

For immediate release

20 September 2024

New child care facility to be built at G.P. Vanier Secondary School

COMOX VALLEY – Comox Valley Schools is pleased to announce the construction of a new child care facility at G.P. Vanier Secondary School on Headquarters Road in Courtenay. This project is made possible through support from the ChildCareBC New Spaces Fund.

“Providing new child care spaces in the Comox Valley means more parents will be able to work, go to school or pursue other opportunities,” said MLA Ronna-Rae Leonard. “Our government is building child care where families need it most, including on school grounds like G.P. Vanier Secondary. This funding brings much-needed resources to help make parents’ lives easier while providing a safe and enriching environment for young children.”

The new facility will be located on the G.P. Vanier Secondary School grounds and will provide a safe and nurturing environment for children. It is designed to accommodate 108 children, offering full-day child care for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers, along with before- and after-school care. The existing spaces currently provided by the Today ‘N’ Tomorrow Learning Society will be included in the new centre, which will continue to provide child care services in the new location. The Young Parent Program will also use the new facility. This program provides support around education, childcare, and the social and health needs of expectant and parenting students in the Comox Valley.

With spaces available at the new facility, families will benefit from affordable child care fees through the Province’s fee-reduction program, which reduces the cost of child care by as much as \$900 per month.

“These new child care spots will be a game-changer for families in Courtenay, providing affordable, high-quality child care in their community and close to home,” said Canada’s Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, Jenna Sudds. “Parents can drop off and pick up their kids with ease, knowing that they are getting the best possible start in life.”

This facility will help address the significant demand for child care spaces in the region, aligning with the provincial government’s goal of making child care more accessible for families across B.C. The project is part of the province’s broader strategy to meet the increasing demand for child care in communities like Courtenay.

The new spaces are made possible through the ChildCareBC New Spaces Fund, which provided total funding of over \$7.9 million. The fund is jointly supported by provincial investments and federal funding under the [2021-22 to 2025-26 Canada-British Columbia Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement](#).

“We are very excited to see this project moving forward,” said Michelle Waite, chairperson of Comox Valley Schools. “Not only will this facility support local families, but it will also strengthen our community by providing crucial resources for early childhood development.”

The new centre will feature modern facilities designed to enhance learning and development. Staffed by qualified early childhood educators, it will offer programs that foster physical, social, emotional, and intellectual growth.

Construction is set to begin in January 2025, with completion expected by January 2026. For more information on enrolment and available services, please visit the Today ‘N’ Tomorrow Learning Society website.

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