

Hello everyone,

We want to provide a brief update on some high priority items we are working on, and remind you about contact information and resources.

ECE Compensation

Ensuring ECEs are compensated fairly is an urgent priority. We have publicly committed to increasing ECE wages this Fall and are on track to meet that commitment. This means money will be in the pockets of ECEs this Fall, made available through new funding. We know many of you are anxiously awaiting more information on this and we will have more to share soon.

ECE Workforce Development

We know that many of you are struggling to recruit and retain qualified staff. In addition to increasing ECE wages this Fall, we are actively working on other recruitment and retention efforts. These include offering various bursary programs to ECES that will see 300 new graduates by the end of this year, working with government partners and training institutions to support local and international recruitment, and addressing barriers to training.

Information on programs for new grads, those already working in the field seeking education and those looking to have their skills formally recognized can be found at: www.ednet.ns.ca/ece/training

Engagement Table

The second Early Learning and Child Care Engagement Table meeting is August 13th. We plan to spend our time with the Table on the number one priority of recruitment and retention of ECEs, including implementing improved wages.

Meeting summaries for all meetings, including the first June 11 meeting, are posted online at the below link:

[Early Learning and Child Care Engagement Table | Education and Early Childhood Development \(ednet.ns.ca\)](http://www.ednet.ns.ca/ece/training).

French copy: [Table de participation à l'apprentissage et à la garde des jeunes enfants | Éducation et développement de la petite enfance \(ednet.ns.ca\)](http://www.ednet.ns.ca/ece/training)

Operational pressures

We have heard from some of you that current economic pressures are putting an unprecedented strain on your operations. Any operator requiring assistance is reminded to contact the Department; we are prepared to support you through these times. Please contact Krystal Therien at Krystal.Therien@novascotia.ca.

Business Model Choice

We want to reiterate that private operators are not required to transition to a not-for-profit operating model to access funding through the Canada Wide Agreement. All providers will continue to have access to the benefits under the Canada Wide Agreement through an annual funding agreement, as they did this year.

Canada Wide funding provisions include access to funding for parent fee reductions, access to funding for improved compensation and wages for ECEs, and supports for training, coaching and quality improvement. The only exception is that Canada Wide funding cannot be used to fund new childcare spaces in for-profit centres. New childcare spaces can be funded in not-for-profit centres, including newly registered not for profit businesses.

We have heard from many that are interested in transitioning to a not-for-profit model. We've developed a voluntary 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. To learn more about the pilot, contact Josh MacDonald at Josh.MacDonald@novascotia.ca

Space Expansion

We announced 1,500 new not-for-profit child care spaces in communities across Nova Scotia this June. Thank you to everyone who submitted an Expression of Interest. Projects are well underway with more coming online as they are ready. Future space expansion will be a key part of ongoing planning and consultation as we move forward.

Frequently asked questions

We continue to update the frequently asked questions section of the website. You can find the latest responses to commonly asked questions here:

[Nova Scotia Child Care Transformation: Information for Operators | Education and Early Childhood Development \(ednet.ns.ca\)](#).

Important contacts

For our up-to-date contact directory, please visit: [Contact Us | Early Years | NS Dept of Education and Early Childhood Development \(ednet.ns.ca\)](#).

Thank you

We truly appreciate the work you do for Nova Scotian families and children. We recognize that transforming child care brings with it many questions. We are here to help and listen. If you have questions, concerns or ideas you can contact us at ECDServices@novascotia.ca.

Thank you,

The Canada Wide Early Learning Child Care Team