



INTEGRATED CHILDCARE

BUILDING A SEAMLESS MODEL OF BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE
IN B.C.'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Too many families lack childcare services where and when they need it

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- Market-based childcare system does not work - inadequate supply of spaces and unfair distribution of services.
 - Historically, B.C. has only enough space for 20 per cent of children and this is not changing quickly under the current model.
 - Quality childcare remains out of reach for many families due to high fees and long waitlists.
 - Fractured patchwork system lacks centralized planning and unresponsive to systemic needs.

Need for School-Aged Care in the Region Outpaces Supply of Spaces

- City of Victoria Childcare Solutions Working Group Report showed a shortfall in Victoria of 4,233 spaces, of which 2,049 were needed for school aged children.
- District of Saanich Childcare Inventory and Action Plan found that surrounding communities were short 2,163 spaces for school-aged care out of a total shortage of 3,825 needed spaces.
- Both reports outline the barriers to creating new spaces, and many of these barriers are ones that school districts are in a unique position to overcome.

Integration into the school system is a better model for kids and families

- Thousands of potential cost-effective spaces for before- and after-school care exist in every region of B.C.
- Direct provision of childcare by school districts integrates early learning and care into the school day to make the experience seamless for learners and families.
- This would increase available childcare, while delivering a very high quality, value-added system of early childhood education.
- Recent changes to the School Act and licensing regulations mean that school districts can directly provide childcare services quickly and efficiently.
- Public education system provides a provincial-scale network for quick delivery of much needed spaces, with democratic local oversight ensuring high quality.

Benefits of Integrated Childcare in BC Public Schools

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- Improved accessibility and fewer transitions for kids.
 - Enhanced and informed care that is education-focused.
 - Coordination of care and learning between before- and after-school and school day programming.
 - More secure and reliable childcare options in every community.
 - New opportunities to recruit and retain high-quality education assistants and early childhood educators.
 - Increased investment in the public school system.

School Districts are in a Unique Position to Overcome Space Creation Barriers

- **Access to physical space** – no requirement for significant capital investment, and makes better use of taxpayer funded facilities.
- **Access to qualified workforce** – school districts are uniquely positioned to mobilize a workforce of underemployed, qualified staff.
- **Ability to create good jobs** – model for employment would positively contribute to recruitment and retention, and provide good jobs as compared to private sector alternatives.
- **Existing oversight model** – management, maintenance and governance structures already exist, meaning less funding required for overhead costs.
- **Funding** – need to work collaboratively with all partners to secure funding so child care enhances, and does not detract, from daytime learning.

Next Steps for School District 61

- CUPE encourages the District to open and operate critically needed before and after school care spaces using District staff.
- We ask that the Board of Education call on the Provincial Government to fully implement the \$10 a Day Childcare Plan, and provide School Districts with sustainable funding that would allow them to fully meet the childcare needs in their communities.

There are a variety of ways integrated care can be implemented, and CUPE is pleased to work collaboratively on a model that works for students, teachers, families, workers and the District.

QUESTIONS?