

The BC Greens believe that all children deserve the best start in life, that all families deserve excellent care, and that early childhood staff deserve fair compensation.

Early childhood education is the foundation of a healthy society, yet it has been consistently deprioritised by successive governments in British Columbia. Lack of access, lack of qualified educators, and unaffordable fees send a clear message to young people and families; we are not investing in you. Despite persistent and visible inequities, no BC government has adequately addressed these issues.

British Columbia has the most expensive and complicated child care in Canada¹. This is an economic issue, a gender equality issue, and a government accountability issue. Increasing access to early care and learning supports increased labour force participation, particularly for women, who still undertake the majority of childcare. Child care and early learning is an investment in our future - one with a return that is both immediate and long-term, for parents and the children who are able to access high-quality education.

Between 2019 and 2024, child care expansion created more than 8,000 jobs and added an estimated 33,000 full-time-equivalent workers to BC's economy — generating an additional \$1 billion in provincial revenue in 2024 alone, more than the government spent on child care that year.²

Currently, British Columbia has the **highest child care fees in Canada**³, and **75% of children have no access to licensed care**⁴. At the same time, educators are **without the wage grid** BC committed to in its 2021 Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement⁵. Currently, only 10%, or roughly 16,000 out of the 159,000 early childhood education spots in BC are currently available at \$10-a-day⁶.

¹ Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, "The \$10-a-Day Divide: Child Care Fees in Canada in 2026," 2026. childcarecanada.org/documents/research-policy-practice/10-day-divide-child-care-fees-canada-2026

² Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC, BC Budget 2027 Submission. 10aday.ca

³ Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, "The Price Is Not Right (Yet): \$10-a-Day Child Care Falling Short of Target," July 2025.

policyalternatives.ca/news-research/the-price-is-not-right-yet-10-a-day-child-care-falling-short-of-target

⁴Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC, BC Budget 2027 Submission.

https://www.cccabc.bc.ca/bc_budget_2027_submission.

policyalternatives.ca/news-research/the-price-is-not-right-yet-10-a-day-child-care-falling-short-of-target

⁵ Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC, BC Budget 2027 Submission, "Let BC Parents Work – Expand Access to Quality \$10aDay Child Care." 10aday.ca

⁶

<https://www.policyalternatives.ca/news-research/the-price-is-not-right-yet-10-a-day-child-care-falling-short-of-target/#median-fees-by-age-group-in-april-2025>

The BC NDP Government has failed to fully implement \$10/day childcare, failed to create a flexible system that meets the needs of working families, and failed to attract and adequately pay the skilled workforce needed. This is a challenge for family budgets, for our economic productivity, and for growing the next generation of British Columbians.

BC and the Yukon are now the only jurisdictions in Canada with neither a capped child care fee nor a wage grid for early childhood educators. The BC Greens will address both⁷.

The BC Greens will:

- Commit to making quality \$10-a-day childcare available to families all across British Columbia by lifting the freeze on new \$10-a-day enrolments introduced in Budget 2026⁸, and use it as the foundation to later implement universal childcare coverage by 2031.
- Make registering for care simple: create one point of registration for \$10/day spaces across B.C., replacing today's centre-by-centre waitlists so families no longer have to win a lottery to access affordable care.
- Make it easier for early childhood centres to become, and remain, part of the \$10/day spaces by reducing burdensome compliance paperwork. New spaces and priority registration going to public, non-profit and Indigenous-led centres, building a system rooted in community care, not private profit.
- Create a universal early childhood education funding model to reduce administrative burdens for childcare operators, allowing them to focus on quality care for children. This model will address wage grids, space creation, licensing, and staffing.
- Provide paid practicums for early childhood educators, offering financial support during their essential training periods.
- Implement an early childhood educator wage grid, and reach \$35-45 per hour by 2028 based on qualifications and years of experience.
- Ensure early childhood educators have access to pension plans and extended health benefits to improve job security and retention.
- Work with child care operators to support ongoing growth in capacity, through capital upgrades to schools and existing facilities, a workforce development plan, and sufficient operational flexibility to meet the needs of families now and in the future.

⁷ Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC, BC Budget 2027 Submission. 10aday.ca

⁸ Province of British Columbia, Budget 2026 Highlights. bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2026/highlights/