

## SECTION 2

# Bring \$10aDay Child Care to More Families



In 2011, the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC and the Early Childhood Educators of BC created the *Community Plan for a Public System of Integrated Early Care and Learning*, popularly known and widely supported as the \$10aDay Plan. Ten years later we released our Roadmap; a framework detailing the next steps of \$10aDay implementation.

Now, with significant new \$10aDay child care commitments from the provincial and federal governments, we have updated the Roadmap and made it more accessible through individual, policy focused sections. This section details how government can bring \$10aDay child care to more families.

The entire Roadmap to \$10aDay can be found at [10aday.ca/roadmap](https://10aday.ca/roadmap)

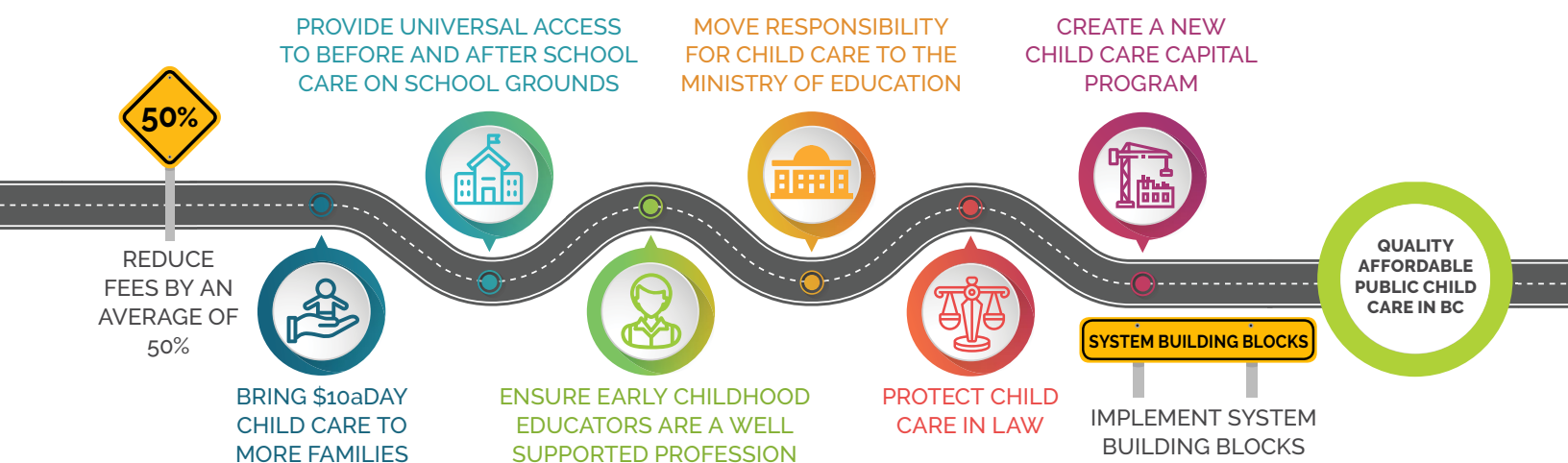
**THE PROMISE TO BRING \$10aDAY** child care to more families was one of the BC government's first and most significant election commitments in both 2017 and 2020. A 2019 poll found that 76 per cent of British Columbians believed the government should move more quickly to deliver on this promise.

While BC Budget 2021 only provided funds to add another 3,750 \$10aDay child care spaces over three years, the bilateral Early Learning and Child Care Agreement BC signed in 2021 with the federal government now promises a total of 12,500 \$10aDay child care spaces by the end of 2022 and average fees of \$10 a day across BC by 2026.

To achieve this goal, BC must replace the current reactive competitive process to selecting \$10aDay sites with a planned transition of existing programs to \$10aDay while creating new \$10aDay sites:

- Prioritizing the transition of existing public/non-profit programs, and interested Indigenous programs, located in public or non-profit owned facilities into \$10aDay sites;
- Opening all new facilities developed with public capital funds as \$10aDay sites — this includes modular buildings and new facilities under public or non-profit ownership;
- Resolving facility ownership challenges with programs located in privately owned facilities; and
- Implementing the four common system building blocks (see Section 8 of the Roadmap).

**The bilateral Early Learning and Child Care Agreement BC signed in 2021 with the federal government now promises a total of 12,500 \$10aDay child care spaces by the end of 2022. This section details how government can deliver on its commitment to bring \$10aDay child care to more families.**



The Roadmap providing a level of policy detail required to create a quality system for BC. Download it at [10aday.ca/roadmap](https://10aday.ca/roadmap)

This focus on the ownership of the facility in which a child care program is located is key to ensuring that:

- Public funds are used to develop and sustain public assets as required by the bilateral agreement;
- Child care spaces created through public funds are secured for child care over the long term; and
- Taxpayers do not assume the mortgage/lease costs or other liabilities and risks<sup>1</sup> associated with privately owned facilities.

To support this approach based on ownership of the facility, government should immediately undertake the long-recommended inventory of existing child care programs to determine the current ownership status and related financial and operational information (see Section 7 of the Roadmap).

We recommend the following four approaches.

### 1. Transition existing programs in public facilities to \$10aDay sites

All profit-generating rental costs charged by public entities (e.g., municipalities, school districts, hospitals) to on-site child care programs in publicly owned facilities should be eliminated and replaced with a consistent approach to covering incremental facility operating costs in a provincial funding formula. This builds on current legislation governing facility-related costs for child care programs in schools.<sup>2</sup>

In most cases the current operator will remain in place. However, some existing operators in public facilities may choose to transfer their license(s) to the local school districts, as child care will be governed through the Ministry of Education. This option may be of interest to small, stand-alone organizations with limited administrative capacities.

1 Some examples of risks include: an operator going out of business; a facility treated as a real estate investment and sold when market forces make that opportune; a facility used as collateral for other business/personal purposes, etc.

2 BC Education Statutes Amendment Act, 2020.

## 2. Transition existing programs in non-profit owned facilities to \$10aDay sites

As in public facilities, a provincial funding formula would cover the direct costs associated with operating the child care facility (not the capital costs, as explained below). The current non-profit operator would remain in place.

The recommended inventory (see Section 7) of existing child care programs will identify programs located in facilities owned by non-profit societies without significant mortgages or leases. We anticipate this will be the case for most programs in this category. On the condition that the space remains available for child care over the long term, these programs would transition to \$10aDay at the same level of public funding received by programs in public facilities with the same accountability requirements.

The inventory will also identify any child care programs located in facilities owned by non-profit societies with outstanding mortgages or lease payments related to capital costs. Government should enter into negotiations with interested non-profit societies to address ongoing facility related costs and tenure. Options could include, but are not limited to:

- Where the non-profit society provides services in addition to child care, government covers a portion of the mortgage/interest directly associated with child care provision — in return, government receives assurance that the space will be used for child care over the long term, similar to methods used in other sectors like non-market housing;
- Government assumes temporary responsibility for the lease until a publicly owned facility is available or the lease expires;
- Government assumes the remaining mortgage, acquiring the related share of public equity in the facility; and
- Government purchases the facility from interested non-profit societies, bringing it into public ownership.

## 3. Open all new programs receiving capital funds as \$10aDay sites

To encourage the significant growth of publicly delivered child care — a key element of effective systems — wherever possible:

- New programs in or **on school grounds** should be operated directly by local school districts. Where this is not possible, these new programs should be operated by an experienced, community-based, non-profit society selected through a transparent process; and
- New programs located in or **on public facilities/lands** other than schools should be operated directly by the local school district or another public entity (e.g., community centre). Where this is not possible, these new programs should be operated by an experienced, community-based, non-profit society selected through a transparent process.

New programs located in facilities owned by non-profit societies should be operated by non-profit societies that have the capacity to develop and deliver child care, through partnership agreements with local school districts, which will replace current MCFD funding contracts (see Section 8).



#### 4. Resolve challenges in privately owned facilities

Taxpayers should not be expected to assume the debts or risks associated with privately owned assets or to fund programs without an assurance that the facility will be available for child care over the long term. To provide these assurances, government needs to resolve the challenges posed by and for child care programs located in privately owned facilities.

- **Privately owned facilities without mortgages/leases:** On the condition that the space remains available for child care use over the long term, these programs could transition to \$10aDay sites on comparable terms as those in public/non-profit facilities.
- **Privately owned facilities with outstanding mortgages or leases:** Government will need to enter into negotiations with interested facility owners to resolve how they may become eligible to operate as \$10aDay sites. Options for consideration and negotiation between government and facility owners include, but are not limited to:
  - » The program agrees to operate as a \$10aDay site at the same level of public funding received by programs in public facilities, with the same accountability requirements. The program facility remains privately owned, covering any remaining capital costs (mortgages, lease agreements) through other funding sources.
  - » Government assumes temporary responsibility for the lease or rents space in the privately owned facility until a publicly owned facility is available or the lease expires.
  - » Government assumes the remaining mortgage, acquiring the related share of public equity in the facility.
  - » Government purchases the facility from an interested owner, bringing it into public ownership.



**FOUR SYSTEM BUILDING BLOCKS** (see Section 8 of the Roadmap) are required to integrate all \$10aDay child care in new and existing programs:

- An equitable funding formula;
- Common operating policies and procedures;
- Community/neighbourhood child care networks; and
- Partnership agreements between school districts and \$10aDay care providers.

The success of government's commitment to build the \$10aDay system depends on a multi-year capital budget and community plans for building publicly owned facilities (see Section 7 of the Roadmap).

Existing licensed programs that choose not to transition from 50 per cent fee reduction programs to \$10aDay programs could continue to receive their 2022 level of operating funds (Child Care Operating Fund, Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative, and Wage Enhancement program), and families in these programs would remain eligible for the Affordable Child Care Benefit (ACCB). Over time these operating funds could be adjusted for inflation.

Government needs to establish a cut off date, after which programs that open in privately owned facilities or outside of a community plan will not be guaranteed access to \$10aDay operating funding. This date needs to be clearly signalled well in advance, giving potential operators ample time to make informed decisions. Consistent information about this cut off date needs to be communicated by licensing officers, child care resource and referral programs, and on government websites.

## **TIMELINE** for bringing \$10aDay child care to more families

### **PHASE 1** (January to December 2022)

The bilateral agreement commits to 12,500 \$10aDay child care spaces by December 2022. Approximately 2,500 are currently in place, with another 4,000 expected to be created early in 2022. The criteria for the new \$10aDay spaces included much needed increased accountability, but the process was still reactive and application-based rather than incorporating a planned, system building approach. This should be the last round of reactive expansion of \$10aDay. From here on, government should:

- Develop a priority list of eligible and interested existing Indigenous, public, and non-profit programs to transition to \$10aDay;
- Transition eligible and interested programs to \$10aDay with an equitable funding formula and common policies and protocols in place, building on the BC Child Care Administration and Management Knowledge Base developed by Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre;<sup>3</sup> and
- Open new public and non-profit eligible programs that received public capital funds as \$10aDay programs.

Until willing programs are able to transition to \$10aDay, government should continue to provide CCOF, Wage Enhancement, and increased CCFRI to bring fees down by an average of 50 per cent with related accountability measures. Families using these services would also continue to receive the Affordable Child Care Benefit (ACCB).

---

3 See WCCRC Administration & Management for Child Care Knowledge Base.



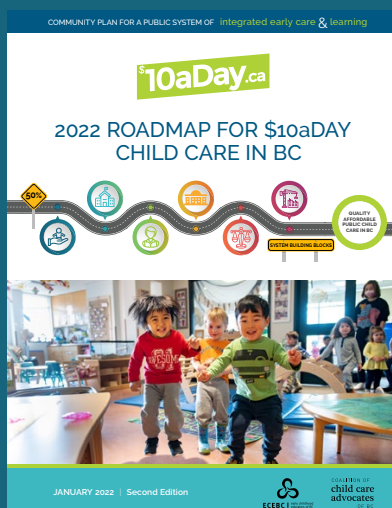
## PHASE 2 (January 2023 to March 2026)

Government has committed to \$10aDay child care across BC by 2026. To achieve this, government should:

- Continue to transition existing, eligible, and newly opened public and non-profit programs that received public capital funds to \$10aDay in a planned way as outlined above;
- Phase out current funding mechanisms (CCOF, CCFRI, and WE) for programs that transition to \$10aDay, replacing them with an equitable funding formula, including a competitive wage grid and common policies and protocols;
- Resolve issues with interested providers in privately owned facilities as outlined above; and
- Develop and implement community/ neighbourhood networks and partnership agreements (see Section 8 of the Roadmap).
- Before April 1, 2026, government needs to make long-term policy and funding decisions about its relationship with licensed child care programs that choose to operate outside the new \$10aDay system. ■



Download the full timeline for the Roadmap at [10aday.ca/roadmap](https://10aday.ca/roadmap)



## 2022 ROADMAP FOR \$10aDAY CHILD CARE IN BC

Second Edition | January 2022

*We put the Roadmap forward in full support of the rights and jurisdiction of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples to design, develop, and deliver early care and learning services that meet their needs. We commit to listen and learn in our ongoing work to decolonize our own practices and perspectives.*

COALITION OF  
**child care  
advocates**  
OF BC

  
**ECEBC** | early childhood  
educators of BC

Download the full Roadmap at  
[10aday.ca/roadmap](https://10aday.ca/roadmap)

e: [info@cccabc.bc.ca](mailto:info@cccabc.bc.ca)  
[cccabc.bc.ca](https://cccabc.bc.ca)

e: [membership@ecebc.ca](mailto:membership@ecebc.ca)  
[ecebc.ca](https://ecebc.ca)