

# British Columbia



## PROVINCIAL CONTEXT

### Number of children 0-12 yrs (2005 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0	34,900
1	41,900
2	35,800
3	39,200
4	40,200
5	41,200
6	45,100
7	44,700
8	48,500
9	48,000
10	49,000
11	55,200
12	50,800
Total	574,500

### Number of children 0-12 years (2005 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0-2	112,600
3-5	120,600
6-12	341,300
Total	574,500

---

**Children 0-12 yrs with mothers in the paid labour force (2005 rounded estimate)**

Age	Number of children
0	19,700
1	23,400
2	20,800
3	23,100
4	25,100
5	26,400
6	27,800
7	29,400
8	31,800
9	31,400
10	30,700
11	37,300
12	34,900
Total	361,700

---

**Number of children 0-12 years with mothers in the paid labour force (2005 rounded estimate)**

Age	Number of children
0-2	63,900
3-5	74,600
6-12	223,200
Total	361,700

---

**Children 0-14 yrs identifying with an Aboriginal group (2001)**

Age	North American Indian	Metis	Inuit	Multiple	Other	Total
0-4	11,520	3,200	105	135	480	15,440
5-9	12,995	4,110	95	135	570	17,905
10-14	13,210	4,695	110	105	540	18,660
Total	37,725	12,005	310	375	1,590	52,005

---

**Children 0-14 yrs with disabilities (2001)**

Age	Number of children with disabilities	Rate of children with disabilities (%)
0-4	3,950	2.0
5-9	9,080	3.9
10-14	12,000	4.7
Total	25,040	3.6

---

*Note: Total may not add up due to rounding.*

---

**Number of children by marital status of families (2001)**

Age	Children in couple families	Children in lone parent families	(with lone mothers)	(with lone fathers)
0-4	172,415	32,125	28,095	4,030
5-9	190,430	48,500	41,345	7,155
10-14	200,055	56,045	45,855	10,195
Total	562,900	136,670	115,295	21,380

---

<b>Number of children by mother tongue (2001)</b>			
Age	English	French	Non-official language
0-4	164,975	880	35,880
5-9	196,840	965	40,055
10-14	211,585	1,070	43,550
Total	573,400	2,915	119,485

<b>Children living in families below the LICO (2004)</b>		
Age	Number	Percent (%)
0-2	26,660	22.3
3-5	32,650	26.4
6-17	136,770	23.1
Total	196,080	23.5

<b>Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child (2005 rounded estimate)</b>		
Age of youngest child	Number of mothers	Participation rate (%)
0-2	65,900	64.3
3-5	54,600	75.7
6-15	184,400	79.4

## FAMILY-RELATED LEAVE

### Maternity leave

Seventeen weeks. An additional six weeks is available to the birth mother if she is unable to return to work for health reasons related to the birth or pregnancy.

### Parental leave

Thirty-five weeks for birth mothers who have taken maternity leave; must be taken immediately following maternity leave. Thirty-seven weeks for other parent. An additional five weeks is available if the child has a condition requiring additional parental care. Thirty-seven weeks if birth mother has not taken maternity leave; must be taken within 52 weeks of the child's birth.

### Adoption leave

Thirty-seven weeks. An additional five weeks is available if the child has a condition requiring additional parental care.

### Family-related leave

Five days per year

### Births and EI maternity and parental claims (2005)

Number of births	40,926
Birth rate per 1,000 population	9.6
Number of initial maternity claims allowed	22,980
Average length of maternity claim	14.5 weeks
Number of parental claims	25,120
Average length of parental claim	28.7 weeks
Number of adoptive parent claims	300
Average length of adoptive claim	29.8 weeks

*Note: Maternity, parental and adoption leaves are determined by provincial and territorial legislation. The federal government pays for up to 15 weeks for maternity leave and 35 weeks for parental and adoptive leave for eligible parents at 55% of earned income to a maximum of \$423 week. See FEDERAL ECEC PROGRAMS for more information.*

## KINDERGARTEN

### KINDERGARTEN LEGISLATION

British Columbia. Legislative Assembly. *School Act*, 1996. [R.S.B.C c.412]

*Independent School Act*, 1989

### PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR KINDERGARTEN

#### KINDERGARTEN CONTACT

Pat McCrea

Research Officer

Research & Data Analysis Unit

Ministry of Education

PO Box 9132

620 Superior St, Victoria BC V8W 9B5

Telephone: (250) 356-2440

Facsimilie: (250) 356-0407

### KINDERGARTEN SERVICES

#### KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten is delivered in public and private schools. (Both types of schools receive public funding; see SOURCES OF FUNDING for more information.) It is available to all five year olds in British Columbia on a part-time basis. There are 2.4 hours of instruction during the day multiplied by the number of instructional days in the standard school calendar for that year.

Access to kindergarten is a legislated entitlement. Parents may choose to defer their child's enrolment in school until the following year.

### AGE ELIGIBILITY

Five years old before December 31st

### CLASS SIZE

A provincial class size limit is specified in *The School Act*. *The School Act* sets the maximum average aggregate size for kindergarten at 19 students, and no class can exceed 22 students.

#### Average kindergarten class size in public schools

2005/06: 17.7

2006/07: 17.5

## CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

There is a policy manual regarding educational services for children with special needs. School boards are responsible for providing facilities that allow equality of access to educational programs. Some students who are identified as having special education needs are eligible for 950 hours of instruction in kindergarten (full-day). Districts are advised to co-ordinate the entry of the child to school and the planning of the kindergarten program with programs which have been offered in the preschool years. In some cases, school districts may elect to contract for services through a preschool or child development centre for some portion of the child's educational program in the kindergarten year.

Children with special needs are typically included in regular kindergarten. Learning Assistance Teachers typically provide the major link with support services available at the district level. Some schools combine learning assistance with other special education services to create a 'Resource Teacher' model.

The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Child and Family Development (Supported Child Care Program) share a protocol agreement with respect to shared funding responsibility for children who have delayed kindergarten entry.

Number of kindergarten children with identified special needs in public schools only (includes severe handicap, severe behaviour, moderate handicap, and gifted)  
2004/05: 882 (661 part-day, 221 full-day)  
2005/06: 947

## ENROLMENT (2005/06)

Number of children enrolled in public schools	35,319
Number of children enrolled in private schools	5,132
Total enrolment	40,451

*Note: See SPECIAL FEATURES for information about full-time kindergarten.*

## KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS

Qualification requirements: Kindergarten teachers must have teacher certification. Certification requires a B.Ed. or Bachelor's degree plus post-degree teacher training. There are no ECE requirements.

Responsibility for Certification: BC College of Teachers

Representation: British Columbia Teachers Federation

Number of kindergarten teachers: Not available

Average salary 2005/06 (K-12): \$62,024

## CLASSROOM ASSISTANTS

Title: Educational Assistants

Qualifications: Established by school boards

Role: The policy regarding teaching assistants is a local school board decision; teaching assistants are usually for special needs students.

Representation: CUPE

TA maximum (top of scale) hourly wage (2005/06): \$21.47

## CURRICULUM

There is a specific provincial curriculum for kindergarten. It is currently attached to the grade one curriculum as a K-Grade 1 curriculum, part of a provincial framework called the Primary Program. It includes prescribed learning outcomes specific to K-Grade 1 for each area of study.

## MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

See RECENT DEVELOPMENTS for details.

## SOURCES OF FUNDING FOR KINDERGARTEN

Funding is provided by the province to school boards under a block grant system.

There are no parent fees in the public school system for part-day programs. Some school boards offer full-day kindergarten with fees for the additional part of the day. Independent schools receive half the per capita funding as public schools. The additional funding comes from school fees and fundraising.

## PUBLIC SPENDING ON KINDERGARTEN (2004/05)\*

### Average spending for each kindergarten student

Full-time equivalent:	\$5,520
Part-time:	\$2,760

An additional \$950 is spent for Aboriginal students in full-day kindergarten and an additional \$475 for Aboriginal students in half-day programs.

*Note: Figures do not include spending on capital, transportation, special needs, Aboriginal Education, or ESL.*

### Provincial spending on kindergarten

Total spending on part-day kindergarten:	\$86,934,480
Total spending on full-day kindergarten:	\$24,530,880
Total provincial spending on kindergarten:	\$111,465,360

\* More recent information is unavailable

## SPECIAL FEATURES

Full-time kindergarten may be available for special populations. In 2004/05, there were 4,444 children enrolled in full-time kindergarten in public schools. These include Aboriginal children, children with special needs, English as a Second Language and French as a Second Language. The Ministry provides funding and the school boards determine the details of the program for these children. The Ministry of Education's program CommunityLINK provides funding to school boards for programs to support vulnerable children for school meals, school-based support workers, inner-city school programs, and counselling for at-risk students.

The K-Plus Program offered by the West Vancouver School District provides families of kindergarten children the choice of an additional half-program that complements the kindergarten program. Parents choose a three day or five day option, with monthly fees of \$310 and \$390 respectively. The K-Plus program is taught by teachers. A Teacher Assistant is hired to supervise the children over the lunch hour. The K-Plus Program is available in 12 of the district's 14 primary and elementary schools, including one French immersion school. There is a maximum of 17 children at each site.

## NEW DEVELOPMENTS

### Ready, Set, Learn

*Ready, Set, Learn* for three-year-olds led by the Ministry of Education in collaboration with the Ministry of Children and Family Development, and the Ministry of Health was implemented in the 2004/05 school year and continued in 2005/06. Participating schools offer parents a kit of materials that promote early literacy.

### Early Learning and Child Care Consultation

The provincial government conducted a public consultation on priorities for Early Learning and Child Care in BC in November 2005, a summary of which is available at: [http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/childcare/pdfs/consultation\\_summary.pdf](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/childcare/pdfs/consultation_summary.pdf).

Five consistent themes emerged: accessibility, quality, integration, sustainability and growth, and community planning.

### Kindergarten Learning Assessment Project

In 2004, the Kindergarten Learning Assessment Project began. The aim of this three year project is to provide early primary teachers with an assessment framework and process, along with guidelines and strategies for appropriate instruction and support needed to help each child progress. The research team began with a focus on oral language and social responsibility in 2006 and will be looking at the early reading, writing and numeracy for the spring of 2007.

### Early Numeracy Project

Beginning in spring 2006, the Ministry of Education funded a three-year research initiative called the Early Numeracy Project with a goal to enhance numeracy learning particularly for those at-risk in the area of mathematics. Assessment guides and instructional materials have been developed and there has been field-testing in many school districts in BC. Four kindergarten-specific tools for teachers have been created through the Early Numeracy Project.

### StrongStart Early Learning Centres

In December 2006, the province launched the StrongStart Early Learning Centres as part of the government's plan to improve literacy. As of 2006, there were free drop-in programs for parents or caregivers and their children in sixteen underutilized schools. Qualified early childhood educators lead literacy activities (ie. stories, music). More information about StrongStart is available at [http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/literacy/early\\_learning/ss\\_centres.htm](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/literacy/early_learning/ss_centres.htm)

In collaboration with school districts, the Ministry of Education is working to implement up to 80 StrongStart Centres over the next year. A list of StrongStart Centres that are currently open is available at: [http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/literacy/early\\_learning/ssc\\_contacts.pdf](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/literacy/early_learning/ssc_contacts.pdf)

### **Early Learning Framework**

The Ministry of Education is currently developing an Early Learning Framework for young children ages 3-5. This framework will set out a vision, principles, and key areas of learning for young children in British Columbia. The Early Learning Framework was available online for public feedback in spring 2007 at: [http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/literacy/early\\_learning/](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/literacy/early_learning/)

## **REGULATED CHILD CARE**

### **LEGISLATION**

British Columbia. Legislative Assembly. *Community Care and Assisted Living Act*, S.B.C. 2002, Chapter 75; *Child Care Licensing Regulation* 319 / 89 as amended to O.C. 476/04, includes amendments to BC Reg. 217/2004 and 457/2004.

Effective May 14, 2004 the *Community Care Facility Act* was repealed and replaced with the *Community Care and Assisted Living Act*. The *Child Care Licensing Regulation* was continued with minor revisions to make it consistent with the new Act.

British Columbia. Legislative Assembly. *Child Care Subsidy Act*, 1996 *Child Care Subsidy Regulation* 74/97, includes amendments up to B.C. Reg. 271/2006, October 12, 2006.

British Columbia. Legislative Assembly. *Child Care BC Act*. SBC 2001. Chapter 4. Assented to March 29, 2001, Updated to November 5, 2001.

### **PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILD CARE**

Lenora Angel  
Executive Director  
Child Care Programs and Services  
Ministry of Children and Family Development  
PO Box 9778, STN Prov. Govt.  
Victoria, BC, V8W 9R4  
Telephone: (250) 952-6089  
Facsimile: (250) 387-2997  
Email: [Lenora.Angel@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Lenora.Angel@gov.bc.ca)

## **CHILD CARE SERVICES**

### **UNREGULATED CHILD CARE**

#### **Unregulated family child care**

Maximum number of children permitted: two, not including children related to the caregiver. This category is referred to as "licence-not-required" (LNR).

A registered licence-not-required (R/LNR) provider is registered with a Child Care Resource and Referral Program (see Other category in the STANDARDS AND REGULATION section below for description) and meets the requirements of registration.

### **REGULATED CHILD CARE**

#### **Group child care centres**

Group care for no more than 13 hours/day for children, from birth to school age.

#### **Preschools**

Group programs for no more than four hours/day for no more than 20 children, age 30 months to school age.

#### **Out-of-school care**

Care outside school hours, including school vacations, for children attending school (including kindergarten) for not more than 13 hours/day.

#### **Family child care**

Care in a private home for no more than seven children, aged birth to under 13 years. Of these seven, there can be no more than five preschool age children, three children under three years of age and one child under one year of age. Children 12 years or older who are related to the caregiver are not included in this definition.

#### **Emergency care**

Care for no more than 72 hours/month for children who have not entered Grade 1. Groups may be no larger than 12 for children under three years and no larger than 25 for older children.

#### **Child-minding**

Care for up to three hours/day, no more than two days/week for children 18 months up to entry into grade one. Maximum of 16 children where any child is under three years and a maximum of 20 children if all are three years or older.

#### **Ski hill or resort care**

Occasional child care is provided in resort locations to children who are at least 18 months and under six years old, for no more than 40 hours/month, and no more than eight hours/day.

The Medical Health or Licensing Officer may authorize a licensee to extend the maximum number of hours of care as long as there is no health or safety risk to children.

OTHER

Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) Programs are provincially funded to provide information, support and training to registered licence-not-required (RLNR), LNR and licensed family child care providers. They provide equipment and toy lending, workshops, networking, home visits and a caregiver referral registry for families inquiring about finding child care. The referral registry includes RLNR child care providers who have met the conditions for registration with a CCRR. (See RECENT DEVELOPMENTS.)

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

The Supported Child Development Program (SCDP) is intended for children who require extra staffing to participate in inclusive child care settings. The SCDP supports children from birth to age twelve who have a developmental delay or disability and require extra support. A developmental delay or disability may affect physical, cognitive, or social, emotional, behavioural development. Youth ages 13 to 18 years of age may also receive SCDP services on a case by case basis.

Participation is voluntary and SCDP are provided at no charge to parents; however, parents are responsible for child care fees.

Fifty-five community agencies provide both SCDP Consultant Services for families and extra support staff in child care settings. In addition, the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD), provides a Special Needs Supplement of up to \$150 to assist families eligible for the Child Care Subsidy Program with the costs of child care.

ABORIGINAL CHILD CARE

B.C. funds and licenses Aboriginal on-reserve and off-reserve child care through the same programs available to other (non-Aboriginal) facilities, parents and providers. There are approximately 92 licensed child care facilities located on-reserve. Most are managed by the Aboriginal Human Resource Agreement Holders, funded by Service Canada. All licensed on-reserve child care centres have been eligible for provincial funding since October 1994.

A number of post-secondary educational institutions have developed training for Aboriginal early childhood educators. The provincial government provides funding to the British Columbia Aboriginal Child Care Society to provide resource and referral services to Aboriginal child care providers. A number of Aboriginal communities work with the Supported Child Development Program to improve access to the program and to build capacity for SCDP programs administered by Aboriginal communities.

SPACE STATISTICS (2005/06)

Number of regulated child care spaces		
Centre-based	Full-time	Part-time
Group child care (under 3 yrs)	4,192	—
Group child care (over 30 mths)	17,070	—
Preschool (nursery school)	—	18,252
Out-of-school	—	25,183
Emergency Care	—	33
Special needs	232	—
Total centre-based spaces		64,962
Regulated family child care		14,228
Total number of regulated spaces		79,190

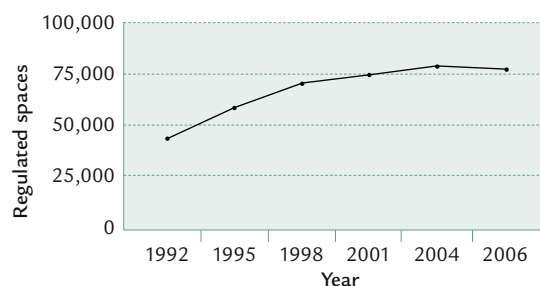
*Note: The number of occasional care and child minding spaces are no longer available on a province-wide basis. In 2004 there were 1,972 child-minding and 291 occasional spaces. As well, the number of some of the regulated spaces previously reported by the BC government have been publicly restated, eliminating some double-counting of children. As a result, the number of spaces stated above may not be comparable to those stated for 2004.*

**Other: Registered Licence-not-required** \*1,198

*\*A 'registered' licence-not-required (R/LNR) provider is registered with a Child Care Resource and Referral Program and meets the requirements of registration as detailed below in the STANDARDS AND REGULATION section. There were 599 RLNR providers in 2005/06, each with a minimum capacity of 2 children. They are not considered to be regulated.*



Figure 10: Number of regulated spaces in BC, 1992–2006



**Average number of children with special needs in child care** 5,700

*Specific data not available.*

**Number of children in regulated child care receiving subsidies (Estimated)** 10,665

*Note: British Columbia provides fee subsidies for children in both regulated and unregulated child care. Specific data not available.*

#### Number of centres and homes 2005/06

Number of child care centres	
Full day (0-3 & 3-5)	970
Part-day nursery schools/preschools	980
After school programs	967
Other (emergency, specialized)	16

**Number of regulated family child care providers** 2,067

#### Openings and closings

Information no longer available.

## STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

### LICENSED CENTRE

**Maximum centre size** Not specified.

#### Maximum staff:child ratios and group sizes

Age	Staff:child ratios	Max. group sizes
0-3 yrs	1:4	12
30 mos–school-age	1:8	25
Preschool	1:15	20
School-age	1:10-15	20-25
Special needs	1:4	12-16

## Staff qualifications requirements

### Early Childhood Educators

There are three categories of Early Childhood Educators/Certificates:

- *Early childhood educator*: successful completion of a basic early childhood education training program from an approved training institution and 500 hours of supervised work experience.
- *Infant and toddler educator*: must qualify for an early childhood educator certificate (as above) and have completed a specialized post-basic program from an approved training institution related to infant and toddler care and education.
- *Special needs early childhood educator*: completion of the basic early childhood education program and completion of a specialized post-basic program from an approved training institution related to children with special needs.

### Assistant Early Childhood Educators

This category includes those who are in the process of qualifying for an early childhood educator certificate or who have completed a training program that the director recognizes as at least equivalent to one course of a basic early childhood education program.

### Responsible Adults

These staff must have completed a course on the care of young children or have relevant work experience:

- Group child care, under 36 months:
  - Each group of four or fewer children requires one infant and toddler educator. Each group of five to eight children requires one infant and toddler educator and one early childhood educator. Each group of nine to twelve children requires one infant and toddler educator, one early childhood educator and one assistant. The same staffing requirements apply in emergency care for children in this age group.
- Group day care, 30 months to school-age:
  - Each group of 8 or fewer children requires one early childhood educator.
  - Each group of 9 to 16 children requires one early childhood educator and one assistant.
  - Each group of 17 to 25 children requires one early childhood educator and two assistants. The same staffing requirements apply in emergency care for children in this age group.

- Preschool, 30 months to school-age
  - Each group of 15 or fewer children requires one early childhood educator.
  - Each group of 16 to 20 children requires one early childhood educator and one assistant (some exceptions apply where there is an approved parent education program). Parent education programs are approved by the local Medical Health Officer and may incorporate workshops or courses that the parent would be required to complete prior to working with the children, in areas such as guidance and discipline, health and safety, nutrition, programming and development.
- Out-of-school, child-minding, and occasional or ski resort care:
  - Staff must be older than 19 years and have taken a course on the care of young children or have relevant work experience. There are no specific early childhood training requirements (see above Responsible Adults).
- Special needs day care:
  - Special needs day care (a facility where group day care is provided to children at least 25% of whom are special needs children)
  - Each group of 4 or fewer children requires one special needs early childhood educator.
  - Each group of 5 to 8 children requires one special needs early childhood educator and one early childhood educator.
  - Each group of 9 to 12 children requires one special needs early childhood educator and two early childhood educators.
  - Each group of 13 to 16 children requires one special needs early childhood educator, two early childhood educators and one assistant.

#### **Parent involvement**

Not specified

#### **Licensing, monitoring and enforcement**

The Ministry of Health is responsible for the *Community Care and Assisted Living Act* (CCALA) and has overall stewardship for licensing and monitoring child care facilities as well as developing legislation, the *Child Care Licensing Regulation* and policies for community care licensing programs. The Director of Licensing also has statutory powers under the CCALA, however, the day-to-day monitoring and inspection functions are carried out by the regional Health Authorities by licensing officers who are delegated authority through Medical Health Officers. The Medical Health Officer also has a statutory obligation to investigate all complaints about community care facilities.

The Health Authority Community Care Licensing program issues licences, and assists licensees in the process of obtaining a community care licence. Where a licensee does not meet the standards of the Act and the regulations, licensing works with licensees to come into compliance. If needed, they can also use progressive enforcement mechanisms such as attaching terms and conditions and can also amend, suspend or cancel licences. In all cases licensees are entitled to due process which includes reconsideration and an appeal process.

There is no legislated minimum or maximum frequency for monitoring inspections, as they are based on the level of risk to persons in care. In most health authorities however facilities have an annual licensing visit.

#### **LICENSED FAMILY CHILD CARE**

##### **Regulation**

Individually licensed in accordance with the *Community Care and Assisted Living Act*, *Child Care Licensing Regulation*

##### **Maximum capacity**

Up to seven children under 13 years (including children living in the home). Of the seven children, there may be no more than five preschoolers, no more than three children under three years of age, and no more than one child under one year. Children 12 years or older and who are related to the caregiver are not included.

### **Provider qualification requirements**

Must be over 19 years and have a first-aid certificate, be able to provide care and mature guidance to children, and have either completed a course on the care of young children or have relevant work experience. There are no early childhood training requirements.

### **Licensing, monitoring and enforcement**

Most facilities have an annual licensing visit. An initial inspection by the Fire Marshall's office may be required when a new licensed family child care facility opens.

### **OTHER (NOT REGULATED)**

#### **Registered Licence-not-required provider (R/LNR)**

A RLNR provider has must meet the conditions for registration with a CCRR, including:

- attained at least nineteen years of age;
- underwent a criminal record check,
- agree to comply with regulations regarding the number of children cared for at one time;
- completed a self-assessment tool;
- provided a health reference signed by a medical practitioner;
- provided character references;
- produced a valid First Aid Certificate;
- underwent home assessment and evaluation, including a health and safety check;
- agreed to visits from CCRR staff throughout the year;
- agreed to inform the CCRR of any investigation of the caregiver involving child abuse, neglect or significant risk to the health, safety or well being of children;
- completed at least twenty hours of family child care training before or within two years of becoming registered (or other education related to caring for children); and,
- committed to at least two workshops per year of continuing professional development.

## **FUNDING**

### **CHILD CARE SUBSIDY PROGRAM**

Fee subsidies are paid directly to service providers on behalf of eligible parents except when child care is provided in the child's own home. In this case, the fee subsidy is paid to the parent who assumes the role of employer, and is responsible for any required employment-related contributions, such as workers' compensation, CPP and employment insurance contributions, and taxes).

A two-step process determines eligibility. The family must qualify under a social criteria (the parent is employed or self-employed, looking for work, attending school or taking part in an employment related training program, have a medical condition which interferes with the parent's ability to care for his or her child; or, child care is recommended by MCFD) under the Child, Family and Community Service Act; or the child is attending a licensed preschool); and the family must qualify under the income test.

The number of fee subsidies is not capped.

Fee subsidies may be used in for-profit, non-profit, regulated or unregulated child care and preschool but not in child-minding services (see definitions in CHILD CARE SERVICES section). Families who use in-own-home child care may be eligible for subsidy when the caregiver is not a relative who resides with the family. If unregulated care is used, the parent must complete a checklist on the provider and submit it with their subsidy application. There is no minimum user fee but child care services may charge subsidized parents above the maximum subsidy rates. These surcharges may be paid by the government on behalf of the parent if child care is arranged or recommended as part of a risk assessment and written risk reduction plan under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act*, or the child care is recommended under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* for a parent participating in a Young Parent Program.

**Eligibility for fee subsidy (net income 2005/06)\***

<i>Child care centres</i>	Turning point	Break-even point
1 parent, 1 child	\$30,984	\$48,984
2 parents, 2 children	35,016	71,016
<i>Family child care</i>	Turning point	Break-even point
1 parent, 1 child	\$30,984	\$48,984
2 parents, 2 children	35,550	62,050

*The turning point is the net income level up to which full subsidy is available. Partial subsidy is available up to the break-even point at which income subsidy ceases. The turning point and break-even point depend on the type of child care and the age of the child(ren).*

**Maximum subsidy by age of child (2005/06)**

Type of care	Part-day monthly (4 hrs or less/day)	Full-day monthly (more than 4 hrs/day)
<i>Licensed family child care, and registered licence-not-required</i>		
0-18 months	\$300.00	\$600.00
19-36 months	300.00	600.00
36 months +	275.00	550.00
Six years and over	207.50	415.00
<i>Centre-based</i>		
0-18 months	\$375.00	\$750.00
19-36 months	317.50	635.00
36 months +	275.00	550.00
Kindergarten	272.00	340.00
Six years and over	207.50	415.00
<i>Preschool</i>	\$225.00	—
<i>Licence-not-required</i>		
0-18 months	\$219.00	438.00
19-36 months	202.00	404.00
Over 36 months	177.00	354.00
<i>In-child's-home</i>		
First child (0-18 mos)	\$197.00	\$394.00
First child (over 18 mos)	159.00	318.00
Second child (0-18 mos)	99.00	198.00
Each additional child	73.50	147.00

**PUBLIC FUNDING FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE (2005/06)****One-time funding***Major capital funding for the creation of new child care spaces*

Up to 50% of eligible costs to a maximum of \$300,000 for facility acquisition, construction, renovation or furnishings and equipment. Applicants may receive funding for renovating or expanding the capacity of existing child care facilities or to develop new facilities. Funding is available to non-profit societies in good standing; local government; public institutions; bands and tribal councils; and First Nations Governments.

*Minor capital funding for emergency repair, replacement and relocation grant*

Up to \$5,000 to child care facilities to upgrade or repair facilities in order to continue to comply with Ministry of Health licensing requirements and to assist with costs when a facility must move to another location. If a provider operates more than one licence care type at one facility, the maximum funding amount is \$10,000 per facility.

**Recurring funding***Child care operating fund (CCOF)*

Operating funding is available to eligible licensed not-for-profit and for-profit group and family child-care providers. Funding is based on enrolment and the age of the child and is available for all regulated care types, except Child Minding and Occasional Child Care at Ski Hill or Resort.

*Supported Child Development Program*

Funds to assist and cover consultation, training and extra staffing. In some communities, program funding is targeted to improving access for Aboriginal families.

**Other funding***Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) Programs*

Provide support, resources, training and referral services for child care providers and parents in all communities across the province. (See RECENT DEVELOPMENTS 2007.)

---

#### *Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre (Westcoast)*

Westcoast provides information, resources, specialized training and consultation to child care providers and CCRR agencies. It was provincially funded until 2007.

*Note: Funding for Westcoast Provincial Services was discontinued on April 30, 2007. See HISTORY and RECENT DEVELOPMENTS for details.*

#### *BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (BCACCS)*

Provides training, support and advice to child care providers and Child Care Resource and Referral agencies providing child care and child care supports to Aboriginal children on- and off-reserve.

#### *Regional CCRR Coordinators*

Training, planning, and support to Child Care Resource and Referral programs in the five regions of the province are intended to enhance coordination and cooperation in the delivery of services to children.

---

#### PROVINCIAL EXPENDITURE FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE (2005/06)

---

<b>Child care subsidies in regulated care</b>	\$60,133,000
<b>Minor/major capital funding</b>	\$11,030,000
<b>Recurring funding</b>	
Child Care Operating Fund (CCOF)	\$58,120,000
Supported Child Development Program (SCDP)	\$46,825,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$176,108,000</b>

---

#### **Other funding**

##### *Quality Support Services*

Child Care Resource and Referrals; Community Partnerships and Planning; Multicultural and Professional Development one-time funding

\$12,945,000

---

**One-time funding** \*\$4,600,000

*\* includes expenditures on ECE bursaries, professional development, Young Parent Programs, curriculum development, Aboriginal language and cultural development, Healthy Opportunities for Preschools (HOP)*

---

**Fee subsidies for unregulated child care** \*\*\$48,128,000

*\*\* includes spending on subsidies in licensed out-of-school spaces as breakdowns for fee subsidies in out-of-school care and unlicensed care are not available*

---

---

#### **Federal transfers 2005/06**

Multilateral Framework	\$29,700,000
Early Learning and Child Care Agreement	\$92,000,000

*\$30 million of the Early Learning and Child Care funding was allocated and \$62 million was carried forward. The federal transfers are included in the provincial expenditures..*

---

#### SALARIES (2006)

---

#### **Median gross hourly wage for group child care staff by position type (full- and part-time staff combined) (2006)**

Owner/Operator	\$15.00
Administrator	19.94
Program Supervisor	16.00
Senior Caregiver	15.00
Caregiver	12.58
Supported Child Development Worker	13.65
Assistant	12.00
Other	13.00

*Source: 2006/2007 Annual Child Care Provider Profile Report, Government of British Columbia.*

---

#### **Family child care**

Information is not available

#### FEES (2006)

---

#### **Median monthly parent fees for full-time centre-based care**

Infant	\$750
Toddler	680
Three to Five	550
Kindergarten	435
Out-of-school Grade 1+ (a.m. and p.m.)	265
Preschool (3 times/week)	120

*Source: 2006/2007 Annual Child Care Provider Profile Report, Government of British Columbia.*

---

#### Median monthly rates for full-time family child care

Infant	\$640
Toddler	600
Three to Five	600
Kindergarten	550
School-Age	318

Source: 2006/2007 Annual Child Care Provider Profile Report, Government of British Columbia.

## ADMINISTRATION

The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) has responsibility for child care policy and programs, the child care subsidy program, the registration of early childhood educators and approving early childhood training programs. The Minister of State for Child Care (within MCFD) is responsible for a cross-government integrated early childhood development strategy, including responsibility for the Supported Child Development Program. In partnership with other child-serving ministries, the Minister of State works to increase supports available for child care, early childhood development and early learning programs.

The Ministry of Health through the Community Care Facilities Branch, which is part of the Population Health and Wellness Unit Division, is responsible for the development and implementation of legislation, policy and guidelines of licensed child care facilities. Medical Health and Licensing Officers are responsible for licensing and monitoring through five regional health authorities across the province.

## MUNICIPAL AND OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENT ROLE

There is no legislated municipal or other local government role. The City of Vancouver plays a significant role in planning and developing child care. Several other municipalities play a role as well.

## CHILD CARE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

The Provincial Child Care Council (PCCC) is a council of 14-22 members appointed by the Minister Responsible for Child Care to address policy matters and priorities in an advisory capacity. The Council, comprising a range of child care providers, educators, multicultural and immigrant populations, multi-service agencies, the public school sector, child care resource and referrals, parents and research organizations provides advice to the Minister on policies and programs that affect the affordability, quality, stability and accessibility of child care.

## HISTORY OF CHILD CARE AND OTHER ECEC SERVICES

**1910** The City Crèche was established in Vancouver as a child care service and employment agency.

**1930** Vancouver Day Nursery Association (later the Foster Day Care Association of Vancouver) was established to provide an employment service for women and a system of family child care homes opened.

**1943** The *Welfare Institutions Licensing Act* was amended to govern and license crèches, nursery playschools and kindergartens.

**1960's** The Child Care Subsidy Program was introduced.

**1968** B.C. Preschool Teachers' Association (now called the Early Childhood Educators of B.C.) was established.

**1969** The Provincial Child Care Facilities Licensing Board replaced the Welfare Institutions Licensing Board.

**1972** The Children's Services Employees Union was established.

**1981** The B.C. Day Care Action Coalition was established.

**1982** The Western Canada Family Day Care Association was established.

**1990** A Task Force on Child Care was appointed.

**1991** The Task Force on Child Care Report, *Showing We Care: A Child Care Strategy* for the 90s, was released.

**1991** An NDP government was elected.

**1992** The Child Care Branch, Ministry of Women's Equality, was established. The Provincial Child Care Facilities Licensing Board was disbanded and replaced by a Director of Community Care Facilities. The Ministry of



Women's Equality took over existing grant programs from the Ministry of Social Services (Infant/Toddler Incentive Grant; Emergency Repair, Replacement, and Relocation; and Facilities and Equipment), and established the Needs Assessment and Planning Grants, and the Quality Enhancement Grants.

A province-wide consultation on child care for children with special needs was conducted. A committee was formed to make recommendations for children with special needs.

**1993** A child care regulation review began.

The Special Needs Day Care Review Board released their report, *Supported Child Care*.

A Provincial Child Care Council was appointed to provide advice to the Minister of Women's Equality on child care.

A school-based child care working group was established by the Ministry of Education to address ways to increase school district participation in the development of school-age child care.

A local government working group was established by the Ministry of Women's Equality to recommend actions to assist local government to improve and expand child care services.

The child care fee subsidy program and funding of the special needs program was shifted from the Ministry of Social Services to the Ministry of Women's Equality.

BC21, a plan to create 7,500 new child care spaces over three years in public buildings, was announced.

**1994** A Child Care Policy Team was established to coordinate child care policy across government ministries.

A wage supplement was introduced for non-profit child care programs.

**1995** The wage supplement was made available to eligible for-profit child care programs.

The Quality Enhancement Grants/Needs Assessment and Local Planning Grants were discontinued.

Implementation of Strategic Initiatives, a \$32 million, four year federal-provincial initiative was designed to test new approaches to various aspects of child care policy and programs. It included funding for the transition to Supported Child Care, different approaches to service delivery and One Stop Access (four test sites to provide a central location which co-located financial assistance workers, licensing officers and child care information).

The province released *The Government's Response to Supported Child Care*. A transition plan was developed to move from funding a specific number of places and specific programs to a system where funding is provided for extra supports in child care programs of the parent's choice.

**1996** As part of the transition from special needs day care to supported child care, 49 community-based Steering Committees were established to assess attitudes and skills, equipment and resource needs, and physical and structural barriers.

The *Emergency Repair, Replacement and Relocation Grant* was reduced to \$4,000 from \$5,000. BC21, the capital funding program which created child care facilities in public buildings, ended. An internal evaluation report was completed.

The *BC Benefits (Child Care) Act* was introduced and superseded the GAIN Act as the source of fee subsidies.

A performance audit of the Ministry of Women's Equality child care programs was completed. The Auditor General's report, *Management of Child Care Grants*, was released. It contained three recommendations:

- The Ministry should improve its child care database so that it could identify areas of the province where needs are the greatest and it should subsequently give preference to funding child care projects in those areas;
- The Ministry should develop standard costs for use in setting measurable goals for creating new child care spaces and
- The Ministry should extend its performance measurement to assess the effects of program efforts on quality and accessibility of child care.

**1997** Child care moved from the Ministry of Women's Equality to the Ministry for Children and Families (MCF). The former Ministry of Social Services became the Ministry of Human Resources (MHR). The child care subsidy program was administered by MHR on behalf of MCF. Responsibility for licensing and monitoring programs and individuals remains in the Ministry of Health. A regional operational model was introduced.

**1998** The Wage Supplement Initiative (WSI) was combined with the Infant/Toddler Incentive Grant (ITIG) for group centres and became the Compensation Contribution Program (CCP). In October 1998, centres on the waiting lists became eligible for funding. Family child care programs were still eligible for the ITIG.

**1998** A national study of wages, working conditions and quality, *You Bet I Care!*, found that — based on a sample of full-time centres for children 0-6 years and regulated family child care — British Columbia scored 5.6 on the ECERS-R (preschool rooms) and 5.6 on the ITERS (infant rooms) and 5.5 on the FDCRS (regulated family child care). The scale ranges from 1-7.

**1999** Child care was moved to the Ministry of Social Development and Economic Security (MSDES). In the fall, a new policy paper, *Building a Better Future for British Columbia's Kids* was released for public consultation by the Social Development Minister and the Women's Equality Minister.

**2001** A multi-phased, four-year plan described as a comprehensive, publicly funded child care system was announced. In January, phase one of the Funding Assistance Program (FAP) for school-age group care was implemented. Centre-based after-school programs received funding to provide child care for \$7 per day for before- and after-school care. For children in kindergarten and for all children on non-instructional days and seasonal breaks, parents paid up to \$14.00 per day. Low-income families were still eligible for child care subsidies.

The implementation of phase two was planned for January 2002 for school-aged children in licensed family child care and group infant-toddler care, followed by phase three in 2002/03, which was to cover all other children in licensed family child care settings. Phase four, planned for 2003/04, was to fund children in licensed group care for three to five year olds.

**March** The *Child Care BC Act* was proclaimed to provide a legislative timetable for the new funding program; the budget allocation for 2000/01 was \$14 million, annualized to \$30 million (for the out-of-school funding).

**May** A Liberal government was elected. A number of new ministries were established, resulting in changes in responsibility for some program areas. The main responsibility for child care policy and programs moved to the newly created Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services (replacing the Ministry of Social Development and Economic Security). The Child Care Subsidy Program management remained with the Ministry of Human Resources at the regional level, under agreement with MCAWS. The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) was given responsibility for the Supported Child Care program.

**August** The government repealed the implementation plan in the *Child Care BC Act*.

**January** The Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services announced that it would replace existing child care grants with a new, consolidated operating grant for family child care and centres effective April 1, 2003, and that the Funding Assistance Program to school-age centres would end June 30, 2002. Out-of-school programs that were receiving the FAP received transition funding from July 1, 2002, to March 31, 2003.

## 2002

**April** Several changes were made to the child care subsidy program. The income level to eligibility was reduced by \$285/month (net). (This reduction was subsequently increased in May 2003 by \$100). Subsidy payments below \$50 were no longer issued to families.

Parents earning above the exemption level continued to receive a partial subsidy; however, the subsidy above the exemption level was reduced by 60 cents (previously 50 cents) on each dollar of additional take-home pay.

Children with special needs and families receiving pre-school subsidies were now required to meet the social criteria as well as the financial eligibility criteria in order to be eligible for a fee subsidy. The social criteria requires a parent to be working, seeking work, attending school/training for jobs programs, or have child care recommended by the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) as part of a risk-reduction plan. Subsidy was no longer available to parents in rehabilitative programs or short term family crisis.

**November** The provincial government's earlier decision to discontinue funding Child Care Resource and Referral Programs and the provincial services of West Coast Child Care Resource Centre was reversed. However, One Stop Access Centre funding through the Ministry of Human Resources was eliminated.

## 2003

**April** Registration of Early Childhood Educators was transferred from the Community Care Facilities Licensing Branch to MCAWS. Responsibility for registration rests with the Executive Director of Child Care Programs, MCAWS (now Ministry for Children and Family Development, see June 2004).

A new funding arrangement was introduced. The \$48 million Child Care Operating Funding Program replaced



the Compensation Contribution Program, the Infant/Toddler Incentive Grant Program, and the Out-of-School Care Transition Funding Program. The operating funding is intended to assist eligible licensed group and family child care providers with the cost of providing care. Funding amounts are based on enrolment. Funding is available for all licensed care types, with the exception of Child Minding, Occasional Child Care at Ski Hill or Resort.

**June** MCFD ended the Special Needs Support Payment (\$107) and the funds were refocused on “child development”. In July 2003 the Ministry of Community, Aboriginal, and Women’s Services (MCAWS), introduced a Special Needs Supplement of up to \$107, administered through Ministry of Human Resources (MHR) Employment and Assistance Centres. MCFD will maintain responsibility for the Range Payment.

#### 2004

**May** The *Community Care and Assisted Living Act* replaced the *Community Care Facility Act*. The *Child Care Licensing Regulation*, was continued with minor amendments, to make it consistent with the new Act.

**June** Responsibility for child care moved from the Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women’s Services to the Ministry for Children and Family Development.

**July** \$4.9 million was announced: \$1.7 million for children of non-working families to attend preschool; \$1.435 million for major capital; \$700,000 for CRRs to register license-not-required providers, and \$1.1 million to supplement the operating funding for out-of-school care to 600 licensed child care centres.

**September** Changes to the Child Care Subsidy Program included restoring eligibility for subsidy for preschool based solely on an income test. Families were once again exempted from meeting the social criteria when receiving a preschool subsidy. In addition, subsidy payments for families who were eligible for \$50 or less were restored.

## RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN CHILD CARE AND OTHER ECEC SERVICES

**2005** British Columbia received \$92 million in 2005/06 from the Early Learning and Child Care Agreement and \$85.6 million in 2006/07.

**January** Additional changes to the Child Care Subsidy Program were made (see HISTORY). The clawback (amount by which subsidy is reduced when the family’s income is above the exemption level) was reduced from 60% to 50% and an additional income deduction of \$100 was introduced for families with a child with special needs requiring child care. Subsidy rates for all children under age six were increased and student loan income was not considered income for the purpose of determining eligibility.

**June** The province announced a broader mandate for the Ministry of Education, which includes life-long literacy, early learning, libraries and health promoting schools, as well as community development and access as they relate to these service areas.

**Fall** The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Children and Family Development carried out province-wide consultations during the fall and winter of 2005/06. The consultations sought advice on priorities for investing federal ELCC funding flowing from the 2005 ELCC Agreement-in-Principle signed in September 2005. Although the 2005 ELCC Agreement-in-Principle was subsequently cancelled in February 2006 by a new federal government, the government indicated that feedback received on early learning and child care would continue to inform provincial priorities.

The ELCC funding was used to:

- Increase the eligibility for subsidy and the maximum subsidy rates
- Increase the major and minor capital grants
- Provide a bursary fund for ECE students
- Provide funding for resources on physical activity for young children
- Enhance Child Care Resource and Referral Programs
- Make enhancements to the Supported Child Development Program
- Establish StrongStart Centres in a number of public schools across the province

**October** Government increased the subsidy income threshold for eligible families to \$38,000 from \$21,000 and the maximum subsidy rates for children under six in regulated child care. In addition, the social need eligibility criteria for families accessing preschool were removed and subsidy for preschool became based on financial eligibility only (see 2002, 2005).

The provincial contribution of capital grants increased to 50% of eligible costs, up from 25% in large urban areas and 35% in small urban areas to a maximum of \$300,000 from \$250,000 to support the creation of licensed group child care spaces. A new targeted component was also introduced to support the creation of new licensed group non-profit child care spaces for children under age 6 in areas of high need (priority communities). The maximum funding available under the Targeted Major Capital Funding Program is \$500,000 with a provincial contribution of up to 90%.

Funding under the Minor Capital Funding Program increased from \$4,000 to \$5,000 per project to assist licensed, group, non-profit child care providers with meeting health, safety and quality standards. If a child care provider operates more than one licence care-type at a facility, the maximum funding amount is \$10,000 per facility.

A BC Early Childhood Education Bursary was established to provide students with bursary for up to \$200 per course for each eligible ECE course at recognized education institutions.

Healthy Opportunities for Preschoolers (HOP), sponsored through 2010 Legacies Now and Literacy Education Activity and Play (LEAP BC) provides one-time grants to non-profit organizations for the development of resources to assist child care providers to plan, guide and positively reinforce physical movement skills.

## 2006

**October** Responsibility for day-to-day delivery of the Child Care Subsidy Program was transferred to the Ministry of Children and Family Development from the Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance. Parents and providers can access services by phone, fax and mail, through the Child Care Subsidy Service Centre; web access is under development. In-person, community based supports have also been expanded.

The Supported Child Development Program (SCDP) budget was improved to increase access and the level of support provided to approximately 1,000 children who were waiting for service or under-served. In addition, funding was provided for professional development and training, and Aboriginal capacity strengthening.

**December** The government launched StrongStart in a number of public elementary schools across British Columbia. StrongStart centres are literacy programs for preschool-aged children attending with their families and caregivers. They are facilitated by certified Early Childhood Educators and are offered at no charge to parents and caregivers. For more information see KINDERGARTEN section of this report.

## 2007

**January 5th** In a letter to the child care community the provincial government announced a series of funding reductions, including cutbacks in funding to Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) programs and Child Care Operating Program. The federal government's termination of the bilateral agreements on Early Learning and Child Care was given as the rationale for the cutbacks. The \$14-million CCRR budget was to be reduced to \$9 million in April and to \$3 million in October.

**February** Child care advocates staged numerous demonstrations throughout the province in protest of the planned cuts to CCRR programs and Child Care Operating Program.

**February 28th** The government announced that effective July 1, 2007 funding for the Child Care Operating Program will revert to pre-ELCC levels. The average rate roll-back will be about \$2 per enrolled child per day or about \$40 per month. The province announced that funding to the Care Resource and Referral Program will also revert to pre-ELCC Agreement level of \$9 million. This represents a restoration of funds from the January announcement.

**March** Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre was informed that all \$800,000 of funding for Westcoast Provincial Services will be discontinued on April 30, 2007.

*Note: Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre remains in operation.*

## ■ KEY PROVINCIAL ECEC ORGANIZATIONS

Provincial Child Care Council  
PO Box 9778 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9S5  
Telephone: 250 387-5049  
Facsimile: 250 356-2317  
Website: <http://www.fin.gov.bc.ca/oop/brdo/boardView.asp?Board=Provincial%20Child%20Care%20Council>

BC Aboriginal Child Care Society  
708-100 Park Royal South  
West Vancouver, BC V7T 1A2  
Telephone: 604-913-9128  
Facsimile: 604-913-9129  
Email: [reception@acc-society.bc.ca](mailto:reception@acc-society.bc.ca)  
Website: <http://www.acc-society.bc.ca/>

BC Association of Child Care Employers  
210 W Broadway 3rd Fl  
Vancouver BC V5Y 3W2  
Telephone: 604 709-5661  
Facsimile: 604-709-5662  
E-mail: [dcottons@housing.ubc.ca](mailto:dcottons@housing.ubc.ca)

Child Care Advocacy Forum  
300 - 210 W. Broadway, Vancouver, BC V5Y 3W2  
Telephone: (604) 515-6257/Toll free: 1-877-361-1116  
Facsimile: (604) 709-5662  
Website: <http://www.advocacyforum.bc.ca/>

Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC  
210 W Broadway 3rd Fl  
Vancouver BC V5Y 3W2  
Telephone: (604) 709-5661  
Facsimile: (604) 709-5662  
Email : [info@cccabc.bc.ca](mailto:info@cccabc.bc.ca)  
Website: <http://www.cccabc.bc.ca/>

Early Childhood Educators of BC  
210 W Broadway, 3rd Fl  
Vancouver BC V5Y 3W2  
Telephone: 604 709-6063 / Toll free: (800) 797-5602  
Facsimile: 604-709-5662  
Email: [ecebc@direct.ca](mailto:ecebc@direct.ca)  
Website: <http://www.cfc-efc.ca/ecebc/>

School-Age Child Care Association of BC  
210 W Broadway 3rd Fl  
Vancouver BC V5Y 3W2  
Telephone: 604-709-5661  
Facsimile: 604-709-5662  
E-mail: [sacca@wstcoast.org](mailto:sacca@wstcoast.org)  
Website: <http://www.wstcoast.org>

Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre  
210 W Broadway, 3rd Fl  
Vancouver BC V5Y 3W2  
Telephone: 604 709-5661/Toll free: 1-877-262-0022  
Facsimile: 604-709-5662  
E-mail: [info@wstcoast.org](mailto:info@wstcoast.org)  
Website : <http://www.wstcoast.org>

Western Canada Family Child Care Association of BC  
Suite 100 – 6846 King George Hwy  
Surrey, BC V3W 4Z9  
Telephone: (604) 590-1497/Toll free: 1-800-686-6685  
Facsimile: (604) 572-8185  
Website: <http://www.cfc-efc.ca/wcfcca/>

## TEACHERS' ORGANIZATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS

British Columbia Teachers' Federation  
100-550 West 6th Avenue  
Vancouver, BC V5Z 4P2  
Telephone: 604-871-2283/Toll free: 1-800-663-9163  
Facsimile: 604-871-2290  
Website : <http://www.bctf.ca/>

