



ECE Branch Co-Chair C/O Parkside Academy  
756 Castle Street, Duncan BC V9L 2J8

March 6, 2025

Honourable David Eby, Premier of BC  
Office of the Premier  
PO Box 9041 STN Prov. Govt.  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1  
[premier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:premier@gov.bc.ca)

Dear Honourable David Eby,

We, the Early Childhood Educators of the Cowichan Valley, deeply appreciate the significant efforts made by both the Provincial and Federal governments to enhance the child care sector. The progress achieved through the \$10 a Day Child Care System has been commendable. To ensure this positive momentum continues, we propose two key actions to further strengthen and advance the system in British Columbia

**1. Increase the Number of Qualified Early Childhood Educators (ECE)**

To create high-quality early childhood education spaces that foster positive learning conditions for children, we urge the implementation of targeted recruitment and retention strategies, including:

- **Updating Legislation:** Mandating that all Early Childhood Education Assistants be enrolled in an ECE program leading to certification within a maximum of five years
- **Expanding Access to Education:** Strengthening financial support for ECE students through bursaries and other funding mechanisms to eliminate barriers to post-secondary education
- **Ensuring Ongoing Support:** Enhancing oversight opportunities for both post-secondary institutions and ECE professionals during and after their training

**2. Implement a Robust Provincial Wage Grid**

We strongly support the implementation of a provincial wage grid, as recommended by the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC and the Early Childhood Educators of BC. Establishing a wage range of at least \$30-\$40 per hour, based on academic credentials and professional experience is critical. This initiative will:

- Strengthen recruitment and retention efforts
- Recognize and honour the essential contributions of early childhood educators
- Ensure alignment of recruitment and retention efforts between educational support initiatives on the ongoing commitment of educators working in the child care sector.

By transitioning from short-term initiatives to a fully funded child care system with these recommendations, we can guarantee high-quality early learning environments for children across BC. Your leadership at this pivotal juncture presents an opportunity to positively impact BC's economy, support women's workforce participation, and build a more sustainable child care system.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and look forward to your response to further discuss these critical issues and trust that you will act in the best interests of children, families, educators and communities.

Sincerely, on behalf of the Executive

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Adriana Soler', written in a cursive style.

Adriana Soler, Co-Chair  
Cowichan, Quw'utsun, Early Childhood Educators of BC Branch

Cc:

Debra Toporowski, MLA Cowichan Valley  
Alistair MacGregor, MP Cowichan-Malahat-Langford  
Rob Douglas, Mayor of North Cowichan  
Tim McGonigle, Mayor of Lake Cowichan  
Michelle Staples, Mayor of Duncan  
Kate Segall, Chair of the CVRD  
Cindy Daniels, Chief of Cowichan Tribes  
Cathy Schmidt, Cowichan Valley School District Chair  
Emily Mlieczko, Executive Director of ECEBC  
Sharon Gregson, Provincial Spokes-person for CCCA of BC  
Honourable Lisa Beare, Minister for Education and Childcare  
Rohini Arora, Parliamentary Secretary for Childcare