



ECEBC | early childhood
educators of BC

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For immediate release

Upholding Children's Rights in BC: Children and Early Childhood Educators Go Hand in Hand. Both Deserve Respect

On November 20, 2017 we are asking media, elected officials, and all communities to learn about children's rights and take action on National Child Day in Canada. The Early Childhood Educators of BC (ECEBC) is raising awareness of the connection between quality early care and learning, and the rights of children. We are proud to acknowledge the value of certified Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) in provision of quality services, promoting child well-being. Every day ECEs throughout our province uphold children's rights and promote the inclusion of children's voices as active citizens in their communities. With a new government in place, now is a crucial time for all communities to take-action to ensure that policy and other changes are made to support well-being of all children in our province.

In BC there is still work to do to uphold children's rights to quality early care and learning. Service quality and accessibility in our province are not equal for all citizens. ECEBC has communicated immediate steps that government can take to reduce the child care crisis in our province while an implementation plan is created to fully enact the elements of the \$10aDay child care plan (a comprehensive, research-based plan for a system for Early Care and Learning in BC).

Early Childhood Educators are critical in order for British Columbia to have a system for quality early childhood care and education that all families can afford and access. In current times there is a critical loss of ECEs by their fifth years on the job. Ensuring sufficient early childhood educators to meet the needs of children and families requires a fair wage. The \$10aDay Plan calls for a wage averaging \$25 per hour for certified Early Childhood Educators plus benefits. This reflects the value of their qualifications and work.

Charlene Gray, ECEBC President states, " Early Childhood educators recognize and value children for who they are today, not only for who they will become. Children are equal citizens with their own rights, they deserve an educated body of professionals with specialized knowledge to support them and their families. Without a fair wage it increasingly becomes difficult to recruit and retain staff."

Learn More. The attached flyer provides links to key documents to help media, elected officials, educators, families and communities learn more about children's rights. Those links also provide child friendly activities and resources for children.

Involve Elected Officials. ECEBC is encouraging ECEs throughout our province to invite elected officials to visit their workplaces to learn more about the work of ECEs with children and families and what wages and working conditions mean to them.

On National Child Day, ECEBC's Board and Branches will be participating in a conference call with Katarina Chen, Minister of State for Child Care. Across the province we are seeing ECEBC provincial branches plan awareness building events that include a letter writing campaign, guest speakers, celebrations of children and more.

Together we can significantly improve the early care and learning opportunities of British Columbians by 2027.

For more information:

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#25anHour

The \$10aDay Plan for children, families, educators and our economy

Standing Strong Together!

Two new fact sheets are available from: http://www.ecebc.ca/news/integrated_project.html "Fee subsidies are not the answer"

"BC Budget 2018: First Steps on \$10aDay Child Care"