

Premier John Horgan
PO Box 9041 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

Dear Premier Horgan,

I am an early childhood educator (ECE), urging you to take immediate action to raise the starting ECE wage to at least \$26/hour as recommended in the recent report *Next Step: A Competitive, Publicly-Funded Provincial Wage Grid is the Solution to BC's ECE Shortage*.

As you have publicly acknowledged, everyone now understands the importance of child care. As we learn more about the disproportionately negative impacts of the pandemic on women, it is clear that child care is essential to an effective economic recovery strategy. And, fairly-paid ECEs are essential to child care!

With extraordinary levels of public support - and new federal recovery funding for child care available - now is the time to take bold steps to build the quality, universal child care system that families need, with the fair wages that ECEs deserve.

With new public funding in place, BC can lower parent fees to a maximum of \$10aDay in more programs, while implementing the provincial ECE wage grid.

\$10aDay child care will be life changing for families in our community as it has been for families fortunate enough to already participate in \$10aDay prototypes across BC. It will make it possible for parents to return to work, create jobs and stimulate our local economy.

Raising ECE wages now will recognize our essential work and accelerate our province's economic recovery.

We have strong foundations to help us move forward. Building on the existing ECE wage enhancement, and learning from other sectors, we can achieve your government's commitment to compensating ECEs appropriately for their work.

ECEs and the children and families they support cannot wait.

Yours truly,

Name

City or Town of Residence