



Statement

May 28, 2020

For Immediate Release

As Child Care Month draws to a close, I offer gratitude and my personal thank you to all of those working in the field of early childhood education throughout B.C.

Every day is a good day to celebrate the work of thousands of caring and committed child care operators and providers. Child care programs are a vital and essential service that parents depend on to provide care for their children while they participate in the paid labour force, attend school and contribute to their communities in a variety of ways.

During the current COVID-19 pandemic, the significant contributions of child care providers have been highlighted as they support the families of workers in health services, social services, law enforcement and emergency response to remain on the front lines – and we are grateful for these contributions.

Early childhood educators must play various roles and master diverse skills to support children in their care. The contribution child care providers make to the quality of life and educational development of children should not be underestimated. It is a critical role in helping families and children learn, develop and grow, specific to their developmental needs.

As Representative, I believe that children and families are best served by a high-quality system of early learning and care. There is much evidence that points to the importance of the early years in improving the lives of vulnerable children and youth, and the future payoff more than mitigates the up-front costs associated with early intervention. That's why my Office is increasing our focus on the early years and early childhood and family development – and early childhood educators help to create a positive start for both.

Relationships child care providers form with children are relationships that matter and that have the potential to have life-long influence. For this reason, my staff and I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your commitment and dedication for the work you do caring for B.C.'s children.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Charlesworth
Representative for Children and Youth