

Affordable, Quality Child Care: A Great Place to Grow!

For Families and Communities

Nova Scotians want their children to have the best possible start in life, to support their success and reach their full potential. There has never been, until now, an in-depth examination with clear actions for our regulated child care sector in this province.

The review of regulated child care focused on five key areas:

- ▶ **Affordability of child care programs;**
- ▶ **Quality;**
- ▶ **Support and development of the workforce;**
- ▶ **Accessibility of child care for families; and**
- ▶ **Structure and governance of the system.**

A report titled *Affordable, Quality Child Care: A Great Place to Grow!* outlines changes that will take place over the next five years to address the concerns identified in the review of regulated child care.

Together, the voices of parents, child care organizations, family home day care agencies, family resource centres, early intervention groups, training institutions, early childhood educators, directors and providers/operators were heard.



What does this plan mean for families and communities?

PHASE 1

- ▶ Increased parent subsidy rates so that eligible families pay less effective July 1
- ▶ Provincial early learning curriculum for children enrolled in regulated child care
- ▶ Parent fee increases will be capped at 3 percent in the first year for centres charging within 10 per cent of the provincial average fee, and at 1 per cent for centres charging 10 percent or more above the provincial average. The cap will be reviewed annually
- ▶ A simplified subsidy application process
- ▶ Improved subsidy eligibility criteria to enable more families to qualify. Families with an income of \$25,000 or less will be eligible for maximum subsidy and families with an income of more than \$25,000, up to \$70,000 will be eligible for partial subsidy

PHASE 2

- ▶ Increased access to child care centres and family home daycares in communities that need it the most
- ▶ Increased access to infant care
- ▶ Improved support for children with special needs
- ▶ Improved standards of quality
- ▶ More information to help find quality child care

**Changes will apply to child care centres that receive provincial government funding.*

To read the full report visit
novascotia.ca/education