



Sector Call - Questions and Answers from Fall 2025 Sessions

Wednesday, September 24, 2025 from 1:00 – 2:00 pm and 6:00 – 7:00 pm

Note: Questions do not appear in the order they were asked but have been grouped by agenda/content theme. Questions and answers have been edited for clarity.

Future of the Sector & Agreements (Lead: Pamela AuCoin, Executive Director)

Q1: What is happening when the current CWELCCA agreement ends in March 2026?

A: We've signed an extension agreement through March 2031 and are actively working with our federal partners on planning beyond March 2026. We'll keep the sector informed as more details emerge.

Q2: When can we expect parent fees to reduce to approximately \$ 10/day?

A: Our CWELCCA Action Plan included reaching \$10/day on-average fees for children under 6 by March 31, 2026. We continue to work with our federal partners on reaching this target.

Q3: Will the Pre-Primary program remain independent of the regulated childcare program or will Pre-Primary come under the national childcare program in the next agreement?

A: Pre-Primary is recognized as an early learning program and is considered in our workforce and curriculum planning. However, it is not included under CWELCCA, either in terms of space targets or funding.

Q4: When can we expect the rate freeze to be lifted? What financial supports are available to providers experiencing challenges due to the rate freeze, and where can I find more information?

A: Fees are frozen as we work towards \$10/day on-average fees for children under 6 by March 31, 2026. We understand some operators may be experiencing financial challenges, which is why we have continued to offer annual discretionary grants to all operators to help offset these pressures. We encourage any operator who needs additional help to apply for Operational Support Funding. Please check the Operations Support section here:

[Information for Operators | Child Care Nova Scotia](#)

Space Creation Initiatives & Operations (Lead: Krystal Therien, Director of Operations)

Q5: How many child care spaces have closed versus opened? Are we going to reach the provincial goal for spaces?

A: We publicly post quarterly space progress, including openings and closures here: <https://childcarenovascotia.ca/families/child-care-spaces>. As of the end of Q2 – 2025/26, 8,910 spaces have opened, and 1,539 have closed.

Q6: When will private centers be included in space creation/expansion?

A: Currently, federal funding for expansion is not available for private centres under the existing agreement. We are committed to keeping the sector informed if this changes.

Q7: Will current afterschool programs be affected by the expansion of the NSBAP program?

A: Existing licensed programs that offer school-aged care may continue to do so under their current license.

Q8: How can NS BAP providers access funding to support inclusion of children who require more 1:1 support?

A: As part of the annual agreement process, NS BAP providers can submit an application for a needs-based grant of up to \$15,000 per co-hort. The amount of the grant is based on an assessment of revenues and expenses, including costs related to inclusion supports. To request an application form, please email NSBAP@novascotia.ca.

Quality, Innovation & Professional Learning (Leads: Hoa Truong-White, Director of Quality, Innovation and Professional Learning)

Q9: Is there any consideration being given to having two PD days during the week when centres would close for staff training?

A: This is something we are looking at as part of the new funding model work.

Q10: Can centres have a list of items that meet the new nutrition standards?

A: The department does not endorse specific brands or products. To support providers to determine which items meet the new nutrition standards, the Branch has collaborated



with Public Health Nutritionists to offer professional learning sessions and create resources, such as [How to Use the % Daily Value Criteria](#) to guide selecting foods that meet the standards. You can access the resources and recordings of the professional learning sessions here:

<https://www.ednet.ns.ca/earlyyears/providers/FoodandNutritionalSupport.shtml>

We will inform you of additional professional learning opportunities as they become available.

Q11: Many centers are struggling with the new nutrition requirements and increased costs associated with it. How can we address these challenges?

A: We have heard challenges regarding food waste. The responsive feeding sessions with Mount Saint Vincent University (starting in November 2025) and the [FAQs](#) will help to guide centers with meal planning and address misconceptions. For example, monitoring how much is consumed and avoiding preparing too much food will help to reduce waste.

Service Provider Support (Lead: Ryan DeCoste, Service Provider Funding & Affordability Supports)

Q12: Are there any plans to create a formula that would allow larger centres to claim more out-of-ratio hours for directors and assistant directors?

A: This is something we are looking at as part of the new funding model work.

Q13: Will the province fund sick days as they are currently not being funded by the province?

A: This is something we are looking at as part of the new funding model work.

Q14: Can hours worked by educators outside regular operating hours be claimed under QIG if they're completing essential centre-related tasks?

A: Hours worked outside the regular operating hours are not eligible to be claimed under QIG.

Q15: Are there options being considered for long-term staff nearing retirement who may have limited pension accumulation?

A: EECD implemented funding for defined benefit pension plan and group benefits for all employees working in licensed child care. There are no additional specialized supports for



long-term sector employees nearing retirement. Employees should consult with CAAT to learn more about their pension contributions and options upon retirement.

Other

Q16: With some consultant terms ending, should we expect a decrease in consultant support moving forward?

A: Some of our Licensing Officer and Early Childhood Development Consultant positions were term, and a few of those have ended. In the short term, you may be connected with a different consultant or licensing officer than you are used to while we work through internal HR processes.

Q17: Is there any conversation of cooks being put on the wage scale?

A: There is currently no plan to add Cooks or other staff to the ECE wage scale.

Q18: What is the expected timeline for introducing the new operational funding model, and what should providers expect during the transition process?

A: We continue to refine model options based on the data we have available (to ensure accurate and meaningful insights. To support this effort, providers will receive an updated template for submitting their 2024-25 annual report. The findings from the current phase of work will guide policy recommendations and sector engagement. Before moving to implementation, we will engage with the sector broadly to share more details and seek feedback.

Q19: When will you release information on the new ECE Certification model?

A: The shift from a classification model to a certification model is still under consideration, but there are no immediate plans to do so as we focus on a broader review of workforce initiatives that will inform our 2027-2031 Canada-Wide Action Plan.

Q20: When will there be a centralized waitlist?

A: Our current digital modernization efforts are focused on enhancing the Service Provider Portal and supporting the new operational funding processes. These improvements are designed to reduce administrative burden for operators and administrators, leading to faster processing and payment times.



As these core services are implemented, additional functionality will be developed in future phases. We will provide updates to the sector as soon as more information on implementation timelines becomes available.