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For immediate release ...Third year of Good News for Child Care

BC Budget 2020 completes Government's first three-year commitment to Families, Educators & the Economy ...popular \$10aDay Plan the template for building a quality, universal child care system.

With a funding increase of almost \$90 million in 2020/21, the BC government has fulfilled its 2018 budget commitment to the first three years of a 10-year plan to achieve universal child care.

Decades of child care chaos is now being addressed with historic investments:

- Early childhood educators receiving \$2/hr wage enhancements and bursaries
- Families of over 55,000 children paying lower fees, with 28,000 paying \$10 a day or less
- 10,400 new licensed spaces created or under development
- Child care included as capital infrastructure in new schools across BC.

Much more remains to be done, as thousands of families are still waiting for a \$10aDay program. In a 2019 poll, 90% of British Columbians confirmed their support for ongoing action on child care. With funding in Budget 2020, and new federal funding on its way, we expect the BC government to:

1. **Implement a provincial wage grid for early childhood educators** to raise wages and address recruitment and retention. Currently, licensed child care spaces sit empty because there are no qualified educators to staff the programs.
2. **Expand the \$10aDay prototype** sites, as this provides the best model for building a system.
3. **Move child care into the Ministry of Education**, where there is already a universal approach with capacity and infrastructure to expand licensed child care across BC.

It's essential that government stop giving tax-payer funded handouts to expand for-profit, corporate child care and stop relying on voucher-style subsidies to make child care affordable.

Building a quality affordable universal child care system requires a dedicated capital budget to expand public child care spaces and an increase of \$200 million annually in operating funds starting in 2021. These investments will benefit BC's economy, support children and families, create green jobs and advance gender equality.

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