

By Email- MCF.CCCF@gov.bc.ca

November 10, 2021

Child Care Capital and Community Services Team
Ministry of Children and Family Development

RE: Support for the District of Sechelt's application to the Child Care BC New Spaces Fund

To Whom it May Concern,

We are writing this letter in support of the District of Sechelt's application for the Child Care BC New Spaces Fund to build a new childcare facility in Sechelt, the Kinnikinnick Child Care Centre.

The lack of accessible, affordable and quality childcare has impacts on the economic development of the region, the health and well being of families, and the long-term success of children. The Sunshine Coast is dependent on tourism and services for much of its economy. These sectors are driven by the available workforce. Staffing is an ongoing challenge on the Sunshine Coast for many reasons, including limited availability of affordable housing. Lack of childcare spaces is another important factor for many families, as identified in the 2019 Sunshine Coast Child Care Action Plan.

The Child Care Action Plan identified Sechelt as "the area most in need of childcare spaces". We support the District's proposal for a new childcare facility on their land at 6000 Lighthouse Avenue that would provide an additional 75 spaces, including 12 full time zero-to-30-month spaces, 24 full time 30 month to school age spaces and 40 before and after school spaces. This facility will increase the availability of childcare for our general population, including underserved populations such as children requiring extra support, Indigenous children and families, newly landed immigrants and refugees, and young parents across the Sunshine Coast.

Hundreds of new childcare spaces are needed on the Sunshine Coast and a new facility in Sechelt will help reduce this gap, while supporting families to strengthen our economy. We ask that you favourably consider the application from the District of Sechelt for the Child Care BC New Spaces Fund.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,
SECHELT & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



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THE CHAMBER

Sechelt & District