BCACDI
The BC Association for Child Development and Intervention

POSITION STATEMENT
High-Quality Inclusive Early Learning and Childcare

BCACDI recognizes high-quality inclusive early learning and childcare (ELCC) as essential to the well-being, development, and participation of all children and their families across British Columbia.

While B.C. continues to make significant investments in ELCC, we recognize the sector faces significant and interconnected pressures that threaten the sustainability of high-quality inclusive ELCC. For example, persistent challenges with compensation, recruitment, and retention have created an urgent need for stronger workforce supports.

Further, ELCC providers support an increasing number of children with complex behavioural, developmental, disability-related, and mental health needs, often without timely access to specialized services, consultation, or additional staffing. The sector requires the workforce capacity, interdisciplinary supports, and system coordination necessary to meet the increasingly complex needs of children and their families.

B.C.'s ELCC system cannot be viewed as a stand-alone service. Rather, it must be integrated within a coordinated, responsive, and family-centred approach. ELCC is but one essential component of a broader child development ecosystem that includes early intervention, child development services, healthcare, education, mental healthcare, family supports, Indigenous organizations, and community agencies.

BCACDI advocates for such a system, grounded in children's rights, and reflective of the principles of inclusion, accessibility, cultural safety, and sustainability. To this end, we call for coordinated provincial action and sustained investment to:

- Strengthen recruitment, retention, mentorship, professional development, and compensation for the ELCC workforce.
- Improve access to specialized consultation and interdisciplinary supports for children and their families.
- Increase staffing capacity, training, and funding supports for ELCC settings serving children with complex and diverse needs and their families.
- Strengthen partnerships between ELCC providers, families, community agencies, and child development and intervention services.
- Strengthen collaboration among integrated systems of care to improve communication, shared planning, and coordinated service delivery across ministries and sectors.

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