



BRIEFING NOTE

TO: BC Assembly of First Nations
FROM: BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (BCACCS)
DATE: November 13, 2020
RE: Indigenous Early Learning and Care (IELCC) Framework implementation in BC - **Progress Update**

PURPOSE

To provide an update on the *Indigenous Early Learning and Care (IELCC) Investment Strategy in BC* activities and expenditures. Information is inclusive of the 2019-20 fiscal year, as well as data from April 1 - August 10, 2020.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. BC Assembly of First Nations leadership support efforts to engage BC First Nations administrators and IELCC programs in accessing available resources for their communities, families and young children.

BACKGROUND

The Government of Canada and First Nations partners have agreed to enter into new constructive arrangements to implement the **Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Framework (2018)**, with a focus on the First Nations ELCC Framework, and to advance the resumption of authority and identification of capacity supports for First Nations to direct, develop, and control early learning and child care supports for First Nations children and families, wherever they live.

In British Columbia, the establishment of these regional structures started with the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) and their appointment of BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (BCACCS) as the IELCC Regional Coordinating Structure. BCACCS is mandated by, and is accountable to, the FNLC as well as First Nations leadership to ensure the key deliverables of IELCC framework are delivered in this region, including engagement and collaboration.

CURRENT STATUS

In terms of the *IELCC Investment Strategy in BC*, there are two key streams of work:

- IELCC Funding for Communities and Programs
- IELCC Capacity & Leadership Development

These areas of work are focused on the three main pillars of the national framework: **Quality, Access, and Capacity**.

2019-20 was the first full year of implementing the *IELCC Investment Strategy in BC*, so total (actual) investment with (and in) First Nations communities was balanced with the ongoing need to develop relationships, policies, and systems - the foundation upon which this 10-year transformation initiative will grow.

In 2019-20, **109 First Nations** submitted registrations with BCACCS, thus making them eligible to make application for individual funding streams.

The following is a snapshot of investments made at October 31, 2020 (amounts include investments committed but not disbursed):

IELCC Progress Report (as at October 31, 2020)	
<i>FUNDING STREAM</i>	<i>DOLLAR AMOUNT</i>
FNWE	\$4,502,567
Planning	\$3,000,000
Elder Involvement	\$318,000
Service Development & Enhancement	\$1,446,620
Minor Capital	\$405,096
COVID-19	\$871,685
Total Disbursed	\$10,543,968

To date, IELCC funding has been invested in a diverse range of programs/services, including child care, outreach/family support initiatives, Aboriginal Head Start, and community development. Additional work - outside of investing funds into communities and programs - is also underway. A key element of this work in 2019-20 and 2020-21 includes the ***IELCC Regional Planning Strategy***.

ANALYSIS

While this is the initial phases of a 10-year strategy, BCACCS recognizes that there is much work to be done. This includes:

- Raising awareness with First Nations leadership (re: opportunities, urgency)
- Engaging in dialogue to build understanding of what is needed in/by communities in order to access the available funds (e.g. coaching/mentoring with applications)
- Working with federal and provincial stakeholders to ensure investment approaches are aligned and coordinated
- Applying initial learning to streamline and strengthen IELCC funding application and reporting processes.

NEXT STEPS

BCACCS will provide an Interim Report for the 2020-21 fiscal year by December 31, 2020.

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To learn more about IELCC funding opportunities please visit BCACCS website: www.acc-society.bc.ca