



VIA E-MAIL
Ref: 243746

July 16, 2019

Adrienne Montani
Provincial Coordinator
First Call BC
E-mail: adrienne@firstcallbc.org

Dear Adrienne Montani:

Thank you for your letter in which you call for a more urgent focus on the issue of fair compensation for Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) in Government's work towards a Universal Child Care system for British Columbia. Please accept our apologies for the delay in responding.

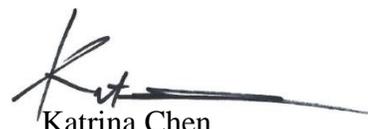
We would like to emphasize that we understand your concerns regarding the compensation of ECEs. The initiatives being undertaken through our [Early Care and Learning Recruitment and Retention Strategy](#), including the wage enhancement, are a first step in a long-term commitment to improve supports for the child care sector and recognize ECEs for the essential role they play in preparing British Columbia's children for the future.

We appreciate your recognition of what this Government has been able to accomplish so far. As we are committed to evidence-based approaches, it is imperative to balance the need to move quickly with the need to test and evaluate the impact of the work we have done so far. Gathering data as we go will inform our next steps and ensure that our initiatives and implementation approaches have the best possible outcomes. We can assure you that we truly value the passion, professionalism and dedication ECEs show every day, and understand the importance of fair compensation that recognizes their valuable work.

Thank you for taking the time to provide your feedback and for sharing your recommendations. We can assure you that your feedback will be considered as part of our evaluation process for the Recruitment and Retention Strategy initiatives, and will be used in developing our next steps.

Sincerely,


Katrine Conroy
Minister


Katrina Chen
Minister of State for Child Care

pc: Allison Bond, Deputy Minister for Children and Family Development
Christine Massey, Assistant Deputy Minister, Early Years and Inclusion Division