

DISTRICT RECEIVES APPROVAL FOR SIX ADDITIONAL CHILDCARE CENTRES

May 25, 2021

KELOWNA, BC – The Provincial government announced funding for six childcare centres on Central Okanagan Public Schools lands:

- The Clubhouse at Ellison Elementary School: \$3 million for 71 licensed childcare spaces
- Okanagan Boys and Girls Club – North Glenmore Elementary School: \$3 million for 92 licensed childcare spaces
- Okanagan YMCA – Okanagan Mission Secondary School: \$3 million for 82 licensed childcare spaces
- Okanagan Boys and Girls Club – Anne McClymont Elementary School: \$3 million for 82 licensed childcare spaces
- Okanagan YMCA – Black Mountain Elementary School Child Care: \$3 million for 82 licensed childcare spaces
- Okanagan Boys and Girls Club – Hudson Road Elementary School: \$3 million for 92 licensed childcare spaces

In addition to the spaces and funding announced last year for the program currently being constructed at George Elliot Secondary School, this represents \$21 million and 602 total childcare spaces to serve this vital community need.

"The Board of Education is extremely appreciative of the Provincial Government's support of this valuable service that benefits families in our communities " says Board Chair, Moyra Baxter, "The Central Okanagan is the fastest growing community in British Columbia and creating new spaces for our children to be cared for and to learn is essential."

The District is currently in the design phase and the centres are expected to be fully constructed by September 2023.

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Please see page 2 for additional quotes.

For comments, please contact:

Moyra Baxter, Board Chairperson, 250-767-6153

Ryan Stierman, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO, 250-470-3224

Quotes on additional childcare spaces in the Central Okanagan:

Melissa Hunt, Executive Director, Childhood Connections – Okanagan Family & Childcare Society:

“We are thrilled that 659 new childcare spaces will be created in our community! It is so important to see more spaces open to keep up with the childcare demand of our growing Central Okanagan community, we need to create over 16,000 new spaces over the next 10 years. This is a great start, and we are excited to continue to support the exciting additions of childcare spaces in our region.”

Danielle Miranda, Child Care General Manager, YMCA of Okanagan:

“The demand for childcare is great so we are immensely grateful for this investment in our community. As a non-profit childcare provider, we are able to provide necessary care for families at all income levels thanks to the provincial government and donor funding. The impact of more parents being able to pursue their education or career while their children are safely cared for, will undoubtedly create a healthy ripple effect that benefits not only these individual families, but our economy and community.”

Jeremy Welder, CEO, Boys and Girls Clubs of the Okanagan:

“This funding will provide further opportunities to access affordable, high-quality childcare programs, which is more critical than ever to parents in our communities as we look ahead to economic and social recovery. Our staff provide inclusive, safe environments and are committed to making a significant difference in the lives of children and families across the Okanagan.”

Alison Barker, Operations Manager, Clubhouse Child Care Center

"The Clubhouse Child Care Center is thrilled to provide a full-service childcare program in Ellison. We understand that developmentally appropriate childcare helps children develop skills they will need for success in school and throughout their lives. These new spaces will help more families get back into the work force, generating significant value to the economy, while they can feel comfortable knowing their children are in reliable and affordable care. Through partnership with the School District and Ministry of Children and Families, the Clubhouse can provide these childcare spaces on site at the Ellison Elementary School, providing a reduced-stress seamless day for children in this growing community hub – and it takes a community to raise a child."