

---

## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
2020CFD0100-002102  
Dec. 18, 2020

Ministry of Children and Family Development

### **Port Coquitlam parents to benefit from new child care spaces**

PORT COQUITLAM – Families in Port Coquitlam will soon have access to 45 new licensed child care spaces at a new affordable housing complex, as part of the Province’s commitment to increasing access to quality, affordable child care through the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

“Finding affordable child care and affordable housing are two of the biggest obstacles families in the Tri-Cities face,” said Mike Farnworth, MLA for Port Coquitlam. “By partnering with Atira Women’s Resource Society, we’re helping to ensure families have a safe, central place to live and children have a nurturing environment to learn and grow.”

Through the Childcare BC New Spaces Fund and in partnership with BC Housing, the Province is supporting Atira Women’s Resource Society to create 12 infant/toddler spaces, 25 spaces for children aged three years to kindergarten and eight multi-age spaces at the Alex, a new affordable housing complex. The complex will provide 83 rental homes for women and children and women-headed families in the Tri-Cities area.

Located at 2117 and 2121 Prairie Ave. and 3235 Flint St., the project includes a child care facility that will offer priority access to children living at the complex, in the immediate neighbourhood, citizens of the Kwikwetlem Nation and children attending Kwayhquitlam middle school. The Alex is scheduled to be completed in spring 2022.

“Atira is excited to include an early care and learning centre at the Alex, a centre that will integrate cultural competency and equity in its programming, and focus on reconciliation,” says Janice Abbott, CEO, Atira. “It is vital, now more than ever, to understand the importance of equity and inclusion in our education system, and we are thrilled the Province has provided us with the opportunity to build such a program in the Tri-Cities.”

The Childcare BC New Spaces Fund has provided funding for more than 700 new spaces each month, on average. To date, the Province has funded more than 20,000 new spaces throughout the province, helping parents return to work, go back to school or pursue other opportunities to help support their families.

“As a parent, I understand how hard it can be to find affordable child care close to home,” said Katrina Chen, Minister of State for Child Care. “This new facility will make it easier for mothers to pursue their own goals by returning to work or school, all while being part of B.C.’s economic recovery.”

An additional 4,110 child care spaces, funded through the 2017 Budget Update and the Early Learning and Child Care agreement with the Government of Canada, takes the total to more than 24,500 spaces since July 2017.

**Quick Facts:**

- This investment means 142 new licensed child care spaces have been funded in Port Coquitlam since July 2018.
- As the Province moves towards its “new normal” under COVID-19, child care capital builds may see unexpected delays.
- Once operational, child care providers will be required to follow guidelines provided by the Ministry of Health and BC Centre for Disease Control to keep staff and the families they serve safe and to limit the risk of transmission.

**Learn More:**

For information on health and safety standards for child care, visit:

[www.gov.bc.ca/ChildCareCovid-19Response](http://www.gov.bc.ca/ChildCareCovid-19Response)

For more about Childcare BC, visit: [www.gov.bc.ca/childcare](http://www.gov.bc.ca/childcare)

For more information on child care in Port Coquitlam, visit: <https://www.gv.ymca.ca/triccr>

A backgrounder follows.

**Contact:**

Ministry of Children and Family Development  
Government Communications and Public  
Engagement  
778 587-3237

---

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: [news.gov.bc.ca/connect](http://news.gov.bc.ca/connect)

---

## BACKGROUND

For Immediate Release  
2020CFD0100-002102  
Dec. 18, 2020

Ministry of Children and Family Development

### **Childcare BC improves access to quality, affordable child care**

- Since launching in February 2018, the Childcare BC plan has helped parents save up to \$1,600 a month, per child, with nearly \$600 million through the Affordable Child Care Benefit and Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative. As a result of these investments:
  - more than 35,000 children have received child care for no more than \$10 a day;
  - parents in Port Coquitlam have saved over \$10.1 million.
- The Province has made investments to improve supports to B.C.'s early care and learning professionals, including approximately \$16 million to provide more than 8,000 bursaries for students pursuing a career in child care.
- To date, the Province has invested more than \$39 million to provide more than 13,000 early childhood educators with a \$1-per-hour wage enhancement, which increased to \$2 per hour in April 2020. This includes over \$862,000 for early childhood educators in Port Coquitlam.

#### **Contact:**

Ministry of Children and Family Development  
Government Communications and Public  
Engagement  
778 587-3237

---

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: [news.gov.bc.ca/connect](https://news.gov.bc.ca/connect)