



BC Family Child Care Association

Caregiver E-Connection www.bcfcca.ca

As the holiday season approaches, I am pleased to have this opportunity to extend Season's Greetings to all of you and your families. As the end of 2018 quickly approaches, I look back at what a busy and productive year it has been. While I can't say that there haven't been challenges, I say with confidence that I believe we are moving in the right direction.

All the changes in child care have meant your board of directors has been working harder than ever to keep up. We have strived to keep you informed with what was happening, and to answer any questions you had. We ensured that you were represented at numerous events and announcements and contributed the unique in-home and family child care perspective to many projects throughout the year.

It is a good time to be an early care and learning professional in British Columbia. Whether you work in a centre, or from your home, it is good to see the importance of your work recognized and gratifying to see some support coming through for families we work with.

Though 2019 is sure to bring even more changes, and with those changes, challenges, I am confident that together, we will stand strong and move forward towards a bright future for children, families and early care and learning professionals. Know that your association will continue to provide information, support and representation when needed. To do that, we need to know what your thoughts and feelings are. What is working well for you and what are you struggling with? Tell us. We want to know! You can contact us at any time by email or phone or use our fb page. Be sure to participate when we send out surveys or request information. The more we know about you, the better we can represent and assist you. Let's work together to make 2019 the best year ever!



From the board and staff to all of you, we wish you the very best during the holidays. Peace, good health and happiness in 2019 and beyond!

Suzanne Schlechte

Rosangela Giacobetti

Tracie Bourgeois

Joanne Cruickshank

Rena Laberge

Janeen Fowler

Child Care Affordability



BC Family Child Care Association sent two representatives Rena Laberge and Suzanne Schlechte, to attend Premier John Horgan's announcement on child care affordability. The new benefit program will expand the household income threshold for qualification to \$111,000, up from \$55,000 under the old subsidy. Premier Horgan said, "Our hope is that this makes a big difference for families, and that they can get a little further ahead every month. When more parents can choose to rejoin the workforce if they want to, that's good for people and the economy."

Over 80,000 B.C. families are now eligible for some level of support through the benefit. Under the previous subsidy, only 20,000 families were eligible. The benefit amount for infant/toddler care has also been increased, with some families now eligible for up to \$1,250 a month per child, up from \$750 per child, marking a 67% increase.

Katrine Conroy, Minister of Children and Family Development said, "Parents have been clear that this benefit – either alone or in combination with this spring's fee reduction initiative – will make life better for their families." Katrina Chen, Minister of State for Child Care said, "Child care was neglected for too long in this province, leaving families worried and scrambling. We're listening to what families need and our priority is affordable, accessible and quality child care for people around the province."

Canadian Child Care Federation

Reported by Suzanne Schlechte



I attended the Canadian Child Care Federation (CCCF) Affiliate meeting in Ottawa in October.

Presenters John Reed and Don Huff from Eco Strategy spoke to us on Media and Government Relations. Don Giesbrecht spoke to us about CCF's Membership Engagement and Recruitment Project.

Erica Phipps, the Executive Director from Canadian Partnership for Children's Environmental Health spoke to us on the dangers of radon gas. CCCF has an ongoing effort to educate the public on this hazard.

We heard from Karen Isaac on the Indigenous Early Learning Child Care Framework. Don Giesbrecht and Chris Smith (Muttart Foundation) spoke on the Bi-lateral Agreements and the Next Steps.

The meeting concluded with a visit from the Honorable Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development.

CCCF has been graciously supporting us as affiliates in providing education and training to help with our association. The Federation membership grows as it supports affiliates in growing their membership. Affiliate meetings give us an overview of the latest information from across our country and gives us a chance to network with other affiliates. We are grateful for their ongoing efforts to support us as we work to strengthen our association and support our members.

The CCCF is pleased to announce its board of directors effective November 15, 2018:

Chair	Marni Flaherty from Hamilton, ON
Treasurer	Christie Scarlett from Calgary, AB
Secretary	Taya Whitehead from Castlegar, BC
Director	Joan Arruda from Toronto, ON
Director	Linda Cottes from Toronto, ON
Director	Cathy Ramos from Halifax, NS
Director	Donna Stapleton from Upper Lahave, NS
Director	Laura Fowler Massie from Chelsea, QC
Director	Angie Stevenson from St.Brieux, SK

Legalization of Cannabis, How it Affects Family Child Care in BC

On November 17, 2018, Cannabis became legal in Canada. The laws regarding the growing and use of cannabis will vary from province to province. Whatever your personal feelings are on the legalization or use of cannabis are, it is important to know what the rules are and how they apply to family child care.

While it will be now be legal for residents to grow up to four plants in their homes, there are restrictions in place and it is important to note **home cultivation will be banned in homes used as daycares**. Even in homes that are not used as daycares, the plants must not be visible from public space off the property.

We know that smoking tobacco is not permitted in or on the premises of homes used as daycares. The Cannabis Control and Licensing Act **prohibits cannabis smoking and vaping everywhere that tobacco smoking and vaping are prohibited**, as well as at playgrounds, sports fields, skate parks, and other places where children commonly gather.

Finally, it should be noted that Section 17 of Licensing Rules and Regulations, Regarding Hazardous Objects and Substances, states: A licensee must ensure that children do not have access to any object or substance that may be hazardous to the health or safety of a child.

We strongly feel that family child care providers are professionals who take their responsibility of providing care for children in their homes seriously. We must ensure that parents feel, that when they drop their children off to us in the morning, that they can go to work knowing, without a doubt, that their children are safe and secure, and in the hands of people they trust.

We also have a responsibility to ensure that the children are safe and secure when they are picked up at the end of the day. We encourage providers to check their policies regarding parents arriving to pick up their children, who may be impaired by drugs or alcohol at that time. Remembering that we cannot withhold a child from their parents. (unless you have a signed court document which states you are not to allow access to the child from a parent) It is helpful to have a plan set in place before an incident occurs. Generally, a good recommendation is to have a written policy regarding this topic, and to share the policy with parents at time of enrollment. A good policy will state that, while you cannot legally withhold a child from their parents, that you will be obligated to contact the police if you feel that, when picking up their child, a parent is in an impaired state. It's always a good idea to build a relationship of trust with your families. In a situation where you suspect a parent might be impaired, having that relationship might mean that you can encourage parents to call a friend to help them out.

We'd like to remind you that you are welcome to call or email the BCFCCA office with any concerns regarding how the new laws for cannabis affect family child care, or with any other child care related topic. We would be happy to assist you.

Canada's Cannabis Act:

<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-24.5/>

Cannabis in BC:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/public-safety/cannabis>

Licensing Rules and Regulations:

http://www.bclaws.ca/Recon/document/ID/freeside/332_2007#section13

Cannabis Controls and Licensing Act:

<http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/bills/billscurrent/3rd41st:gov30-1>

Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Early Childhood Education



BC Family Child Care Association knows that we have many excellent early childhood educators in the field of Family Child Care. We are fortunate to have one such educator currently serving on our Board of Directors. Rosangela Giacobetti (BCFCCA director and licensee of a Multi-Age In-Home Center) was a recipient of the Prime Minister's award in 2013!

It's a shame most parents are not aware of this award, because the fewer people that know about the award, the fewer people will get nominated. Every time a child care provider is recognized for going above and beyond and excelling in the field of early learning and care for children, it lifts the child care profession, and all of us up. It shows that the important work child care providers do is recognized and valued, and that's something we can be proud of!

We encourage our members to promote this competition. Let parents, as well as other early childhood educators know about it. Look around you, find those individuals who are rising above and excelling in the field of family child care and nominate them for this award. You will be doing a great service, not only for the individual you nominate, but for the entire field of family child care.

You can find nomination packages at: <https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/pmaece-ppmepe.nsf/eng/home>

New Playpen Regulations

Click on the link below to read about new regulations regarding playpens

[Playpens](#)

Beware of third parties demanding a fee for help with child care benefits

The Ministry of Children and Family Development is warning B.C. parents about third-party websites and related social media posts offering to help parents access provincial and federal child care funding and supports – at a potential cost to parents.....[read more](#)

Children The Heart Of The Matter



[Register now for: Children The Heart of the Matter Conference 2019!](#)

Drop by BC Family Child Care Association's table and say hello. We would love to meet you and have a chance to have a conversation with you!

Universal Child Care Prototype Sites Announcement



BC Family Child Care was invited to attend Premier John Horgan's Nov 9 announcement of the 53 prototype child care sites. Families with children enrolled at these sites will pay a maximum of \$200 per month per child. The prototype sites move us closer to the government's 10 year Child Care BC plan. 2,500 children are expected to benefit from the prototype projects.

Premier John Horgan said, "We are finding new ways to make it easier for families to get by every month and to save for the future. Through this kind of action, where we significantly reduce the cost of child care, we can make life more affordable for so many B.C. families."

"Prototype sites give us a glimpse of what the future of universal child care in B.C. can be, and are critical as we design and refine our program moving forward," said Katrina Chen, B.C.'s Minister of State for Child Care.

"They build on the work we've already done to bring affordability relief to thousands of families through universal fee reductions and the Affordable Child Care Benefit."

It should be noted that families using licensed care outside of the prototype sites may also see savings through the Child Care Fee Reduction, which has helped to reduce the cost of almost 52,000 child care spaces across the province. [More information](#) & [News Release](#)

Early Learning Framework Revision

BCFCCA attended one of the two town hall meetings held regarding the revision of the Early Learning Framework. You can view the draft copy of the new framework here: [2018 draft copy ELF](#) .

The old framework, which was first published in 2008, described the vision, pedagogical principles and key areas of learning for children from birth to 5 years. It was designed to apply to all learning environments, although not all early child care facilities use it.

Here are some of the most noticeable changes from the old version to the 2018 draft copy:

OLD	NEW
<i>Focus on children birth to five</i>	<i>Focus on children birth to eight</i>
<i>Loose alignment with K-12 curriculum</i>	<i>Alignment with K-12 curriculum competencies</i>
<i>Sidebar references to Aboriginal perspectives</i>	<i>Indigenous worldviews and perspectives built throughout</i>
<i>Weak references to inclusion</i>	<i>Inclusion references integrated throughout</i>
<i>Differentiated questions for infants/toddlers and 3-5 year olds</i>	<i>Inquiry questions that apply to all children</i>
<i>Separate "Theory to Practice" document</i>	<i>Integrated chapter on inquiry based practice</i>

If you look at the child care map for British Columbia, you may have noticed that the map identifies child care facilities that are trained in and use the Early Learning Framework as a guide in their facility. [Online ELF training](#) has been available for the old framework at no cost and as the revision is finalized, the training will be updated as well. ELF revision is expected to be complete in September of 2019, and implementation is expected to begin in October of 2019.

Early Care and Learning Professionals are encouraged to read the new ELF framework and take advantage of the training available. Commitment to quality care is demonstrated with continuous learning and networking with other professionals through associations like BCFCCA.

The Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) earlylearning.ubc.ca/

The Human Early Learning Partnership held an Expo on November 14. If you're unfamiliar with HELP, they are an organization based out of the University of British Columbia, and their mission is creating, promoting and applying new knowledge to help children and families thrive. HELP is recognized as a leading research institute in Canada in early child development.

This year's expo shared some of the latest HELP data in relation to poverty and reflections on national and international policy contexts for improving child outcomes across the whole population. The expo, titled, ***“Something Big is Happening in BC for Families: Understanding the Larger Social and Economic Influences on Child Development”*** allowed participants to attend in person or via webcast. Martin Guhn and Ariumand Siddiq gave keynote presentations and were accompanied by Joan Gignac, Paul Hasselback and Scott Graham as a panel of experts.

The information presented at the expo was a insight into the broad impact of poverty on child development. Research has connected poverty with a number of activities that would, at first glance seem completely independent of income levels. Yet, they have found connections between poverty and time spent in outdoor play, consumption of sweetened beverages and the amount of screen time, among other things. This information can help early care and learning professionals have a better understanding of the needs of the children in care, and provide valuable insight to help create policies and activities for children that help to meet those needs.

Take a moment to watch these valuable presentations: [HELP Expo](#)

Radon and Your Child Care Home

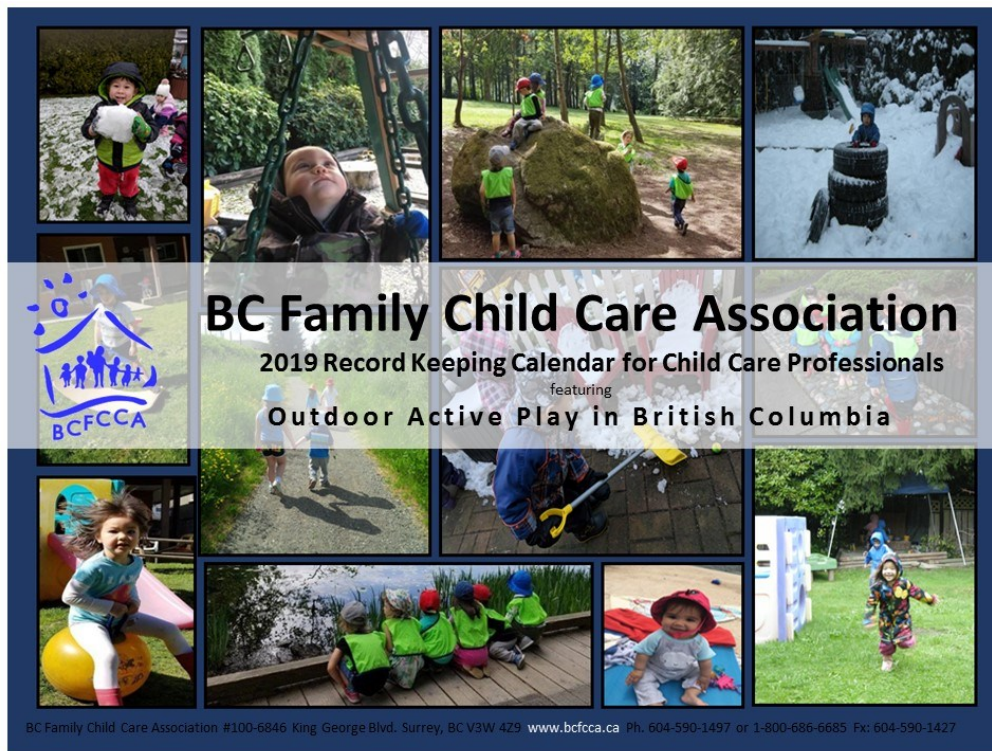
As you are working from home, and caring for children, you want your space to be as safe and healthy as you can make it. Over the past few years, more information has come out about the adverse health effects caused by exposure to radon gas. It is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that comes from rock and soil, and is present in almost every home and building. The number one cause of lung cancer in non-smokers is long term exposure to high levels of radon gas.

As the information about the danger of radon gas is circulated, more people are concerned with protecting themselves and their children from its harmful effects. The child care facilities in the interior are already being required to test for it. We can expect this requirement will soon be extended across the province.

How do you know if you have radon gas? You can't see, taste or smell radon. The only way you will know is by testing for it. The following links have great information about Radon and what you as a child care provider can do to be informed:

- [Policy Measures to Address Radon in the Child Care Sector](#) — report
- [Radon: What You Can Do \(for Child Care Professionals\)](#) — fact sheet
- [Radon Testing for Your Kids' Sake](#) — adaptable mini-poster to let parents know that testing is happening
- [Call for action on radon in child care settings](#) — article in Environmental Health Review
- [Reduce Radon](#) — tip card
- [Take Action on Radon](#) — great online resource; includes searchable database of certified radon contractors and information on getting low-cost test kits from provincial/territorial lung associations

BCFCCA's 2019 Record keeping Calendar for Child Care Professionals is now available!
Created with full colour pictures and all the tools needed for your child care business.
Don't miss out, [order your copy now!](#) Or purchase one through our [online store](#)



In order to best represent you, BC Family Child Care Association (“BCFCCA”) needs members to promote and talk about the need for a strong voice in the field and to promote the unique and valuable contributions family child care providers make everyday. The more members we represent, the more influence we’ll have to ensure that family child care remains a viable option for parents and providers.

Visit us at: www.bcfcca.ca

Join or renew your BCFCCA membership [online](#) or print a [membership form](#)



childcare@svifcca.com



nfcca@hotmail.com

“Joining the Conversation”

Don't miss out on the opportunity for great conversations and interactions with other Child Care Providers on our



[Members only page](#)

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BCFCCA Newsletter

#100-6846 King George Blvd., Surrey, BC V3W 4Z9

Phone: (604) 590-1497 Toll-Free: 1-800-686-6685 Fax: (604) 590-1427 Email: office@bcfcca.ca