



January 28, 2025

Dear Minister Beare-Education and Child Care,

As you gather this week in Ottawa, Early Childhood Educators of BC (ECEBC) applauds your ongoing commitment to early learning and child care and appreciate the enormity of the global and national challenges we are collectively facing. While these events are creating economic uncertainty and fear, we also know that as Canadians, we can find a way to continue ensuring resilient systems are in place for young children to flourish.

It cannot be understated how the Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) has begun to shift child care into becoming a powerful enabler of economic security, gender equity, and social inclusion - regardless of postal code. Since its announcement in April 2021, the CWELCC plan has been more than a policy shift—it has evolved into one of the most significant social and economic transformations in recent Canadian history. ECEBC celebrates the successes thus far and calls upon the Provincial and Territorial Ministers and the Federal Government of Canada to protect the initial vision and bravely forge ahead in the continued growth of a comprehensive universal Early Learning and Child Care System.

ECEBC supports early childhood educators in informing the broader community about our work. Since 1969, we have been dedicated to building respect for and understanding of early childhood education and educators. We provide a collective voice to advance professional and personal commitment to the value of early childhood education by empowering the sector through education, collaboration, advocacy, and leadership.

In the context of British Columbia, ECEBC recommends you embed:

- A public, relational, and ethical system that enshrines the human rights of children and ensures equitable access to high-quality, affordable, accessible child care.
- A plan that reflects accountability that is aligned with current Provincial/Territorial early learning frameworks and Code of Ethics.
- A workforce strategy that clearly outlines benchmarks for educator wage grids, benefits and working conditions that align with the role of the educator.
- Targeted funding to support public education of educators that reflects the [complexity of practice, competencies and skills](#) called for in current research.

Current research is clear that a universal child care system bolsters employment and increases the [recruitment and retention](#) of qualified early childhood educators. Like public education and health care, early learning and child care are a foundational social infrastructure. The data is undeniable, and the evidence is compelling: the CWELCC plan is working, as noted by the Prime Minister in March 2025 that “it is estimated that for every dollar invested in child care, the economy gets \$2.80 in return – a testament to the fact that affordable child care is good for families, and good for our country”. This confirms what the ECC sector has consistently articulated: a child care system is sound economic policy, effective social policy, and a critical gender equity strategy. The positive impact on families, women, and the economy is measurable and profound.



Now is the time to strengthen and build CWELCC. Positioning early childhood education in this way foregrounds its role in supporting more sustainable, just, and socially responsive futures. By protecting the integrity of this vision, we move beyond managing a portfolio and step into a social system that offers Canadians a hopeful vision for education that meaningfully attends to future generations.

Sincerely,

Emily Mlieczko - ECEBC Executive Director
On behalf of the ECEBC Board of Directors