



VIA E-MAIL  
Ref: 234848

December 19, 2017

Adrienne Montani  
Provincial Coordinator  
First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition  
E-mail: [adrienne@firstcallbc.org](mailto:adrienne@firstcallbc.org)

Dear Ms. Montani:

Thank you for your letter outlining priorities for the 2018 provincial budget and expressing support for an affordable and accessible child care plan in British Columbia. I note you also addressed your letter to Dr. Andrew Weaver, Leader, BC Green Party. You also provided a copy of your letter to the Honourable Katrina Chen, Minister of State for Child Care, and we are pleased to respond.

We would first like to commend the work of the First Call Early Childhood Development Roundtable. Your commitment to the youngest children of our Province and their families encourages the development of sound social policy with children and their families at the centre.

As you know, our new government is committed to implementing an accessible and affordable child care system. As you can imagine, implementing an all encompassing child care plan is a complex process that requires collaboration with all partners, including the Green Party. We are also talking to key stakeholders, including child care advocates like First Call, Indigenous stakeholders, as well as child care providers, educators, parents, and local governments to determine the best path forward.

As we prepare February’s budget announcement, we would like to assure you that the Government is being proactive in working to meet families’ child care needs. For example, we are already working to improve accessibility through a \$33-million investment to support the creation of 3,800 child care spaces in 52 communities across the province. This is the single largest investment in child care spaces in a single fiscal year by the province since the Child Care Major Capital Program was established.

We also plan to provide additional investments in the Early Childhood Educator workforce, which will enhance the quality of care provided to children and support qualified child care providers who are working hard to provide safe and enriching experiences for children. Additionally, we recognize the burden that high child care fees place on British Columbia families and are committed to increasing affordability of child care, starting with infant/toddler programs.

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As noted in our previous correspondence, there will be more details about the child care plan in the February 2018 budget – the first full budget delivered by this government.

Thank you for sharing your thoughts and for your continued support of an accessible and affordable child care system in British Columbia.

Sincerely,



Katrine Conroy  
Minister of Children and Family Development



Katrina Chen  
Minister of State for Child Care

pc: Dr. Andrew Weaver