

# ECE Training Engagement Program Project

## Level 1 Training Program Pilot Project: Backgrounder

### The Pilot

The Level 1 Training Program pilot project, developed in partnership with Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC), will provide up to 40 individuals from across the province with the coursework they need to be eligible for a level 1 classification with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD). The pilot will be delivered between March 16, 2020 and the end of the 2021 winter semester. Courses will be delivered online during the spring, fall, and winter semesters.

Eligibility for participation in the pilot is open to anyone who is working in a licensed child-care centre or the Pre-primary Program (working a minimum of 15 hours per week), holds an entry-level classification with EECD or no classification, currently holds a high school diploma or equivalent, and is not currently enrolled in a training program.

The program is designed to overcome challenges qualified individuals may face in choosing to enter post-secondary training. As a result, the pilot will meet the following recommendations, which were identified through stakeholder feedback and other research:

1. A project administrator at NSCC will support students in the enrolment and guided workplace placement processes.
2. Students will not need to pay for the courses upfront. EECD will directly reimburse NSCC for participating students' course fees.
3. The guided workplace courses will be completed in the students' workplaces.
4. A dedicated NSCC student-support staff person will be available to offer academic guidance and technology support. Students in the pilot will have use of an NSCC laptop, free of charge, for the duration of the training program, as well as support to operate it.
5. The pilot training program is completely online. Students will be free to complete assignments on their own time subject to NSCC deadlines and course requirements. Students in the pilot will complete the courses in the same sequence; this provides the option to work collaboratively.

## Pilot Evaluation

The students that participate in this pilot will be required to complete an evaluation survey once the training is over.

The results of the pilot training program will be used to develop future training programs and initiatives, as well as other workforce development activities. The information gathered will focus on financial assistance for training, the role of career guidance, workplace mentorship, and the impact of technology.

## Current NSCC Level 1 Students

An online Level 1 Training Program currently exists through the NSCC Cumberland Campus. The students enrolled in that program are at various stages of completion and are not eligible for this pilot. However, EECD will work with NSCC to directly fund the outstanding course work for those students currently enrolled in the NSCC Level 1 Training Program.

Students currently enrolled will have between March 1, 2020 and the end of the 2021 winter semester to complete any outstanding Level 1 Training Program courses without having to pay upfront and request reimbursement.

If you are a student currently enrolled in the Level 1 Training Program at NSCC, please contact [ECElevel1pilot@nsc.ca](mailto:ECElevel1pilot@nsc.ca) for more information

EECD is supporting these students by removing financial barriers and encouraging more rapid completion of the program to allow for career growth and development of ECEs in Nova Scotia.

## Eligibility Criteria

You are eligible to participate in this pilot if you are

- employed in a licensed child-care centre or the Pre-primary Program in Nova Scotia,
- work a minimum of 15 hours per week,
- have a high school diploma or equivalent,
- hold an entry-level classification or no classification, and
- not currently enrolled in training.

Forty spaces are available for this pilot and will be filled as EECD receives completed applications. Once all spaces are filled, any additional applications will be held pending commencement of the program March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

# NSCC Level 1 Training Program

If you are approved for the pilot, you must then meet NSCC's admission requirements by applying for enrolment to NSCC for the Level 1 Training Program. EECD's coordinator of classification and NSCC's program administrator will support you through this process.

The pilot includes instruction in three courses related to child development, behaviour guidance, and curriculum and programming for young children, as well as two guided workplaces. Pilot participants will be required to complete each course consecutively as required by NSCC.

If you do not pass a course, or are unable to complete it, you are still eligible to continue in the pilot and will continue instruction in the order of delivery. If you do not complete the requirements of the Level 1 Training Program, you will not be issued a level 1 classification at the end of the pilot.

It will be your responsibility to pay for and complete any outstanding courses towards a level 1 certificate. Upon successful completion, you can apply for reimbursement for those courses through the existing Early Years Continuing Education Program.

## How to Apply

You apply for the pilot in a two-step process:

- Step 1:** Complete the pilot application form found at [www.novascotia.ca/ece](http://www.novascotia.ca/ece).  
EECD will review your application and will notify you if you are eligible to proceed.
- Step 2:** If you are approved for the pilot, you will be required to apply to NSCC as per their admission process for program enrolment.

NSCC and EECD will work collaboratively to support you through both the application and admission processes

## Contact

EECD's Coordinator of Classification  
Early Childhood Development and Pre-primary Branch  
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NSCC's Level 1 Program Administrator  
Cumberland Campus  
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