

Meeting Summary:

The Minister's Early Learning Child Care Engagement Table (ELCCET)

Meeting 10: January 25, 2025, 9:30 am – 4:00 pm

Summary

The tenth meeting of the Minister's Early Learning and Child Care Engagement Table (ELCCET) was held on January 25, 2025.

The meeting focus was:

- Operational funding - the team provided a progress update and obtained advice from table members on moving forward.
- Enhancing digital services – the team introduced planned work on enhancing digital services for providers and families and discussed options and approaches with the Table members.
- Funding agreement updates for 2025-26 – staff provided an update on timelines and changes planned for the coming funding cycle.

Agenda

1. Deputy Minister's Remarks
2. Operational Funding Model: Updates and Discussion
3. Enhancing digital services: Presentation and Discussion
4. Funding agreement updates for 2025-26

Discussion Details: Operational Funding Model

Engagement Table members were interested to learn of progress in model development since the last meeting.

Member's feedback aligned with that of the Operational Funding Model working group. Members agreed with the design principals identified for model development and were interested to learn how the new approach might streamline reporting and accountability as well as support inclusion and professional development.

Members indicated optimism in that the model approach seemed to be flexible and responsive and had the potential to streamline reporting requirements.

Table members and staff acknowledged that the transition to the model would require time, clear communication and support for the sector. Members advised staff on communication approaches to consider. In general, they advised smaller, targeted communication focused on specific elements of the



model. They also advised a single entry point for questions and support and to ensure that all providers would receive consistent direction.

Discussion Details: Enhancing Digital Services

Table members were positive about the planned project and identified opportunities for streamlining services for families, ECEs and child care providers. A key component of digital services that was identified for its potential was the single point of access for all.

Key areas that Table members prioritized included:

- Intake and enrollment process
- Waitlist administration and updating
- Family communication

Members identified the importance of the system being mandatory, and the need for support to access the system for those who might be newcomers, have digital literacy or other access issues. Table members identified a number of opportunities for growth and enhancement as digital services grow and evolve.

Staff requested that Table members who are child care providers and interested in supporting the initial project work identify themselves to project leads.

Update Summary: Funding Agreement 2025-26

A brief update on upcoming funding agreements was provided. The following items were shared:

- Process and documentation will look and feel very similar to last year.
- Few changes for 2025-26 as EECD stays the course while the Operational Funding Model is developed.
- Two per cent increase for ECE wages (Wage Scale). EECD will fund this increase plus 15% MERCs
- Attendance monitoring will be simplified.
- Discretionary operating grant is offered again (March and September instalments)

Members were invited to join upcoming Sector Calls and will be notified when upcoming Engagement Table meetings are scheduled.