

COVID-19 Update

Child Care Operators/Providers/Partners

December 10, 2020

Edition 10



Ministry of
Children and Family
Development

Economic Recovery Programs

The Province has [launched Investments in Child Care](#) to continue assisting child care facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic:

- [Health and Safety Grant](#): is to offset the additional costs associated with facilities operating safely during the pandemic. Funds can be used to purchase cleaning supplies, cover additional front-line staff hours for cleaning or to hire an external company to provide cleaning services. Thousands of facilities have been approved and will be receiving funds starting Dec. 16 onwards.
- [Rapid Renovation Fund](#): provides funding to school boards, post-secondary institutions and health authorities to support new child care space creation or expansion within public spaces they already own. This program launched in October 2020.
- [Aboriginal Head Start Land-Based Project](#): offers funding to existing AHS sites both on and off reserve to restore, refurbish or develop outdoor cultural learning environments for children. This program launched in December 2020.

New and Extended Federal Programs

The [Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy](#) has been extended to June 2021 and there have been changes made to the rates and top-up calculation. This funding assistance is for employers who have experienced a drop in revenue due to the COVID-19 pandemic and should be used to help cover part of your employee wages, hire workers and help prevent further job losses.

The [Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit](#) provides income support to those who cannot work and must provide supervised care for a child or family member due to COVID-19. Eligible households can receive \$500 for each 1-week period.

Employee Health Screening Now Mandatory

The Provincial Health Officer has ordered employers to complete a [daily health check](#) for all workers entering the workplace. This order applies to all child care facilities. An [entry check poster for workers](#) outlining the symptoms of COVID-19 is available.

ECE Bursaries Available for Fall 2020 Semester

The Canada-British Columbia Early Learning and Child Care Agreement will provide [\\$1.5 million in bursary funding](#) to students for the Fall 2020 semester. Priority will be given to students who self-identify as Indigenous, those continuing their studies and students upgrading their credentials to include Infant Toddler and/or Special Needs qualifications. The Province will also be offering bursaries for the Winter 2021 and Summer 2021 semesters.



New Provincial Cabinet

Last month [Premier Horgan announced his new Cabinet](#) following this Fall's provincial election. [Mitzi Dean](#) is the new Minister of Children and Family Development and [Katrina Chen](#) will continue as Minister of State for Child Care.

Useful Links

- [COVID-19 Provincial and Federal Benefits](#)
- [BC COVID-19 Symptom Self-Assessment Tool](#)
- [Information for Child Care Providers](#)
- [Guidance for Child Care Settings](#)
- [Cleaning Supplies for Child Care Facilities](#)