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For Immediate Release

## **Sprott Shaw College and WorkBC Partnering to Provide Fully Funded Training for Early Childhood Educators.**

Nanaimo - Sprott Shaw College and WorkBC are partnering to help reduce the significant need for certified daycare workers in the Nanaimo area. While the provincial government has made significant steps to provide more childcare spaces in BC, there are not enough qualified staff to fill the new roles.

“Almost weekly we are getting phone calls from daycare operators who are desperate for qualified workers for their childcare centres,” says Bruce Wilbee, Project Coordinator for Sprott Shaw College. “There are a significant number of jobs available in this field”. “For many students the idea of taking on a student loan can be an obstacle to starting a new career. This program will cover the full cost of books and tuition as well living allowance, childcare and other financial needs a student may face so there is no need for a loan.”

The program being offered is 52 weeks long. Students that complete the program will be eligible to receive their Certificate to Practice from the Ministry of Children and Family Development as well as the Sprott Shaw College Certificate.

“Our government is committed to providing the supports people need to access meaningful training opportunities and re-enter the workforce,” said Sheila Malcolmson, MLA for Nanaimo. “The number of new child care spaces available in B.C. is increasing exponentially, setting these certified daycare worker training graduates up to find stable and sustainable jobs to support themselves and their families.”

Participants in this program must meet funding eligibility requirements as well as Sprott Shaw program entrance requirements. “One of the great things about this program is that participants do not need to have their high school diploma to qualify,” said Alex Diggon admissions advisor with Sprott Shaw. “Most people find learning easier than they did when they were 16 or 17. Most students are very proud of the grades they are able to earn.”

The program starts September 21 and the first step to applying is to attend one of the information sessions to be held every Thursday at 2:00 p.m. until the program is full. People can contact Sprott Shaw College (250) 754-9600 or WorkBC for more information. WorkBC has offices in Nanaimo 250.714.0085, Ladysmith 250.924.2884 and Parksville 250.248.3205.

Sprott Shaw College has been providing Career Training in British Columbia since 1903. The Nanaimo campus is fully designated, and graduates find employment throughout the province. In the past three years over 93% of graduates have been employed within three months.

The project is funded by the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia.

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