

MEMORANDUM

TO: Regulated Child Care Centres and Family Home Child Care Agencies

FROM: Tracy Crowell, Executive Director, Early Childhood Development and Pre-Primary

DATE: May 16, 2022

SUBJECT: Sector Update – Adapting Spaces and Sales

Please join us May 19, 1:30 p.m. for a sector-wide call to discuss the following information in the memo and answer questions. [Click here to join.](#)

Thank you for your patience as we work to enhance child care in Nova Scotia. We are committed to working with you as we implement the federal-provincial child care agreement. We appreciate your feedback and we look forward to more engagement in the coming days and months. An update on the Engagement Table will be coming soon, and we will share information when it is available.

Over the past few months, we have been listening to your comments, and we are acting on your feedback. Based on your feedback and requests, we are making operational changes and clarifications to help you succeed.

Remember, if you have any questions about the information below, don't hesitate to call your EECD Consultant. We will also be taking your questions when we hold another [Sector Call on Thursday, May 19, 1:30 p.m.](#) Information is listed near the top of this Memo.

Adapting spaces to meet demand

Last fall, a hold was placed on requests to expand or reallocate spaces for private operators. This was done to reflect Nova Scotia's commitment under the Canada-Wide Agreement and provide time for system planning. I am pleased to share that operators will again be able to submit a change request to the department to request a licensing change to reallocate spaces within your centre. Starting today, all licensees will have the flexibility to **redistribute** existing spaces through the change request process to meet community demand. This change will give licensees more flexibility and benefit families seeking care.

Those who want to make licensing changes can apply through the change request application process, which can be found at: www.ednet.ns.ca/earlyyears. We encourage you to reach out to your Early Childhood Development Consultant or Licensing Office to discuss your planning and future goals.

Please note this change is for reallocation of spaces and not space expansion. More information will be shared with the sector in the coming weeks and months about expansion based on the Fall Expression of Interest, and this topic will be explored more fully with The Early Learning and Child Care Engagement Table.

Update on business sales

We have received questions regarding business sales and would like to share that buyers of private child care businesses (e.g. sole proprietor, partnership, corporation, limited company) are eligible to apply for a new licence to acquire a currently licensed child care centre if they wish to do so.

A licence may be provided to the new owner with the same total licence capacity as the acquired centre, provided the new owner meets all requirements under the Act and Regulations and supports the same community of families. For those considering this change, please reach out to ECDServices@NovaScotia.ca, and we will let you know what will be required by EECD to complete this change. As always, it is strongly advised that transactions of this nature are explored fully with qualified business and legal advisors.

Pilot project for not-for-profit transition - NEW

We've heard from some private operators that they are interested in transitioning to a not-for-profit model. To support these operators, we've developed a new pilot project where private operators can choose to dissolve and resume under an existing not-for-profit or new not-for-profit board of directors.

The results of the pilot will be used to provide information on what's involved and the best way to move forward. Transition to a not-for-profit model is not required to access reduced parent fees, improved compensation for ECEs, or future funding agreements. If you're interested in learning more about the pilot, please contact: Josh MacDonald at Josh.MacDonald@novascotia.ca or by phone at 902-717-0679.

Engagement

We value the contributions of all operators and the care they provide. We look forward to announcing membership for The Early Learning and Child Care Engagement Table in the near future. We are committed to working collaboratively to achieve our 5-year vision of affordable, inclusive, accessible and high-quality child care. The Engagement Table will not be the only opportunity to provide input and feedback. More information on other opportunities will be shared. Thank you again for your patience and hard work as we work to make affordable, inclusive, accessible and high-quality child care a reality for our province.