

Dear Child Care Stakeholder,

The Childcare BC New Spaces Fund replaces the Child Care Major Capital Funding program, although similarities remain in that the new funding program will continue to fund the building of new child care facilities, along with renovations that add new child care spaces to existing facilities.

The Childcare BC New Spaces Fund will support the creation of 22,000 new licensed child care spaces in B.C. with an investment of \$221 million over three years. This marks the single-largest investment to improve child care accessibility in B.C. history.

The available funding is significantly larger than the previous Major Capital Fund.

Other highlights of the new program include:

- An application process that is open year-round, based on availability of funds within a fiscal year.
- Priority on applications creating licensed infant and toddler and group 3-5 spaces, and child care spaces in underserved and vulnerable communities.
- A requirement for funding recipients to commit to deliver affordable child care.
- Higher maximum funding amounts, including up to \$1 million for public sector/non-profit partnerships.

Maximum funding amounts available include:

- Up to \$1 million per facility to public sector partnerships with non-profit child care providers,
- Up to \$500,000 per facility to school boards, Indigenous communities, Child Development Centres, and not-for-profit child care providers, and
- Up to \$250,000 per facility to private child care providers.

As the new program builds momentum and applications are submitted — especially those involving public-sector partnerships — it is anticipated that the Childcare BC New Spaces Fund will be vital in supporting the creation of a universal, quality, accessible and affordable child care system in B.C.

To learn more about the Childcare BC New Spaces Fund, including how to apply, funding guidelines and FAQs, visit [www.gov.bc.ca/childcare/newspacesfund](http://www.gov.bc.ca/childcare/newspacesfund).

Please note that we have scheduled an informational call for interested applicants on July 16, 2018 from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. To participate, call 1-877-353-9184 and use passcode 41532# to listen in and ask your questions.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan Barry  
Executive Director – Child Care Capital, Community, and ECE Registry Services  
Ministry of Children and Family Development

**From:** BC Liberal Caucus Communications

**Sent:** Friday, July 6, 2018 2:05 PM

**Subject:** News Release: Government scales back child care promise by millions

### **Government scales back child care promise by millions**

CHILLIWACK (July 6, 2018) – The government is renegeing on its 2018 budget promise of \$237 million over three years to fund the Child Care Major Capital Funding Program less than six months after it was announced by finance minister Carole James.

“There is less money here,” said Chilliwack-Kent MLA Laurie Throness. “In today’s announcement, the newly-labelled Childcare New Spaces BC Fund offers just \$221 million. This is worse than mere window dressing; the government is taking away the curtains.”

“I am deeply concerned about the government’s sudden change of priorities,” Throness added. “Under the government’s new plan, market-based child care providers may apply for funding, but are eligible for four times less money than nonprofits; \$250,000 compared to \$1 million. Market-based providers make up about 80 per cent of all providers in B.C. The government is literally taking gas out of the engine of growth in child care spaces.”

“What’s even more troubling is those providers who don’t opt in to the government’s fee reduction plan are not eligible at all. The government is sending a message: toe the government line, or get nothing,” said Throness. “Market-based groups are far down the priority list. Those few lucky enough to receive a capital grant must contribute 25 per cent. Nonprofits will get a million bucks while contributing nothing.

Throness, Official Opposition Critic for Childcare also added: “In every way, this announcement reinforces the government’s intention to discourage market-based providers from entering the field of child care. This is a big public policy mistake. Worst of all, this does nothing to address the shortage of early childhood educators in the province.”

-30 -

Contact:

Rebecca Scott  
BC Liberal Caucus Communications  
(604) 202-5251