



Kiwassa Childcare Update for Families

October 2, 2025

Agenda

1. **Welcome & Territorial Acknowledgement** – Daya Herr
2. **Introductions** – Daya Herr
3. **What are our values?**
4. **What is the OFM?**
5. **What would OFM look like at Kiwassa?** – Daya Herr
6. **Update from Sharon Gregson - \$10aDay Child Care Campaign**
7. **Stories from our Educators and Parents** – Lori
8. **Engaging our Community**
9. **Q&A**

What are our values?

We are rooted in our community

We value our relationships with each other and with the land within our commitment to building a better world

We are accountable

We follow through on our commitments, take responsibility for our actions, and make decisions that will sustain Kiwassa into the future.

We take care of each other

Our community, including our staff and our participants, and ourselves.

What is the OFM?

- ▶ The OFM is a new funding model by the Ministry of Education for childcare in BC. Kiwassa remains on the Eligible Expenses Model.
- ▶ This model would create a standardized approach to funding childcare.
- ▶ Kiwassa has not been asked to formally participate in the OFM, however other Neighbourhood Houses have.

What would OFM look like at Kiwassa?

- ▶ Honouring our current employment agreements and benefits for staff would create a \$550,000 deficit per year in Childcare.
- ▶ Limits on Admin spending would mean a nearly \$300,000 decrease in funding for key roles across Kiwassa (i.e. Accounting, Maintenance, HR).
- ▶ It is currently not clear on how this would impact unionized staff. This is creating uncertainty around how OFM will be approached and if it will be equitable.

What would OFM look like at Kiwassa?

- ▶ Strictly enforced ratios
 - ▶ No extra staff on the floor
- ▶ Only 1 ECE per 3-5 program, regardless of education/certification
 - ▶ Infant Toddler programs would require IT certificate, but would see no increased pay to recognize this skill set
 - ▶ All ECEs would be paid at ECEA rate if they are not the designated ECE

What would OFM look like at Kiwassa?

- ▶ Fewer professional development hours
 - ▶ 35 hours per year -> 15 hours per year (pro-rated)
 - ▶ These hours are needed to maintain their ECE license
- ▶ Maximum of 15 vacation days per year
 - ▶ Currently staff start with 20 days (15 for union)
- ▶ Maximum of 5 sick days per year
 - ▶ Currently staff start with 18 days (12 for union but can bank them)

Update from the \$10aDay Campaign

- ▶ **Sharon Gregson** is a dedicated advocate for childcare in British Columbia, known for her work with the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC and her role as the provincial spokesperson for the \$10aDay Child Care campaign.
- ▶ With a background in education and a commitment to women's equality, Gregson has been a voice for affordable childcare for over three decades.
- ▶ Her advocacy efforts have led to significant improvements in childcare access and quality in the province.

Stories from our Educators and Parents

- ▶ Lori Ciccone, Variety Childcare Coordinator
 - ▶ Has been with Kiwassa for 30+ years

Engaging our Community

- ▶ We need your help to visit or write to your MLA
- ▶ Tell your friends and share with your community
- ▶ Visit 10aDay.ca and subscribe for updates
- ▶ Stay tuned for future updates from Kiwassa

Questions

- ▶ What questions do you have?

