



TO: BC Assembly of First Nations Chiefs
FROM: BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (BCACCS)
DATE: October 3, 2024
RE: Q1 & 2 Updates on First Nations Early Learning & Child Care Framework Implementation

PURPOSE

As a mandated organization, BCACCS is accountable to the BC Assembly of First Nations, the First Nations Summit, and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs. As part of this accountability, this briefing note shares key information regarding the implementation of the First Nations Early Learning & Child Care (FNELCC) Framework in the **first and second quarter (Q1 & Q2) of 2024-25**.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. First Nations leaders that would like one-on-one meetings (virtual or in-person), to discuss opportunities, are encouraged to contact BCACCS

BACKGROUND

BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (BCACCS) was mandated, through political resolutions (UBCIC 2016-48 and 2-17-39), to lead the regional engagement work and to serve as the Regional Coordinating Structure for the development and implementation of the FNELCC Framework in BC. This framework, published in 2018 by the Government of Canada, is one of three distinctions-based frameworks in the broader national *Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care (IELCC) Transformation Initiative*.

2024-25 is the sixth year of implementing the framework in BC, working towards three key objectives:

- Increasing access of First Nations families to quality ELCC services and supports
- Increasing the quality of First Nations ELCC services and supports
- Increasing the capacity of the FNELCC sector, including leaders and practitioners

This work continues to focus on establishing and strengthening working relationships with First Nations leaders (both political and technical), advancing jurisdiction, and actioning local priorities. Implementing the *First Nations Early Learning & Child Care Framework* requires a broad systems approach that centres First Nations knowledge and structures, while

ensuring that communities have the tools, capacity and resources to provide high quality early learning and child care.

CURRENT STATUS

Between April 1, 2024 and September 16, 2024 \$4.3M was invested, covering four different funding streams (e.g. wage enhancement, minor capital, services, travel bursaries); these figures are being audited and will be included in the 2024-25 Annual Report (when published in 2025).

In addition to the investment work, BCACCS offers updates on the following areas of systems building work:

- **[First Nations Early Learning and Child Care Framework Implementation in BC: Five Years of Growth & Capacity 2018-2023](#)** was published and shared at the 2024 Leadership Forum.
 - **[First Nations Leadership Forum on Early Learning and Child Care: Backgrounder](#)** was published and distributed in advance of the forum, to support dialogue on jurisdiction.
- **2024 First Nations Leadership Forum on Early Learning and Child Care: What We Heard Report** is being finalized and will be circulated to all forum participants and then to First Nations leadership, as well as posted on BCACCS website for sharing with the broader ELCC sector.
- **[First Nations Early Learning and Child Care Tripartite MOU](#)**, the first of its kind in Canada, was signed in a ceremony on September 12, 2024, at Musqueam Community Centre. The purpose of the MOU is stated as follows:

“This Tripartite MOU confirms and sets out a mutual commitment of the Parties to collaborate, dialogue, and jointly take action on issues and initiatives related to ELCC as self-determined by First Nations in BC. It acknowledges and is informed by First Nations inherent rights to self-determination including the right to control the design, delivery and administration of a ELCC system for First Nations that reflects their unique needs, priorities and aspirations”.
- **FNELCC Capital Funding:** Investing \$24.7M over the next two years (starting September 2024), funding to support FNELCC capital will be available. Funding will support communities through consecutive and multiple phases of infrastructure work, including needs assessments, feasibility study, design and construction – with an initial emphasis on equity and working with communities with limited or no ELCC infrastructure. BCACCS is committed to collaborating with other funders to ensure communities have the greatest access to infrastructure resources that address their local priorities. For more

information, Chiefs (or delegates) can connect with the BCACCS team at framework@acc-society.bc.ca

ANALYSIS

Work continues in 2024-25, with renewed focus on outreach and engagement efforts with First Nations leadership, as they continue making decisions about jurisdiction over early learning and child care. Working with the feedback and direction offered in the 2024 Leadership Forum, BCACCS is working to develop materials and approaches that will support the priorities identified (e.g. jurisdiction, regulations, workforce, infrastructure).

In 2024-25, BCACCS will continue to work with communities to ensure they are able to access available funding, in ways that are flexible, responsive, and relational. Other areas of work will remain focused on systems-building and ensuring supportive conditions through the established bilateral and trilateral spaces.

NEXT STEPS

- In 2024-25, BCACCS will be advancing work to develop multi-year funding approaches, in response to feedback from leadership and FNELCC leaders.
- In 2024-25, BCACCS is pursuing work with the Institute of Fiscal Studies and Democracy (IFSD) on data related to FNELCC, to support a greater understanding of the current landscape and what this can mean for both funding models and systems building strategies.
 - This work will further support national and regional work on evaluation strategies that advance the principles and priorities outlined in the FNELCC Framework.
- In 2024-25, BCACCS will be initiating plans for convening regional leadership tables, to continue the work of the 2024 Leadership Forum.
- In 2024-25, BCACCS will expand their current post-secondary partnership model to include other public post-secondaries offering ECE for First Nations communities.