



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA RELEASE

Capilano University opens Fulmer Family Centre for Childhood Studies

NORTH VANCOUVER B.C. April 23, 2025—Today, [Capilano University](#) (CapU) officially opened the doors to the [Fulmer Family Centre for Childhood Studies](#), the new home for the School of Education and Childhood Studies and a second childcare facility on the main campus in North Vancouver. The centre will also provide training for 20 early childhood educators (ECEs), doubling the practicum placements for students on campus.

The 23,000-square-foot two-storey facility provides 74 new childcare spaces for the North Shore and enables CapU to increase enrolment in its early childhood care and education (ECCE) programs by 25 per cent.

As Western Canada's only purpose-designed, integrated centre for early childhood care and education, the new building brings together researchers, students, educators and children under one roof to advance early years research, education and innovation. The building includes studio and lab space, classrooms, faculty offices and a children's centre providing care and education for infants, toddlers and 3- to 5-year-olds starting in June.

The \$25-million project received more than \$11 million from the Government of British Columbia, including nearly \$3 million from the ChildCareBC New Spaces Fund. CapU contributed more than \$8 million toward the project, with nearly \$6 million from donors.

The building is named in honour of Chancellor Yuri Fulmer and his family, in recognition of their generous support for early childhood education and their [\\$2-million donation](#) to the centre.



“The opening of this innovative teaching, learning and research space reimagines how we prepare future educators to meet the needs of 21st century children and provides quality child care that is vital for children, families and communities to thrive,” said Brad Martin, dean, Faculty of Education, Health & Human Development.

“Access to high-quality, affordable child care is essential, not only for advancing equality but also for strengthening our economy by helping more people pursue an education or find a job,” said Bowinn Ma, Minister of Infrastructure. “The new Fulmer Family Centre for Childhood Studies doubles the number of childcare spaces on campus, supporting families in the community, while also providing more opportunities for early childhood education students to get the education they need to join the workforce in their chosen field.”

Designed by Vancouver architecture firm Public Architecture, the LEED Gold building is located at the north end of main campus, near transit and adjacent to forest and trails.

About Capilano University

Capilano University offers students a remarkable space to thrive with industry-leading instructors, small classes and more than 100 programs across five distinctive faculties. Serving British Columbia’s Sea-to-Sky region with locations in North Vancouver, Squamish and the Sunshine Coast, CapU is a unique space where students are encouraged to make their mark, in and out of the classroom. Capilano University is named after Sa7plek (Chief Joe Capilano), an important leader of the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) Nation of the Coast Salish Peoples. We respectfully acknowledge that our campuses are located on the territories of the Lílwat, xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), shíshálh (Sechelt), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and sə́lilwətaʔ/selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

For more information or to schedule interviews, please contact:

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Fulmer Family Centre for Childhood Studies

FACT SHEET

Numbers and figures

\$25.2 million Construction of the [Fulmer Family Centre for Childhood Studies](#)

Funding breakdown:

\$8.50 million from the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills

\$2.96 million provided through the Childcare BC New Spaces Fund

\$5.67 million in donor support

\$8.07 million through University investments

23,000 square-foot, two-storey building adjacent to outdoor space and transit

74 new childcare spaces, doubling on-campus childcare for infants, toddlers and ages 3-5

20 additional early childhood educator (ECE) practicum placement spaces

Childcare – Meeting childcare needs for students, employees and the community

- Demand exceeds available spaces for childcare on campus. The current Children's Centre, which prioritizes care for the children of CapU students and employees, consistently has a wait-list of 100+ families. Non-student applicants may wait as long as two years for a place to come available.
- At CapU, childcare centres serve as teaching and learning environments where educators learn from and collaborate with each other and ECCE students gain practicum experience.
- The Children's Centre on CapU's main campus will continue to operate as a provider of quality early childhood care and education.
- Additional childcare spaces and an early childhood research centre on campus supports students and employees with young children, and delivers a vital resource to the North Shore.
- Based on 2023 data, the District of North Vancouver had 33 spaces for every 100 children aged 0-2; 50 spaces for every 100 children aged 3-5.
- Limited childcare options make it challenging for many families to live, work and study on the North Shore.

Academic research – CapU's School of Education and Childhood Studies

- CapU offers the only Early Childhood Care & Education (ECCE) bachelor's degree program in British Columbia.
- The School of Education & Childhood Studies is nationally recognized for its innovative research and teaching expertise that centres on the education of future early childhood educators and program curriculum.



- ECCE diploma and degree programs at CapU are at the forefront of reconceptualizing the field of early childhood education.

Construction - Child-centred building design

- Two storey, 23,000-square-foot LEED Gold building at the north end of campus, adjacent to transit and forest, designed by Vancouver firm Public Architecture
- Purpose-built, child-centred design dedicated to training early childhood educators and delivering early childhood education for the 21st century
- Second-floor academic spaces will serve as a hub for applied research and policy development, and will include areas to accommodate conferences, workshops and outreach for educators and families

Quotes

Yuri Fulmer, Chancellor and donor, Capilano University

"The early years are formative years in children's lives. Investing in early childhood care and education is investing in families and communities. We have an opportunity to have a profound impact on the future of the community through the creation of this new centre of excellence."

Kate Berry-deWynter, student, Capilano University:

"As I finish the final year of my bachelor's degree in early childhood education at Capilano University, I look back on my educational journey that started 30 years ago when only diplomas were available. Now, as a mother of three university-age children, I am achieving my dream of completing a degree. Being an ECE student at CapU has reinvigorated my passion for education, social justice, and advocacy for educators."

Brad Martin, dean, Faculty of Education, Health & Human Development, Capilano University

"The opening of this innovative teaching, learning and research space reimagines how we prepare future educators to meet the needs of 21st century children and provides quality child care that is vital for children, families and communities to thrive."

Brian Wakelin, principal, Public Architecture

"I am absolutely thrilled to see the Fulmer Family Centre for Childhood Studies complete. This facility is more than a building—it's a living laboratory where the art of caregiving meets the science of education. It demonstrates Public Architecture's commitment to designing a sustainable future that supports the community through innovative design solutions. We hope it serves the CapU community of educators, staff, students and children well into the future."