



# IELCC in BC: 2021-22 Annual Report

*Prepared by BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (IELCC TI Agreement CRF: 016648065)  
Prepared for First Nations Leadership Council & Employment and Social Development Canada*

## Background/Context

The First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) - comprised of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, BC Assembly of First Nations and the First Nations Summit - mandated the BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (BCACCS) to lead the 2017 regional engagement work, and ultimately to serve as the Regional First Nations ELCC Coordinating Structure for the development and implementation of the First Nations IELCC Framework in BC. As such, BCACCS’s mandate includes regional coordination, community engagement, leadership, policy development support, research, partnership development, and accountability for key deliverables.

In November 2019, Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) and BCACCS finalized the IELCC Transformation Initiative Agreement number CRF: 016648065, outlining key terms, activities, and deliverables. Since that time, BCACCS has worked with FNLC, First Nations across the region, Indigenous organizations and stakeholders, and both federal and provincial governments to (a) implement the ongoing investment of resources, (b) apply the learning from previous years, and (c) respond to emerging opportunities. **This report provides a brief overview of progress on key investments, activities, milestones, and accountabilities for 2021-22.**

## INVESTMENTS & ACTIVITIES

Since 2019, IELCC investments have been designed to respond to the three key pillars in the IELCC (First Nations) Framework: **Capacity, Quality, and Access.**

**CAPACITY:**  
Increasing the capacity of the IELCC sector, including leaders and practitioners

**QUALITY:**  
Increasing the quality of IELCC services and supports (as outlined in *BCACCS Elements of Quality Child Care from the Perspectives of Aboriginal Peoples in British Columbia* [BCACCS, 2005])

**ACCESS:**  
Increasing access, for Indigenous families, to quality IELCC services and supports

2021-22 was the **third full year of implementing** the *IELCC Investment Strategy in BC*, and maintained many of the previous years’ investment approaches, balancing the ongoing need to simultaneously develop relationships, policies, and systems - the foundation upon which this

10+ year transformation initiative will grow. This approach takes time and resources, and is fundamentally necessary “To support the development of high quality, culturally appropriate, sustainable programs, services and supports for children and families through ongoing community engagement, collaborations, partnerships and coordinated approaches to planning, implementation, and governance.” (BC First Nations ELCC Framework –Mission Statement).

To build an accessible and sustainable system, Nations are required to register to start the process of establishing a master funding agreement. This process starts with providing registrants with key background information on IELCC in BC, clarified data management and privacy policies, and contact information for IELCC Regional Community Facilitators. This process ensures that Nations are only asked once to provide key information, before being able to access the available funding streams.

As of March 31, 2022, **\$21,385,941.35** has been invested/committed through the multiple IELCC funding streams:

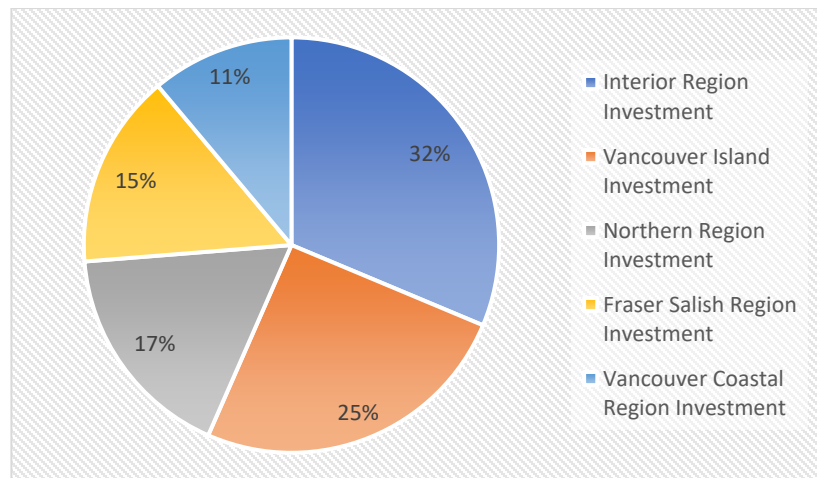
Registered in IELCC Database/Portal			
Fiscal Year	as of 2019-20	as of 2020-21	as of 2021-22
<b>Total</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>144 (163<sup>1</sup>)</b>	<b>166 (189<sup>2</sup>)</b>
<i>Fraser Salish Region</i>	13	23 (24)	23 (25)
<i>Interior Region</i>	25	37 (40)	45 (47)
<i>Northern Region</i>	33	38 (43)	44 (50)
<i>Vancouver Coastal Region</i>	6	9 (14)	14 (19)
<i>Vancouver Island Region</i>	32	37 (42)	40 (48)

First Nations Wage Enhancement (FNWE) Funding					
Fiscal Year	# Applications Received/Approved	# Educators Supported	# Children Enrolled	# Children on Waitlist	Total Investment
2018-19	98/98	464	-	-	\$1,528,200.70
2019-20 (P1)	85/81	-	2687	1025	\$854,783.77
2019-20 (P2)	81/71	-	2474	1024	\$748,746.72
2020-21 (P1)	54/44	-	1442	699	\$422,683.48
2020-21 (P2)	34/23	-	667	452	\$219,095.14
2021-22 (P1)	7/0	-	<i>Data unknown at this stage</i>		
2021-22 (P2)	<i>Application intake open after this reporting period</i>				

<sup>1</sup> These numbers include Urban Indigenous Organizations that were eligible for COVID related funding

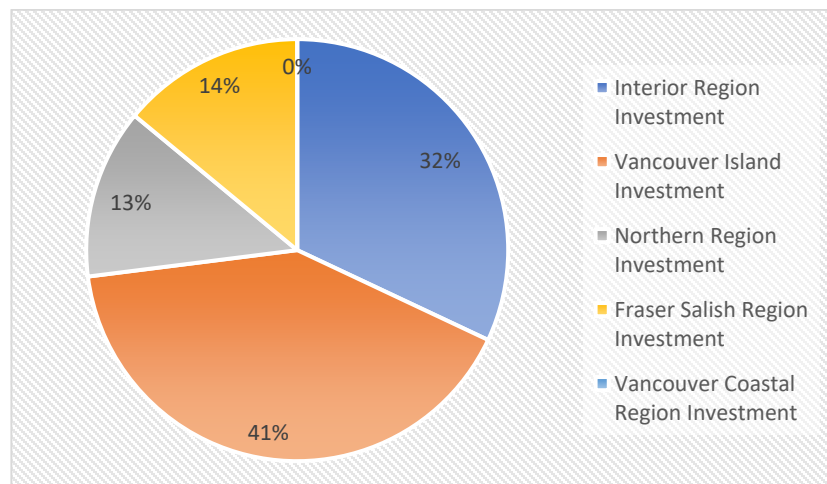
<sup>2</sup> Same as above

As of **March 31, 2022** there has been a total of **\$3,766,452.02** invested/committed through the **First Nations Wage Enhancement** funding stream, across all regions:



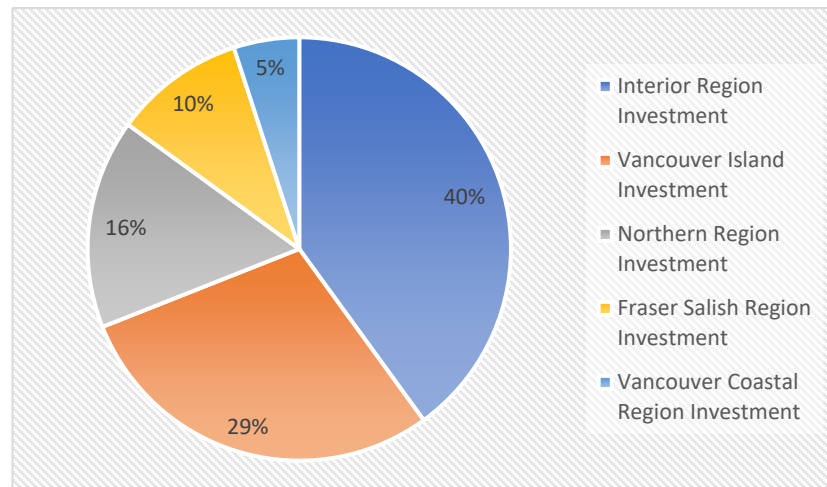
Service Development and Enhancement						
Fiscal Year	Applications Approved	Applications Increasing Capacity	Applications Increasing Quality	Applications Increasing Access	Children Served	Total Dollars
2019-20	4	10	10	10	25	\$568,313.33
2020-21	15	7	15	11	460	\$1,511,396.64
2021-22	10	7	9	6	300	\$1,067,785.43

As of **March 31, 2022** there has been a total of **\$3,147,495.40** invested/committed through the **Service Development and Enhancement** funding stream, across most regions:



Minor Capital						
Fiscal Year	Applications Approved	Applications Increasing Capacity	Applications Increasing Quality	Applications Increasing Access	Children Served	Total Dollars
2019-20	0	0	0	0	0	\$0
2020-21	17	4	17	5	459	\$1,618,807.56
2021-22	10	5	8	5	394	\$926,718.57

As of **March 31, 2022** there has been a total of **\$2,545,526.13** invested/committed through the **Minor Capital** funding stream, across all regions:



COVID-19 Response & Recovery						
Funding Stream & Year	TOTAL	Fraser Salish	Interior	Northern	Vancouver Coastal	Vancouver Island
COVID-19 (2020)	\$1,060,949.77	\$172,473.56	\$247,326.85	\$275,687.17	\$89,794.91	\$275,667.28
COVID-19 (2021 Activities & Pandemic Pay)	\$4,667,529.96	\$731,777.34	\$1,243,933.13	\$969,915.60	\$732,209.07	\$989,694.82
COVID-19 (2021 Additional)	\$1,510,000.00	\$240,000.00	\$380,000.00	\$330,000.00	\$180,000.00	\$380,000.00
COVID-19 (Air Quality & Sanitization)	\$1,369,988.07	\$182,979.66	\$353,149.50	\$392,146.49	\$185,473.09	\$256,239.33

As of **March 31, 2022** there has been a total of **\$8,608,467.80** invested/committed through the **COVID-19** funding across all regions and including urban Indigenous organizations. The first COVID-19 funding stream (2020) provided support for pandemic response activities such as: at-home activity kits; food security packages; enhanced cleaning; development and implementation of COVID-19 health and safety policies; modifications for increased outdoor activity; etc. A second round of funding was available in 2021 (along with pandemic pay for program staff), and then a third (2021 Additional) in response to the Omicron variant. The Air Quality and Sanitization stream provided funding for air purifiers, grants for commercial-grade dishwashers, and assessments of HVAC systems.

## Community Planning & Elder Involvement

While there was no active investment of these funding streams in 2021-22, as funding was offered in other streams, the amount invested as of March 31, 2022 include:

- **Community Planning: \$3,000,000.00**
- **Elder Involvement: \$318,000.00**

In addition to the areas of investment outlined above, BCACCS representatives were actively involved in work related to **governance and jurisdiction** in Early Learning and Child Care.

- During this time, BCACCS supported key First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) staff in their initial explorations of a tripartite process that would support clear and consistent governance roles that were aligned to UNDRIP legislation at both provincial and federal levels. BCACCS and FNLC also finalized an memorandum of understanding (MOU) that confirmed their working relationship in this broader governance process.
  - The tripartite process, and the specific MOU, both supported elements of the IELCC Regional Planning Strategy. The need to clarify and confirm roles, and potentially pursue formalized agreements, was raised by FNLC representatives in December 2020.
- BCACCS and FNLC provided formal responses to provincial legislative changes (e.g. ELCC Act) and policy initiatives (e.g. DRIPA Action Plan).
- BCACCS and FNLC responded to the decisions made by both federal and provincial governments to negotiate and announce new bilateral ELCC funding agreements in the absence of First Nations. Both BCACCS and FNLC collaborated to explore follow-up and next steps to address this oversight.
- In Spring-Summer 2021, BCACCS worked with identified groups (including ISETS agreement holders) to design and implement an engagement process (as directed by FNLC) to explore funding administration options for FNICCI programs – options that would benefit communities and programs, and address the broader issue of governance in ELCC.

Work related to the *IELCC Regional Planning Strategy* was adjusted in response to opportunities to explore and clarify/confirm governance systems and the resumption of jurisdiction. Emerging work in 2022-23, in response to a tripartite process, will provide a natural space for a refreshed approach to regional planning.

## ACCOUNTABILITIES

In addition to the formal annual reports, BCACCS has provided the following updates on the work and progress of IELCC in BC:

- Semi-Annual Activity Reports to ESDC for Q1 (April 1 – September 30, 2021) and Q3 (October 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022)
- Quarterly Interim Reports to ESDC for Q1 (April 1 – June 30, 2021), Q2 (July 1 – September 30, 2021), Q3 (October 1 – December 31, 2021), and Q4 (January 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022)
- Reporting to the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), as the Regional Governance body.

In addition to accounting to Leadership and ESDC, the IELCC team also provided information and updates to sectoral representatives, including (but not limited to):

- Sharing discussion with the First Nations Health Authority regarding available funding (October 20, 2021)
- Sharing discussion with Jordan’s Principle Service Coordinators regarding available funding (July 5, 2021)
- Okanagan Nation Alliance funding overview and info session (March 2, 2022)
- Province-wide information sessions for available funding (various community members attended):
  - COVID-19 Activities and Pandemic Pay Info Session (May 27, 2021)
  - COVID-19 Air Quality & Sanitization Virtual Workshop (June 23, 2021)
  - COVID-19 Air Quality & Sanitization Virtual Town Hall (November 17, 2021)

### **Moving Forward in 2022-23**

Key priorities in moving forward in 2022-23 include:

- Continue with ongoing funding streams (FNWE, Service, and Minor Capital) while developing several new streams, which would include an assessment of impact and any potential modifications to the FNWE funding policy.
  - Assessment of regional differences in how each funding stream is accessed (e.g. could additional or different engagement support greater access?).
- HVAC Servicing: Informed by the FY 2022 HVAC assessments, begin work to provide upgrades, repairs, and maintenance on communities’ early years’ HVAC systems.
- Community Capacity Development: Increase communities’ capacity to plan for early years’ services (initial planning for some, deepening/broadening the vision for others).
- Capital funding for new builds and modular units, as well as ongoing costs for repairs, retrofits, and maintenance.
- Another round of COVID-19 funding as communities respond to the early years’ “triple pandemic” of COVID-19, flu, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).
- Entry to Practice funding to minimize barriers for early years’ educators to access education opportunities.
- Development of a data and evaluation strategy.
- Move forward with a revised regional planning approach, in light of developments with the tripartite process.

### **Distribution of IELCC in BC Annual Report for 2021-22**

A copy of this report will be shared with the First Nations Leadership Council, including

- Union of BC Indian Chiefs
- First Nations Summit
- BC Assembly of First Nations

In addition, the report will be posted to the BCACCS website and will be shared through the established communication channels (e.g., social media, e-Newsletter).