

AN OPEN LETTER:

Women Leaders Call for Progress on \$10aDay Child Care in B.C.

Dear Premier Eby,

We strongly urge you to get child care back on track with a clear vision for, and increased provincial investment in, B.C.'s \$10aDay child care system.

In 2018, we proudly celebrated that B.C. was the first province to commit to \$10aDay child care and then, in 2021, sign an agreement with the federal government. We applauded early, measurable progress: thousands of families benefitting from \$10aDay child care who described it as “life changing”; thousands of new licensed spaces; and educators receiving a wage top-up.

However, it is clear that progress has stalled. Seven years into a 10-year system-building commitment, only 10% of child care in B.C. is a \$10aDay space, and operating funding for those programs is being rolled back. Sadly, for the first time ever, B.C. has the most expensive child care in Canada. Too many families still face long waiting lists. Early childhood educators—the overwhelmingly female workforce at the heart of the system—are still waiting for the fair wage grid B.C. promised.

This lack of progress is out of step with 2025 polling data confirming that British Columbians still agree it is important for their government to deliver on its \$10aDay child care commitments. A recent economic analysis also highlighted that the province’s early child care investments contributed \$5.8 billion to our GDP, leading to \$1 billion in additional B.C. government revenue in 2024—well in excess of the \$865 million in 2024 provincial child care expenditures.

We are deeply concerned that instead of growing a quality \$10aDay system, your government is walking away from its own commitment to create universal access and is instead returning to the failed market-based, income-testing approaches of the past, dismantling the progress that has been made.

Affordable, accessible, quality child care is one of the most powerful tools any government has to advance women’s equality. When child care is unavailable or unaffordable, it is women who disproportionately reduce work hours, turn down career opportunities, or leave the workforce altogether. When child care is strong, women’s participation, leadership, and economic security grow—strengthening families, communities, and the provincial economy as a whole.

Premier, the promise of universal, high-quality child care must not remain out of reach for yet another generation. We call on you to **recommit to developing a quality \$10aDay child care system for B.C.’s children aged 0–12 years**, which includes a fair wage grid for educators, predictable and sufficient operating funding, and accelerated expansion of new programs.

Signed,

Kartrina Chen, *former MLA and Cabinet Minister*
Laurel Collins, *former Member of Parliament*
Judy Darcy, *former MLA and Cabinet Minister*
Libby Davies, *former Member of Parliament*
Adriane Gear, *President, BC Nurses’ Union*
Carole Gordon, *President, BC Teachers’ Federation*
Maurine Karagianis, *former MLA*
Sarah Kooner, *President, Health Sciences Association of BC*
Irene Lanzinger, *former President, BCTF & BC Federation of Labour*
Angela Marie MacDougall, *Executive Director, Battered Women’s Support Services*
Melanie Mark Hli Haykwhl W̓ii Xsgaak, *former MLA and Cabinet Minister*
Maria Middlemiss, *Treasurer, BC General Employees’ Union*
Teri Mooring, *former President, BC Teachers’ Federation*
Michelle Mungall, *former MLA and Cabinet Minister*
Barb Nederpel, *President, Hospital Employees’ Union*
Mira Oreck, *Executive Director, Houssian Foundation*
Karen Ranalletta, *President, Canadian Union of Public Employees BC*
Andrea Reimer, *former Vancouver City Councillor*
Jennifer Rice, *former MLA*
Jane Shin, *former MLA*
Susanne Skidmore, *President, BC Federation of Labour*
Stephanie Smith, *former President, BC General Employees’ Union*
Annette Toth, *President, MoveUP*