



Working together for a community based, non-profit child care system that is high quality, affordable, accessible, publicly funded and accountable.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

\$1 million in 1-time funds for child care = less than 1 drop in the bucket

The recent provincial announcement of \$1 million in one-time only funding might sound like a big cash infusion for child care centres in BC but the real story is quite different.

This \$1 million for child care is spread among ALL 3 to 5-year-old children in group child care centres across ALL of BC ... that means just \$45 for each child care space. How can \$45 of one-time only money possibly impact the crisis of high fees and huge waitlists?

The province says the \$45 is to take care of the enrollment decline impacting child care centres due to the expansion of full school day Kindergarten. The government also says the money is to assist with toys, equipment and staff professional development.

“That’s stretching \$45 a very long way!” according to Susan Harney of the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC.

“The trouble is that child care in BC is in a severe and worsening crisis. \$45 is simply not enough to make a difference for children, families or caregivers,” said Sharon Gregson of the Vancouver Joint Council on Childcare.

What would make a difference for working families in BC is recognizing that our youngest children deserve just as much public investment into early care and learning services as do children in the K-12 public school system. Public schools are currently funded at \$8,357 per student, while full-day child care centres serving 3 to 5-year-olds only receive \$1,359 per space in public operating funds.

“Other jurisdictions do child care better than BC... we need to do better,” said parent Crystal Janes, “because BC needs our taxes and needs us to be working.”

Check out the Plan for a Public System of Integrated Early Care and Learning that would truly solve the BC child care crisis at www.cccabc.bc.ca

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