



February 8, 2022

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Dear Education Partners, Child Care Stakeholders, Providers and Operators:

It is our pleasure to address you jointly today with the news that our Government has announced that the accountability for child care will transition to the Ministry of Education at the beginning of April 2022.

This transition reflects and responds to advice we have been hearing from the child care sector since the launch of ChildCareBC in 2018, and it aligns with approaches taken in other provinces and territories. Bringing child care under the umbrella of the Ministry of Education acknowledges that it is part of a child's learning journey, delivering important early learning opportunities and supporting future educational success. This transition brings us closer to achieving our ChildCareBC vision of offering families quality, inclusive child care that is available when parents need it, at a price they can afford.

This transition means that the Minister of State for Child Care, public service staff, the budget and the legislative authority for child care will move to the Ministry of Education. The operational impact for the child care and education sectors will be minimal. Over time, this change will lead to a better understanding of regional child care needs, and an increased provision of child care, including on school grounds – responding to the shortage of spaces faced by families while easing transitions for children entering school.

There will be no immediate change for child care operators as a result of moving child care delivery into the Ministry of Education. Child care operators will not be governed by school boards or be responsible for delivering provincial curriculum. Child care is important for parents, and all types of child care providers – from public and private, to Indigenous-led, non-profit and family-run – will continue to have access to government supports and be invited to participate in the future of child care in BC.

We remain committed to ongoing dialogue with First Nations rights holders, Métis and Inuit peoples about what a distinctions-based approach to Indigenous child care means. Neither the Ministry of Education nor school districts has any jurisdiction over early learning and child care delivered on reserve.

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Many school districts across the province have embraced opportunities to provide much-needed before- and after school care. Existing programs will continue to operate as they do today, and we encourage districts to continue looking for opportunities to provide this important service for families in their communities.

To better respond to regional and local child care needs, such as partner engagement, planning and building capacity, six new regional offices are being established. Over time, these offices will grow into the main point of contact for the child care sector.

We acknowledge that there have been many changes for community service organizations, child care providers and educators in the last two years as we collectively deal with the new and ever-changing environment brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. We thank you for your hard work and perseverance during these challenging times.

This transition represents an exciting development, and we want to assure you that all existing child care programs and funding will remain in place as we continue the work to implement our ChildCare BC plan.

We remain committed to ongoing engagement with the education and child care communities on how this change can improve access to care for families, and make transitions into school easier for children.

As many of you know, we have already launched an extended period of engagement to begin these conversations. Please visit the [Early Care and Learning Engagement](#) page on our ChildCare BC website to find out more about how to participate. Together let us continue our work to build a brighter future for families where child care is a core service that is affordable, reliable and available when and where families need it.

Thank you again for everything you do to uplift, educate, and care for British Columbia's youngest citizens.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Whiteside
Minister of Education



Katrina Chen
Minister of State for Child Care