

Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC (CCCABC)

Annual Report

AGM December 2025

2025 has been yet another very busy and productive year for the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC. With thanks to our supporters, funders, partners, allies, consultants, board and staff, we expanded our outreach and engagement province-wide and deepened our \$10aDay policy recommendations. We explored different ways of working together with our newly expanded board and welcomed our first new staff member, Sherlana, bringing us to a Core Team of approximately three FTEs: Sharon Gregson, Lynell Anderson, Sherlana Shroeder and Consultant Eric Swanson.

BC Budget 2025, released in March, confirmed our growing concern about the lack of progress on \$10aDay child care in BC, with no new provincial funds committed over the next three years - not even an inflationary increase - and no significant new targets or timelines. BC's inaction stands in stark contrast to most other provinces and territories, who have already capped fees across the sector and/or introduced ECE wage grids. With only 10% of licensed spaces in BC capped at 10aDay, the 2025 national fee study confirmed that BC now has the highest child care fees in the country.

Building on discussions with allies in the child care sector and in the business, education, labour and broader community sectors, we collaborated with our exceptional ally YWCA Metro Vancouver to relaunch our \$10aDay Child Care Campaign in June 2025.

As part of this relaunch, we shared two new on-line tools that highlight the inequities in fees and access to programs experienced by families across BC. We also commissioned an analysis of the economic benefits of child care investments in BC to date, prepared by Dr Jim Stanford, Centre for Future Work. Stanford concluded that "the key lesson arising from this analysis is clear. Quality, accessible, universal child care services are a vital precondition for economic progress. The faster BC can move toward that goal; by improving both the quantity and the quality of child care services, the greater will be the future economic gains for all sectors of the provincial economy."

While the federal contribution to child care is now confirmed through 2031, with an annual increase for inflation, we are highlighting the importance of increasing provincial investment in the lead up to the 2026 provincial budget. In the fall we worked with Together Strategy to launch a communications strategy focused on advancing progress in 2026. Our thanks to Collingwood Neighbourhood House for participating in a brilliant new short video that kicked off this strategy.

In October we were pleased to see the provincial legislature pass an amendment to the School Act which enables school districts in BC to operate licensed child care programs for children of all ages - and to do that year-round. However, without additional provincial funding, school boards will be unlikely to create any new child care programs.

Throughout 2025 our outreach, engagement and policy development activity was substantially funded and supported by the federal government's Women and Gender Equality program. This 21-month systemic change project (through March 31, 2026) prioritizes advancing the \$10aDay child care system across BC by centering the voices of under-represented women. Through this project, we:

- **Scaled up our engagement in northern and rural communities** with Board member Gabriela Cervantes and new part-time staff member Sherlana Schroeder, who lives in the Peace Region and brings a wealth of experience as an ECE. We focused on outreach and made community visits to Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Duncan, Nelson, Quesnel, Vernon and Tumbler Ridge. We valued the opportunity to learn from families, educators, and decision-makers about their child care experiences, issues, and successes. Throughout the year we also participated in, or led, numerous online connections and discussions with community organizations and ECE classes across the province.

- **Engaged in research and dialogue** with newcomer and immigrant women about the relationship between the current ECE workforce, immigration policies and predatory private colleges including ongoing collaboration with Pacific Immigrant Resources Society and their Childcare Leadership Group. Our journey to learn more about and effectively support Indigenous rights and reconciliation continued, and we appreciated the opportunity to work with BC Aboriginal Child Care Society, Early Childhood Educators of BC and Métis Nation BC to co-develop and publish a [joint statement](#) for Child Care Month.

- **Networked with and provided advocacy tools to child care providers across BC** on the challenges they face with the current inadequate Child Care Operating Funding Model. This was accomplished through 3 well-attended province-wide online roundtable discussions, held in collaboration with our \$10aDay partner, ECEBC.

We completed our largely **federally-funded Flexible Child Care project**, led by Eric Swanson, with additional funds provided by the **Canadian Union of Postal Workers**. Our extensive report included 30 detailed policy and funding recommendations to strengthen current programs while simultaneously enabling more non-standard and flexibly scheduled care, in ways that respect and integrate the needs of children, families, educators and operators.

With funding from the **City of Vancouver**, we detailed recommendations for advancing an effective, efficient and equitable, publicly-managed approach to implementing the \$500 million in capital funding and long-term capital plan promised by the BC government in the 2024 election.

Adding to our thanks to individual and organizational members of CCCABC, and our appreciation for the sustained relationships with many organizations in our sector and beyond, we also want to thank and acknowledge the following funders in 2025:

- The Houssian Foundation for supporting our overall \$10aDay Plan research, policy development and advocacy - in collaboration with Collingwood Neighbourhood House - and specifically for their support of the \$10aDay Campaign re-launch.

- BC General Employees' Union, CUPE BC, Health Sciences Association and the Society of Richmond Children's Centres for supporting our ongoing \$10aDay advocacy.

Finally, we thank our valued team of skilled staff and consultants, all of whom share their expertise and experience with deep commitment to supporting the development of an equitable and effective, high quality \$10aDay system.

In closing, as noted above, our major WAGE grant ends on March 31, 2026. While we remain hopeful, like many feminist and social justice organizations, it seems likely that we will have reduced resources in 2026. Board and staff are hard at work to address our funding challenge and you will be hearing from us in the coming months about ways in which you can help. But – rest assured – that whatever the financial bottom line – our bottom line is to remain a strong, principled and consistent voice for the quality, inclusive \$10aDay child care system that children, families, educators, and communities need and deserve. And the BC government has committed to building.