



**Education and Early Childhood Development  
Office of the Minister**

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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO: Early Childhood Educators, Licensed Child Care Centres, Family Home Agencies**

**FROM: Honorable Zach Churchill, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development**

**DATE: October 22, 2019**

**SUBJECT: Early Childhood Educators' (ECE) Working Group**

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Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) is committed to building an affordable and accessible quality child care system for Nova Scotian families. Government is investing \$78M to support subsidies, and wages for ECEs. Annually, \$26M is provided directly to Regulated Child Care operators to increase wages for ECEs. This is a significant investment by Government that recognizes the important and valuable work ECEs in this province do every day to give our children their best start.

We continue to support opportunities for engagement and ongoing communication with stakeholders to ensure success. Over the last few years, we have been able to engage the early learning and child care sector in initiatives including: Early Years Consultations, the Provincial Review of Regulated Child Care, Consultation on Child Care Needs, Funding Model Consultations, and most recently the Regulatory Child Care Review.

I am pleased to now announce the creation of the ECE Working Group. This group will identify, advise and report on the status of issues concerning Early Childhood Educators working in regulated child care settings, to government and child care business owners and operators.

Regional representatives will be chosen from across the province, ensuring a diverse representation that considers regions, language, ethnicity, work experience, and classification levels. Based on the needs of the committee, there may be opportunities for other stakeholders, such as EECD staff, child care business operators, and Pre-Primary Program representatives, to provide additional information or context, when necessary or as required.

The working group will be co-chaired by an early childhood educator and a representative from EECD. Meetings will be supported by an independent facilitator who will help to organize and facilitate sessions, take notes and prepare a final report. We anticipate that meetings will begin mid-November and that a meeting schedule, including dates and locations, will be determined by the ECE Working Group. Costs associated with attending meetings will be covered by EECD.

We are excited to have this opportunity to once again engage with the early learning child care sector. The application to join the working group is available on our website now at <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/earlyyears/> and we encourage all those interested to apply. The closing date for applications will be October 29, 2019.

The Government of Nova Scotia values the important work and the contributions of early childhood educators in the provision of high-quality early childhood education programs for children. We look forward to working with ECEs, to ensure the long-term success and sustainability of early learning child care programs across the province.

If you have any questions, please contact the Early Years Branch by email at [ecdservices@novascotia.ca](mailto:ecdservices@novascotia.ca)