



Office of the Commissioner
Community and Health Services Department

MEMORANDUM

To: Regional Chair Emmerson and Members of Regional Council

From: Katherine Chislett
Commissioner of Community and Health Services

Date: June 28, 2022

Re: Update on Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care System Implementation

In [May 2022](#), an update to Council on the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care System outlined the components of the new program. In 2022, York Region will receive approximately \$103 million for implementation, with the majority of funding directed to reduce child care fees for parents.

This memorandum provides an update on implementation of the child care fee reduction and rebate activities in York Region. No further information is available from the Provincial Ministry of Education on other elements of the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care System described in the May 2022 memo.

The online application for child care operators to opt into the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care system launched June 22, 2022

Participation by child care operators is optional. The Ministry of Education requires that operators wishing to opt in must do so by September 1, 2022. The Region's online application for licensed child care operators to opt into the program launched on york.ca on June 22, 2022.

To ensure child care operators are aware of the deadline, virtual information sessions were held on June 15 and 16, 2022, to support them with the application process, provide information and answer questions about the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care system and application process. More than 350 people participated in the sessions. A question and answer document is being prepared by the Region which will be sent to licensed child care operators and posted on york.ca/childcareoperators.

Child care operators have requested additional support to understand the Provincial Guidelines

Meetings have been initiated with operators in smaller groups to answer questions specific to their individual needs. For example, some for-profit child care operators have expressed concerns about the potential impact on individual business operations resulting from the required financial review and reconciliation process that includes review of staffing costs, management salaries and benefits, accommodation costs, administration and financial reserves. Similar questions and concerns are being raised at sessions across the Province. Staff are following up with the Ministry of Education.

The Region will review each application to determine eligibility, create an agreement and flow funding to child care operators

As the Region receives an application from a child care operator, the Region will confirm eligibility based on Provincial guidelines, draft the new service agreement for signature and determine funding to be provided.

Provincial guidelines require child care operators applying to the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care System to advise parents and staff at their centre within 14 days of being notified of the approval or denial of their application by the local service system manager.

The Region will consider a child care operator fully opted in to the program once a new purchase of service agreement is signed by both the Region and the child care operator. Agreements must be in place before any funding can be issued. Policies are currently being developed to guide funding of operators for child care fee rebates and reductions.

Operators who opt in can expect to begin to receive funding this fall to cover the costs of fee rebates and reductions to families with children under the age of six

This fall, participating child care operators will provide a 25% fee reduction on child care costs retroactive to April 1, 2022, to a minimum of \$12 per day. This will be followed by a second 25% reduction at the end of 2022, for a total fee reduction of 50% in 2022. Participating child care operators are responsible for communicating and issuing reimbursements to parents and staff.

When the Province announced \$10-a-day child care in March, they said parents would start receiving rebates in May. As the program is still in its early development stages, like many municipalities across Ontario, in York Region the rebates will not begin until this fall.

This is a significant multi-year investment, expanding York Region's role and responsibilities as the service system manager

As noted in the May 2022 memo, in 2022, York Region will receive approximately \$103 million in new funding to implement the program, with more than 96% of that funding being used to

reduce child care fees. Cost-sharing with the municipality is not required. The funding includes \$1,950,028 in administrative funding to support implementation.

As the Province provides more information about the fee reduction and other elements of the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care System, the Region will work with child care operators and other partners to assess the on-going impact for services and operations.



Katherine Chislett
Commissioner of Community and Health Services



Bruce Macgregor
Chief Administrative Officer

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