



# NICOLA-SIMILKAMEEN SCHOOL DISTRICT

## ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

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### NEWS RELEASE

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#### **Princeton and Area Families to Benefit from New Child Care Spaces**

The NICOLA-SIMILKAMEEN SCHOOL DISTRICT is pleased to announce that B.C.'s Ministry of Education and Child Care has committed to providing almost \$10.3 million in funding through the ChildCareBC New Spaces Fund to support child care in Princeton. The ChildCareBC New Spaces Fund combines provincial investments and funding from the Government of Canada through the Canada-British Columbia Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement 2021-2026. This agreement commits Canada and B.C. to work together to create 40,000 new high-quality, affordable, flexible and inclusive licensed child care spaces in the province by fiscal year 2027-2028.

This joint federal and provincial investment will allow the School District to create 80 new child care spaces, of which 50 are for children up to 5 years old, while also providing for the upgrade of 42 existing child care spaces that will continue to be available for families while renovations and new construction takes place. At the completion of the project, the 122 licensed and affordable child care spaces will provide full-day child care to 74 children up to 5 years old, as well as before- and after-school care for 48 school-aged children.

“Building brighter futures starts with investing in our youngest learners. By creating new child care spaces, we build a foundation for lifelong success and strengthen the bonds that allow our community to thrive. We are extremely pleased to be part of the creation of a new dedicated child care space at Riverside Learning Centre through the investment from the ChildCareBC New Spaces Fund,” said Leah Ward, Vice Chair of the Nicola-Similkameen District Board of Education. “Accessible and inclusive child care is critical for Princeton. The ChildCareBC New Spaces funding recognizes this by prioritizing the creation of a high-quality child care facility that will enhance and substantially expand the excellent child care service that is currently being provided.”

“Our government is working hard to create new spaces where they are most needed,” said Grace Lore, B.C.'s Minister of State for Child Care. “In Princeton, we are proud to be able to ensure that families won't be losing access to existing care and that we will be adding even more spaces for children of all ages. The new and renovated spaces will benefit this growing community for years to come.”

“Creating new child care spaces in communities like Princeton is an example of what the Canada-British Columbia Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement sets out to achieve,” said Jenna Sudds, Canada's Minister of Families, Children and Social Development. “Today's announcement reiterates our commitment to increasing access to high-quality, affordable, flexible and inclusive early learning and child care for children and parents across the country.”

Securing funding to upgrade and add space to the current Riverside Learning Centre in order to build a high-quality child care facility for Princeton has been a top priority for the School Board. We would like to thank the Province for their support as well as our community partners, Little Seeds Daycare and the YMCA, who have all supported the district throughout the successful grant proposal process. Above all, we are happy for the children and families of Princeton who will benefit from this wonderful opportunity.

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On the traditional and unceded territories of the Nl̓eʔkepmx and Syilx people.*