



**ECEBC** | early childhood  
educators of BC

March 20, 2020

Right Honourable Minister of State for Childcare Katrina Chen;  
Right Honourable Minister of Health Adrian Dix;  
Right Honourable Minister of Children and Family Development Katrine Conroy;  
and Provincial Medical Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry

**Re: MCFD Covid-19 Child Care Update: March 20, 2020**

ECEBC is appreciative of today's [announcement](#) by the BC Provincial Government. We acknowledge the government has heard our sector's concerns and has offered a partial funding solution as per our recommendations. We continue to stand by our request that all childcare programs be temporarily suspended.

We have heard overwhelmingly from early childhood practitioners that they are eager to play their part in 'planking the curve' of this pandemic. However, they need and desire clear direction to ensure that childcare centres themselves do not become localized sites of infection, further placing essential service workers and communities at risk.

Without question, children of essential service workers will continue to need childcare throughout this crisis. Our priority is to ensure that such care is provided under the best circumstances possible. Early childhood professionals who undertake such work will need to be highly experienced and competent in order to facilitate the social-emotional well being of children.

ECEBC is deeply committed to working with the government on emergency protocols and necessary practices as outlined above. We are ready for consultation with the Ministry of Health regarding the development of detailed guidelines. ECEBC is well positioned to represent educators and to work alongside licensing officers, partners and stakeholders.

*The Early Childhood Educators of BC envisions a society where early childhood educators thrive in a supportive community that values childhood and education.*

Sincerely,

Violet Jessen- ECEBC Chair  
Emily Gawlick- ECEBC Executive Director