

June 17, 2020

Dearest Families,

**Re: COVID-19 update – Temporary Withdrawal Program (July & August 2020)**

We wanted to say a big heartfelt “thank you” to all our families for your understanding and patience during this challenging time. We know that COVID-19 is having a profound impact on our community and we wish you all well over the coming weeks and months.

At CEFA, the health and wellbeing of our students and their families, of our teachers, and our administrative staff is of the utmost importance to us. This sadly continues to be an unprecedented situation the likes of which none of us have faced before.

In March, the B.C. Provincial Government deemed licensed Childcare Operators as an Essential Service and announced a month-to-month “Temporary Emergency Funding (TEF)” program to support their ongoing critical operating costs (such as rent, utilities, payroll, etc).

At the same time CEFA announced its **Temporary Withdrawal Program**.

On June 15, the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) announced that child care operators will continue to receive Temporary Emergency Funding (TEF) until the end of the summer – **August 31st**.

CEFA will therefore now be continuing to offer its Temporary Withdrawal Program for the months of **July & August 2020**. This relief program continues to be in alignment with guidance being provided by the Provincial Government:

- **As a result of COVID-19, if you decide to continue to keep your child home during the month of July & August 2020, you will not be charged any tuition fees for this temporary withdrawal.**
- **Your childcare space will also continue to be guaranteed for the month of September 2020.**

By remaining open CEFA schools have been able to provide a critical service to those in need, especially the families of our front-line critical care workers and other families operating within the essential service category. But with the TEF program coming to an end, our regular enrolment policies will again apply starting **1<sup>st</sup> September**.

If you are unable to return to regular enrolment by the 1<sup>st</sup> September, please ensure that you let your school know by the 1<sup>st</sup> August at the latest, in order to discuss your specific situation.

For the summer months of July and August, CEFA will also continue to offer its regular **SUMMER TUITION PROGRAM** to assist you with any childcare needs. If you have any questions on this program, or would like to enrol, then please contact your school directly.

We still, however, have a great responsibility to ensure our students are safe and healthy, and of course, the same goes for our teachers.

We continue to support the Government measures in place to combat this virus, and hope your family does the same. For those families needing the services of our schools, then you can rest assured that we are following all provincial guidelines to ensure the health and safety of everyone in our facilities.

On their [website](#), MCFD has provided resources for parents and child care providers, including the [Child Care Setting Practice Standards](#). If you have any questions or concerns about your child returning to care, we encourage you to review the updated documents on the site.

You may also find that some schools, out of an abundance of caution for the well-being of all students and staff, will need to amend some of their operating practices (for example: school operating hours, CEFA chef program, dropping students off at the door, excluding all non-essential entry into the school, and even refusing entry into the school). Our schools will ensure that any short-term measures they are implementing will be clearly communicated to you.

This is still an evolving situation and we will continue to update this policy on a regular basis as new information comes to light.

We fully understand that there are many questions and concerns that you may have over the coming weeks, and we are here for you.

Thank you again for your understanding and support during the time.

Warm regards,



Alex Read  
CEO



Natacha V. Beim  
Founder and Executive Chair