



Children on waitlists need more funding and more specialized health professionals

Across BC, thousands of infants and children are waiting for early intervention therapy for physical, neurological, and developmental disabilities, including cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, autism, and other behavioural issues.

HSA is the union representing over 1000 skilled and caring health professionals delivering this specialized care at child development centres in BC.

These community-supporting facilities are under incredible strain right now, affecting both the families who depend on these services, and the professionals who deliver them.

We would like to work with you and your government to improve these services and urge the following:

1. Increase funding for all BC child development centres and provide Starbright Child Development Centre in Kelowna with long-term funding needed to continue operations after their short-term funding extension runs out in 2025.
2. Increase training spaces, provide tuition support, expand training programs to rural communities and extend recruitment and retention incentives like the Early Childhood Educator Wage Enhancement to cover professionals working in child sector services.
3. Prioritize non-profit service providers for children and youth because they achieve better care and results than private for-profit providers.

One size does not fit all -- we must change how we award and maintain contracts for care services

Competitive tendering and RFPs work well for large infrastructure projects like bridges and SkyTrain, but they don't work well for the delivery of care in health or community services.

The current rules for procurement in BC, last updated in 2003, do not provide a level-playing field for small, non-profit organizations with decades of experience delivering these services.

We urge you to work with other Ministries to:

- Stop further implementation of Family Connection Centres based on competitive tendering and RFPs and update provincial procurement policies to recognize that competitive bidding does not work well for selecting non-profit and community-based providers of health and community care services.