



December 9, 2025

Honourable Lisa Beare
Minister of Education and Child Care
ECC.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Beare,

As the major non-profit child care providers of British Columbia, we are writing to share our recommendations to help shape the new \$10-a-day Operating Funding Model (OFM).

Together, the BGC Clubs of BC (formerly known as Boys and Girls Clubs), the Federation of Community Social Services of BC, the YMCAs of BC, and the YWCA of Metro Vancouver represent over 6,300 licenced \$10-a-day spaces across the province. We have worked in lockstep with the province to build the \$10-a-day system since the introduction of ChildCareBC in 2018, and our partnerships have delivered many celebrated successes. While we are committed to ensuring more families and children can benefit from high quality and affordable child care, the OFM has created uncertainties about our place in the system.

Despite the diversity of our organisations, the current version of the OFM would leave us all unable to provide the high quality, inclusive care that parents expect, and to recruit and retain the qualified staff required to expand access to affordable care. We appreciate the ministry's understanding of these challenges and your commitment to developing a model that works for all providers. To move us towards that aim, we have developed a set of recommendations that address the funding and flexibility issues in the OFM.

We are now looking to continue discussions about the changes needed to the OFM for us to open new spaces and operate sustainably. With these changes, we are not seeking significant funding increases for our child care centres, but simply for the OFM to maintain the level of funding and the flexibility offered under previous models.

The attached document outlines five key recommendations to ensure we can continue to grow the \$10-a-day system with high quality and inclusive child care spaces. **We request a meeting with you to discuss these recommendations and how we can create a sustainable funding model together that works for families, providers, and the economy.** Please reach out to Ivonne Zhao at ivonne.zhao@bc.ymca.ca to arrange a meeting at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Welder
President and CEO
BGC Clubs of BC

Amy Mullis
Executive Director
Federation of Community Social Services of BC

Erin Seeley
CEO
YWCA of Metro Vancouver

Heidi Worthington
President and CEO
YMCA BC

Derek Gent
CEO
YMCA-YWCA of Vancouver Island

Allyson Graf
President and CEO
YMCA of Southern Interior BC

Enclosure: OFM recommendations
CC: Michelle Lattimore, Assistant Deputy Minister

Creating a Sustainable Funding Model for BC's \$10-a-Day Child Care System

This document outlines our recommendations for the OFM to ensure providers can continue to grow the \$10-a-day system with high-quality, inclusive child-care spaces. We are not seeking significant funding increases for our child care centres, but simply for the OFM to maintain the level of funding and the flexibility offered under previous models.

These asks are endorsed by the major non-profit child care providers in BC: BGC Clubs of BC (formerly known as Boys and Girls Clubs), the Federation of Community Social Services of BC, the YMCAs of BC, and the YWCA of Metro Vancouver. Together, we represent over 6,300 licensed \$10-a-day spaces across the province.

1 Ensure the OFM provides equivalent levels of funding as the Eligible Expense Model.

Resources were stretched under the Eligible Expenses Model (EEM), but we made it work. Moving to the OFM would plunge many of our child care centres into unsustainable deficits. This poses a significant risk to the sector's ability to attract qualified workers and deliver high-quality and inclusive care.

2 Protect wages for ECEs and continue to allow providers to boost retention by compensating for years of service and additional qualifications held.

The loss of the ECE Wage Enhancement in the OFM leaves the wage floor significantly below market rate, with no additional compensation for years of service or additional qualifications held. At a time when we need to attract more qualified staff, the OFM would cause wages to fall.

3 Enable operators to continue staffing above minimum licensing requirements and provide funding for non-ratio inclusion-focused staff.

Unlike the EEM, the OFM only funds the minimum level of staffing permitted by licensing and the number of funded staff hours do not include enough time for program planning, reporting, clean-up, and parental engagement. This eliminates enriching experiences for small groups of children and increases ECE burnout. Additionally, there is no funding for the non-ratio staff that are essential for providing inclusive care.

4 Allow operators to continue to provide stimulating learning environments by maintaining funding for programming costs.

Funding for programming costs, such as art supplies and activities, has been substantially reduced in the OFM, leaving providers less able to deliver quality early learning programming.

5 Continue funding administrative costs at 15% of expenses so providers have the professional service capabilities to comply with reporting requirements and manage operations.

Professional services such as HR and finance are essential to manage recruitment and payroll, to administer parent fees and funding agreements, and to comply with significant government reporting requirements and child protection standards. The OFM reduces the funding available for administrative functions and poses a risk to our ability to operate effectively and open new spaces.

