



The Honourable Lisa Beare, M.L.A.
Minister of Education and Child Care
Government of BC
Via email: ECC.Minister@gov.bc.ca

CC: michelle.lattimore@gov.bc.ca

July 20th, 2026

Dear Minister Beare,

Thank you very much for meeting with the Centre for Family Equity and our Lone Mothers' Economic Inclusion project leaders last March regarding childcare in BC. We truly appreciate your willingness to listen and dialogue with our diverse group, and your accommodation of our delegation of passionate community advocates. Everyone who presented deeply valued the opportunity to share their lived experience directly with you and sends their gratitude.



Pictured above left to right: front row – Zeynya (CFE), Alex (Victoria), Mariam (Langley), Jagdeep, (Surrey), Peace (Prince George), Michelle (Victoria), back row – Kiana (Richmond), Eliza (Victoria), Viveca (CFE)

We are reaching out today to reiterate and refresh our key recommendations, discussed in early March, by lone mothers, Alex, Mariam, Jagdeep, Peace, Michelle, Kiana, and Eliza.

We would first like to reiterate our support for a universal low-capped fee system in the form of the \$10-a-day system that is now in place. Based on research data and all we have heard and seen from parents, one of our key recommendations is for BC to **prioritize and complete the \$10-a-day system** — it is the foundation for equitable access to high-quality childcare in this province.



This means enough spaces to meet existing need, competitive, equitable wages for educators, inclusive supports, quality programs and facilities, and sustainable operating funding.

To ensure that BC's universal childcare system works for everyone, we know that fees must be removed entirely for families living in poverty. We value and appreciate that BC has limited, targeted income testing in place through the Affordable Child Care Benefit (ACCB) to make this come true.

We are appealing to you to **keep the ACCB equity measure that is already working in place and to expand it.** The benefit reduces fees to zero for those living below the poverty line who are accessing \$10-a-day spaces. For families who can access **its full benefit within a \$10-a-day space**, our research data shows that the ACCB is working — opening doors to the labour market for lone mothers and families living in deep poverty.

But in a non-\$10-a-day spaces, the ACCB does not go far enough. Fees are highly variable, leaving many low-income parents shut out by a system that is overly complicated and hard to navigate. We recommend **enough spaces to meet existing need and streamlining and simplifying the system so that targeted zero-fee childcare** reaches families who need it — largely Black, racialized, Indigenous, newcomer, and lone-mother households disproportionately impacted by poverty.

We are asking the Ministry of Education and Child Care to:

- Prioritize and complete the \$10-a-day childcare system with low universal capped fees.
- Maintain and expand the ACCB to ensure families below the poverty line can access zero-fee childcare in all existing and new \$10-a-day spaces.
- Guarantee that the lowest-income families have access to zero-fee childcare across all publicly funded childcare spaces while the \$10-a-day system is being built.

We must also share our perspective on the recent Child Care Survey 2026. We feel it created a misleading choice between universal low-capped fees and targeted support for low-income families. We caution against dangerous trade-offs that sacrifice equity within a universal approach. We believe that equity measures and universality are not competing priorities; they are two parts of the same commitment. We do not recommend a broader income-tested system, where only low-income families qualify for affordable spaces. That would embed inequality into the design of the system. The promise of universality is that quality, affordable childcare will be available to every family who needs it — regardless of income or circumstances.

Our new petition letter to multiple ministries and the Office of the Premier provides an opportunity for allies throughout BC to express their support for these recommendations.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration. We would welcome a response and the opportunity to further collaborate as you work to bring more equity into BC's universal childcare system so that no family is left behind.

Sincerely,



Viveca Ellis