



Child Care Needs in Small, Rural and Remote Communities in British Columbia



COALITION OF
**child care
advocates**
OF BC

August 2018

1. INTRODUCTION

In February 2018, the provincial government made a significant commitment to quality, accessible and affordable child care in British Columbia by investing \$1 billion over the next three years to start building a universal system for BC's children, families and the economy.

The Province also released the document, *Child Care B.C. Caring for Kids, Lifting Up Families: The Path to Universal Child Care*¹, which details the government's values, vision and steps on how they will create universal child care in BC. Child Care BC includes: reducing child care fees for parents, creating new licensed spaces, investing in the Early Childhood Educators (ECE) workforce, and investments in child care for Indigenous communities.

To build on this work and add to the discussion on child care, the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) and the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC (CCCABC) are working together to better understand child care needs in small, rural and remote communities. While some of the same challenges may exist for both urban and rural communities, UBCM and CCCABC believe there are specific issues that arise for the small, rural and remote areas of the province.

In May 2018, with input from CCABC, UBCM launched a survey to local governments, asking about their child care needs. The two groups also conducted six in-person interviews with local governments, and others, in the Peace River/Northeast region of BC in July 2018.

This report provides a summary of the survey and in-person meeting results. A number of recommendations were suggested by the local governments and are presented at the end of the report.

2. ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND

Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM)

The UBCM is the voice for local government in British Columbia. Founded in 1905, UBCM is incorporated by a provincial statute to represent the common interests of local governments in British Columbia. UBCM's membership currently includes every local government in BC as well as eight First Nations.

¹ http://bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2018/childcare/2018_Child_Care_BC.pdf

Since as far back as 1992, the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial and federal governments to invest in high quality child care to make it affordable and accessible, and respond to the child care challenges facing BC families. The UBCM membership has also consistently acknowledged that healthy and sustainable communities include families with young children and that child care is essential to support healthy child development and parent participation in the workforce.

For example, in 2017, BC local governments asked the provincial and federal governments for affordable child care for every child that needs it (2017-B50); to make childcare a top priority and implement the new National Early Learning and Child Care Framework proposed by the federal government (2016-B51); to implement a universal daycare plan that creates new and affordable licensed day care spaces for infant and toddler care, for the benefit of families with an annual income below \$40,000 (2016- B50); and to solve the gaps in child care delivery, regulation, fee structure and provincial funding (2016- B49).

The latter resolution also asked that local governments be invited to collaborate and participate in developing solutions, while at the same time, recognizing that child care is not a core mandate or service for local governments. UBCM's resolutions on child care are provided in Appendix A.

In addition to supporting resolutions on child care, BC local governments have also asked the Province to create a provincial poverty reduction plan, which would in part, address the child care needs of families living in poverty (2016-B47, 2015-B44, 2014-B40).

UBCM's Health and Social Development Committee fully supports the collaboration with CCCABC to examine the child care needs in small, rural and remote communities in BC.

Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC (CCCABC)

The Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC (CCCABC) is an inclusive, feminist, membership-based organization comprised of individuals and groups including parents, grandparents, child care providers, community organizations, academics and unions. Through research, public education and mobilization, the CCCABC works collectively to achieve a high-quality, affordable, accessible child care system that serves the public interest.

In Spring 2011, the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC and the Early Childhood Educators of BC launched the Community Plan for a Public System of

Integrated Early Care and Learning, now known as the popular \$10aDay Child Care Plan. This Plan offers a concrete and innovative way forward to build a system of child care in BC that is of high quality for children, affordable for families, and respects the expertise of early childhood educators.

The \$10aDay Plan is currently supported by 49 local governments in BC, 31 school districts, businesses, labour unions, community groups, credit unions, academics, United Way of the Lower Mainland, Union of BC Indian Chiefs, and many other organizations, plus almost 20,000 individuals (www.10aday.ca).

3. SURVEY RESULTS

The survey was launched in May 2018 to BC local governments, though a notice in the UBCM newsletter, and through direct email to small, rural and remote communities. UBCM received a total of 62 responses from local government staff and elected officials, representing the following communities:

Alberni-Clayoquot (Regional District)
Ashcroft (Village)
Bowen Island (Municipality)
Burns Lake (Village)
Capital (Regional District)
Cariboo (Regional District)
Central Coast (Regional District)
Central Kootenay (Regional District)
Chase (Village)
Columbia Shuswap (Regional District)
Cumberland (Village)
Dawson Creek (City)
Delta (City)*
Duncan (City)
Fort St. John (City)
Fraser Fort George (District)
Fraser Lake (Village)
Gold River (Village)
Huu-ay-aht (First Nation)
Kaslo (Village)
Kitimat-Stikine (Regional District)
Kootenay Boundary (Regional District)
Kitsumkalum First Nation**
Lumby (Village)

Masset (Village)
New Denver (Village)
New Hazelton (District)
Northern Rockies (Regional Municipality)
Oak Bay (District)
Oliver (Town)
Osyoos (Town)
Port Hardy (District)
Pouce Coupe (Village)
Prince George (City)
Rossland (City)
Salmon Arm (City)
Sicamous (District)
Silverton (Village)
Sooke (District)
Stewart (District)
Tahsis (Village)
Telkwa (Village)
Terrace (City)
Thompson-Nicola (Regional District)
Tumbler Ridge (District)
Vanderhoof (District)
Vernon (City)
Wells (District)
Whistler (Resort Municipality)

* Communities of all sizes were invited to complete the survey. Responses from larger communities will be used in our broader advocacy efforts on child care.

** Though the Kitsumkalum First Nation is not a UBCM member, their feedback was included in this report as they also indicated they were representing the City of Terrace.

A summary of responses to the survey is detailed below.

Question 1: Is it difficult for parents in your community to find quality, affordable and accessible child care?

This question was asked to small, rural and remote communities in recognition that their child care needs may be different than those in more urban areas.

These communities may have family networks to care for children, or may have closer community ties that allow for informal, occasional child care between families.

Predictably, the large majority of respondents (92%) indicated it was difficult to find quality, affordable, and accessible child care.

There were a small number of respondents (8%) who indicated that the community has a child care centre but not enough children to fill the space; or that it was not difficult to find full-time child care, however, before and after school care was a challenge.

Question 2: What are the challenges in providing quality, affordable and accessible child care which meets the needs of families in your community?

The majority of respondents advised that the greatest challenge in providing quality, affordable, accessible child care was the availability of spaces and providers in the communities (53% of responses). In some communities, there are significant wait lists, and in others, there is no licensed child care available at all.

Further detail was offered as to the specific type of spaces and providers needed in communities, including:

- Spaces for shift workers, weekend workers, those who work non-traditional hours, or those requiring flexible, irregular care
- More infant and toddlers spaces
- Licensed care providers
- Before or after school care
- Care for children with unique needs (health, speech, diet, disabilities, etc.)

The second biggest challenge for respondents was the lack of qualified staff in the community. Fifteen (15%) percent of respondents identified this as an issue, noting that ECE wages are low, and that, while there may be members in the community educated as ECEs, they are not working in the field due to the low pay. Some child care centers have reduced the number of available spaces in their facilities because of the lack of available ECEs.

Additional barriers for ECEs, or those interested in becoming ECEs, are that programs are not available in all local colleges, and require that students travel to

larger centers to complete supervised training requirements. One respondent also noted that there is a lack of support for new child care providers and ECEs when they are starting out.

The third issue for communities was the cost (11% of respondents). One survey respondent noted that affordability of child care is very much a secondary issue, given that families cannot find or secure spaces for their children.

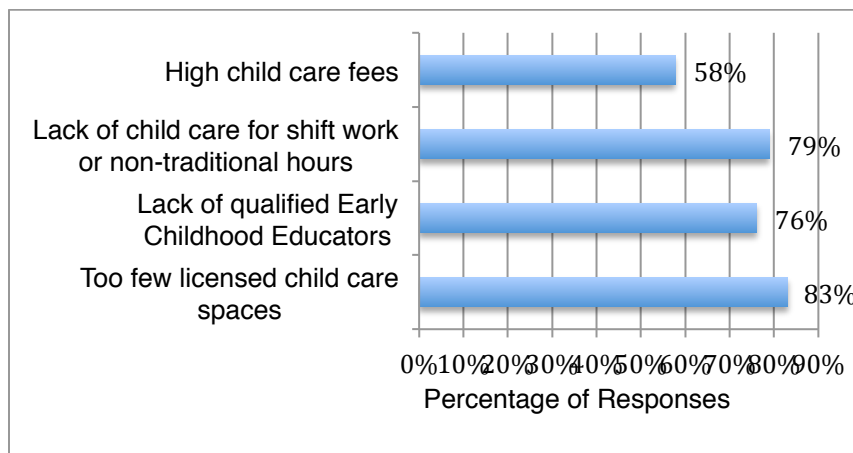
The remainder of the respondents (31%) identified other challenges such as:

- Finding providers with similar values, especially in home based settings
- Transportation to child care, particularly for parents without vehicles
- Conveniently located facilities, including in remote areas of the community
- Finding substitutes for child care providers, particularly in home based child care settings
- Fluctuating needs for child care, depending on the economy

Question 3: Please indicate if any of these child care issues are particular challenges in your community:

- **high child care fees**
- **lack of child care for shift work or non-traditional hours**
- **lack of qualified Early Childhood Educators**
- **too few licensed child care spaces**

The chart below indicates the feedback received from survey respondents:



These responses are largely consistent with the findings of the prior question, which identified that the number of spaces, ECEs and fees are the key issues for small, rural and remote communities.

Question 4: Would you be interested in collaborating with other key stakeholders in your area to create more quality affordable child care? (ie. health authority, school boards, early childhood education groups)

Of the respondents who answered this question, 88% said they would be willing to collaborate with other key stakeholders to create more quality, affordable, accessible child care; another 7% said they might be willing to collaborate; and the remainder said they would not be interested.

Some of these respondents noted that they are already working with various groups, are currently looking into potential collaborations, or would need to conduct a needs assessment prior to future work in this area.

A key point that was raised was that communities may willing to collaborate on child care, but the role of local government in that collaboration requires clarification. It should also be noted that some respondents felt that child care was a federal and provincial responsibility, rather than a local one.

Question 5: As part of the Province's Child Care BC Plan that was released in February 2018, it was noted that grants would be provided to local governments for needs assessment, planning and implementation. Would you be interested in receiving this funding? If your answer is no, please elaborate.

Seventy-one (71%) percent of respondents said they would be interested in needs assessment funding, another 17% said they may be interested, and 12% said they would not.

Respondents who indicated they would be interested in this funding, or may be interested in the funding, highlighted a number of limitations:

- Staff capacity. Communities may not have available staff and may have to hire a consultant.
- Council or board support. Respondents indicated that council support was required prior to committing to this work. Local elections take place in October 2018, and new councils or boards would need to consider and approve this project.

- Regional needs. Smaller communities indicated that a regional needs assessment, rather than a community needs assessment, would be required.
- Community leader. It was felt that a community champion or non-profit organization was needed to take a leadership role on this issue.

Those who would not apply for this funding indicated that child care had not been identified as a Council priority; that they were concerned that child care would be downloaded to local governments; that other organizations such as school districts, health authorities and others were more suited to this work than local governments; and that needs assessments should be conducted by qualified groups in a way that provides province-wide consistency in methodology.

Question 6: Would you be interested in receiving new provincial capital funding for child care spaces in your community if it required a local government financial contribution? If your answer is no, please elaborate.

Fifty-five (55%) percent of survey respondents said they would be interested in this funding; another 19% said they may be interested; and 16% said they would not. The remainder provided no response or said they could not answer the question.

For those who would apply for capital funding, and would be willing to provide a local government contribution, there were some that indicated they would only be willing to do so if operating funding was covered as well.

The other respondents (those that provided a maybe or no answer to this question) offered the following feedback:

- Child care is not a core component of local government operations
- Depends on conditions of funding and if the child care centre has to be run by local government
- There are enough spaces, but not enough children to fill space
- Budget is extremely limited
- Community is currently focused on other needs such as housing, economic development, energy efficiency
- Regional districts only tax for the services provided, so there is no extra funding, without approving an additional tax

Question 7: What actions could the provincial government take to support local governments to ensure families in your community have access to quality, affordable and accessible child care?

This question was asked so that respondents could advise the provincial government on the supports needed by local governments to improve child care in their communities. Feedback for this question focused on a few areas:

Early Childhood Educators

- Provide wage subsidies and access to extended health benefits for ECEs
- Ease the transfer of ECE training credits from other provinces and out of country
- Provide grants for ECEs looking to upgrade their qualifications
- Encourage all local colleges to offer the full ECE program in order for local residents to become certified

Communication and Education

- Provide information on the local government role in providing child care spaces
- Provide more resources and education on provincial child care funding and supports to the public and BC families
- Provide more support and education on nutrition and play for kids to ensure that the quality of food being served and the amount of play and activity is maximized

Funding

- Provide incentives to employers to create onsite daycare for employees
- Provide grants for capital funding and operational funding
- Provide more subsidy support for families, particularly for low-income families and single parent families
- Provide grants for renovations, and conversion of under-utilized community halls
- Provide more access to funding for training and support for children with behavioural issues or special needs
- Provide base local government funding for programs in respect to the creation, development and ongoing delivery of child care services
- Simplify and streamline the application and reporting paperwork
- Offer funding programs that do not require a local government contribution

Other

- Provide more before and after school spaces
- More checks and balances for unlicensed care

- Consider co-location of childcare in schools, or new housing projects
- Empower collaboration between school districts and health authorities for long term planning of space needs and joint use agreements.
- Require that school boards or non-profits to do this work, rather than local governments
- Update the child care subsidy rate table -base rate of \$11.25 does not cover costs of program

4. IN- PERSON MEETINGS

As part of the research for this report, UBCM and CCCABC conducted six in-person meetings with local government representatives and other key stakeholders in the Peace River/ Northeast region of BC.

The six participating local governments were: Northern Rockies Regional Municipality, City of Dawson Creek, District of Taylor, District of Hudson's Hope, District of Tumbler Ridge, and the City of Fort St. John. In addition to local government staff, attendees at some of the meetings included councillors, mayors, operators of child care facilities, and school district trustees. Health authority representatives were invited but did not attend.

One of the key issues for the Peace River communities is the difficulty in finding, and retaining, child care staff. These communities compete for workers with the strong resource sector in their area (forestry, oil and gas, Site C dam project). Wages for resource sector employees, and even those working in food service, are high compared to the wages for ECEs. Therefore, finding quality staff willing to accept a high level of responsibility for providing quality early care and learning in exchange for low pay, is the biggest challenge in this region.

Local governments have suggested expanding ECE college programs, bringing ECE instructors to the community to educate locals, offering incentives to ECEs who settle in the north, and offering paid practicums in northern communities for ECE students.

Secondly, given the nature of work in this area, there is need for flexible child care arrangements to accommodate shift work schedules (12 hour shifts, such as 7am to 7pm; and shifts that are 4 days on and 4 days off). The City of Fort St. John, is also exploring the feasibility of a 24-hour daycare facility for parents working at the local hospital.

Communities also identified part-time, before and after school care as additional challenges. Some of the issues with school-age care include the need for transportation from the school grounds to the school-age care facility, particularly in the winter months.

Another issue raised by this group was that when one parent has access to a well-paying job in a resource industry, a second parent may have the option to stay at home with young children. However, it was stressed that these families still want their children to experience quality early care and learning programs, even on a part-time basis.

To address the child care crisis in their communities, these local governments have been innovative. Some have provided free space for daycares in their civic facilities, taken over the operation of daycares, provided subsidies, and in the case of Fort St. John, have introduced a bridging policy for parents who cannot find daycare, that allow parental leave for up to 5 years and the ability to return to their position after that time to their previous level of seniority.

The Peace River communities provided valuable feedback for this report. We would like to extend our sincere appreciation for their time and comments.

Their recommendations are included in the following section.



5. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is clear from the survey results and in-person meetings that small, rural and remote communities have many of the same child care needs as their urban counterparts, including the need for more child care spaces and providers, more ECEs, and more affordable care.

However, small, rural and remote communities face additional challenges, including a heightened need for more flexible child care, particularly in resource-dependent communities.

And, while most respondents to the survey were willing to collaborate on the development of more quality, affordable, accessible child care, there are concerns that this will result in downloading of child care responsibilities to local governments. UBCM's policy position recognizes the concern that child care should not be a core mandate or service for local governments.

Small, rural, and remote local governments offer the following recommendations, which are specific to their child care needs:

1. Educate and hire locals for child care positions in small, rural and remote communities.
2. Encourage all colleges to offer the diploma ECE program in order for local residents to become certified, using distance-education and on-line learning as much as possible.
3. Incentivize students to undertake a practicum in a small, rural or remote community, as part of the ECE training.
4. Provide financial supports or incentives, such as a northern allowance, to encourage qualified child care staff to move to small, rural, remote and northern communities.
5. Allow for regional considerations in the universal Child Care BC Plan, in order to recognize the challenges for resource dependent communities, including the high cost of living and the need to pay higher wages for ECEs in those areas.

6. Create child care spaces for shift workers, weekend workers, those who work non-traditional hours, and those who require flexible, irregular care.
7. Provide enhanced operational funding for child care facilities in small, rural and remote communities to reduce costs and assist in regional fluctuations in the economy.
8. Improve communication and education for parents and unlicensed care providers, to assist them in transitioning to licensed care providers.
9. Work with the Ministry of Education to provide transportation from school grounds to school-age care facilities, particularly in the winter months.
10. Provide sustained funding, above and beyond grants, to local governments who have contributed public land, services or other investments for child care. This would recognize the long-term loss of public land for the provision of child care, and would cover replacements and upgrades required on child care capital projects that belong to local governments.

6. CONCLUDING REMARKS

UBCM and the CCCABC have worked jointly to produce to this report, which will be submitted to the provincial government in an effort to influence their policy and enhance program development on child care in small, rural and remote communities.

Both organizations fully support this work, and are available to the provincial government for further comments and engagement on the issue. We will continue to advocate for improved child care in all of BC, including the small, rural and remote communities.



Appendix A: UBCM Resolutions

1992 B78 CHILD CARE SERVICES

WHEREAS family structures in Canada are changing such that increasing numbers of women are working outside the home, lone parent families are becoming more common, there is reduced proximity of extended families, and economic realities among increasing numbers of families requires that both parents work;

AND WHEREAS the complexity of the child care crisis requires that all parties with an interest in child care do their share in addressing existing problems, particularly capital and operating costs which are a major deterrent to the development of new child care:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the federal government be encouraged to work co-operatively with provincial and local governments in developing a system of quality, affordable and accessible child care in Canada by implementing a national child care programme which would provide for federal cost-sharing of capital, operating administrative costs associated with child care.

2001 B98 PROVISION OF EARLY CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

WHEREAS all children are entitled to a high quality, early childhood environment to achieve optimal health and development;

AND WHEREAS 70% of mothers whose child is between 3 and 5 years old are in the labour force as are over 75% of the mothers of school age children;

AND WHEREAS it is estimated that women in the labour force contribute approximately \$25.5 billion a year in federal and provincial taxes;

AND WHEREAS early child care is a necessary support to enable parents to participate in the workforce while feeling secure about the care of their young children;

AND WHEREAS employers benefit from having workers with reliable, high quality child care services that free them from being pre-occupied with juggling family responsibilities;

AND WHEREAS governments must take a leadership role in funding early childhood development services;

AND WHEREAS workers and employers should not bear the full cost of this care:
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call upon the Federal, Provincial and territorial governments to sign an agreement for Early Child Development (ECD) services ensuring every family has access to pre-and post natal care; early learning and

child care services and parenting supports as these services would meet the needs of all families regardless of income or employment status;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the agreement would begin in the first year with:

1. A federal commitment of \$2 billion toward a publicly funded and publicly accountable system of Early Childhood Development (ECD) services.
2. Provinces and territories would make a commitment to financially support the ECD services in their jurisdictions and would work with communities to ensure responsive service delivery.
3. The agreement would include a timetable for implementation and common principles to ensure that the services are high quality, comprehensive, integrated, affordable and accessible.

2004 B137 EARLY LEARNING & CHILD CARE

BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities pressure the federal and provincial governments to ensure that all children, irrespective of family financial status, have equal opportunities for early learning and care, which means that families have access to equal, affordable options in child care;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities pressure the provincial government to return the \$23 million taken from the regulated quality child care subsidy program;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities pressure the provincial government to restore child care funding to 2000/2001 levels and also to return the income threshold eligibility for child care subsidy to 2000/2001 rates;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities pressure the federal and provincial governments to ensure that the federal EDI and Multilateral Framework Funds are used in BC to enhance quality, affordable, accessible early learning and care facilities and programs;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities pressure the federal and provincial governments to act now to put research into practice;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities hold accountable the federal and provincial governments regarding the taxpayers' dollars which were intended to enhance existing child care services and programs.

2005 B156 NATIONAL CHILD CARE PROGRAM

WHEREAS Vancouver City Council unanimously voted to urge Prime Minister Paul Martin to keep his election promise to establish a national child care program that is

committed to standards of quality, universality, accessibility and developmental programming;

AND WHEREAS the City of Vancouver called on Mr. Martin's government to begin the allocation of the promised funding of \$5 billion over five years in the 2004-2005 budget years;

AND WHEREAS Vancouver City Council has highlighted the problems for the City that are the result of the BC government using federal child care dollars to replace provincial funding, reducing child care subsidies to low income families, and allocating early childhood education and child care dollars to the education component to the detriment of the child care system;

AND WHEREAS a recent Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development study concluded that Canada's child care system is a failure, calling it fragmented, expensive and often providing little more than babysitting services though costing parents 20 percent or more of their income;

AND WHEREAS a recent student showed that child care workers are paid only half the average wage in Canada;

AND WHEREAS nine out of 10 Canadians believe a national child care system is essential to the nation's prosperity;

AND WHEREAS a government-operated and funded child care system that is affordable and accessible to all children similar to the \$7/day child care system now operating in Quebec promotes women's equality in the workforce, in school or in job training;

AND WHEREAS the federal Minister of Social Development, Ken Dryden, after meeting with his provincial counterparts in November to negotiate the terms of a federal-provincial agreement on child care, refused to commit to a universal system, government support for primarily non-profit and licensed care, or accountability mechanisms enshrined in legislation;

AND WHEREAS Minister Hagen issued a news release after the meeting that said that "the agreed upon principles respond to BC's commitment to choice for families, and to targeting families most in need":

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urge the federal Ministry of Social Development and the provincial Ministry of Children and Family Development to ensure that the promised national child care system is introduced and that it is founded on the federal government's stated "QUAD" principles of: Quality, Universality, Accessibility and Developmental programming.

2006 B168 TRANSFER OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CERTIFICATION

WHEREAS there is a shortage of Early Childhood Educators (ECE) with a license to practice in Northern BC and, due to different legislation between provinces, there is no recognition within the province of BC for those ECE Educators certified out of province;

AND WHEREAS since the Community Care Facilities Branch in BC does not carry out academic assessments for applicants who have completed their post secondary training outside of BC, these Early Childhood Educators are required to do one or both of the following:

- A) Submit transcripts to a recognized BC college for evaluation toward advanced credit and to determine those courses that are transferable;
- B) Make application through the International Credential Evaluation Service for a fee, to determine equivalents for Early Childhood Educator's certification in British Columbia; (It should be noted that in either case there is no guarantee that courses or certification will be recognized in British Columbia.):

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities lobby the provincial government to work with other orders of government to ensure the transferability of Early Childhood Education accreditation across the provinces.

2007 B54 CHILD CARE SERVICES FUNDING

WHEREAS access to quality, affordable child care is vital to the social and economic well being of our communities and helps lay a foundation for success for children's lives leading to social cost savings over generations;

AND WHEREAS the cancellation of federal national childcare bi-lateral funding agreements has resulted in significant reductions in provincial funding for child care programs; the provincial government has steadily reduced child care funding since 2002; and the recent cuts to provincial spending are making matters worse for children, working families and employers at the same time as the economy is experiencing a labour shortage:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities call on the federal and provincial governments to fully restore child care funding to build a quality early learning child care system with affordable and reliable daycare for all children.

2007 LR8 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CHILDCARE FUNDING

WHEREAS affordable, accessible, quality childcare, adequate supports and early learning are critical components of the economic and social well-being of a community and the development of a sustainable city;

AND WHEREAS children and families are important to a healthy and diverse community;

AND WHEREAS the recent funding cuts in BC and cancellation of federal-provincial childcare agreements have had implications for the provision of affordable, accessible, quality care for children, placing stress on families, service providers and employers;

AND WHEREAS there is a significant need for affordable, accessible, quality childcare spaces to meet the needs of families in close proximity to work and home:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities advocate to both the federal and provincial levels of government that funding and other supports be increased for affordable, accessible quality childcare and early learning.

2010 B151 AMENDMENT TO COMMUNITY CARE & ASSISTED LIVING ACT (CHILD CARE LICENSING REGULATIONS)

WHEREAS the Province is mandated to regulate and enforce health, safety and staffing standards for child care facilities to protect our most vulnerable citizens;

AND WHEREAS new regulations enacted in 2007 have placed a burden on those community facilities that are attempting to meet the needs of a wide variety of clients, some of whom are employed by resource based companies requiring their employees to work long and varied shift schedules:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities appeal to the Province of British Columbia to review the Child Care Licensing Regulations in consultation with child care operators, and where necessary, make amendments to the *Community Care and Assisted Living Act* that would better serve the needs of shift work clients, and parents with multi-age children.

2011 B66 PROVINCIAL & FEDERAL INVESTMENT IN EARLY CARE & LEARNING

WHEREAS although access to early child care and learning is used globally as a key measure of the economic and social health of society, the current supply of child care in British Columbia only serves about 14% of children age 0 to 12, on the low end in Canada which in turn is lower than any other OECD country, and directly related to a lack of adequate investment by the provincial and federal government in early care and

learning;

AND WHEREAS the 29% of children arriving to kindergarten in BC are developmentally vulnerable – the majority of which now come from the middle class – and are estimated by UBC’s Human Early Learning project, in their report 15 by 15, A Comprehensive Policy Framework for Early Human Capital Investment in BC (Funded by the BC Business Council) to have negative and long term economic consequences estimated to be in the range of 20 per cent of foregone GDP growth:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that other orders of government make early care and learning a top priority by:

- Creating strong legislative frameworks;
- Significant new public investments to support the legislative frameworks;
- Consolidating Early Care and Learning into the provincial Ministry of Education; and
- Establishing an accountability framework that includes developmentally appropriate play-based learning in the early years and ensures positive outcomes for children.

2014 B39 \$10/DAY CHILD CARE

WHEREAS the current lack of adequate, qualified and affordable daycare for working families in BC is hindering economic growth, job opportunities for workers and a child’s well-being;

AND WHEREAS in 2012 the Union of BC Municipalities endorsed the Community Plan for a Public System of Integrated Early Care and Learning in BC which provides a framework for early childhood services so that children, families, communities and our economy are served by a high quality, universal, democratic and accountable system of early care and learning:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM advocate the Province of BC for the implementation of the Community Plan for a Public System of Integrated Early Care and Learning and call for action to begin steps toward implementing a \$10/Day Childcare Program for BC.

2016 B49 CHILD CARE DELIVERY REGULATION AND FUNDING

WHEREAS there is immediate need for more child care spaces and increased number of people working as early childhood educators in the East Kootenay and British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS the main barriers to the creation of new spaces and maintaining

existing spaces is not within local government control but is related to provincial funding, licensing and health requirements, educational requirements, increasingly unaffordable childcare costs for parents, and unacceptably low rate of pay for most early childhood educators:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia, the provincial health authorities, and relevant post-secondary institutions work to solve the immediate and long term needs and gaps in child care delivery, regulation, fee structure and provincial funding;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UBCM and interested local governments be invited to collaborate and participate in developing solutions but that it is understood that child care is not a core mandate or service for local government and interest in participation in solutions is not an invitation for further downloading of responsibility or funding for child care from the Province.

2016 B50 UNIVERSAL DAYCARE PLAN

WHEREAS the federal government has committed \$500 million in childcare funding for the 2017 budget;

AND WHEREAS the BC government recognizes that BC childcare is in dire need of restructured spending and is implementing an Early Years Strategy:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the provincial government to commit to implementing a universal daycare plan that creates new and affordable licensed day care spaces for infant and toddler care, for the benefit of families with an annual income below \$40,000 and to include all communities in BC.

2016 B51 ACCESSIBLE AFFORDABLE CHILDCARE

WHEREAS access to high quality affordable childcare is vital to the social wellbeing and economic prosperity of communities and provides a strong foundation for greater social sustainability in the future;

AND WHEREAS the availability of childcare spaces and the costs associated with such care continues to present a challenge to working families in British Columbia:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the federal and provincial governments make access to childcare a top priority and work together to develop and implement the new National Early Learning and Child Care Framework proposed by the federal government to deliver affordable, high quality flexible and inclusive child care.

2017 B50 AFFORDABLE CHILD CARE

WHEREAS the current lack of qualified and affordable daycare for working families in BC is hindering economic growth and creating financial stress for many families;

AND WHEREAS British Columbia has the second-highest child-care fees in Canada;

AND WHEREAS wait-lists for daycare in some areas exceed 3,000 children:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to develop an affordable child care system that provides a regulated space for every child whose family needs it.

COALITION OF
**child care
advocates**
OF BC



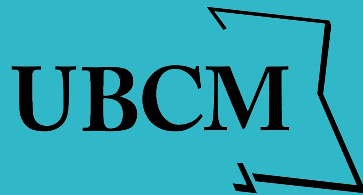
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