

TO: Child Care Centre Licensees

FROM: The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

DATE: February 18, 2022

SUBJECT: 2022-23 Funding Agreement, Parent Fee Reductions, and One Time Grant

2022-23 QIG Funding Agreement

As promised, attached is the 2022-23 Quality Investment Grant (QIG) Funding Agreement for your review. This agreement is being provided in advance to allow sufficient time for review, questions and to ensure a smooth implementation of the first parent fee decrease as part of the [Canada Nova Scotia Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement](#).

As was shared in previous communications, you will see two new terms added to this year's agreement

- funding for the 25% parent fee reduction, which will be passed on to families, and
- a commitment to accept children into the childcare centre if the operator has available space and the operational capacity.

Previously partially funded or unfunded centres that agree to the terms and conditions of the QIG funding agreement will be funded to their total licence capacity.

As we move forward on implementing the principles of the Canada-wide agreement, updates to the QIG funding agreement will be required to address funding commitments, such as implementing the ECE compensation framework and reducing parent fees by 50%, on average (a further reduction of 25% by the end of 2022 for a total of 50%, on average). We commit to consulting with you and communicating changes in advance.

Parent Fee Reductions

Parent fee reductions previously communicated in January are described in the QIG funding agreement under "Program Fee Reductions". We have also provided, with this memo, a guide outlining how to claim retroactive payments for families for January-March, 2022 and the process for implementing parent fee reductions after April 1, 2022.

One Time Grant

We have heard from operators struggling with financial pressures during this transition period, in part due to the freeze on parent fees. We want families to continue to have access to the quality child care they have today, and we want families to feel the full impact of the 25% fee reduction,

therefore, we will be providing a One Time Grant to all operators to further support you during this transition period. Funding amounts will be calculated for all centres based on total licence capacity, and payments will be issued in April 2022.

We will continue to listen and encourage feedback as we work together to ensure that no matter where families live in our province, they have access to affordable, accessible, high-quality, and inclusive child care.

For questions related to the QIG funding agreements, parent fee reductions, or the One Time Grant, please reach out to ECDSGrants@novascotia.ca.

Attachments *2022-23 Quality Investment Grant (QIG) Funding Agreement*
Parent Fee Reduction Guidance