

Minister responds "Services will continue..." [CA-BC] ^[1]

Letter to the Editor

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AVAILABILITY

See text below.

EXCERPTS

I feel it's important to correct inaccurate information that appeared in the Jan. 24 edition of the Gazette regarding the province's commitment to childcare - and the status of the Child Care Resource and Referral Program.

Families should know that the province is not reducing its contribution to childcare funding. Rather, as a result of a challenge we have been presented with, we are refocusing those dollars to ensure programs that support our most vulnerable children and families are maintained.

As a result, resource and referral services will be impacted but, contrary to what appeared in the Gazette, these services will continue to exist but will be delivered in a different way.

The challenge I refer to is the result of Ottawa's decision to cancel the Early Learning and Child Care Agreement which represents a loss of \$455 million to the province over the next three years.

...

We have committed to maintaining the childcare subsidy that supports about 25,000 low- and middle-income families, an annual investment of \$126 million. We have also committed to maintaining supported child development that allows about 5,500 special needs children in this province participate in childcare settings, an annual investment of \$54 million.

Childcare operating funding which goes to licensed childcare providers will revert to 2005 levels. This represents a rate change which on average, will be about \$2 per day per child, or about \$40 per month. The expectation is that any increase parents may see will be offset by the \$100 Universal Child Benefit that they are now seeing on a monthly basis to support their child care needs.

With respect to childcare resource and referral services, there will be a significant change to the current program.

I understand the nature of the support that this program currently provides and want to ensure we can still provide these services, but in a different way.

As a result, over the coming weeks and months, we will be examining alternative ways of delivering these services.

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- reprinted from the Grand Forks Gazette

Region: Canada ^[2]

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