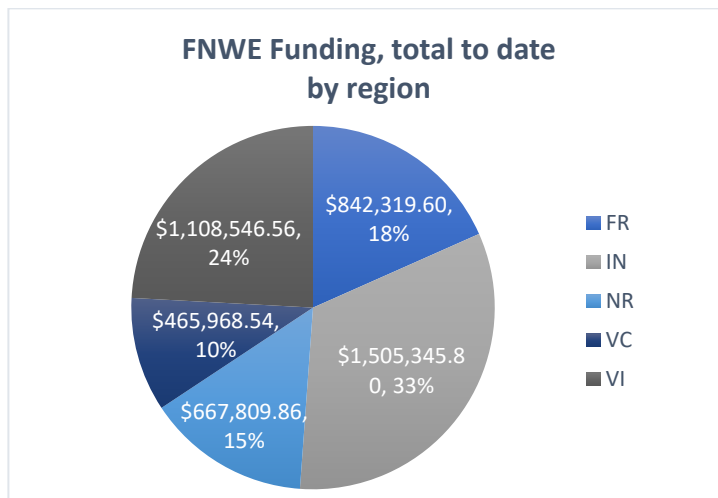
Processing of FNWE applications continues to be dynamic; the graph above includes both the number of requests received as well as the number of requests fully processed. Many communities did not submit FNWE applications during the first two years of the COVID-19 pandemic (communities' interest waned for funding intended to support anything other than COVID-response activities, and multiple funding options became available to support staff wages in the form of pandemic pay). As a result, communities

are now catching up on historic applications. The table above illustrates this; for example, at the time of reporting, 22 requests had been processed for October 2021 – March 2022, while another 10 requests have been received and processing is underway. Further analysis of the drivers behind the uptake of FNWE funding are underway.

Graph C: FNWE investments to date by region

As of March 31, 2023, a total investment to date of **\$4,589,990.36\*** has been allocated through the FNWE funding stream, across all regions.

\*Note that this figure includes investments from April 1, 2018 – March 31, 2023, as communities are able to request retroactive funds for most previous FNWE periods.



**Table 8: Educators and children supported through FNWE funding in FY 2022-2023**

FNWE Funding – Educators and children supported						
Fiscal Year	FY 2022-2023			To date		
	Educators supported	Children enrolled	Children on waitlist	Educators supported	Children enrolled	Children on waitlist
2018-19	-	-	-	464	*	*
2019-20 (P1: April - September)	2	91	25	423	2770	1032
2019-20 (P2: October - March)	8	129	32	392	2590	1050
2020-21 (P1: April - September)	69	424	166	315	1850	860
2020-21 (P2: October - March)	123	994	348	260	1661	800
2021-22 (P1: April - September)	185	1065	629	185	1065	629
2021-22 (P2: October - March)	125	719	444	125	719	444
2022-23 (P1: April - September)	-	-	-	-	-	-
2022-23 (P2: October - March)	<i>Application intake open after this reporting period</i>					

\* Data analysis on children enrolled/on waitlist is not available for this period.

### 3. IELCC Minor Capital Funding (Minor Capital):

Funding flowed through the Minor Capital stream is used for projects such as playground installation/repairs/renovations, covering walkways to prevent snow/ice build-up in the winter, raising buildings to prevent flood damage, installing doors with crash-bars, adapting washrooms to better suit small children and those with diverse needs, etc.

In consideration of the sharp rise in inflation, the maximum request amount per community was increased in FY 2022-2023 from \$175,000 to \$200,000. While this change was implemented July 12, 2022, it was back-dated to April 2022; BCACCS staff worked with communities that had submitted funding requests between April and July to ensure that additional funds were available to complete Minor Capital Funding initiatives if needed.

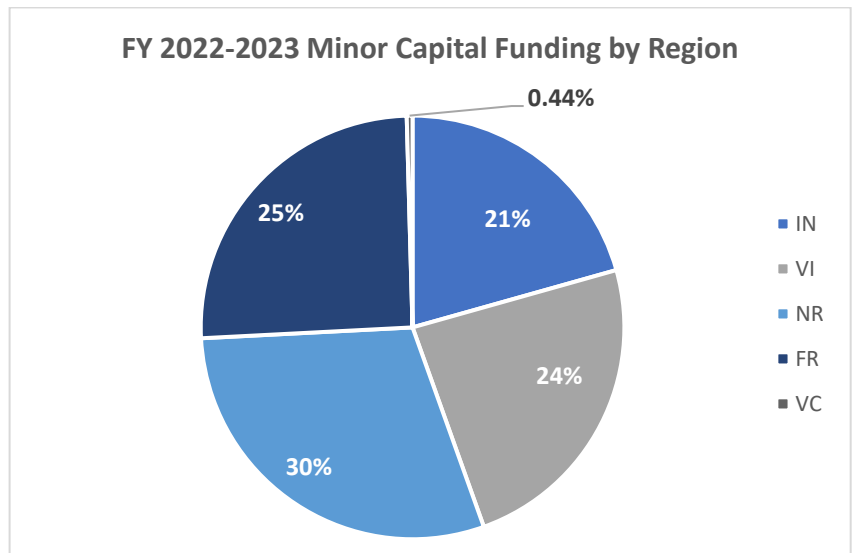
**Table 9: Minor Capital funding requests and investments in FY 2022-2023**

Minor Capital – Requests and investments							
Fiscal Year	Requests processed	Requests that increase Access	Requests that increase Capacity	Requests that increase Quality	Children served	Total investment	Total disbursed
2019-2020	0	0	0	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
2020-2021	17	5	4	17	459	\$1,618,807.56	\$1,543,954.10*
2021-2022	10	5	5	8	394	\$926,718.57	\$926,718.57
2022-2023	22	6	5	13	779	\$2,268,358.52	\$2,030,028.00*

\* Funds not yet paid out are expected to be disbursed in FY 2023-2024, upon completion of request processing and/or report processing.

#### Graph D: Minor Capital investments by region

In FY 2022-2023, **\$2,268,358.52** has been invested through the Minor Capital funding stream, across all regions.





4. **IELCC Service Development and Enhancement Funding (Service):**

Funding flowed through the Service stream supports a broad range of approaches implemented by communities as they offer ELCC services. One community may use funding to focus primarily on their goal to increase the use of traditional language in their program through the involvement of Elders and the development of curriculum and/or books, and to share cultural knowledge by organizing land-based ELCC trips. Another community may access the same funding stream to replenish learning materials and toys in their preschool, offer a hot breakfast and lunch program, and provide professional development training for their staff. Still another community may use funding to first engage in community planning, and then seek further Service Funding to staff an outreach program in response to the community’s vision.

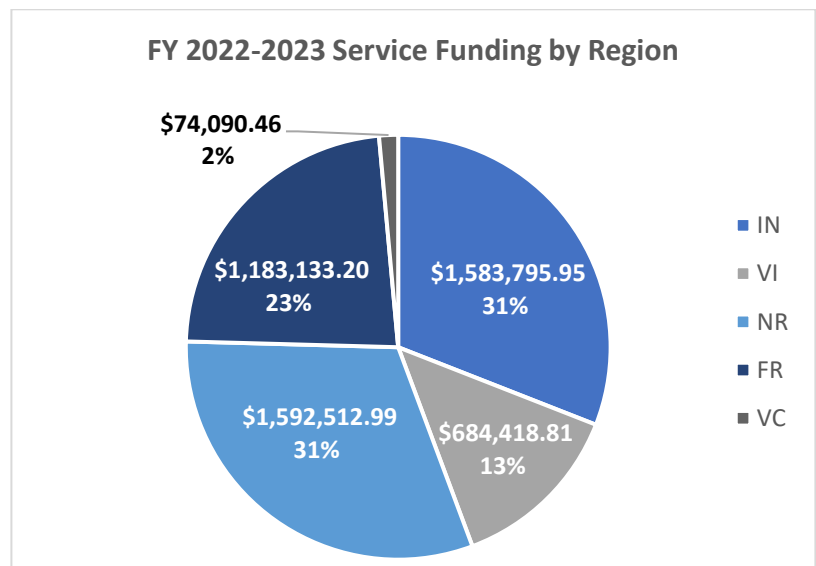
Table 10: Service funding requests and investments in FY 2022-2023

Service Funding – Requests and investments							
Fiscal Year	Requests processed	Requests that increase Access	Requests that increase Capacity	Requests that increase Quality	Children served	Total investment	Total disbursed
2019-2020	4	10	10	10	25	\$568,313.33	\$556,464.30*
2020-2021	15	11	7	15	460	\$1,511,396.64	\$1,503,167.24*
2021-2022	10	6	7	9	300	\$1,067,785.43	\$996,869.07*
2022-2023	44	19	21	26	2441	\$5,117,951.41	\$3,650,880.95*

\* Funds not yet paid out are expected to be disbursed in FY 2023-2024, upon completion of request processing and/or report processing.

Graph E: Service funding investments by region

In FY 2022-2023, **\$5,117,951.41** has been invested through the Service funding stream, across all regions.



5. **Ongoing Pandemic Response Funding** (COVID 2023):

Funding flowed through the COVID 2023 stream supports pandemic response activities to keep ELCC services available during outbreaks, to prevent virus transmission, and to provide extra supports to children and families as they navigate times of heightened stress and uncertainty. Examples of activities include: enhanced cleaning; development and implementation of COVID-19 health and safety policies; at-home activity kits; food security packages; modifications for increased outdoor activity; etc.

*\* Note that funding for previous fiscal years was distributed using federal funding from “Canada’s COVID-19 Economic Response Plan – Support for the Re-Opening of the IELCC Sector Funding”, ESDC Funding Agreement #COVID-BCACCS-01. However, that funding was exhausted by the end of FY 2021-2022. Since communities continued to grapple with the ongoing effects of COVID-19 in FY 2022-2023 (the effects of which were amplified by the “triple-demic” of COVID-19, influenza, and respiratory syncytial virus [RSV]), additional funding was allocated from the IELCC Transformation Initiative funding agreement and is reported below.*

**Table 11: Pandemic-response funding requests and investments in FY 2022-2023**

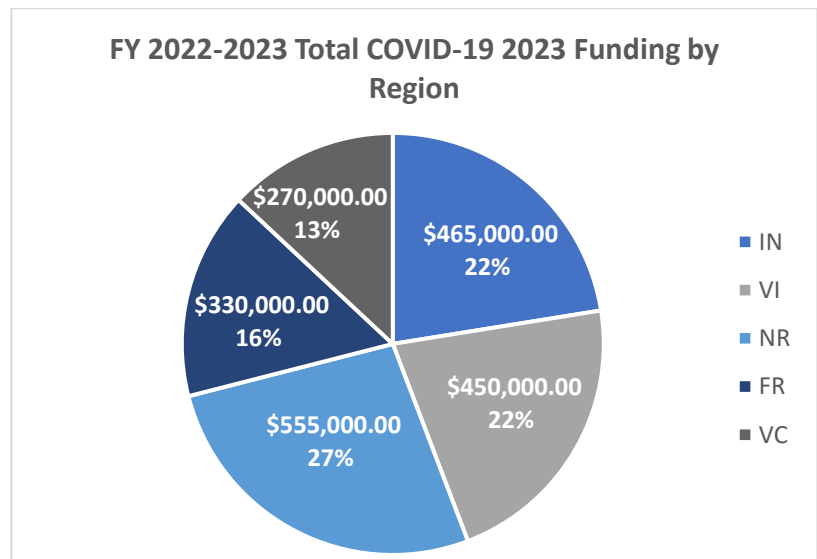
COVID 2023 Funding – Requests and investments				
Fiscal Year	Requests processed	Children served	Total investment	Total disbursed
2022-2023	138	- *	\$2,070,000.00	\$1,395,000.00**

*\* Children served by this funding stream will not be known until Nations/organizations begin to report on use of funding in Fall 2023.*

*\*\* Funds not yet paid out are expected to be disbursed in FY 2023-2024, upon completion of request processing and/or report processing.*

**Graph F: COVID 2023 funding investments by region**

In FY 2022-2023, **\$2,070,000.00** has been invested through the COVID 2023 funding stream, across all regions.



6. **Funding for HVAC Servicing (HVAC):**

This funding stream allows provision both of funding and direct supports to First Nations communities as they undertake assessment, installation, upgrades, repairs, and/or maintenance of their heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems. Communities can undertake these activities themselves (through the hiring of HVAC servicing contractors, the purchase of air purifiers, etc.) or work with the consultants and contractors hired directly by BCACCS to complete the work and/or provide HVAC products.

Funding request intake began on September 15, 2022 and is ongoing.

**Table 12: HVAC funding requests and investments in FY 2022-2023**

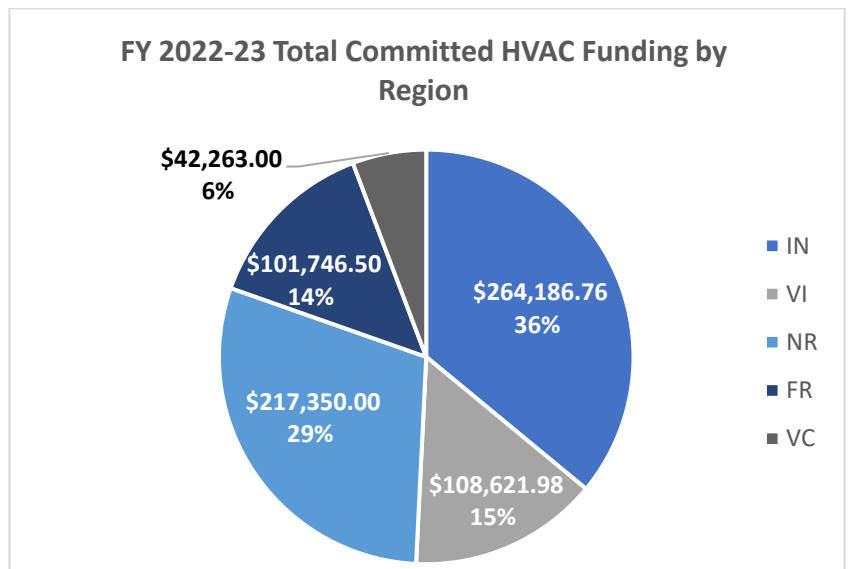
HVAC Funding – Requests and investments				
Fiscal Year	Requests processed	Children served	Total investment	Total disbursed
2022-2023	52	*	\$734,168.24	\$82,205.41**

\* Data is not collected for this funding stream.

\*\* Funds not yet paid out are expected to be disbursed in FY 2023-2024, upon completion of request processing and/or report processing.

**Graph G: HVAC funding investments by region**

In FY 2022-2023, **\$734,168.24** has been invested through the HVAC funding stream, across all regions.



### 7. Travel Bursaries:

This funding stream provides reimbursement to communities for travel costs related to IELCC activities. This includes meals, transportation (mileage costs, flights, ferries, etc.), as well as accommodations when overnight stays are required. Travel bursaries are offered to communities that experience significant barriers to attend in-person capacity-building activities (usually professional development opportunities) and meetings with members of the IELCC team and/or BCACCS consultants to discuss funding opportunities and/or to undertake ELCC planning.

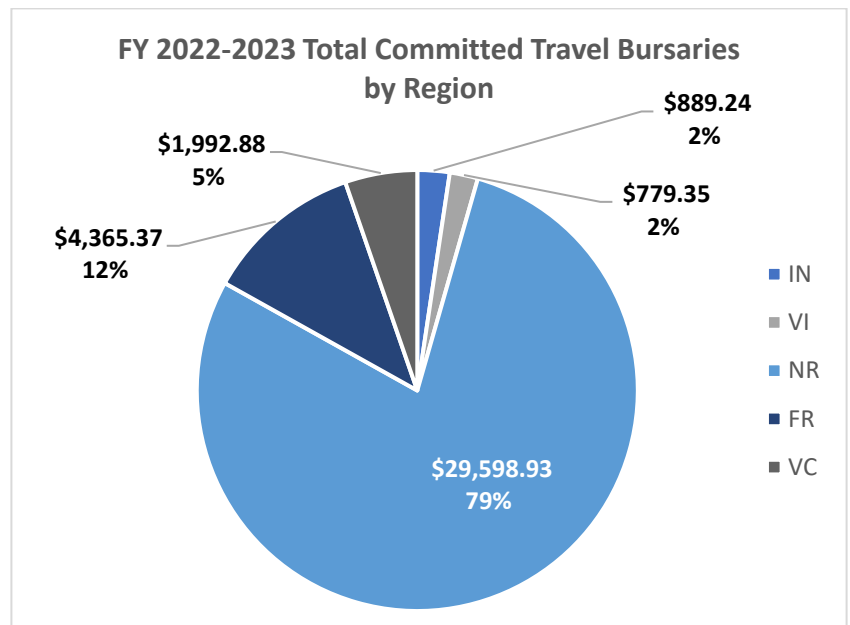
**Table 13: Travel bursary requests and investments in FY 2022-2023**

Travel Bursaries – Requests and investments				
Fiscal Year	Requests processed	Children served	Total investment	Total disbursed
2022-2023	17	No data – indirect impact	\$37,625.77	\$35,892.17*

\* Funds not yet paid out are expected to be disbursed in FY 2023-2024, upon completion of request processing and/or report processing.

#### Graph H – Travel Bursaries investments by region

In FY 2022-2023, **\$37,625.77** has been invested through the Travel Bursaries funding stream, across all regions.



## 8. IELCC Entry to Practice:

In recognition of the significant barriers experienced by communities in recruiting, training, retaining, and developing leadership of early childhood educators, BCACCS is establishing a partnership with Nicola Valley Institute of Technology (NVIT). This collaboration seeks to:

- a) Enhance NVIT's capacity to deliver education and training for early years' educators;
- b) Identify barriers experienced by communities/students when seeking to access education and training, and provide support to reduce/eliminate barriers;
- c) Develop an Indigenous Early Childhood Education (IECE) curriculum; and
- d) Advocate with government and other stakeholders to support jurisdiction of First Nations, particularly in relation to IECE training and credentialing.

The following milestones were achieved in FY 2022-2023:

- March 2023: Memorandum of Understanding signed with NVIT
- Funding Agreement drafted (signed and effective in April 2023)

In the first phase of this collaborative partnership, NVIT was supported to hire a full time ECE faculty lead, work with a group of IELCC leaders to develop and finalize the second year of their program (moving closer to the establishment of an Indigenous ECE Diploma), and identify four communities to work with in the development of specialized supports for recruitment, retention, and leadership development. This collaboration with NVIT will expand to include more communities in 2023-24, and BCACCS also anticipates expanding the initiative to include other post-secondary institutions, beginning in late FY 2023-2024.

### New funding streams

BCACCS continues to assess areas of unmet need, and to develop funding streams and other resources to support the IELCC sector. Of particular note, sharp increases of inflation rates combined with supply chain issues in FY 2022-2023 contributed to exceptional strains on ELCC programs and the families of young children.

While BCACCS continues to explore the needs of ELCC programs and services being offered by First Nations across BC, there is a well-recognized gap in funding for programs funded through the *First Nations and Inuit Child Care Initiative* (FNICCI), as funding allocations have not been revised since they were first implemented. Therefore, BCACCS has developed a pilot program for an **Operations Funding for IELCC** funding stream to provide immediate support to FNICCI sites (invitations to access the pilot program funding were sent beginning February 17, 2023). Work to develop this funding stream is ongoing, including potential expansion of the pilot program which may include multi-year funding.

BCACCS has also begun work to develop two significant new funding streams that will support IELCC capital projects:

#### 1. Capital Funding - New Builds

Planning is underway to support allocation of \$1.25 million in the IELCC FY 2023-2024 budget, and \$5 million in the IELCC FY 2024-2025 budget. This could support Nations to rebuild after wildfire/flood

devastation, and/or Nations to undertake small builds (including modular designs) for new ELCC services/programs.

## 2. Capital Funding - Existing Builds

Planning is underway to support allocation of \$4 million in the IELCC FY 2023-2024 budget, and \$6 million in the IELCC FY 2024-2025 budget. This could support up to 15-25 Nations (roughly \$250,000 each) to undertake repairs, retrofits, upgrades, and maintenance of existing ELCC capital.

To undertake planning for these new funding streams, BCACCS contracted Urban Matters CCC to facilitate several needs assessment workshops with a variety of IELCC stakeholders, and to draft a funding policy. As of March 24, 2023, Urban Matters had submitted the needs assessment report, which identified key themes for consideration in the new capital funding policy, lessons learned from other funders' application processes, fundamental decision-making principles, and potential approaches to increase collaboration between funders. The work will continue in FY 2023-2024, with the funding policy draft expected to be complete by May 2023.

## ACTIVITIES

### Community engagement

To support the investments outlined above (both established and developing), BCACCS staff engage with First Nations communities in multiple ways, as noted in the tables following. However, it must be noted that the impact of COVID-19 on the ability to connect with communities (and therefore communities' access to funding) was significant. Well into FY 2022-2023, many First Nations communities were still responding to the effects of COVID-19, including through lockdowns/social distancing which made it impossible to meet in person. The loss of community members (to COVID-19 and otherwise) was particularly harrowing, and the losses also affected the flow of IELCC funding to communities. Day-to-day IELCC funding operations were adjusted as community members required more time and support to access funding. Occasionally, those tragically lost to COVID-19 were integral to the early learning and child care program operations and/or the flow of IELCC funding.

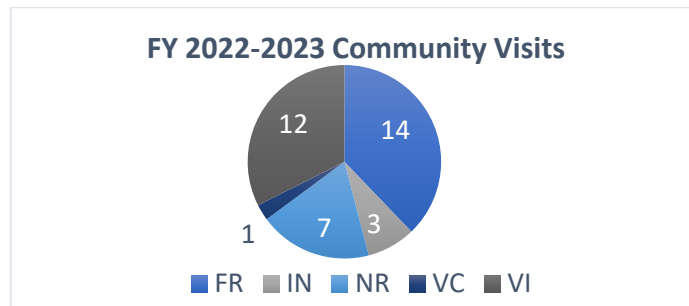
Where in-person connections were impossible, two areas of particular importance for IELCC funding were hampered:

- BCACCS staff were not able to meet in person with community members to support submission of funding requests, an impact which disproportionately affected those communities needing the greatest amount of help.
- Communities were not able to bring their Councils together to discuss and sign off on funding agreement resolutions, which caused exceptionally long delays in accessing IELCC funding.

While some communities continued to exercise COVID-19 precautions, many resumed relatively normal operations in FY 2022-2023. The IELCC team was able to complete the first community visit since the onset of COVID-19 on June 16, 2022 (Vancouver Island).

**Table 14: Community visits completed in FY 2022-2023**

Region	Number of community visits
FR	14
IN	3
NR	7
VC	1
VI	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>37</b>

**Table 15: In-person info sessions and regional gatherings completed in FY 2022-2023**

In-person info sessions / gatherings	Date	Attendance
Northern gathering	September 13-15, 2022	9 people attended, representing 6 communities
Workshop on Community Planning	September 28, 2022	13 people attended, representing 8 communities
BCACCS Fall Training Conference	September 29 – October 1, 2022	General conference attendance: over 200 in-person and 200 virtual
Carrier Sekani Child and Family Symposium	October 6, 2022	Data unavailable
North Vancouver Island gathering	October 6, 2022	4 communities attended in person, 2 attended virtually: 6 people total

**Table 16: Virtual information sessions in FY 2022-2023**

Virtual info sessions hosted	Date	Attendance
Service Funding Town Hall	July 28, 2022	20 people attended, representing more than 16 Nations/organizations
Community Planning Town Hall	September 20, 2022	10 Nations attended
Minor Capital Town Hall	November 17, 2022	42 people attended (2 were noted to be from Nations that had not previously accessed IELCC funding)
COVID 2023 Info Session	February 9, 2023	42 people attended
Operations Funding – Pilot (Info Session #1)	March 15, 2023	3 people attended (only 13 sites invited to attend)
Operations Funding – Pilot (Info Session #2)	March 23, 2023	5 people attended (only 13 sites invited to attend)

**Table 17: Leadership and partnership engagements in FY 2022-2023**

Leadership / partnership engagements	Date
Hosted IELCC Secretariat Director of Implementation at BCACCS office	October 26, 2022
All Chiefs' Meeting: <i>Jurisdiction over our children</i>	November 24-25, 2022
First Nations' Leadership Gathering	November 28-30, 2022
National Expert Working Group in Montreal	February 22-23, 2023

### **Nations' reporting**

As part of our commitment to transparency and effective resource allocation, we request semi-annual reports (due May 15 and November 15 each year) from all Nations and organizations that receive IELCC funding. Reporting documentation continues to evolve as we implement best practices and new funding streams.

#### Spring reports:

- a) Due: May 15, 2022
- b) 158 reports were due.
- c) 127 reports were submitted and processed (80% of those due).

#### Autumn reports:

- a) Due: November 15, 2022
- b) 51 reports were due.
- c) 39 reports were submitted and processed (76% of those due).

#### Interim reports:

- a) Due: Various dates
- b) Interim reports are not required; they are offered as an option for those Nations that have made progress more quickly than expected. Reporting early (before semi-annual reports are due) allows the Nations/organizations to access subsequent payments faster than if they waited to report according to the semi-annual schedule.
- c) 3 reports were due.
- d) 3 reports were submitted and processed (100%).

#### Follow-up reports:

- a) Due: Various dates
- b) Follow-up reports are required from any Nations/organizations that were unable to fully expend payments received in previous periods.
- c) 28 reports were due.
- d) 18 reports were submitted and processed (64%).



## Governance and jurisdiction

In addition to the areas of investment outlined above, BCACCS staff and contractors were actively involved in work related to governance and jurisdiction in First Nations Early Learning and Child Care.

During this time, BCACCS supported key First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) staff in two key pieces of work:

- a. **Bi-Lateral Dialogue with Government of BC**, addressing request for guidance/direction on ELCC funding, key consultation planning (including on regulatory amendments) and engagement strategies
- b. **Tri-Lateral Dialogue with Governments of Canada and BC**, advancing work on the development of a Memorandum of Understanding. Work on this MOU has been ongoing since December 2020, and is anticipated to be completed by Fall 2024. It is hoped that this trilateral MOU will set a course for more coordinated, aligned, and/or integrated planning and funding processes that better support First Nations.

## Organizational capacity building

To support the scope of the *IELCC Transformation Initiative* work, BCACCS has required significant organizational growth; recruitment is ongoing for roles that will directly implement program activities and for roles that will provide administrative support to ensure smooth funding flows.

## Moving Forward in 2023-2024

Funding amounts allocated under the IELCC Transformation Initiative contribution agreement have increased since it came into effect in April 2019, and the vision for the transformative work has likewise expanded. While a detailed operating plan has also been provided, highlights of key priorities for FY 2023-2024 include:

- Continue to flow ongoing funding streams (FNWE, Minor Capital, Service, ongoing pandemic support if needed, Community Capacity Development, HVAC Servicing, travel bursaries)
- Develop new funding streams and adjust current funding in response (as needed)
  - Entry to practice: continue to build on FY 2022-2023 achievements with NVIT, and explore expansion of model to other post-secondary institutions
  - Operations funding: begin to flow funding to pilot sites and expand model to include (1) full scope of operations needs and (2) additional sites
  - Capital funding: engage further with First Nations' leadership to determine capital funding priorities, finalize funding policy, develop and begin to implement mechanisms to flow funding for new builds and major repairs, renovations, and upgrades
- Increases to organizational capacity to allow more responsive and supportive engagement with communities accessing funding (particularly for the new Capital funding stream) and (2) to undertake research and policy work for ongoing implementation of the IELCC Framework and for strategic approaches to First Nations' governance and jurisdiction of the well-being and education of young children

- Development of a data and evaluation strategy
- Increased engagement of First Nations' leadership, communities, and sectoral stakeholders:
  - Leadership Forum planning (for next forum to be held in May 2024)
  - Information sessions to promote access to funding opportunities
  - Information gathering from communities accessing fundings
  - Regional engagement sessions to promote information sharing between communities to build upon best practices and increase funding access
- Governance and jurisdiction
  - Exploring ways to strengthen First Nations leadership around governance and jurisdiction of the well-being and education of young children
  - Working with First Nations' leaders, sectoral consultants, and legal counsel to understand the scope, create space for dialogue, and develop resources