

From: NCLGA Admin <admin@nclga.ca>
Sent: August 16, 2019 9:00 AM
To: admin@nclga.ca
Subject: Resolution R33 Response from Minister of State for Child Care

Cariboo Regional District
File No. 400-50-02

AUG 16 2019

Referred To CAO

Good morning Members,

Please find attached correspondence from Minister Katrina Chen in response to NCLGA Resolution R33 – Community Childcare.

Moving forward, we welcome your thoughts or replies to this correspondence and we encourage you to add it to your next agenda package for further discussion.

For more information on the original letter sent by NCLGA please contact admin@nclga.ca.

Best regards,

Hannah Wasstrom
Executive Coordinator

T: 250-564-6585
E: hwasstrom@nclga.ca

www.nclga.ca





VIA E-MAIL
Ref: 244089

August 2, 2019

Lara Beckett
President
North Central Local Government Association
E-mail: admin@nclga.ca

Dear Lara Beckett:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of the North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA), detailing NCLGA Resolution R33 concerning child care. I appreciate you taking the time to write and for sharing this resolution. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding.

As you know, our government is focused on creating more licensed child care spaces so more families across British Columbia can breathe easier. Families have struggled for too long, and the shortage of child care spaces puts parents in the position of having to stay home from work or leave their communities to find child care. A shortage of child care spaces is bad for families, business and communities.

We want to work with local governments to create child care spaces for their residents. I want to assure you that our intent is to work together, not to pass along responsibility. We recognize that local governments are in the best position to know and understand the needs of their communities, and we want to empower and support local governments through funding opportunities to create sustainable, quality child care spaces that will make a real difference for communities and families in British Columbia.

Government is looking to work with a wide range of public sector partners, including local governments, to develop child care spaces. Programs currently available exclusively to local governments include the Community Child Care Planning Grants and the Community Child Care Space Creation Program, both administered by the Union of British Columbia Municipalities.

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Ministry of
Children and Family
Development

Office of the
Minister

Mailing Address:
Parliament Buildings
Victoria BC V8V 1X4

Location:
Parliament Buildings
Victoria

In addition, we offer funding to a wide range of applicants through the Childcare BC New Spaces Fund, including local governments, to support them in building new licensed child care spaces. I am pleased to advise that on July 15, 2019, our government increased the maximum funding which is available to local governments, public sector, and Indigenous governments to support the creation of new licensed child care spaces to \$3 million. At the same time, we increased the maximum award available to non-profits to \$1.5 million. These changes came as a direct result of feedback from the public and non-profit sectors.

Already, we have seen local governments across the province stepping up to bring change to our child care landscape, including Burnaby, Lake Country, Squamish and – most recently – the City of Vancouver through a partnership to create 2,300 spaces. We expect to see local governments identify more opportunities in the coming months as more than 70 communities use their funding from the Child Care Community Planning Grants to create local child care plans.

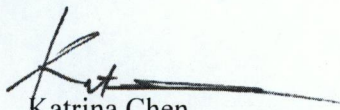
In addition to capital funding, the province provides operating funding to child care operators through the Child Care Operating Fund as well as funding through the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative to reduce fees for parents.

We recognize there is still much to do to create the child care system that children and families in British Columbia need and deserve. We continue to work with and receive feedback and guidance from partners in local governments, as well as the non-profit, public and private sectors, and continue to explore opportunities that will help us move to a universal child care system that responds to the needs of local communities.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about our child care capital funding programs, please contact Michelle Kirby, Engagement and Partnership Manager, Child Care Capital and Community Branch, Ministry of Children and Family Development, who will be happy to provide you with further information. Michelle can be reached via e-mail at: Michelle.Kirby@gov.bc.ca.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,


Katrina Chen
Minister of State for Child Care

pc: Michelle Kirby