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**Sent:** April-04-17 11:08 AM

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**Subject:** BCACDI Member Update

## 1. Capital Funding Opportunities

Information session for CDCs interested in learning more about the capital grants for child care spaces. From Anne Wetherill of MCFD (Director Child Care Programs and Services):

*Attention: Child Development Centers*

*As you may be aware, the Fourth Intake of the Child Care Major Capital Funding Program opened March 15, 2017 and is accepting applications for the creation of new licensed child care spaces.*

*This intake has three new funding streams including a Child Development Center funding stream where up to \$500,000 is available to Child Development Centers to create new licensed child care spaces.*

*An information session for Child Development Centers will be held on Monday April 10, 2017, 10:00 – 11:30 AM PST. The session will include an overview of the intake requirements and an opportunity for participants to ask questions.*

*If you are interested in attending, please register no later than 9:00 am Monday April 10 by emailing [MCF.CCCF@gov.bc.ca](mailto:MCF.CCCF@gov.bc.ca). Once your registration has been confirmed, you will receive an invitation with dial-in instructions.*

*For information: [www.gov.bc.ca/childcaremajorcapitalfunding](http://www.gov.bc.ca/childcaremajorcapitalfunding) or 1-888-338-6622, option 5.*

*Thank you.*

It also looks as though Gaming will be providing Capital Projects funding once again, with details available here:

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sports-culture/gambling-fundraising/gaming-grants/capital-project-grants>

I have a call into Gaming to arrange an information teleconference and will let you know once we have something set up.

## 2. CanAssist at UVic

Several of you participated in a teleconference with CanAssist to help inform a proposal they submitted to Government in November. They were successful in getting funding, and full details will emerge at the funding announcement in Victoria on Wednesday. They proposed to provide CDCs across the Province with 'kits' that would include items such as the following:

- Switch-Accessible Spinner – teaches cause and effect and how to use an accessibility switch
- Mobile Music Therapy Kit – enables classes of up to 6 to create music independently or as a group
- Accessible Gaming Controller – enables kids with a wide range of disabilities to participate in video gaming
- Motivational Cycle – encourages exercise by displaying engaging virtual realities
- Wii Board for Wheelchair Users – enables wheelchair users to safely use Wii games and Wii Fit
- Robotic Grabber for Wheelchair Users – enables children with challenging disabilities to pick up objects from the floor and other surfaces
- Choices2Go Software App for iPad – helps emerging communicators to indicate their choices
- Remote Control Toy Car – encourages independent play for children with physical limitations
- BatSwinger – teaches using an accessibility switch while enabling participation in a fun team sport
- Indoor Dog Ball Launcher – motivate use of a switch to play independently with a dog

The goal being to facilitate access of this equipment for children and youth with special needs. Full details forthcoming, but exciting news that will help your clinicians access and utilize such tech/equipment in their work with kids. Once we have full details we will work with CanAssist and you to form a strategy on how to get access to this equipment for your therapists.

### **3. Advocacy**

We are meeting with the two NDP critics for MCFD, Melanie Mark and Jody Wickens, to review our election toolkit and some of our primary concerns that haven't been addressed in this year's budget (e.g. – the budget lift is appreciated but still not enough new resources over the course of the 3 year plan; challenges accessing resources for capital projects). We will also talk with them about our ongoing data work and other projects and initiatives we are involved in.

### **4. Paediatric Update Symposium**

Registration has been strong for this April 21/22 conference for therapists working in paediatrics that we are helping organize. I could use one more Executive Director (or Program Manager/Director) for a panel we are doing on Private – Public Collaboration. We are looking for sharing of the challenges and issues that arise from an agency leadership perspective when families are receiving services from both the private and public sector. Let me know if you are interested in joining Scott (right, Scott😊?) on this panel.

#### **5. June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> Member Meeting – Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel**

This meeting is starting to shape up, and we have been working with OACRS from Ontario on a collaborative session Thursday. They are bringing a Government rep and an ED from one of their Children's Treatment Centres, and we are working on a session where we take a topic (e.g. data collection and reporting) and each Province does a quick presentation on how it works in our jurisdiction, followed by a lengthy question and discussion session. Topics include Data; Ontario's Special Needs Strategy (and BC's Early Years Strategy); Strategies for kids requiring complex care; How Ontario does collaborative priority setting with Gov't, and more. Let me know topics that you'd be interested in hearing an Ontario perspective.

#### **6. Caregiver Module Project Lead**

We are very pleased to announce we have hired a Project Lead for our Caregiver Module project. Dawn Grunert, of Victoria, is an Infant Development Program consultant with additional experience working for community respite services. She previously developed a local 'special sitters' training module, so has experience developing similar resources. So keep her name in mind as she will likely be reaching out to you at some point during the project, and we will have her join us for a bit at our October meetings in Victoria to walk us through the progress of the project at that time.

Regards,

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