

British Columbia



PROVINCIAL CONTEXT

Number of children 0-12 years (2007 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0	37,800
1	40,300
2	42,700
3	36,200
4	41,000
5	46,200
6	41,600
7	41,600
8	46,300
9	46,700
10	48,500
11	49,700
12	49,300
Total	567,900

Number of children 0-12 years, aggregated (2007 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0-2	120,800
3-5	123,400
6-12	323,700
Total	567,900

Children 0-14 years identifying with an Aboriginal group (2006)

Age	North American Indian	Métis	Inuit	Multiple	Other	Total
0-4	11,780	3,905	45	125	340	16,195
5-9	12,295	5,155	75	150	325	18,005
10-14	14,020	6,390	115	150	380	21,050
Total	38,095	15,450	235	425	1,045	55,250

Children 0-14 yrs with disabilities (2006)

Age	Number of children with disabilities	Rate of children with disabilities (%)
0-4	3,980	2.0
5-9	9,460	4.4
10-14	13,080	5.2
Total	26,520	4.0

Note: Total may not add up due to rounding.

Number of children 0-12 years with mothers in the paid labour force (2007 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0	21,100
1	21,400
2	26,100
3	22,100
4	24,300
5	28,600
6	26,200
7	26,600
8	31,300
9	30,800
10	33,200
11	34,700
12	32,500
Total	358,700

Number of children 0-12 years with mothers in the paid labour force, aggregated (2007 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0-2	68,600
3-5	75,000
6-12	215,300
Total	358,700

Number of children by marital status of families (2006)

Age	Children in couple families	Children in lone parent families	(with lone mothers)	(with lone fathers)
0-4	172,825	27,100	22,940	4,160
5-9	178,395	39,845	33,130	6,720
10-14	197,290	55,520	45,030	10,495
Total	548,515	122,470	101,105	21,365

Number of children by mother tongue (2006)

Age	English	French	Non-official language
0-4	159,185	905	33,640
5-9	176,415	920	34,430
10-14	205,610	1,140	41,295
Total	541,210	2,965	109,365

Number and percentage of children living in families below the LICO (2006)

Age	Number	Percent (%)
0-2	28,000	21.9
3-5	31,000	25.6
6-12	66,000	21.1
Total	124,000	22.3

Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child (2007 rounded estimate)

Age of youngest child	Number of mothers	Participation rate (%)
0-2	69,200	64.7
3-5	52,700	71.4
6-15	189,000	81.0

FAMILY-RELATED LEAVE

Maternity leave

Seventeen weeks. An additional six weeks is available to the birth mother if she is unable to return to work for health reasons related to the birth or pregnancy.

Parental leave

Thirty-five weeks for birth mothers who have taken maternity leave; must be taken immediately following maternity leave. Thirty-seven weeks for other parent. An additional five weeks is available if the child has a condition requiring additional parental care. Thirty-seven weeks if birth mother has not taken maternity leave; must be taken within 52 weeks of the child's birth.

Adoption leave

Thirty-seven weeks. An additional five weeks is available if the child has a condition requiring additional parental care.

Family-related leave

Five days per year.

Births and EI maternity and parental claims (2007)

Number of births: 43,980

Birth rate per 1,000 population: 10.1

Number of initial maternity claims allowed: 24,870

Average length of maternity claim: 14.6 weeks

Number of parental claims: 27,380

Average length of parental claim: 29.5 weeks

Number of adoptive parent claims: 400

Average length of adoptive claim: 28.6 weeks

Note: Maternity, parental and adoption leaves are determined by provincial and territorial legislation. The federal government pays for up to 15 weeks for maternity leave and 35 weeks for parental and adoptive leave for eligible parents at 55% of earned income to a maximum of \$447/week (2009). See FEDERAL ECEC PROGRAMS for more information.

KINDERGARTEN

KINDERGARTEN LEGISLATION

School Act [R.S.B.C 1996] c.412.

Independent School Act [R.S.B.C. 1996] c. 216.

PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR KINDERGARTEN

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KINDERGARTEN SERVICES

KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten is delivered in public and independent schools: both schools receive public funding.

Kindergarten is available to all five year olds in British Columbia on a part-time basis. There are 2.4 hours of instruction during the day multiplied by the number of instructional days in the standard school calendar for that year.

Access to kindergarten is a legislated entitlement. Parents may choose to defer their child's enrolment in school until the following school year.

AGE ELIGIBILITY

Five years old on the first day of the school year, on or before December 31.

CLASS SIZE

A provincial class size limit is specified in the School Act which sets the maximum average aggregate size for kindergarten at 19 students; no class can exceed 22 students.

Average kindergarten class size in public schools (2007/08)

17.4

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

There is a policy manual covering educational services for children with special needs. Boards of Education are responsible for providing facilities which allow equality of access to educational programs. Some students who are identified as having special education needs are eligible for 950 hours of instruction in kindergarten (full-day), those diagnosed as: dependent handicapped; moderate to profound intellectual disabilities; deaf or hard of hearing; visually impaired; autism spectrum disorder; and/or physically disabled. School Districts are advised to co-ordinate the entry of the child to school and the planning of the kindergarten program with programs that have been offered in the preschool years. In some cases, school districts may elect to contract for services through a preschool or child development centre for some portion of the child's educational program in the kindergarten year.

Children with special needs are typically included in regular kindergarten. Learning Assistance teachers typically provide the major link with support services available at the district level. Some schools combine learning assistance with other special education services to create a Resource Teacher model. Instruction and learning resources are provided in accordance with the student's identified needs on the Individual Education Plan.

The Ministry of Education and Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) share a protocol agreement on shared funding responsibility for children who have delayed kindergarten entry (Supported Child Care Program). When Boards of Education employ highly specialized resource personnel with skills in teaching the deaf, deaf/blind, or visually impaired, local agencies, pre-schools, special needs pre-schools or parents may contract with the school district for the provision of these services to children of pre-school age to prepare them for entry into school.

Number of kindergarten children with identified special needs in public schools only (2007/08):

901 (663 part-day, 238 full-day)

Note: This figure is for public schools only and includes children diagnosed as gifted, physically disabled and with chronic health impairments, intellectually disabled, behavioural needs, physically dependent, deaf-blind, deaf or hard of hearing, visual-impaired and with autism spectrum disorder.

KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENT (2007/08)

Number of children enrolled in public schools: 34,981

Number of children enrolled in independent schools: 5,418

Total enrollment: 40,399

Note: See SPECIAL FEATURES for information about full-time kindergarten.

KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS

Qualification requirements: Kindergarten teachers must have teacher certification. Certification requires a B.Ed. or Bachelor's degree plus post-degree teacher training. There are no ECE requirements.

Responsibility for Certification: British Columbia College of Teachers.

Representation: British Columbia Teachers Federation.

Number of kindergarten teachers: Information not available.

Average salary 2007/08 (K-12): \$63,879.

CLASSROOM ASSISTANTS

Title: Educational Assistants.

Qualifications: Established by Boards of Education.

Role: The policy regarding teaching assistants is a local Board of Education decision; teaching assistants are usually for special needs students.

Representation: Canadian Union for Public Employees (CUPE).

Educational Assistant maximum hourly wage (2007/08): \$25.42.

CURRICULUM

There is a specific provincial curriculum for kindergarten. It is currently attached to the Grade 1 curriculum as a K-Grade 1 curriculum, part of a provincial framework called the Primary Program. It includes prescribed learning outcomes specific to K-Grade 1 for each area of study. (see *Early Learning Framework* under RECENT DEVELOPMENTS).

MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

Curriculum documents offer some guidance to assessment. The BC Performance Standards for reading, writing, numeracy and social responsibility are tools to monitor, assess and evaluate student performance in grades K-10.

SOURCES OF FUNDING FOR KINDERGARTEN

Funding is provided by the province under a block grant system. Districts may increase funding by increasing property tax, but only through referenda (School Act [R.S.B.C 1996] c.112 and 137).

Sources of funding for independent (private) schools: Independent schools receive 50% or 35% of the FTE student grant of the public school district in which the independent school is located. The additional funding comes from school tuition and fundraising.

There are no fees in the public school system for part-day programs. Some Boards of Education offer full-day kindergarten with fees for part of the day (see SPECIAL FEATURES).

PUBLIC SPENDING ON KINDERGARTEN (2007/08)

Average spending for each kindergarten student*

Full-time equivalent	\$5,851
Part-time	2,926

An additional \$1,014 is spent for Aboriginal students in full-time kindergarten and an additional \$507 for Aboriginal students in half-day programs.

Provincial spending on kindergarten

Total spending on part-day kindergarten	\$86,287,623
Total spending on full-time kindergarten	31,782,632
Total provincial spending on kindergarten	118,070,255

* Figures do not include spending on capital, transportation, special needs, Aboriginal education, or ESL.

SPECIAL FEATURES

Full-time kindergarten with additional fees may be available for special populations and in some communities. In 2007/08, there were 5,432 children enrolled in full-time kindergarten in public schools. These include Aboriginal children, children with special needs, English as a Second Language and French as a Second Language. The Ministry provides funding and the Boards of Education determine the details of the program for these children.

The K-Plus Program, offered by the West Vancouver School District, provides families of kindergarten children the choice of an additional half-program that complements the kindergarten program. Parents choose a three-day or five-day option, with monthly fees of \$310 and \$390 respectively. The K-Plus program is taught by teachers. One Educational Assistant is hired to supervise the children over the lunch hour. The K-Plus Program is available in 12 of the district's 14 primary and elementary schools, including one French immersion school. There is a maximum of 17 children at each site.

The Ministry of Education's CommunityLINK program provides funding to Boards of Education for programs that support the academic and social functioning of vulnerable students, including kindergarten students. Typically, Boards of Education use CommunityLINK money to fund nutrition programs, school-based support workers, CommunityLINK schools, and school grants for vulnerable students.

There are several kindergarten or pre-kindergarten initiatives specific to Aboriginal children that have started as a result of Aboriginal education enhancement agreements. These are working agreements between a school district, all local Aboriginal communities, and the Ministry of Education. These agreements are designed to enhance the educational achievement of Aboriginal students. Over two-thirds of school districts in British Columbia have signed agreements.

Early Numeracy Project

In 2006, the Ministry of Education began funding a three-year research initiative called the Early Numeracy Project. The goal of the project was to enhance numeracy learning particularly for those at-risk in the area of mathematics. Assessment guides and instructional materials have been developed and field-tested in many school districts in BC. Four kindergarten-specific tools for teachers have been created through the Early Numeracy Project: Assessing Early Numeracy, Supporting Early Numeracy, Whole Group Follow-up, and Math for Families.

StrongStart BC Early Learning Centres

In 2006, the Province launched the StrongStart centres as part of the government's plan to improve literacy. The purpose of StrongStart BC is to provide school-based, high quality early learning programs for children younger than school age accompanied by a parent or caregiver. StrongStart BC Centres are designed to provide opportunities for parents and caregivers to observe and practice activities that support early learning, and to meet and make connections with other families attending the centre. Qualified early childhood educators lead learning activities, including stories, music, and art to help children get ready for success in kindergarten. In 2007/08, 86 StrongStart BC centres were open across British Columbia.

KINDERGARTEN DEVELOPMENTS

2004 British Columbia initiated the Kindergarten Learning Assessment Project. The aim of this three-year project is to provide early primary teachers an assessment framework and process, along with guidelines and strategies for appropriate instruction and support needed to help each child progress. The research is focused on oral language and social responsibility in early reading, writing and numeracy. A website will be developed in collaboration with LearnNow BC.

2004/05 *Ready, Set, Learn* for three year olds, led by the Ministry of Education in collaboration with the Ministry of Children and Family Development, and the Ministry of Health, was implemented in the school year and continued into 2007/08. Participating schools offer parents or caregivers a kit of materials, including a book for three year olds, and a parent/family kit with a booklet of helpful tips for supporting their preschooler's learning and development.

2006

December The Province launched the StrongStart early learning centres as part of the government's plan to improve literacy. In 2007/08, 86 more centres opened (see SPECIAL FEATURES).

2008 Between April and December of 2008, The Early Childhood Learning Agency carried out a study of the feasibility of full-day kindergarten for five year olds and the possibility of future full-day pre-kindergarten programs for four year olds and three year olds. A report was released in February 2008 but the government announced that the project was on hold.

June The province developed the *Early Learning Framework* which describes the vision, pedagogical principles, and key areas of learning for children birth to five years (before school entry). The framework was developed in partnership with the Ministries of Children and Family Development, Health and Education.

The document was designed to be applicable to all early learning environments, including child care, StrongStart BC programs, and any other preschool and early childhood development or child health program. The framework helps programs build on their strengths and encourages in-depth reflection on their practices and the development of children.

REGULATED CHILD CARE

LEGISLATION

British Columbia. Legislative Assembly. *Community Care and Assisted Living Act*, S.B.C. 2002, Chapter 75; Child Care Licensing Regulation 332/2007, includes amendments to B.C. Reg. 26/2008, February 8, 2008.

Note: Effective May 14, 2004 the Community Care Facility Act was repealed and replaced with the Community Care and Assisted Living Act. The Child Care Licensing Regulation 329/89 was repealed and replaced on November 8, 2007 with Child Care Licensing Regulation 332/2007.

British Columbia. Legislative Assembly. *Child Care Subsidy Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, Chapter 26; Child Care Subsidy Regulation 74/97, includes amendments up to B.C.Reg. 169/2008, June 27, 2008.

British Columbia. Legislative Assembly. *Child Care BC Act*. SBC 2001. Chapter 4.

PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILD CARE

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CHILD CARE SERVICES

UNREGULATED CHILD CARE

Unregulated family child care

Maximum number of children permitted: Two, not including children related to the caregiver. This category is often referred to as “licence-not-required” (LNR).

A registered licence-not-required (RLNR) provider is registered with a Child Care Resource and Referral Program (see OTHER category below for description) and meets the requirements of registration.

REGULATED CHILD CARE

Group child care (under 36 months)

Group care for no more than 13 hours/day for no more than 12 children from birth to 36 months.

Group child care (30 months to school-age)

Group programs for no more than 13 hours/day for no more than 25 children, age 30 months to school age.

Preschool (30 months to school-age)

Group programs that provide child care to preschool children for no more than four hours/day per child for no more than 20 children.

Group child care (school-age)

Care outside school hours, including during school vacations, for children attending school (including kindergarten) for no more than 13 hours/day for no more than 25 children.

Family child care

Care in a private home for no more than seven children, aged birth to 12 years. A family child care provider may care for no more than four children younger than four years of age and no more than two children under two years of age, if the youngest child is older than 12 months. If a child younger than 12 months is present, only three of the seven children may be under four years of age, and only one may be younger than 12 months. Children 12 years or older who are related to the caregiver are not included in this definition.

Occasional child care

Occasional or short-term care for children at least 18 months old for no more than 40 hours in a calendar month to each child. Maximum of 16 children if a child under three years of age is present and a maximum of 20 children if all children are three years of age or older.

Multi-age child care

Group care by an early childhood educator to at least eight children of various ages. No more than three children may be under 36 months.

In-home multi-age child care

Care by an early childhood educator to no more than eight children in the educator’s personal residence. No more than three children may be under 36 months.

Special needs and emergency child care

The categories of special needs day care and emergency care were removed as licensed care types in the Child Care Licensing Regulation, and subsequently from the definition of a “licensed child care setting” in the Child Care Subsidy Regulation. Facilities holding these licences have until November 2009 to obtain a new licence.

Other

Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) programs are provincially funded to provide information, support and training to licensed, RLNR and LNR family child care providers. They provide workshops, networking opportunities, home visits, access to child care resources (equipment, toys, library materials), a registry of child care providers and a referral service for families looking for child care. The registry includes RLNR child care providers who have met the conditions for registration with a CCRR.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

The Supported Child Development Program (SCDP) is intended for children who require extra support to participate in inclusive child care settings. The SCDP supports children from birth to age twelve who have or may be at risk for a developmental delay or disability and require extra support. A developmental delay or disability may affect physical, cognitive, communicative, or social/emotional/behavioural development. Youth 13-18 years of age may also receive SCDP services on a case-by-case basis.

Participation is voluntary and SCDP services are provided at no charge to parents; however, parents are responsible for child care fees.

In 2007/08, 55 community agencies provided SCDP Consultant Services for families and extra support staff for children in child care settings. Twenty Aboriginal SCD programs provided direct services to children and their families, with an additional 35 initiatives in the process of building capacity for future services.

The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) provides a Special Needs Supplement of up to \$150 to assist families eligible for the Child Care Subsidy Program, who have a child with a designated special need, with the costs of child care.

ABORIGINAL CHILD CARE

BC funds and licenses Aboriginal on-reserve and off-reserve child care through the same programs available to other (non-Aboriginal) facilities, parents and providers. There are approximately 98 licensed child care facilities located on-reserve.* The Child Care Operating Funding (CCOF) Program assists eligible Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal child care providers to help meet the day to day costs of providing care, including staff recruitment and retention. The CCOF Program is a general funding program available to all licensed group and family child care providers, including the Aboriginal population.

A number of post-secondary educational institutions have developed training for Aboriginal early childhood educators. The provincial government provides funding to the British Columbia Aboriginal Child Care Society to provide resource and referral services to Aboriginal child care providers. A number of Aboriginal communities work with the Supported Child Development Program to improve access to the program and to build capacity for SCDP programs administered by Aboriginal communities.

** Aboriginal child care spaces are estimated using information from the Annual Child Care Provider Profile Survey and the Child Care Operating Funding (CCOF) Program. This number is only an estimate because some facilities located on-reserve may not have submitted their provider profile surveys in time to be recorded in the provider profile report, while other facilities may not have reported First Nations as their contractor type in the CCOF database.*

SPACE STATISTICS (2007/08)

Number of regulated child care spaces*

Centre-based

Age Group	Full-day	Part-day	Total
Group child care (under 3 years)	4,788	-	4,788
Group child care (30 months-school age)	19,772	-	19,772
Preschool (nursery school)	-	19,910	19,910
School-age	-	28,233	28,233
Emergency care	-	33	33
Special needs	167	-	167
Total centre-based spaces	24,727	48,176	72,903

Family child care spaces 14,635

Total number of regulated child care spaces 87,538

Note: The number of regulated child care spaces in both centres and family child care homes noted above are those that receive Child Care Operating Funding (CCOF). Information on the number of spaces that do not receive CCOF is not available and is not included in the totals.

Other: Registered licence-not-required 1,600 (est.)

Note: A registered licence-not-required (RLNR) provider is registered with a Child Care Resource and Referral Program and must meet specific registration requirement criteria established by the Ministry of Children and Family Development. RLNR child care is not included in the Child Care Licensing Regulation. There were 835 RLNR providers in 2007/08, each with a minimum capacity of 2 children.

Number of children with special needs in regulated child care 9,000

Children receiving fee subsidies 14,922

Note: Average monthly number of children in regulated (registered and licensed) child care receiving subsidies

Note: British Columbia provides fee subsidies for children in both regulated and unregulated child care.

Number of centres and homes***

Total Number of Centres	3,280
Full day (0-3 years; 3-5 years)	1,134
Part-day nursery schools/preschools (30 months – school entry)	1,071
After school programs	1,064
Other (emergency, specialized)	11
Number of CCOF funded and licensed family child care providers	2,125

***Represents number of licensed centres and family homes in receipt of CCOF.

Sponsorship of regulated centre spaces

Non-profit

Age Group	Full-day	Part-day
Group child care (under 36 months)	3,154	-
Group child care 30-months-school age	10,179	-
Preschool	-	11,193
School-age	-	17,723
Emergency care	-	31
Special needs	167	-
Total centre-based nonprofit spaces	13,500	28,947

For-profit

Age Group	Full-day	Part-day
Group child care (under 36 months)	1,634	-
Group child care 30-months-school age	9,593	-
Preschool	-	8,717
School-age	-	10,510
Emergency Care	-	2
Special needs	0	-
Total centre-based for-profit spaces	11,227	19,229

STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

LICENSED CENTRE

Maximum centre size

Not specified

Maximum staff:child ratios and group sizes

Age	Staff:child ratios	Max. group sizes
0-3 years	1:4	12
30 months-school-age	1:8	25
Preschool	1:10	20
School-age	1:10 or 1:15	20-25
Occasional	1:4 or 1:8	16-20
Multi-age	1:8	8

Staff qualification requirements

Staffing requirements are set out in the *Community Care and Assisted Living Act*, Child Care Licensing Regulation. Specific training requirements for staff are outlined below; all staff must be “of good character”. If there are concerns regarding the practice of a licensed Early Childhood Educator, Special Needs Educator, Infant/Toddler Educator or Assistant, the Director of the Early Childhood Educator Registry does have the authority to investigate and take action on a certificate. This can include the placing of terms and conditions, suspension or cancellation.

Early Childhood Educators

There are four categories of Early Childhood Educators/Certificates, each with specific requirements:

- Early childhood educator: requires successful completion of a basic early childhood education training program that is a minimum of 902 hours of instruction and includes training in the areas of: child growth and development; program development, curriculum planning and foundations; family, community resources and communications; health, safety and nutrition; and practicum. This training is to be completed at an approved training institution. In addition, a written reference from an educator and completion of 500 hours of supervised work experience is also required.
- One-year early childhood educator certificate: as above; however there is no requirement to submit a reference or complete 500 hours of work experience. This certificate is only valid for one year and may only be renewed once.

- Infant and toddler educator: must qualify for an early childhood educator certificate and have successfully completed a specialized post-basic program that includes 200 hours of instruction in the areas of: advanced child growth and development; working with infants and toddlers; working with families; administration; advanced health, safety and nutrition; and a 200-hour infant/toddler practicum. This training is to be completed at a training institution approved to offer the post-basic program.
- Special needs early childhood educator: requires completion of the basic early childhood education program that includes 200 hours of instruction in the areas of: advanced child growth and development; working with children with special needs; working with families; administration; advanced health safety and nutrition; and a 200-hour special needs practicum. This training is to be completed at a training institution approved to offer the post-basic program.

Assistant Early Childhood Educators

This category requires successful completion of one course of a basic early childhood education training program from an approved training institution in one of the following three areas: child growth and development, child guidance or health, safety and nutrition.

Responsible Adults

These staff must be at least 19 years of age, able to provide care and mature guidance to children, have completed a course, or a combination of courses, of at least 20 hours duration in child development, guidance, health and safety, or nutrition and have relevant work experience.

Staffing requirements vary by the type of program and the age of the children as follows:

- Group child care, under 36 months:
 - Each group of four or fewer children requires one infant and toddler educator.
 - Each group of five to eight children requires one infant and toddler educator and one early childhood educator.
 - Each group of nine to 12 children requires one infant and toddler educator, one early childhood educator and one assistant.

- Group child care, 30 months to school age:
 - Each group of eight or fewer children requires one early childhood educator.
 - Each group of nine to 16 children requires one early childhood educator and one assistant.
 - Each group of 17 to 25 children requires one early childhood educator and two assistants.
- Preschool, 30 months to school age:
 - Each group of 10 or fewer children requires one early childhood educator.
 - Each group of 11 to 20 children requires one early childhood educator and one assistant (some exceptions apply where there is an approved parent education program). Parent education programs are approved by the local Medical Health Officer and may incorporate workshops or courses that the parent would be required to complete prior to working with the children, in areas such as guidance and discipline, health safety nutrition, programming and development.
- Group child care (school-age):
 - If a child in kindergarten or Grade 1 is present, each group of 10 or fewer children requires one responsible adult, and each group of 11-20 children requires two responsible adults. If no children in kindergarten or Grade 1 are present, each group of 15 or fewer children requires one responsible adult and each group of 16-25 children requires two responsible adults.
- Family child care
 - If any child younger than 12 months old is present, a responsible adult may care for seven or fewer children in a personal residence, having no more than three children younger than 48 months old and, of those three, no more than one child younger than 12 months.
 - If no child younger than 12 months old is present, a responsible adult may care for seven or fewer children in a personal residence, having no more than four children younger than 48 months old, and of those four, no more than two children younger than 24 months old.
- Occasional child care
 - If any child younger than 36 months old is present, each group of four or fewer children requires one responsible adult. Each group of 5-8 requires two responsible adults. Each group of 9-12 requires three responsible adults. Each group of 13-16 requires four responsible adults.

- If no child younger than 36 months old is present, each group of eight or fewer requires one responsible adult. Each group of 9-16 requires two responsible adults. Each group of 17-20 requires three responsible adults.

- Multi-Age care
 - Each group of eight children requires one early childhood educator. No more than three children in each group may be younger than 36 months old and no more than one child may be younger than 12 months old.
- In-Home Multi-Age care
 - An early childhood educator (the licensee) may care for no more than eight children in his or her personal residence, and no more than three of those children may be younger than 36 months old. No more than one child may be younger than 12 months old.

The process for assessing out-of-province credentials is dependent upon where the training and/or certification were completed.

If an applicant has been certified in Alberta, the applicant needs to forward an original or certified true copy of his or her transcript to the Registry. If the applicant is applying for his or her infant/toddler licence in BC, he or she must also submit a letter from the training institution attesting to the completion of an infant and toddler practicum. The applicant must also submit an application form, a valid and approved first aid certificate, proof of completion of the work experience requirement and a character reference letter.

Applicants trained anywhere else in Canada must forward an official transcript from the training institution and have their training institution complete a Program Confirmation form, which outlines the required competencies and instructional hours for licensure. The applicant must also submit the documents noted above.

Applicants trained outside of Canada are required to have their credentials assessed through the International Credential Evaluation Service and then follow the same steps as out-of-province applicants.

Equivalency is based on a review of the course content and instructional hours via a review of a completed Program Confirmation form.

The ECE Registry will not waive qualifications. However, licensing officers do have the authority to grant staffing exemptions to facilities that are not able to recruit fully qualified individuals.

Parent involvement

Not specified.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

The Ministry of Health Services is responsible for the Community Care and Assisted Living Act (CCALA) and the Child Care Licensing Regulation and has overall stewardship for licensing and monitoring child care facilities as well as for developing and amending legislation, regulations and policies for community care licensing programs. The Director of Licensing has statutory powers under the CCALA; however, the day to day monitoring and inspection functions are carried out by the regional Health Authorities, by licensing officers who are delegated to carry out their duties on behalf of medical health officers. Medical health officers have a statutory obligation to investigate all complaints about community care facilities.

The Health Authority Community Care Licensing program issues licences, and assists licensees who are in the process of obtaining a community care licence. Where a licensee does not meet the standards of the Act or the regulation, licensing officers work with the licensee to come into compliance. If needed, licensing officers can also use progressive enforcement mechanisms such as attaching terms and conditions or they can amend, suspend or cancel licences. In all cases, licensees are entitled to due process, which includes a reconsideration and appeal process.

There is no legislated minimum or maximum frequency for monitoring inspections, as the frequency of inspections is based on the level of risk to persons in care. In most health authorities, licensing officers inspect facilities on an annual basis.

LICENSED FAMILY CHILD CARE

Regulation

Individually licensed in accordance with the *Community Care and Assisted Living Act*, Child Care Licensing Regulation.

Maximum capacity

If any child less than 12 months old is present, a responsible adult caring for seven or fewer children in a residence can have no more than three children less than 48 months old and, of those three, no more than one child less than 12 months. If no child younger than 12 months old is present, a responsible adult caring for seven or fewer children in a residence can have no more than four children less than 48 months old, and of those four, no more than two children less than 24 months old.

Provider qualification requirements

Providers must be at least 19 years of age and have a first-aid certificate, be able to provide care and mature guidance to children, and have completed a course or combination of courses, of at least 20 hours in duration in child development, guidance, health and safety or nutrition and have relevant work experience. Providers need not be certified early childhood educators.

A criminal records check must be completed for any person over the age of 12 who will be ordinarily present at the facility.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

Most facilities have an annual licensing visit. An initial inspection by the Fire Marshall's office may be required when a new licensed family child care facility opens.

OTHER

Registered Licence-not-required provider (R/LNR)

License-Not-Required (LNR) child care providers must meet certain requirements and fulfill criteria to be eligible to register with Child Care Resource and Referral, and eligible for the enhanced Child Care Subsidy rate.

Registration is done through individual CCRR offices. CCRR offices determine if LNR providers meet the required conditions and standards to become registered. As part of the registration process, the CCRR must investigate any who previously held a Community Care Facility licence and establish, by proof of documentation, the reason for its cancellation, revocation or suspension. To ensure consistency, CCRRs must use the LNR Standardized forms as part of the registration process.

CCRRs follow the requirements in the Standards Manual for registration, but the process is not legislated. CCRRs will report infractions regarding staff to child ratios to licensing officers.

Conditions for an LNR provider to register with the CCRR include:

- be at least 19 years of age;
- provide care for no more than two children not related to the provider by blood or marriage;
- provide a health reference signed by a registered medical practitioner, stating the person is fit to care for children;
- provide three character references;
- undergo a criminal record check every five years with results indicating no record or outstanding charge relating to a relevant offence;

- complete a standardized *Health and Safety Home Assessment* prior to LNR registration;
- produce a valid First Aid Certificate;
- complete a standardized *Self Evaluation*;
- agree to inform the CCRR of any investigation of the care provider or other members of the household involving child abuse, neglect or significant risk to the health, safety or well-being of children;
- complete, or have completed, at least 20 hours of Good Beginnings or similar introductory level family child care training within one year of becoming registered or in exceptional circumstances, up to two years after registration;
- attend at least two workshops of continuing professional development each year after becoming registered;
- sign a *Commitment and Agreement Form*;
- notify the CCRR of a household move;
- complete and sign the necessary forms for the MCFD Child Care Search Site.

FUNDING

CHILD CARE SUBSIDY PROGRAM

Child care subsidies are paid directly to service providers on behalf of eligible parents except when child care is provided in the child's own home. In this case, the subsidy is paid to the parent who assumes the role of the employer, and is responsible for any required employment-related contributions, such as workers' compensation, CPP and employment insurance contributions, and taxes.

Eligibility is based on income, family size, age of children and the type of care chosen. The family must qualify under the income test and according to one social criterion the parent(s) must be employed or self-employed, looking for work, attending school or taking part in an employment-related training program, have a medical condition that interferes with the parent's ability to care for his or her child; have child care recommended by MCFD under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act*; or the child is attending a licensed preschool). The number of subsidies provided to families is not capped.

Fee subsidies may be used in for-profit, nonprofit, regulated or unregulated child care and preschool. Families who use in-own-home child care may be eligible for subsidy when the caregiver is not a relative who resides with the family.

Child care providers may charge subsidized parents above the maximum subsidy rates. These surcharges may be paid by the government on behalf of the parent if child care is arranged or recommended as part of a risk assessment and written risk reduction plan under the Child, Family and Community Service Act, or the child care is recommended under the Child, Family and Community Service Act for a parent participating in a Young Parent Program.

Eligibility for fee subsidy (net income 2007/08)*

Child care centres

	Turning point	Break-even point
1 parent, 1 child	\$30,984	\$48,984
2 parents, 2 children	35,016	50,256

Family child care

	Turning point	Break-even point
1 parent, 1 child	\$30,984	\$45,384
2 parents, 2 children	35,016	49,416

The turning point is the net income level up to which full subsidy is available. Partial subsidy is available up to the break-even point, at which income subsidy ceases. The turning point and break-even point depend on the type of child care and the age of the child(ren). These figures are for illustrative purposes only.

** Group child care thresholds are based on rates for group child care for children younger than 19 months, while family child care thresholds are based on rates for licensed family child care for children under 19 months. Subsidy thresholds are approximates and will change depending on family size and composition, age of the child, type of care chosen, etc.*

Maximum subsidy by age of child (2007/08)

Type of care	Part-day monthly (4 hrs or less/day, unless both and after school care provided)	Full-day monthly (more than 4 hrs/day or both before and after school care provided)
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Licensed family child care and registered licence-not-required child care

0-18 months	\$300	\$600
19-36 months	300	600
36 months +	275	550
Six years and over	207.50	415

Centre-based

0-18 months	\$375	\$750
19-36 months	317.50	635
36 months +	275	550
Kindergarten	272	340
Six years and over	207.50	415

Care Surrounding School Day*

School Day*	\$170	\$200
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Preschool

Preschool	\$225	—
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Licence-not-required

0-18 months	\$219	\$438
19-36 months	202	404
Over 36 months	177	354

In-child's-home

First child (0-18 mos)	\$197	\$394
First child (over 18 mos)	159	318
Second child (0-18 mos)	99	198
Each additional child	73.50	147

* In January 2007, "Care Surrounding School Day" was added to the Child Care Subsidy Regulation and means "the provision of care, before or after school hours, on days when school is in session, for children attending school, excluding kindergarten." The Child Care Subsidy Regulation was amended to clarify that subsidy rates for Care Surrounding School Days are the same for LNR, RLNR and licensed child care. Subsidy rates for In the Child's Own Home care settings were not affected by this change.

On days that school is not in session, school-age children are subsidized at the "six and over" rate for the relevant type of care.

PUBLIC FUNDING FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE (2007/08)

One-time funding

Major capital funding for the creation of new licensed child care spaces

Child care facilities could obtain up to 75% of eligible costs towards the creation of new group child care spaces in settings other than those listed under targeted settings, or up to 90% for the creation of new spaces in the following targeted settings: Aboriginal Communities on and off reserve, rural communities with a population under 10,000, purpose-built facilities at public or private post-secondary institutions and government buildings.

Nonprofit organizations: up to \$500,000

For-profit organizations: up to \$250,000

For the creation of new child care spaces in schools and public buildings, for nonprofit and private sector organizations

100% funding up to \$50,000 per room, to a maximum of \$250,000 for conversion of existing space in public schools, or in public post-secondary or government buildings;

90% funding up to \$50,000 per room, to a maximum of \$250,000 for conversion of existing space in private schools, or in private post-secondary buildings.

Major capital for the creation of community hubs

100% funding to a maximum of \$250,000 to co-locate family/early childhood development related services with child care.

Capital funding for the creation of licensed family child care spaces

Up to \$380/space for new providers becoming licensed, and for existing licensed providers to increase the total number of spaces on their licence.

Minor capital funding for emergency repair, replacement and relocation grant

Up to \$5,000 to child care facilities to upgrade or repair facilities in order to continue to comply with licensing requirements, and to assist with costs when a facility must move to another location. If a provider operates more than one licence care type at one facility, the maximum funding amount would be \$10,000 per facility.

Early Childhood Educator Loan Assistance Program

Graduates of an approved early childhood education program, whose final year of study was between January 1, 2007 and December 31, 2008, and who are employed in a licensed child care facility may be eligible for a loan repayment towards their BC student loan of \$1,250/year for each of the first and second year after graduation that they are employed as an early childhood educator.

Early Childhood Educator Incentive Grant Program

Effective January 1, 2008 the Early Childhood Educator (ECE) Incentive Grant was established to recruit ECEs who have left the licensed child care sector to return to work in a licensed child care facility. ECEs who have not worked in a licensed child care setting for at least two years are eligible to receive up to \$5,000 over a two-year period. Upon completion of each year of re-employment in a licensed child care facility, recipients will receive a payment up to \$2,500. The equivalent of 100 full-time incentive grants will be issued to eligible applicants.

Recurring funding

Child care operating funding (CCOF)

Operating funding is available to eligible (nonprofit and for-profit) licensed group and licensed family child care providers. Funding is based on enrolment and the age of the child and is available for all regulated care types, except Occasional Child Care.

Group Child Care	Daily rates	
	4 hours or less	More than 4 hours
Rate Category		
0-35 months	\$6.00	\$12.00
3 years-kindergarten	2.74	5.48
Grade 1-12 years	1.40	2.80
Preschool	1.37	-

Family Child Care Providers	Daily rates	
	4 hours or less	More than 4 hours
Rate Category		
0-35 months	\$1.85	\$3.70
3 years-kindergarten	1.41	2.82
Grade 1-12 years	0.73	1.46

Supported Child Development Program

Funds to assist and cover consultation, training and extra staffing. In some communities, program funding is targeted to improving access for Aboriginal families.

Other funding

Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) Programs

Annualized provincial funding with nonprofit organizations to provide support, resources, training and referral services for child care providers and parents in all communities across the province. CCRRs assist in the recruitment, support and training of local child care providers, in particular, LNR family child care providers. The CCRRs also support parents in choosing quality child care and assist parents with applications for child care subsidy.

Regional CCRR Coordinators

Provide training, planning, and support to CCRR programs in the five regions of the province to enhance communication, coordination and cooperation in the delivery of services to children and families.

BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (BCACCS)

The BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (BCACCS) CCRR provincial program is contracted with MCFD to provide Aboriginal-focused training and resources to CCRR programs and other Aboriginal serving organizations. BCACCS develops culturally focused training and resources for use by CCRR programs. It also promotes Early Childhood Education as an education and employment strategy for Aboriginal child care providers.

PROVINCIAL EXPENDITURE FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE (2007/08)

Child care subsidies in regulated child care	\$88,359,000
Minor/major capital funding	12,595,000
Recurring funding	
Child Care Operating Fund (CCOF)	61,886,000
Supported Child Development Program (SCDP)	53,900,000
Total regulated child care	216,740,000

Other funding

Quality Support Services

Child Care Resource and Referral	\$9,151,000
Fee subsidies for unregulated child care	*45,864,000

* Estimated

SALARIES (2007/08)

Median gross hourly wage for group child care staff by position type (full- and part-time staff combined) (2007/08)

Owner/Operator	\$15.63
Administrator	20.00
Program Supervisor	16.99
Senior Caregiver	15.50
Caregiver	13.50
Supported Child Development Worker	14.00
Assistant	12.43
Other	14.31

Source: 2007/2008 Annual Child Care Provider Profile Report, Government of British Columbia.

Median full-time, full-year employment income for centre-based Early Childhood Educators and Assistants (2005)

All	\$24,987
Those with an ECE credential	26,145

Source: Custom tabulations, 2006 census data on National Occupational Classification for Statistics E-217, Early Childhood Educators and Assistants.

Family child care

Information is not available.

FEES (2007/08)

Median monthly parent fees for full-time centre-based child care

Infant	\$765
Toddler	720
3-5 years	565
Kindergarten	425
Out-of-school Grade 1+ (a.m. and p.m.)	250
Preschool (three times/week)	128.50

Source: 2007/08 Annual Child Care Provider Profile Report, Government of British Columbia.

Median monthly rates for full-time family child care

Infant	\$660
Toddler	650
3-5 years	600
Kindergarten	550
School-age	350

Source: 2007/2008 Annual Child Care Provider Profile Report, Government of British Columbia.

ADMINISTRATION

The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) has responsibility for child care policy and programs, the child care subsidy program, the registration of early childhood educators, approving early childhood training programs. The Minister for Child Care is responsible for a cross-government integrated early childhood development strategy, including responsibility for the Supported Child Development Program. In partnership with other child-serving ministries, the Minister of State works to increase supports available for child care, early childhood development and early learning programs.

The Community Care Licensing Branch (part of the Health Protection Division of the Ministry of Health Services) is responsible for the development and implementation of legislation, policy and guidelines for licensed child care facilities. Medical Health and Licensing Officers are responsible for licensing and monitoring through five regional health authorities across the province.

MUNICIPAL AND OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENT ROLE

There is no legislated municipal or other local government role. The City of Vancouver and several other municipalities play a role in planning and developing child care.

CHILD CARE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

The Provincial Child Care Council (PCCC) is comprised of 14-21 members legislated to provide recommendations to the Minister of Children and Family Development (or delegate) on child care under the *Child Care BC Act* and the *Child Care Subsidy Act*. Collectively, Council members have a range of expertise in areas including: child care operations; early childhood education; early childhood research; multicultural child care; rural child care; preschools; and the public education system.

RELATED ECEC PROGRAMS

More than 240 Family Resource Programs (FRPs) across BC provide community-based services intended to support the healthy development of children and families and build family and community connections. Key components of FRPs include a parent-child drop-in, parent education, health screening, community kitchens, nutrition education, toy libraries, clothing exchanges, peer counselling, family literacy projects and English as a Second Language for parents. Aboriginal families have access to culturally appropriate family support services and resources through the approximately 27 FRPs both on and off-reserve.

RECENT HISTORY OF CHILD CARE AND OTHER ECEC SERVICES

FOR HISTORY BEFORE 2000, SEE THE RELEVANT PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL SECTION OF *ECEC IN CANADA 2006*, available online at: <http://www.childcarecanada.org/ECEC2006/> or in print.

2001

A multi-phased, four-year plan described as a comprehensive, publicly funded child care system was announced. In January, phase one of the Funding Assistance Program (FAP) for school-age group care was implemented. Centre-based after-school programs received funding to provide child care for \$7 per day for before- and after-school care. For children in kindergarten and for all children on non-instructional days and seasonal breaks, parents paid up to \$14.00 per day. Low-income families were still eligible for child care subsidies.

The implementation of phase two was planned for January 2002 for school-aged children in licensed family child care and group infant-toddler care, followed by phase three in 2002/03, which was to cover all other children in licensed family child care settings. Phase four, planned for 2003/04, was to fund children in licensed group care for three to five year olds.

March The *Child Care BC Act* was proclaimed to provide a legislative timetable for the new funding program; the budget allocation for 2000/01 was \$14 million, annualized to \$30 million (for the out-of-school funding).

May A new government was elected. A number of new ministries were established, resulting in changes in responsibility for some program areas. The main responsibility for child care policy and programs moved to the newly created Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services (replacing the Ministry of Social Development and Economic Security). The Child Care Subsidy Program management remained with the Ministry of Human Resources at the regional level, under agreement with MCAWS. The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) was given responsibility for the Supported Child Care program.

August The government repealed the implementation plan in the *Child Care BC Act*.

2002

January MCAWS announced that it would replace existing child care grants with a new, consolidated operating grant for family child care and centres effective April 1, 2003, and that the Funding Assistance Program to school-age centres would end June 30, 2002. Out-of-school programs that were receiving the FAP received transition funding from July 1, 2002, to March 31, 2003.

April Several changes were made to the child care subsidy program. The income level for eligibility was reduced by \$285/month (net). (This reduction was subsequently increased in May 2003 by \$100. Subsidy payments below \$50 were no longer issued to families.)

Children with special needs and families receiving pre-school subsidies were now required to meet the social criteria as well as the financial eligibility criteria in order to be eligible for a fee subsidy. The social criteria require a parent to be working, seeking work, attending school or an employment program, or have child care recommended by the MCFD as part of a risk-reduction plan. Subsidy was no longer available to parents in rehabilitative programs or for short term family crises.

November The provincial government's earlier decision to discontinue funding CCRR Programs and the provincial services of West Coast Child Care Resource Centre was reversed. However, One Stop Access Centre funding through the Ministry of Human Resources was eliminated.

2003 June MCFD ended the Special Needs Support Payment (\$107). In July 2003 MCAWS introduced a Special Needs Supplement of up to \$107, administered through Ministry of Human Resources (MHR) Employment and Assistance Centres. MCFD will maintain responsibility for the Range Payment.

2004

May The *Community Care and Assisted Living Act* replaced the *Community Care Facility Act*. The *Child Care Licensing Regulation* was continued with minor amendments, to make it consistent with the new *Act*.

June Responsibility for child care moved from MCAWS to MCFD.

July \$4.9 million was announced: \$1.7 million for children with parents not in the labour force to attend preschool; \$1.435 million for major capital; \$700,000 for CCRRs to RLNR providers, and \$1.1 million to supplement the operating funding for out-of-school care to 600 licensed child care centres.

September Changes to the child care subsidy program included restoring eligibility for subsidy for preschool based solely on an income test. Families were once again exempted from meeting the social criteria when receiving a subsidy for children attending preschool. In addition, subsidy payments for families who were eligible for \$50 or less were restored.

2005

January The income level at which families become eligible for child care subsidy rose by \$200/month (see April 2002, HISTORY section). The clawback (amount by which subsidy is reduced when the family's income is above the exemption level) was reduced from 60% to 50% and an additional income deduction of \$100 was introduced for families with a child with special needs requiring child care and their supplement increased to \$150 from \$107. Subsidy rates for all children under age six were increased and student loan income was not considered income for the purpose of determining eligibility.

New subsidy rates took effect.

One-time transitional funding of \$4.45 million to assist service providers through the transition of subsidy changes, and one-time funding of \$500,000 to establish a professional development fund were announced.

The Safe Play Space Program: one-time funding of up to \$25,000 per facility became available to replace or upgrade outdoor play equipment and/or ground cover/surfacing to meet Canadian Standards Association standards.

March The government announced that the \$800,000 provincial funding for Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre would be discontinued effective April 30, 2007 (see November 2002).

Fall Together with the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Children and Family Development carried out province-wide consultations during the fall and winter of 2005/06. The consultations sought advice on priorities for investing federal ELCC funding flowing from the 2005 ELCC Agreement in Principle signed in September 2005. Although the 2005 ELCC Agreement in Principle was subsequently cancelled in February 2006 by a new federal government, the government indicated that feedback received on early learning and child care would continue to inform provincial priorities.

The ELCC funding was used to:

- Increase the eligibility for subsidy and the maximum subsidy rates;
- Increase the major and minor capital grants;
- Provide a bursary fund for ECE students;
- Provide funding for resources on physical activity for young children;
- Establish *StrongStart* Centres in a number of public schools across the province;
- Enhance Child Care Resource and Referral Programs;
- Make enhancements to the Supported Child Development Program.

October Government increased the income threshold for subsidy eligible families to \$38,000 from \$21,000 and the maximum subsidy rates for children under six in regulated child care. In addition the social need eligibility criteria for families accessing preschool was removed and subsidy for preschool again became based on financial eligibility.

2005/06 British Columbia received \$92 million in 2005/06 from the Early Learning and Child Care Agreement and \$85.6 million in 2006/07.

2006 October Responsibility for day-to-day delivery of the Child Care Subsidy Program was transferred to the Ministry of Children and Family Development from the Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance. Parents and providers became able to access services by phone, fax and mail, through the Child Care Subsidy Service Centre; web access was under development.

2007 February The province announced that funding to the Child Care Resource and Referral Program would also revert to the pre-ELCC Agreement level of \$9,000,000.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN CHILD CARE AND OTHER ECEC SERVICES

2007

June The province announced changes to the Child Care Subsidy Regulation regarding subsidy rates for “Care Surrounding School Day.” This measure was taken to ensure subsidy rates are applied consistently for Care Surrounding School Day in LNR, RLNR and licensed child care settings. The *Child Care Subsidy Regulation* was amended to clarify that subsidy rates for Care Surrounding School Days are the same for LNR, RLNR and licensed child care. Subsidy rates for In the Child’s Own Home care settings were not affected by this change.

July The province increased the child care operating funding rates for children under three and eliminated the requirement for a six-month renewal for child care subsidy, allowing subsidy to be authorized for a period of one to twelve-months, in an effort to simplify the child care subsidy application procedure for parents.

The *Child Care Subsidy Regulation* was amended to ensure individuals classed as refugees under federal legislation, and who reside in British Columbia are eligible to apply for provincial child care subsidy. Individuals classified under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (Canada) (IRPA)* as persons in need of protection have an eligible status in Canada under the Child Care Subsidy Regulation, enabling them to apply for a child care subsidy.

September The province announced an increase to the maximum monthly child care subsidy rates for care Surrounding the School Day for children in Grade 1 and higher to \$170 for four hours or less daily and to \$200 for more than four hours daily.

October The province invested \$12.5 million in major capital funding to support the creation of licensed child care spaces. The province focussed on the creation of new child care spaces in existing unused space in public buildings, such as schools. Funding is available to all child care providers, including for-profit sector and licensed family child care providers.

November The *Child Care Subsidy Regulation* was amended to maintain the enhanced threshold and increased maximum monthly subsidy rate for children attending kindergarten who are in regulated care and who turn six between January and June of their kindergarten year. This change enables children who turn six while attending kindergarten to continue to receive the higher subsidy rate at the enhanced threshold level through the child’s kindergarten year.

A new Child Care Licensing Regulation was brought into force that includes the Multi-Age and In-Home Multi-Age care types.

2008 January The province launched an ECE Incentive Grant Program to provide ECEs who have not worked in a licensed child care setting for at least two years with an incentive grant to attract them back to employment in the licensed child care sector. Recipients can receive up to \$2,500 at the end of each year of their first two years of re-employment in a licensed child care setting.

The province announced funding for a loan forgiveness program for early childhood educators. Recent ECE graduates may be eligible for a monetary award to assist in the repayment of their B.C. student loan. Graduates from an approved early childhood education program, whose final year of study was between January 1, 2007 and December 31, 2008, and who are employed in a licensed child care facility, may be eligible for a loan repayment of \$1,250/year for each of the first and second year that they are employed as an early childhood educator.

■ KEY PROVINCIAL ECEC ORGANIZATIONS

Provincial Child Care Council
PO Box 9490 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9N7
Telephone: (250) 387-5049
Facsimile: (250) 357-2364
Facsimile: (604) 944-6166
Website: www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/childcare/policy.htm

BC Aboriginal Child Care Society
708-100 Park Royal South
West Vancouver, BC V7T 1A2
Telephone: (604) 913-9128
Facsimile: (604) 913-9129
Email: reception@acc-society.bc.ca
Website: www.acc-society.bc.ca/

BC Association of Child Care Employers
2772 East Broadway
Vancouver BC V5M 1Y8
Telephone: (604) 709-5661
Facsimile: (604) 709-5662
Website : www.bcacce.ca

Child Care Advocacy Forum
300 - 210 W. Broadway, Vancouver, BC V5Y 3W2
Telephone: (604) 515-6257 / Toll free: 1-877-361-1116
Facsimile: (604) 709-5662
Website: www.advocacyforum.bc.ca

Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC
210 West Broadway 3rd Floor
Vancouver BC V5Y 3W2
Voice mail message: (604) 709-5661
Facsimile: (604) 709-5662
Email : info@cccabc.bc.ca
Website: www.cccabc.bc.ca

Early Childhood Educators of BC
210 West Broadway, 3rd Floor
Vancouver BC V5Y 3W2
Telephone: (604) 709-6063 / 1-800-797-5602
Facsimile: (604) 709-5662
Email: ecebc@direct.ca
Website: www.cfc-efc.ca/ecebc

School-Age Child Care Association of BC
210 West Broadway 3rd Floor
Vancouver BC V5Y 3W2
Telephone: (604) 709-5661
Facsimile: (604) 709-5662
Email: sacca@wstcoast.org
Website: www.wstcoast.org

Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre
210 West Broadway, 3rd Floor
Vancouver BC V5Y 3W2
Telephone: (604) 709-5661 / 1-877-262-0022
Facsimile: (604) 709-5662
Email: info@wstcoast.org
Website: www.wstcoast.org

Western Canada Family Child Care Association of BC
Suite 100 - 6846 King George Hwy.
Surrey, BC V3W 4Z9
Telephone: (604) 590-1497 / 1-800-686-6685
Facsimile: (604) 590-1427
Website: www.wcfcca.ca

TEACHERS' ORGANIZATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS

British Columbia Teachers' Federation
100-550 West 6th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5Z 4P2
Telephone: (604) 871-2283 / 1-800-663-9163
Facsimile: (604) 871-2290
Website : www.bctf.ca