

COVID-19 Update Child Care Operators/Providers/Partners

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Ministry of
Children and Family
Development

Federal government invests \$3 billion over 5 years in Childcare BC

The Prime Minister, Premier Horgan and Minister of State for Child Care Katrina Chen made a [historic announcement](#) today to accelerate plans to bring inclusive universal child care to B.C. families.

British Columbia is the first province to get to work on implementing the national low-cost child care plan announced as part of the 2021 federal budget, with a \$3.2 billion investment over the next five years to help improve early learning and child care for children under 6 years of age.

This agreement will lead to the creation of 30,000 new regulated early learning and child care spaces for children under the age of 6 within five years, and 40,000 spaces within seven years.

These spaces will be focused on community investments that are long-term and run by public and non-profit institutions.

B.C. Moves to Step 3 of Restart Plan

July 1 marked the end of the longest provincial state of emergency in the province's history and the progression to [Step 3 of the provincial restart plan](#). This step [eases restrictions](#) for many activities such as indoor and outdoor gatherings, however [child care health and safety guidelines](#) will remain in effect. Also in Step 3, all sectors will transition to using [communicable disease prevention guidance](#) from WorkSafeBC

The four-step restart plan was designed based on data and guidance from the BC Centre for Disease Control and Dr. Bonnie Henry, B.C.'s provincial health officer.

Reimbursement for COVID-19 Paid Sick Leave

Employers can apply for reimbursement of wages paid to workers who have taken sick leave related to COVID-19.

The [temporary reimbursement program](#) is retroactive to May 20, when legislation was passed to ensure sick workers can stay home for up to three days

without losing wages, while supporting businesses during the pandemic.

Employers can apply for reimbursement up to \$200 per day, to a maximum of three days per worker.

The Provincial Government has also committed to establishing a permanent paid sick leave program, beginning next year.

2021 Child Care Award of Excellence Recipient: Maria Cargnelli of Abbotsford

Throughout her 33-year career, Maria has proven to be a valued leader and mentor to many people in child care and a strong advocate for quality child care and early childhood educators. She currently works as the Manager of the Early Years and Family Supports at Archway Community Services and holds many volunteer positions.

Some of Maria's achievements were recently highlighted in the 'Workforce Behind the Workforce' issue of the [Fraser Valley Current](#). The awards ceremony premiered on May 25, 2021 and can be viewed on the [BC Government YouTube page](#).



Courtesy of [Archway Community Services](#).