

ELCC Sector Information Call

February 22, 2024



Today's Presenters

Leslie Power

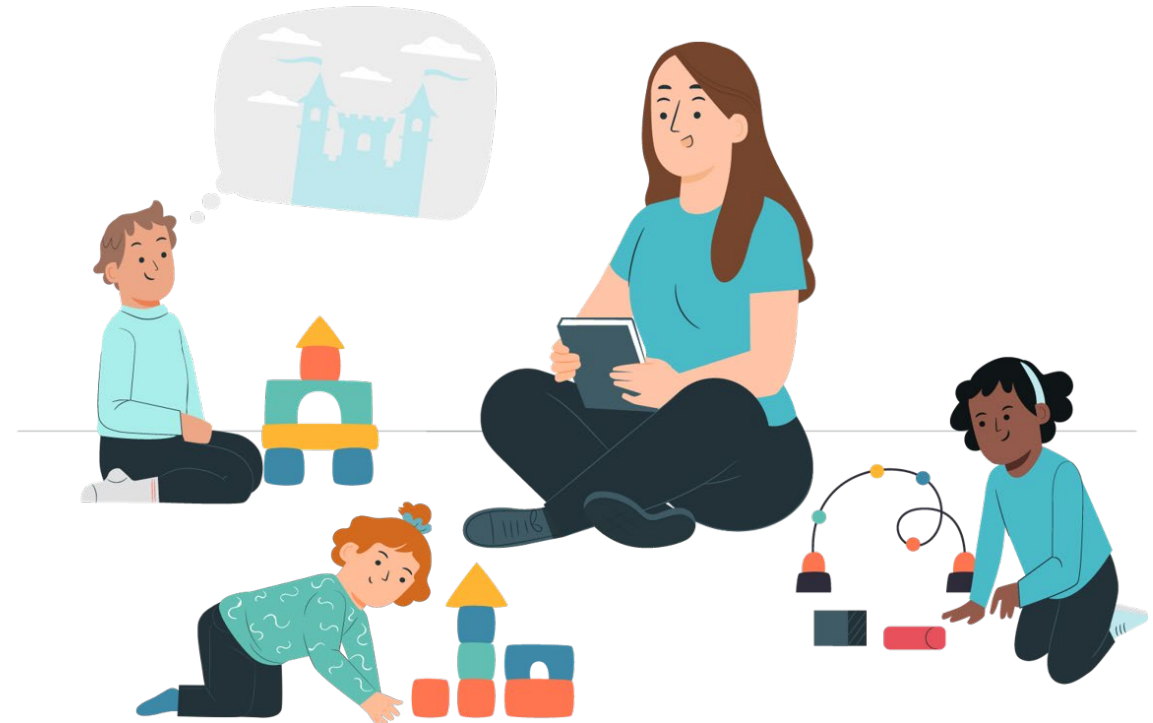
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Agenda for today's call

- Context Setting: Vision for Early Learning and Child Care in NS
- Federal Agreements and Actions Plans
- 2024-2025 Funding Agreement Updates
- Next steps & where to learn more
- Questions



Before we begin



Feel free to type your questions in the comments section as we go; we'll keep an eye on them throughout the presentation.



We'll reserve about 10 mins for questions at the end



This call will be recorded and posted at www.childcarenovascotia.ca/operators

Context Setting: The vision

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Child care that is
affordable



AFFORDABILITY

Child care that is
available when and
where it's needed



ACCESS

Child care where
everyone is included



INCLUSION

Child care delivered by
well educated and
compensated professionals



QUALITY

Federal Agreements and Action Plans



Federal Funding

Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement (CWELCCA)

- \$605M over 5 years
- Up to \$120M provincial investment
- Majority of funding supports ECE wages and benefits/pension, fee reductions for families and space expansion

Infrastructure Fund

- \$19M over 4 years - 2023 to 2026 Infrastructure Fund Action Plan under development
- Funding supports CWELCCA space creation

Early Learning and Child Care Agreement (ELCCA)

- \$16M annually – 2024 to 2026 Action Plan under development
- Majority of funding supports the child care subsidy program, ongoing workforce and inclusion initiatives

Achievements

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AFFORDABILITY

- Reduced fees by 50%, on average, and more than 3,000 families now pay \$0
- Investing to help service providers with rising operational costs

QUALITY

- Provincial wage scale for ECEs, retroactive payments, predictable future wage increases in line with other public sector employees, and implementation of a defined benefit pension and group benefits plan
- New support for family home ECEs and funding to support access to benefits and retirement savings
- Increased inclusion support funding (ISG)
- More professional development opportunities

ACCESS

- Created almost 4,000 new spaces (July 2021 – Dec 2023)
- Launched flexible child care pilot
- Launched Minor Infrastructure Program to help providers complete renovations

INCLUSION

- Increased funding for Developmental Intervention Services
- Launched six new ECE programs, including Mi'kmaw and Africentric ECE Diploma Programs



CWELCCA 2023 to 2026 Action Plan

Approach

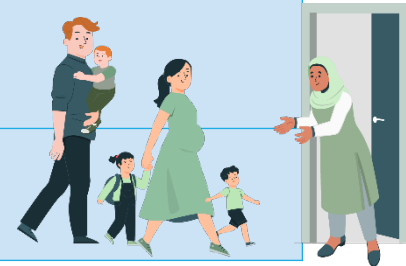
- Focus on **Children and Families**
- **Continuity** of key public commitments and targets
- Focus on **Lessons Learned** from the last action plan and work to date
- **Flexibility** is key for funding, initiatives, and long-term sustainability
- Sector **Sustainability** and **Commitment** to ongoing funding for all service providers
- A focus on public and sector **Engagement**
- **Financially** and **Administratively** achievable
- Comply with federal **Requirements** and a new format

2023-2026 Action Plan is on our website at
www.childcarenovascotia.ca →



2023 to 2026 CWELCCA Initiatives Overview

	Continuing Initiatives	Directional Changes	New or Updated Initiatives
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IT and Data Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provincial Organization Ongoing funding eligibility for all existing service providers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NS's Emerging Vision for ELCC Minister's Engagement Table Public Engagement Support Systems Review
Affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$10 a day, on average, by March 31, 2026 Child Care Subsidy Review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cost of Care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operational Funding by March 2026
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued commitment to 9,500 new spaces, updated target for 2023 to 2026 is 8,655* new spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3-year-old learning opportunity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operational Space Creation Initiatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor Infrastructure Program Operational Initiatives FHCC campaign, financial incentives Wrap Around Program Expansion Not-For-Profit Pilot Non-Traditional Hours Pilot Strategic Infrastructure Initiatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design guidelines Child Care demand planning model Public Partnerships
Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ECE Compensation Framework ECE Certification, 70% by 2026 Quality Matters Re-Design 		
Inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion Support Grant (ISG) Development Intervention Services Pyramid Model 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion Strategy Indigenous Partnership



2024 -2025 Funding Agreements



2024 – 2025 Funding Agreement Updates

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Consolidation of agreements:

- Single Master Funding Agreement for (as applicable):
 - Quality Investment Grant (QIG) and Program Support Funding (PSF)
 - The Inclusion Support Grant (ISG)
 - Quality Matters; Infant Quality Care Grant (IQCG)
 - Early Childhood Sector Benefits Grant (ECSBG).
- This reduces administrative burden and more succinctly captures funding details.

Pension and Benefits:

- Master Funding Agreement Schedule D includes pertinent details regarding:
 - Pension & Benefits
- Applicable to all staff employed in regulated Early Learning Child Care (ELCC) Centres (not just ECEs).



Questions about your 2024/25 Funding Agreement? ECDSGrants@novascotia.ca

2024 – 2025 Funding Agreement Updates – cont'd

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Reduction of financial barriers for families:

- Language has been added to ensure registration, waitlist fees, or similar, will not be charged by Licensees.

Wage Rates:

- ECEs will receive a **Wage Scale Adjustment** ranging between \$3.14 to \$4.24 per hour.
- This adjustment is in addition to (potential) annual **Public Sector Wage Increases**. These have not yet been decided for 2024-2025. As applicable, changes will be communicated, and the wage scale updated at that time.
- Increased funding for untrained and entry level staff.
- Inclusion Support Grant funding increases to allow for wage increases.



**New and future (April 1) wage scale online at
www.ChildCareNovaScotia.ca**

Continued Financial Support

One-time 6.1% Operational Support Grant:

- Will be provided to Nova Scotia's Before and After Program (NS-BAP) providers who are in compliance with a valid NS-BAP Agreement.
- Applicable providers will be contacted this month (February 2024), with instructions on how to receive their first installment (of two).

Operational Support Grant (by application):

- EECD will continue to accept and assess applications in 2024-25.
- Provides operational or financial assistance to centres based on demonstrated need, and assessment of circumstances by Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD).
- Made possible through the Canada-Nova Scotia Canada-Wide Learning and Child Care Agreement (CWELCCA).



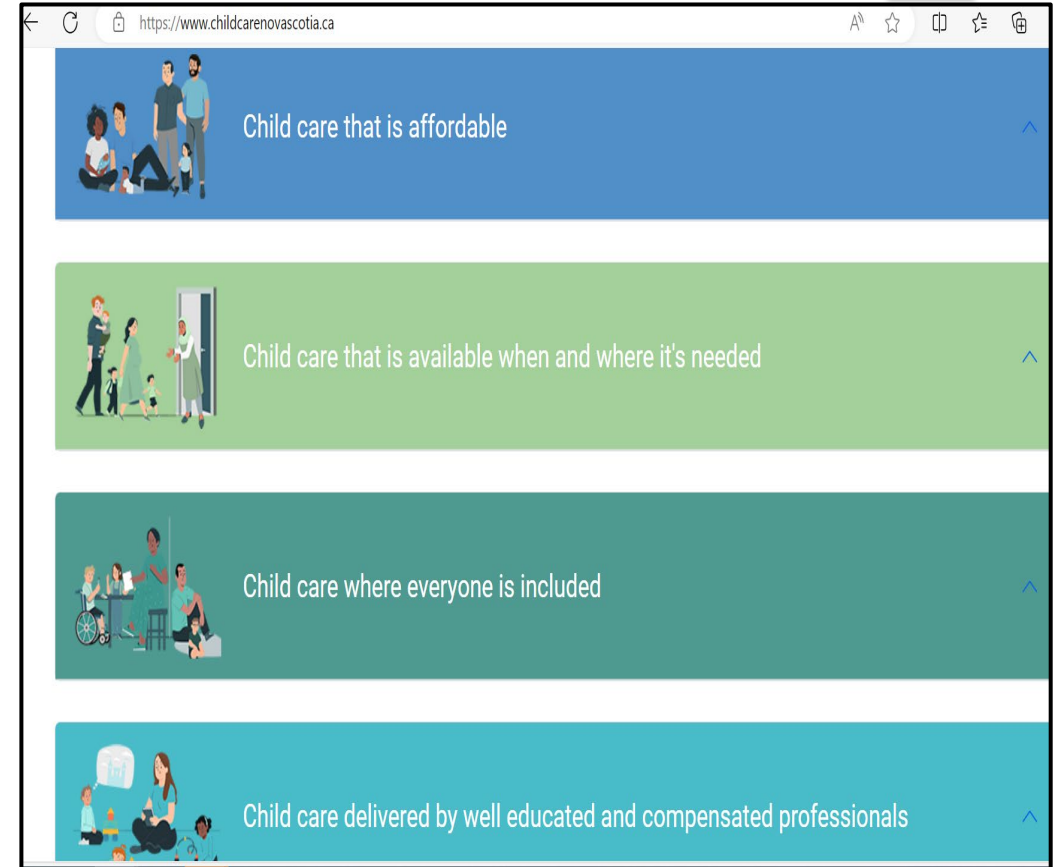
Operational Support Grant Info:
www.childcarenovascotia.ca/operators

Where to learn more

www.ChildCareNovaScotia.ca



- 2023-2026 Action Plan, including information about our vision and priorities
- Space creation dashboard – follow our progress each quarter
- Information about training programs and financial resources for upskilling
- Resources for operators – funding, expansion program info
- Access previous sector call slides and recordings
- Learn about sector benefits, and compensation for ECEs



Next steps

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March

- **2024/25 Funding Agreements signed and due back (Mar 15)**
- Operational Support Payment made (Mar 31)

May

- R&B Operator Onboarding Begins
 - Phase 1 – May
 - Phase 2 – July
 - Phase 3 – October
 - Phase 4 – December

February

- 2024/25 Funding Agreement Distribution (Today/ tomorrow, Feb 22/ 23)
- R&B implementation phases determined

April

- 2024/25 Funding Agreements take effect (Apr 1)
- Django will reflect new rates for QIG (Apr 1)
- Increased Wages for ECEs

December

- All operators and eligible employees enrolled in new R&B plans

Questions?

