



Media Release  
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## **New Spaces Daycare Build**

School District 52 Prince Rupert is pleased to announce our successful application to the ChildCareBC New Spaces Fund that we will use to build a new inclusive child care facility. This facility will house new licensed daycare spaces for infants/toddlers (0-36 months), group care (30 months to school-aged) and before- and after-school care (K – Grade 5). The facility will provide 144 spaces, which adds 111 new spaces to the 33 existing spaces next to Lax Kxeen Elementary School.

“We need more affordable public child care spaces for Canadian families. This expansion by School District 52 in British Columbia is a major step in providing more access to child care for families and children in the region. Every new child care space created helps families save thousands of dollars every year and contributes to the long-term success of the Canada-wide early learning and child care system.”

- Jenna Suds, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development

“Parents want more child care on school grounds, and we’re delivering by partnering with the Prince Rupert School District to build this new child care centre at Lax Kxeen Elementary School,” said Grace Lore, BC Minister of State for Child Care. “We’re creating child care spaces where they are needed most and this centre will benefit hundreds of families and children for years to come.”

This facility is a much-needed support for our community and will provide more affordable day care spaces for Prince Rupert families. The facility will be located across the street from the School District Board Office and adjacent to Lax Kxeen Elementary School.

The Prince Rupert School District received more than \$10.5 million through the ChildCareBC New Spaces Fund to build a new stand-alone child care centre. This fund is jointly supported by provincial investments and federal funding from the Canada-British Columbia Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement – 2021 to 2026.

It will be built to high standards, contain energy efficient systems and be universally accessible for adults and children.

The School District is grateful for the support we received from the community for this application and look forward to working with our partners to ensure a successful opening.

“Building new child care spaces next to Lax Kxeen Elementary School not only makes life easier for parents, but also creates stability and a smooth transition for kids,” said Jennifer Rice, MLA for the North Coast. “People in our community know how important this project is, and School District 52 has been an incredible advocate. Families across Prince Rupert will benefit from this facility and I’m excited to see it all come together.”

“I would like to express my gratitude to the province as well as the federal government for the funding to build 111 new, much needed affordable childcare spaces in our community.”  
Kate Toye, School District 52 Board chair.

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