

Summary of Policy Changes

BC's new provincial government has taken first steps to begin implementing universal child care.¹ **BC Budget 2018 committed \$1 billion over three years² for child care, plus confirmed federal funding³ of \$153 million.** Building on its election commitment to the \$10aDay Child Care Plan, government's significant actions to date are in three key areas — affordable fees, more licensed spaces, and higher ECE wages.

ACTION		Budget (rounded)	
		BC	Canada
AFFORDABLE FEES			
1	Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative: Funding to licensed providers to lower fees for all families in infant/toddler care by up to \$350/month and \$100/month for children aged 3 to 5. Families of more than 50,000 children benefiting. ⁴	\$630 million	
2	Affordable Child Care Benefit: Income-tested subsidy expanded to include families earning up to \$111,000, with those earning \$60,000 to \$80,000 paying \$10/day on average. Maximum benefit of \$1,250/month eliminates most fees for families in licensed infant/toddler care earning less than \$45,000 annually.		
3	Universal Child Care Prototypes: 18 month initiative to fund selected sites across BC to reduce fees to maximum \$10/day (\$200/month) for all families as a way to test funding models that will inform implementation of universal child care.		\$60 million
Total budget for AFFORDABLE FEES		\$630 million	\$60 million

1 Policy changes summarized from BC government documents, including Budget 2018 and media releases.

2 Fiscal years 2018/19 through 2020/21.

3 Confirmed under the Canada/BC Early Learning and Child Care Agreement through 2019/20, with minimal annual funding of \$51 million projected for future years, but not included in this summary.

4 Eligible providers include licensed group, multi-age and family child care. For details, see gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/family-and-social-supports/child-care/child-care-operating-funding/faqs_for_parents_and_providers_updated_april_16.pdf

MORE LICENSED SPACES		BC	CANADA
4	New Spaces Fund: 22,000 ⁵ new licensed child care spaces over three years prioritizing public partnerships (e.g., local government, school districts).	\$221 million	
5	Aboriginal Head Start: expanded programming for Indigenous children and families across BC, on and off reserve, including new ⁵ licensed child care spaces.		\$30 million
6	Reduce waitlists for Supported Child Development and Aboriginal Supported Development programs.		\$30 million
7	Partnerships with Union of BC Municipalities funding local governments to create 1,370 ⁵ licensed spaces (\$13.7 million) and assess child care needs (\$3 million).	\$3 million	\$14 million
8	Maintenance Fund: New/expanded grant to maintain existing spaces.	\$4 million ⁶	
9	Young Parent Programs: Additional support to access free child care while completing high school.		\$3 million
10	Start-Up Grant: Support individuals and unlicensed providers to become licensed.	\$2 million	
11	Outstanding: Details of remaining funding not yet announced (e.g., funding to support families with non-standard work schedules, starting in 2019).	\$7 million	
Total Budget for MORE LICENSED SPACES		\$237 million	\$77 million
HIGHER ECE WAGES			
12	Wage enhancements totalling \$2/hour for Early Childhood Educators (ECEs): \$1/hour in early 2019 (retroactive to 09/2018); additional \$1/hour starting 04/2020.	\$129 million ⁶	
13	ECE Education Support Fund: Enhanced ECE student bursaries of \$500/course, 60% paid at start of semester, and funding support for current child care professionals (and their employers) to complete or upgrade certification.		\$10 million
14	Post-secondary: Funding spaces for 620 new ECE graduates at public post-secondary institutions across BC.	\$7 million	
15	Professional development: Expanded opportunities for ECEs to remain current on emerging research, trends and practices.		\$6 million
Total budget for ECE WAGES & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT		\$136 million	\$16 million
OVERALL TOTAL BUDGET for all activities over three years		\$1.003 billion	\$153 million

5 Federal funding (e.g. Aboriginal Head Start, Union of BC Municipalities) brings total commitment to 24,000 licensed spaces.

6 Three-year funding estimate extrapolated from 2018/19 budget provided in government publications.

Details at BC government Child Care BC Plan, bcbudget.gov.bc.ca and Canada/BC Agreement on Early Learning and Child Care, canada.ca

For more information, visit 10aday.ca