

# A Community Plan for a Public System of Integrated Early Care and Learning



MOVING TO A SYSTEM OF  
integrated early care & learning IN BC



COALITION OF  
child care  
advocates  
OF BC

# Why get involved?



# A community response to:

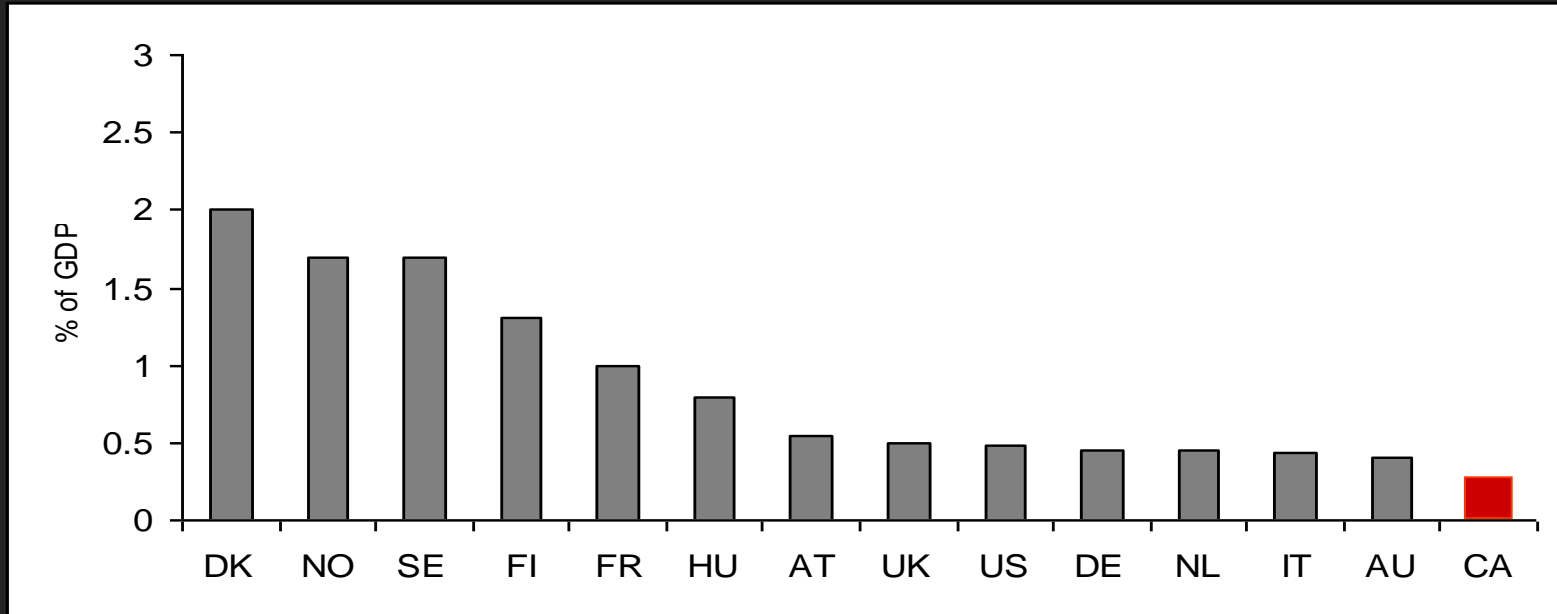
## Failed Public Policy

### Canada ranks last !

- Lack of respect for ‘women’s work’ of caring
- Lack of political will
- No plan
- No adequate or stable public funding
- Failure of child care to thrive in ‘child welfare/ protection’ (or other) ministry

# International Public Spending

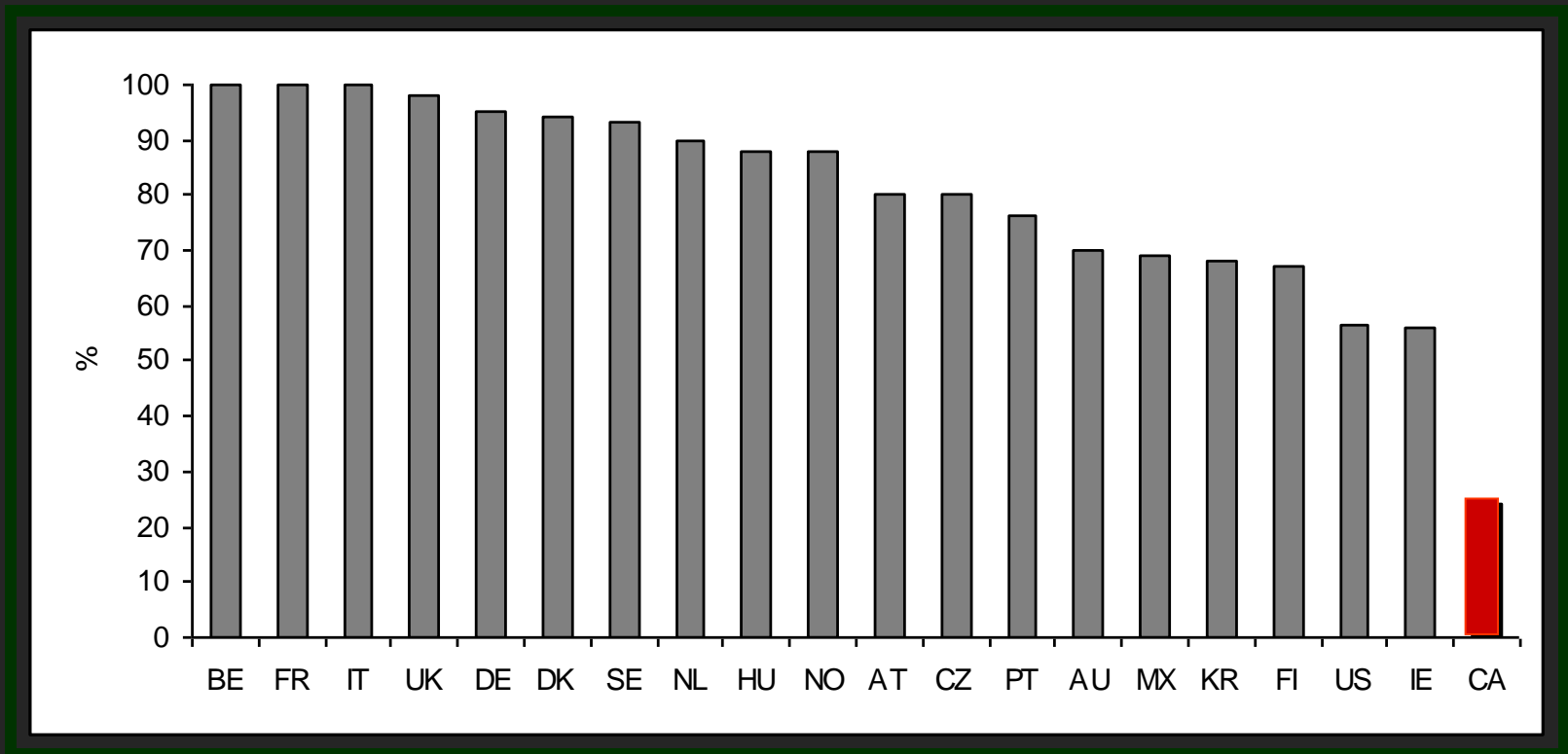
## Public Spending on ELCC for children 0 -6 (% of GDP)



Source: OECD. (2006). *Starting Strong II: Early Childhood Education and Care*. Annex C, page 246.

# International Accessibility

## ELCC Access Rates for 3 to 5 year olds



Source: OECD. (2006). *Starting Strong II: Early Childhood Education and Care. Country Profiles.*

AU, CZ, FI, HU, NL, UK – Estimated (averaged across ages 3-6).

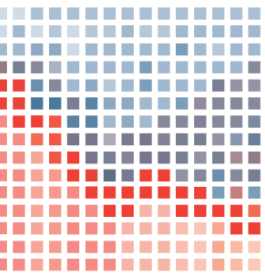
DE – Estimated (averaged across ABL and NBL).

CA – Children 0-6 in care including regulated family day care.

# A community response to

## BC's on-going child care crisis

- High fees
- Low wages
- Few spaces
- More big box chains

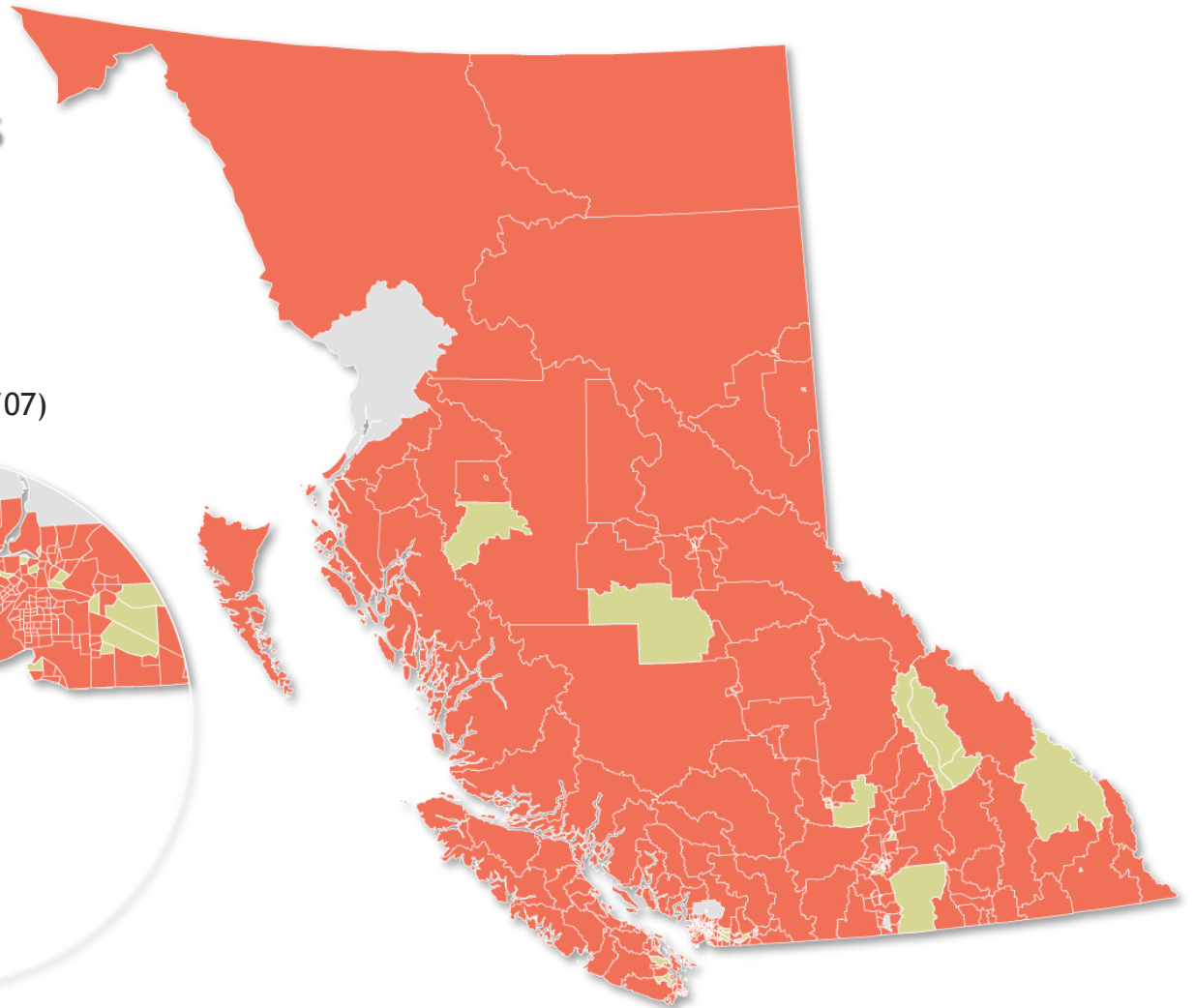
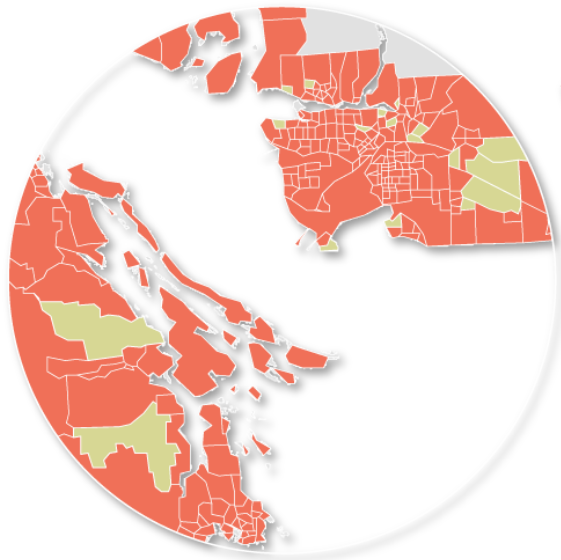


## Vulnerable on One or More Scales

 **>15%**

 **<15%**

Source: EDI Wave 2 (2004/05 - 2006/07)



# A community response to...

The implementation in BC of **full school day K for 5 year olds** and promise of 'pre-K' for 3 and 4 year olds

To date - **no strategy** to recognize and include existing early care and learning services or meet the needs of all families



# A community response to...

International and national trend of growing role for ministries of education in early learning

International policy lessons suggest:

- Integrate of care and learning under one lead ministry
- Where integration pursued – home in Education most effective
- Strong and equal partnership between care and learning sectors required

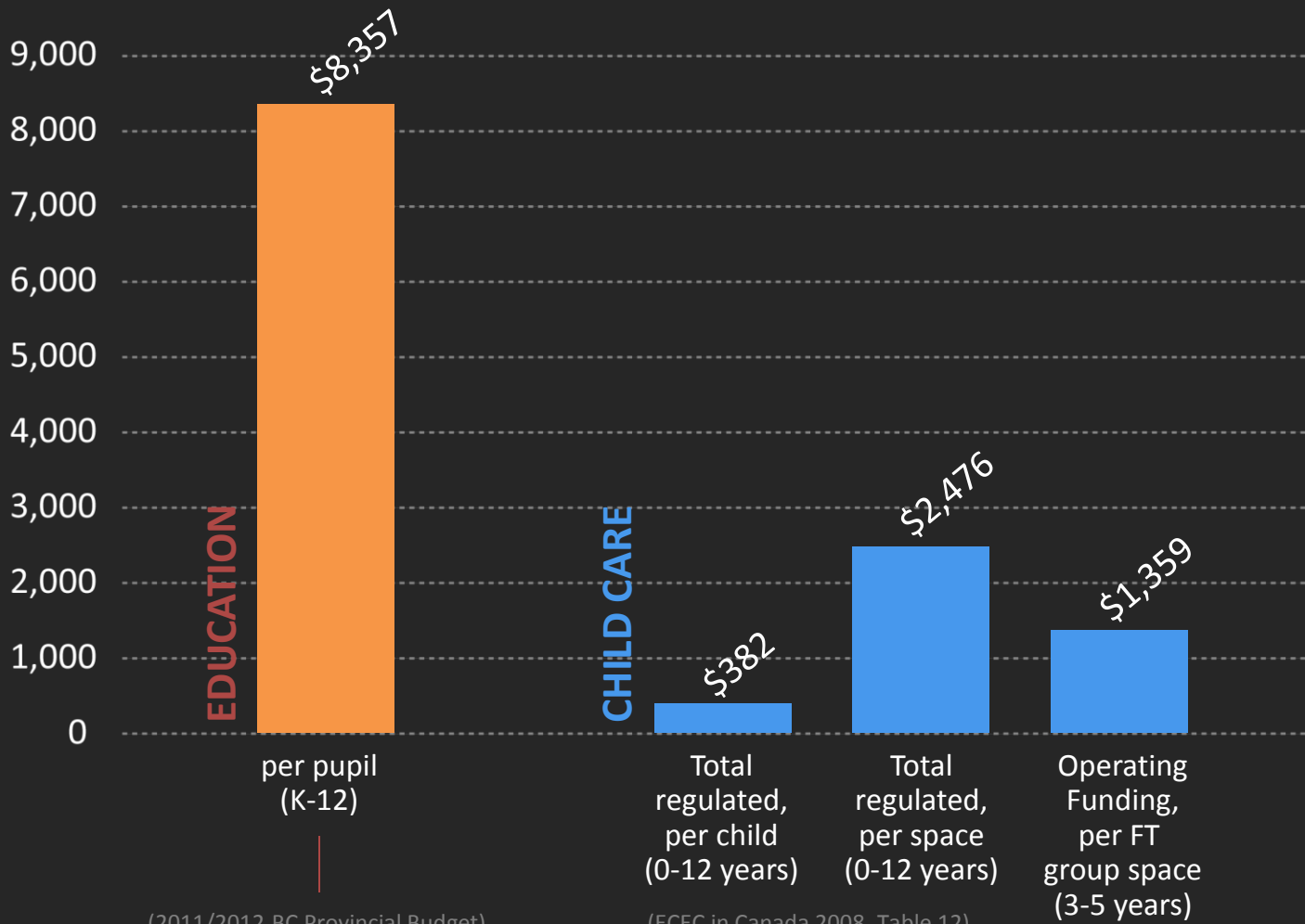


15 by 15

# EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE IN BC Public Investment per Unit



BC Annual  
Spending  
(\$)



(2011/2012 BC Provincial Budget)

(ECEC in Canada 2008, Table 12)

[http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/childcare/pdfs/ccof\\_rates.pdf](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/childcare/pdfs/ccof_rates.pdf),  
calculation based on \$5.48/day x 248 days/year

# The context matters...

Strong Family Policy – time and resources

Provincial and federal responsibilities

First Nations and Aboriginal Communities Control

New investment - adequate and stable budget

# Highlights of the Community Plan

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# 1. New Early Care and Learning Act

Legislates rights of:

- All **young children** to access services that respect their unique developmental stage
- **Families**, particularly those in the paid labour force, to quality, affordable care and learning that meets their needs (on a voluntary basis)
- **First Nations** control over their own services

Also...

Protects against 'schoolification'

Supports child care sector to be strong & equal partner

# 2. New Home in Ministry of Education

For all **community & school-based** early care & learning programs

## Ministry of Education offers

- Universality
- Public funding
- Democratic control
- Public understanding and support
- Respect and fair compensation
- Infrastructure to deliver

# 3. New Early Care & Learning Plans

Boards of Education **mandated & funded** to locally govern new Act and local Early Care and Learning Services

- Develop and implement **EC&L Plan**
- Dedicate **staff** to support EC&L
- Establish standing and staffed **EC&L Committees**
- Ensure **appropriate facilities** on or off school sites

# 4. New Early Years Centre Networks

- Alternative, more appropriate than ‘pre K’
- Integrate and evolve from **existing licensed child care** into neighbourhood EYC Networks.
- **Boards of Education** responsible for developing and delivering all **new EYC Networks**.



# 4. New EYC Networks

- Staffed by qualified ECEs in community unless appropriate space is available in or on school grounds
- Support for existing providers through application process to become EYC network
- EYC Networks - key players in coordinated Early Childhood Services
- Providers can remain independent - meet licensing requirements – but no public funds tied to new accountability measures

# 4. New EYC Networks

## Funding tied to accountability measures

- Cap parent fees at affordable levels
- Meet improved wage and training levels
- Include ALL children
- Meet identified community need
- Program consistent with Early Learning Framework

# 5. Enhance Kindergarten/Grade 1

School entry at age 5

## Enhance Kindergarten

ECEs work with teachers to

- Lower ratio
- Cover full working day/year
- Bring ECE practice into schools

## Enhance Grade 1 with same approach

# 5. School Age Care - Grade 2 and up

- Boards of Education assume full responsibility for school age care
- Existing school age child care providers integrated into system – with same accountability measures
- New programs developed & delivered by Boards of Education

# 6. Workforce Development

Enhance quality

Respect expertise of Early Childhood Educators

Move towards parity with teachers

**Bachelor of Early Childhood Education** as new educational standard for sector

**Diploma as minimum** for group, family & school age care.

Support sector to upgrade their education

# Implementation

1. Commitment to embrace and implement the Plan
2. Enact the Early Care and Learning Act
3. Develop a 5 year stable budget
4. Develop ELC Plans - priority on programs that meet the needs of working families

# Questions remain BUT

Change is here.

The status quo is not an acceptable fall back.

Integration of Care & Learning is a PROCESS.

Plans are NOT guarantees.

EC&L community needs to be included in change.

# Momentum for Our Plan grows

## Briefing Process

- Over 60 Briefings
- In over 25 communities
- Webinar and on-line briefing for 100's
- On-line survey
- Reached thousands from child care and beyond...
- 700 written responses

Response is overwhelmingly positive...



# Next Steps

- Finalize and release Plan
- Public Education
- Build Community Support

[www.cccabc.bc.ca](http://www.cccabc.bc.ca)

[www.ecebc.ca](http://www.ecebc.ca)

# Change.....

*The Plan means **change** for everyone*

*A **cultural shift** – may take a generation to achieve*

# Thank you !

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