

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

May 20, 2020

The Editor
The Comox Valley Record

This year's Child Care Month in BC has been like no other, and it highlights yet another reason to recognize and thank the child care providers and child care professionals in our community. We've seen how they are a critical part of the COVID-19 response.

Our government introduced temporary emergency funding to make it easier for licensed child care centres to stay open, even with reduced enrolment, and is supporting centres who closed, to help ensure they can re-open and serve families. And as we enter Phase Two to begin to safely open our economy and slowly expand our bubbles, Dr. Bonnie Henry, our Provincial Health Officer, has issued new guidelines for safely providing child care, which will be complemented by WorkSafeBC guidelines for child care providers.

Our government created a matching program to make sure doctors and nurses, police and grocery store clerks, and other essential service workers have child care so they can continue to do their jobs each day. Without available child care, our community could not function. We are expanding the program for parents who are returning to work under Phase Two, but who do not have child care or their regular space is not available. They can be matched with temporary child care.

While we've worked together to make real progress addressing the longstanding child care crisis, the pandemic reveals where we need to do more to build a child care system that works for child care professionals and the children and families that rely on them.

We have so many devoted centres and child care professionals throughout BC, who, with spirit, resilience and compassion, are keeping our community moving and our children learning. They deserve our praise, not just during the month of May or during the pandemic, but every day.

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