



## ECD ROUNDTABLE MINUTES

UNITED WAY OF THE LOWER MAINLAND  
4543 CANADA WAY, BURNABY

Wednesday, March 20, 2019  
9:30 am

### PRESENT

Crystal Janes, Westcoast CCRC  
Darcy Morgan, Roots of Empathy  
Dawn Embree, Lower Mainland Purpose Society  
Emily Gawlick, Early Childhood Educators of BC (chair)  
Joanne Murrell, Manager, Child Care Policy, MCFD  
Katherine Jarman, Practicum Student for ECEBC  
Lynell Anderson, Coalition of Child Care Advocates  
Mab Oloman, Coalition of Child Care Advocates (recorder)

Maria Cargnelli, Abbotsford Community Services  
Sue Irwin, BC Child Care Resource & Referral  
Susan Foster, Tri-Cities ECD Community Development, MCFD  
Tanya Valois, Westcoast Family Centres Society  
Adrienne Montani, First Call  
Helesia Luke, First Call

Christine Therriault-Finke, Acting Director of Inclusion, MCFD  
Kate Toye, Success By 6/Prince Rupert  
Kirsten Bevelander, BC Aboriginal Child Care Society  
Joseph Dunn, BC Council for Families

### BY PHONE

Nadine Gagné-L'Hirondelle, Métis Nation BC  
Sherry Sinclair, BC Association of Family Resource Programs

### REGRETS

June Stewart, Shuswap Children's Association  
Sara Cameron, MOSAIC BC  
Zelly Teferra, MOSAIC BC

## 1. Welcome, recognition of Indigenous lands, introductions and agenda

Emily Gawlick chairing. First Nations territories recognized, introductions and regrets noted.

## 2. Review of previous meeting minutes – [January 23, 2019](#)

- Accepted
- Actions arising or pending
  - A draft letter to Ministers Conroy and Chen about fair compensation for early childhood educator wages was presented and reviewed. It was suggested that a question be added to ask about the long-term vision and whether compensation for ECE's outside of the child care sector - those in other family support programs - should be included. It was also noted that there is a movement across the social services sector to address wages in contracted services and First Call will be promoting the living wage.

### Action:

A second letter will be drafted focusing on the need for addressing the wages of ECEs outside of the child care sector are also supported. The last paragraph of the first letter will allude to the next letter. Sherry Sinclair, Sue Irwin and Emily Gawlick will work with Adrienne on the second letter.

- The BC Council for Families is working with the BC Alliance for Young Parents. Joseph Dunn provided an update on Young Parent Programs (YPP). He reported, and a YPP administrator in

**putting children and youth first**

attendance confirmed, =that there has been much improvement with respect to parents receiving funds on time and that MCFD staff are very engaged and have assigned Affordable Child Care Benefit staff to YPP. Concerns were raised that the bi-lateral funding that tops up funding for Young Parents from \$1000/mo to \$1500/mo is only available for one more year. There is no answer yet to what happens next, but it is “on the radar”. It was also noted that some, but not all community agencies that provide YPPs with parent support workers and other related activities have regional MCFD contracts to do so. Contracts are not uniform, and it is understood that some agencies on the Island may have lost theirs.

### 3. ECD Sector Updates/Presentations/Discussions

- **MCFD Early Years and Inclusion update – Christine Therriault-Finke, Acting Director of Inclusion**

Christine, who is relatively new to Ministry but not to special needs services, introduced herself and spoke to the development of a Child and Youth Special Needs (CYSN) Service Framework. She provided the following written summary of her update for the minutes. Thank you, Christine!

#### **Development of a CYSN Service Framework**

*Project Goal* - Develop a framework that provides overarching policy and guides investment for the suite of CYSN services. The framework is intended to be ready for implementation in April 2020.

*Objectives of the Framework* - Establish an approach to delivery and access driven by the needs of child/family and reflective of current research.

#### *Research in CYSN to inform the CYSN Service Framework*

- Looking to a variety of sources of information to inform the development of the Service Framework including research on the current system and user experience, ongoing engagement with sector and governance including internal and external Ministry partners.
- Two consulting firms have been contracted:
  - Reciprocal Consulting: An Indigenous consulting and research firm which is leading the user experience research with Indigenous families.
  - KPMG: A large research firm also conducting analysis on the current state of CYSN service and user experience research.
- Research by contracted researchers will be completed in mid May 2019.
- Consultants are reaching out to providers and participants of CYSN services.
- Sessions are occurring in approximately 20 communities and in some cases via virtual and teleconference options.
- Surveys are being collected by both research firms from the participant and providers.

#### **Inclusive Child Care**

MCFD is gathering input to assist in planning for building capacity for Inclusive Child Care

1. Review of more than 300 childcare operator policies from an inclusive perspective – minority of policies reviewed had inclusive components (some exemplars but a noted need to build capacity for inclusion).
2. Inclusive Child Care Reference Group
  - Convened to provide advice and recommendations to MCFD on planning for child care for children with extra support needs
  - Key functions:
    - To identify who we need to engage with and how

- To share practices and emerging research and develop recommendations to assist policy makers

### 3. Evaluation of an Inclusion Pilot

- 13 of the universal child care prototype sites are piloting and additional model of funding inclusive child care
- Inclusion Coordinator funding model: gov't provides funding to child care operators to hire an inclusion coordinator to work within their program
- Inclusion Support Funding Model: child care operator works with family to apply to government for funding (at different levels based on need) to support the child
- Key informant interviews with existing SCD and ASCD programs, ongoing monitoring of what is happening in other jurisdictions in relation to inclusive child care and developing questions specific to inclusion on the child care provider survey
- Throughout this work we are mindful of understanding parent perspectives

#### Questions and comments:

*Will the Ministries of Health and Education be at the table as well? Eventually - once the framework is moving forward MCFD will be working with these other Ministries.*

*Is another inclusion model being considered in lieu of the current one? No, they are just reviewing to look at improvement.*

*What are the differences between the two models? The first, the Inclusion Coordinator funding model, invests in the resources and capacity of the child care program. With the second, the Inclusion Support Funding Model, the funding follows the child.*

*How does the SNCY framework relate to the EY Framework? The SNCY framework is specific for children with extra support needs.*

*Low wages are a big concern for SCD ECEs; some are working for minimum wage! Inequity between those working for a child care facility get the wage enhancement and those working for other community agencies don't.*

*How many service frameworks are there in MCFD? Not sure how many there are but will get back to the Roundtable to confirm.*

- **MCFD Child Care – Joanne Murrell, Manager Child Care Policy**

Joanne introduced herself as an Early Childhood Educator who has worked in the field in BC as well as in Ontario where she was involved in the policy work for integrating ECEs into the early years child care/kindergarten program there.

[Her presentation](#), accompanied by an excellent slide presentation and related comments, was centred on the key components of the Childcare BC plan. The participants on the phone did not have links the visual presentation so Joanne said she would provide her slides and notes for these minutes. They will be added once received. In the meantime, related web links have been added to these minutes.

*[revision June 20, 2019: Joanne's presentation slides are now included in the link above].*

In brief, the Ministry is working on the first three years of a ten-year plan. Last year's announcement of a \$1billion initiative was increased in this year's budget to \$1.3billion. In addition to this is \$153 million from the Canada – British Columbia Early Learning and Child Care Agreement (ELCC), signed February 2018. The agreement funds a number of initiatives including: \$30 million to expand Aboriginal Head Start programs around the province; \$3 million to boost the monthly funding amount available to eligible young parents in YPPs to up to \$1,500 a month per child; \$30 million to make child care more inclusive through the Supported Child Development program; \$60 million to create Universal Child Care Prototype Sites, and the \$13.7 million for new spaces through UBCM. Clearly, that fact that the ELCC funding ends next year has significant implications

### **Affordability**

*Fee reduction initiatives.* As of February 2019, there are 52,000 licenced spaces in the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative (CCFRI) in 3400 facilities (88% of eligible child care spaces). Of the \$91.6 million that has been paid out to providers \$84.9m was for parent fee reduction and \$6.7 million to providers in recognition of the additional administrative costs. Renewal for CCOF funding are in process. The 2019/20 Funding Agreement is being consolidated and includes CCOF [Base Funding](#), the [Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative](#) (CCFRI), and the [Early Childhood Educator Wage Enhancement](#) (ECE-WE). With respect to the CCFRI, providers must share the following information in writing with parents receiving the benefit: confirm their enrolment in the CCFRI, the amount of fee reduction funding they receive, and the amount of any fee increase(s) for which they have been approved for the contract term. If they have been approved for an exceptional fee increase associated with increasing direct-care staff wages, they must share this information with affected staff. Parents and staff can also contact the ministry for high-level information about a provider's CCFRI application/approval status.

For more detail see: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/caring-for-young-children/running-daycare-preschool/child-care-operating-funding/child-care-fee-reduction-initiative-provider-opt-in-status>)

#### **Comments:**

- Concerns about processing time have been raised in the media. It is a new program and as it evolves hopefully this issue will be resolved.
- Transparency is important as is public accountability. Learnings are already having an impact on policy. This is good.

The Affordable Child Care Benefit (ACCB), introduced in September 2018, replaced the Child Care Subsidy and increases both the annual income threshold and the maximum monthly rate. That rate depends on factors like family size, type of care and household income. There are 60,000 more families now eligible for some support.

For more detail see: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/caring-for-young-children/child-care-funding/child-care-benefit/rates>

#### **Comments:**

- Many families assume they are not eligible so to increase uptake its important to get the ACCB information out.
- Some potential beneficiaries are not computer literate enough to walk through an online process even with help, translators and computer access.
- When a child and father are Canadian, but the mother isn't, the family is not eligible for ACCB until the mother gets residency. This benefit should not be constrained by gender.

Prototype sites, operating from Sept. 1, 2018, to March 31, 2020, will convert approximately 2500 licensed child care spaces into low-cost spaces for families to test the \$10aDay child care proposal. Fees at approved facilities will be capped at \$200 a month, per child. Evaluation of this initiative is being undertaken by R.A. Malatest & Associates Ltd. The goal is to have the report by end of end of March 2020.

**Accessibility:**

The Province plans to add 22,000 new child care spaces through the Childcare BC New Spaces Fund over the next three years by helping providers with capital costs. As of February 19<sup>th</sup>, 41 applications for funding had been approved for a potential increase of 1,700 spaces - fewer than hoped for but spaces should increase more rapidly in the next two years. 17 of the applications were from public and non-profit organizations and 24 were from commercial (for-profit) operators.

MCFD recognizes that basing the space creation program on the previous Major Capital Grant Program is not the most effective way for addressing accessibility, so they have worked with the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) on a couple of initiatives to encourage local governments to determine their child care needs and respond. British Columbia municipalities and regional districts can now access \$13.7 million in funding through the Community Child Care Space Creation Program to create new licensed child care spaces in their communities, and to help local governments identify their child care space needs, the Province is also providing Community Child Care Planning grants of up to \$25,000 per applicant.

Childcare BC Maintenance Fund is based on the previous program, Minor Capital Funding for Emergency Repair, Replacement and Relocation. It helps licensed child care facilities address maintenance issues. Eligible applicants can receive, per fiscal year: Up to \$10,000 per facility for non-profit licensed providers; up to \$5,000 per facility for private licensed providers; and up to \$2,000 per facility for licensed personal residence providers. There has been a very high demand for funding. The \$1.2million budget was fully expended within 8 weeks. The Ministry responded by adding a further \$1million to the fund to address the demand. 716 applications for funds were received: 575 from commercial/for-profit providers and 141 from non-profit and public sector partners – a dramatic change from previous years when the fund was only available to non-profit providers. The fund is closed for now except for emergency applications.

**Comments/Questions:**

- *What is the rationale for opening the fund up to for-profit?* They wanted to see that all child care is maintained. It is around the balance. They will be re-launching the program and there may be some tweaks to policy.
- *We should not be increasing for-profit providers and enhancing their profitability.*

Maintenance Fund information can be found here: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/caring-for-young-children/running-daycare-preschool/childcare-bc-maintenance-fund>

In addition to the above, one-time start-up grants are available to help unlicensed child care providers pay for the costs associated with getting a Community Care Facility Licence for family or in-home multi-age child care. As of February 2019, 526 spaces have been licensed due to the start-up grant and more are in the hopper waiting to be licensed. For more information see: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/caring-for-young-children/running-daycare-preschool/start-up-grants>

**Comments/Questions:**

- *Since applicants were caring for at least two children before they were licensed how many of these 526 spaces are actual new spaces? Joanne didn't know but the operational side of MCFD may know. She noted that there are advantages for families as children enrolled in a licensed program can apply for the ACCB.*
- *Is the operational side also tracking how many of the providers who have received capital grants through the Childcare BC New Spaces Fund are actually providing the number and type of spaces that their application said they would provide? How does MCFD monitor accountability for the government expenditure?*

**Quality:**

BC is investing \$136 million over three years, supplemented by \$16.3 million in federal funding, to address human resource issues in the sector through: wage enhancement; education and training; professional development and updated competencies and standards. Joanne described these initiatives in detail. For more information see: [https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/family-and-social-supports/child-care/6337\\_earlycareandlearningrecruitment\\_andretentionstrategy\\_report\\_web.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/family-and-social-supports/child-care/6337_earlycareandlearningrecruitment_andretentionstrategy_report_web.pdf)

Joanne finished her presentation with this summary. The goal is that by the end of the three years there will be 24,000 new spaces; up to 50,000 families with fee reduction; nearly 27,000 families with incomes of less than \$45,000/year paying little or nothing for licensed child care; up to 86,000 families benefitting from the ACCB and ECEs and other caring professionals will have received enhanced compensation and training opportunities.

**Comments:**

Lynell Anderson thanked Joanne for the comprehensive presentation and then respectfully summarized, from the Coalition's perspectives, the strengths and concerns about the incredible progress that has been made on the Child Care Plan.

**Affordability:**

- The CCFRI is an excellent program and should be built on but the subsidy program, the ACCB, is not the way to go. There are no examples globally of quality universal child care systems that rely on income tested subsidies to build them.

**Quality:**

- Wage enhancement is applauded as are the educational supports.

**Accessibility:**

- The expansion approach is flawed. BC is the only province that provides capital funding to commercial for-profit providers. Basically, MCFD is providing a lot of money to 3<sup>rd</sup> parties for private assets but does not have access to those assets as in the development of schools and other assets in the public domain. This results in unplanned development that may not even address community service gaps. The reach-out through the UBCM is laudable but what is needed is a provincially led infrastructure plan and a separate capital budget.

A murmur of agreement followed Lynell's summary and participants added other concerns including:

- Why is MCFD funding enhancements to the private homes of family child care providers when it is understood that turnover is common - many providing child care services for a limited time while their own children are young.
- For new spaces, putting the onus on individual applicants, non-profits, who do not have the capacity to reply to RFPs is continuing to create huge inequities.

- Many municipalities/ local governments don't have social planners to steer the child care planning and developing work.
- MCFD is primarily a child protection Ministry therefore has no capital budget for facility development. Child care should be moved to the Ministry of Education and incorporated into its infrastructure budget.
- A northern /rural lens needs to be used to determine the impact of all initiatives on those communities.

The session concluded with much thanks to Joanne for listening as well as presenting.

- **Child care Capital Funding/ \$10aDay Plan update – Lynell Anderson**

The 8<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Plan has been released. It includes an overview of the progress that has been made over the last year and describes three system building steps that government should take to “secure the progress, sustain the momentum and build the system.” Hard copies will be available and you can read it online at: [https://www.10aday.ca/10aday\\_plan\\_2019\\_edition](https://www.10aday.ca/10aday_plan_2019_edition)

**Comments:**

- It is time for another letter to government with the Roundtable's serious concerns about the capital funding program. We communicated with the previous government about these matters but not with the current government.

**Action:**

The Roundtable will send a letter to government with our concerns about the capital program. It will also ask for a meeting Ministers Conroy, Chen and Fleming to discuss the issues.

(Note: The Special Needs Child Care Supplement and the BC Budget, the next two agenda items were tabled to a future meeting.

#### 4. Member Updates and New Resources (very abbreviated due to time constraints)

- *Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre* - has moved to a temporary location at Kingsway and Boundary. They are thrilled to be part of the bi-lateral agreement professional development work and will be sharing details and outcomes as they unfold.
- *Roots of Empathy* - symposium in Toronto on April 16<sup>th</sup> and preparations underway for coming year.
- *Abbotsford Community Services* - excited about the new CCRR funding and happy about contract renewal but there is concern that 2020 contracts are going to procurement/RFP process.
- *BC Association of Family Resource Programs* ... interested in the CCRR contract experience and will reach out to them to discuss. See website for news and upcoming events <http://www.frpbc.ca/news/>
- *Métis Nation BC*: Provincial Métis Early Years Program is hiring navigators and Nadine was able to witness the signing of the Métis Nation Early Learning and Child Care Accord, an investment of \$450M over the next 10 years

#### 5. Future Meeting Dates

The next ECD Roundtable meetings will take place:

- Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 9:30-12:00pm

- Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 9:30-12:00pm
- Wednesday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 9:30-12:00pm

Refreshments are served at 9:15 am. United Way, 4543 Canada Way in Burnaby. Telephone participation welcome; please contact us by the Monday before the meeting at [info@firstcallbc.org](mailto:info@firstcallbc.org) if you wish to participate by phone.