



Media Release

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For immediate release

Ribbon-cutting at Castlegar and District Kids' Club celebrates collaboration and care

Castlegar, BC: The new Castlegar and District Kids' Club, located on the grounds of the Castlegar and District Community Complex, was celebrated at a ribbon-cutting ceremony on March 25, 2022. Local elected officials, provincial representatives and other special guests were on hand to acknowledge the collaboration that made the much-needed facility a reality. The Kids' Club, which provides 30 licensed child care spaces for local families, was completed in late 2021 and opened its doors on January 4, 2022.

The event started with a blessing from Bev Gillard, Elder, and Crystal Laren, Program Consultant West Kootenay Region, from the Circle of Indigenous Nations Society (C.O.I.N.S). The blessing was followed by a drum song, and then remarks from local government officials and partners.

"We are excited and grateful to be celebrating the Castlegar and District Kids' Club, and to be recognizing the partnership and collaboration that led to the creation of this much-needed facility," said Kirk Duff, Mayor, City of Castlegar and Director, Castlegar and District Recreation Commission. "We've heard from parents and caregivers that the Kids' Club is a solution to their child-care needs. That's an outcome worth celebrating."

The facility was made possible thanks to a partnership with Kootenay Family Place (KFP) and the Regional District of Central Kootenay's (RDCK) Castlegar and District Recreation Commission (CDRC). It was funded by the Province of British Columbia's ChildCareBC New Spaces Fund, which supports the new, licensed spaces in Castlegar.

"The child care spaces at this community facility will make a big difference to local people, especially as more and more young families have been moving here to raise their children. It's great to see this project complete," said Katrine Conroy, MLA for Kootenay West. "It's part of a network of new quality centres that are helping to build a future where child care is a core service that families can depend on when they need it, and at a price they can afford."

"We are proud to have partnered with the RDCK and the Province of British Columbia to secure a modern and much needed Early Learning Centre," said Rebecca Vassilakakis and Marissa Carrasco, Kootenay Family Place Board Co-Chairs. "We are excited to expand Kootenay Family Place's quality services through the Castlegar and District Kids' Club making childcare even more accessible for families in our community."

The 30 new spaces offered in the facility includes 20 licensed pre-school and 20 after-school spaces, providing part-time care in the mornings and after school. The community complex will have access to the facility for programming and school break camps when not in use for child care.

The child care centre was designed by Cover Architecture, a Nelson, BC-based architectural firm, and construction was led by Alfred Horie Construction (AHC) Co. Ltd. The facility is a standalone building situated across from the skate park adjacent to the complex pool, facing south. A new playground area was also created as part of the project, which is open to the public after child-care hours and on weekends.

KFP is a registered non-profit organization serving the needs of children, youth and families throughout the West Kootenay Boundary region. For more information regarding the child-care services that will be offered at the facility, contact KFP via email to childcare@kootenayfamilyplace.org.

Incorporated in 1965, the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) is a local government that serves 60,000 residents in 11 electoral areas and nine member municipalities. The RDCK provides more than 160 services, including community facilities, fire protection and emergency services, grants, planning and land use, regional parks, resource recovery and handling, transit, water services and much more. For more information about the RDCK, visit www.rdck.ca.

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*Caption for photo: Left to Right: Jim Crockett – Manager of Recreation CDRD/RDCK; Kirk Duff – Castlegar Mayor/CDRD Commission Director; Katrine Conroy – MLA for Kootenay West; Rebecca Vassilakakis – Kootenay Family Place (KFP) Co-Chair; and Sally Bojehko – Kootenay Family Place (KFP) Co- Executive Director.
Photo credit: Jennifer Small*

More high-resolution photos from the event are available on request.

For further information, please contact:

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