

Information Package for Commercial Licensees

January 13, 2022

This information package contains the following documents:

1. January 13, 2022 Presentation
2. Declaration Form
3. Discussion document on the Nova Scotia Canada-wide early learning and child care system

Update on the Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care System for Commercial Licensees

January 13, 2022



Introduction

- ▶ Purpose of the Information Session
- ▶ Review Agenda
 - ▶ 30 mins for presentation
 - ▶ 30 mins for questions

Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care

- ▶ The Canada – Nova Scotia Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement (CWELCCA) was signed July 13, 2021.
- ▶ The CWELCC will provide \$605M over five years to transform the current early learning and child care sector into a province-wide, publicly funded system.
- ▶ There is an option for every current regulated and licensed child care provider to be part of the new system.

Canada-Wide ELCC Priorities

Accessibility

Affordability

NS Gov Priorities:

- Support NS families
- Support newcomer families
- Rebuild the economy

Quality

Inclusion

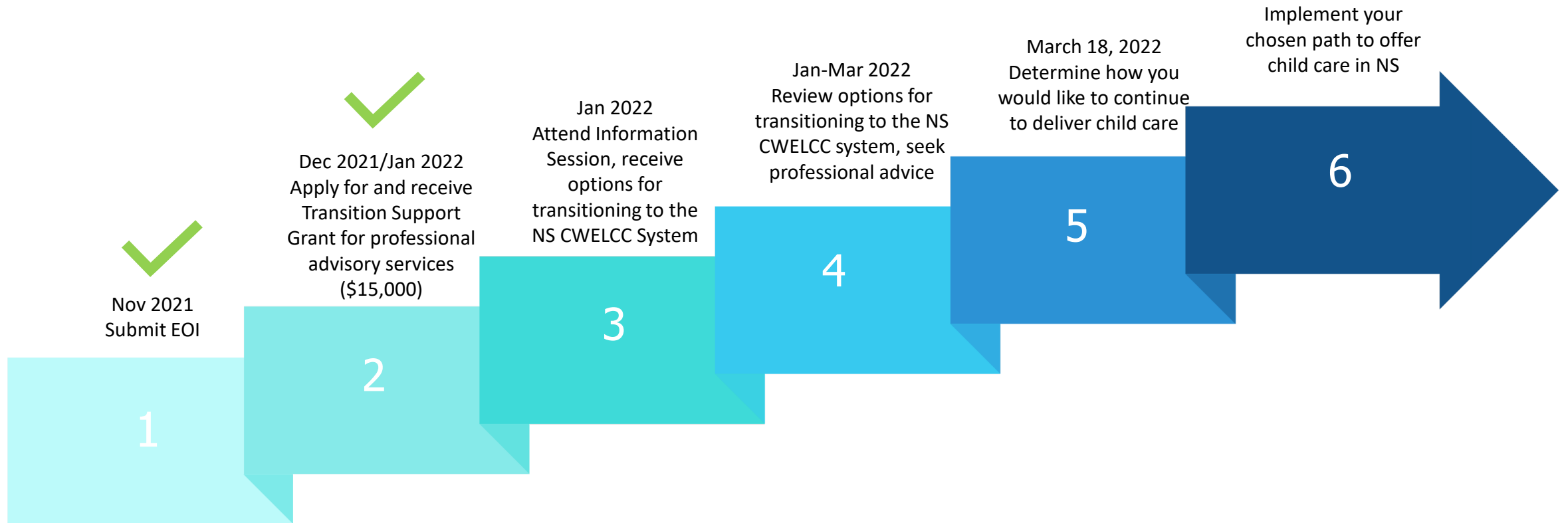
New Central Organization

- ▶ Planning, engagement and consultation are required to prepare for the new central organization to manage and oversee the NS CWELCC system.
- ▶ *Nova Scotia Early Childhood Development Intervention Services (NSECDIS)* is helping map and define the new organizational structure.
- ▶ Expect to have more details on the structure in early 2022 and for new organization to be operational in Spring 2022.
- ▶ Government will continue to regulate and license child care centres

Changes

- ▶ **Parent Fees** - Fees will be set by EECD and communicated in Spring, with the reduction going into effect in 2022. Fees will then move to an average of \$10/day in 2025-26.
- ▶ **Funding** - A new funding formula and model will be developed to reflect parent fees, wages, etc and will be based on utilization, not the number of licensed spaces.
- ▶ **Family Friendly Policies** – Will be developed in conjunction with the new provincial organization, centres and families to address barriers for families.
- ▶ **Nova Scotia Before and After Program** - Emphasis on before and after school care going forward will be the NS-BAP model which is on site in schools.
- ▶ **Inclusion** – New organization will continue key inclusion initiatives and will work with communities and families to better understand how to systemically address issues that have kept them from child care
- ▶ **ECE Certification** - NS is moving to a model of professional regulation for early childhood educators by the end of 2023
- ▶ **ECE Wages** - A compensation framework for ECEs will be implemented by the 4th quarter of 2022.

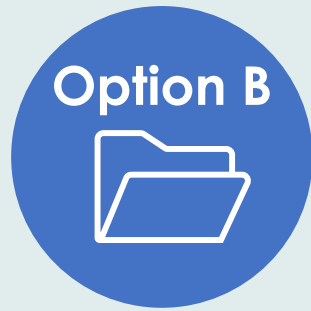
Process for Commercial Licensees



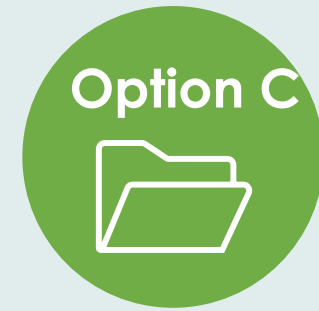
Options to opt-in



**Become a NS
CWELCC
Approved
Service
Provider**



**Transition to
Not-for-Profit
Child Care (3
ways)**



**Continue as a
private, licensed
facility under the
*Early Learning and
Child Care Act* and
Regulations**



Become a NS CWELCC Approved Service Provider

One-time Lump Sum Payment

You receive a one-time lump sum payment to support your transition to the NS CWELCC system.

Payment is equal to 30% of your 2021-22 Quality Investment Grant.

You will receive the payment by March 31, 2022.

Join as you were on July 13, 2021

License remains the total license capacity on July 13, 2021.

You cannot increase your total license capacity.

You enter into a new service and funding agreement on April 1, 2022 with EECD (until such time as the new central organization is ready to administer agreements).

Terms and Conditions

You follow strict terms and conditions that promote the principles of the CWELCC agreement with respect to quality, accessibility, affordability and inclusivity.

Funding is tied to the actual cost of operating child care spaces (cost of care) and utilization (enrollment) of spaces.”

Benefits for Families and ECEs

Families with children attending your centre have access to reduced fees.

ECEs employed in your centre have wages and benefits as per the new compensation framework.

Retirement

If in time, you decide to retire your business, you may want to work with the central organization to negotiate an agreement for the facility’s future use that benefits family and community needs, and the NS CWELCC system.

This may include lease take-over, purchase of fit-up, etc.



Transition to Not-for Profit Child Care

One-Time Lump Sum Payment

You receive a one-time lump sum payment to support your transition to the NS CWELCC system.

The payment is equal to 60% of your 2021-22 Quality Investment Grant.

You will receive the payment by March 31, 2022.

Step 1: Approved Service Provider

You become a NS CWELCC Approved Service Provider and enter into an interim service and funding agreement on April 1, 2022 with EECD.

You follow strict terms and conditions that promote the principles of the CWELCC agreement with respect to quality, accessibility, affordability, and inclusivity.

Step 2: Choose NFP Child Care Model

Between Apr 2022 - Mar 2023, you work with EECD/ central organization to choose a NFP model:

You retire your license and

1. join an existing NFP child care centre, OR
2. deliver NFP child care on behalf of the new central organization, OR
3. you and staff become employees of the new central organization.

SEE NEXT SLIDE

Step 3: Transition to NFP Child Care

You wind up your operations as it exists.

You retire your license.

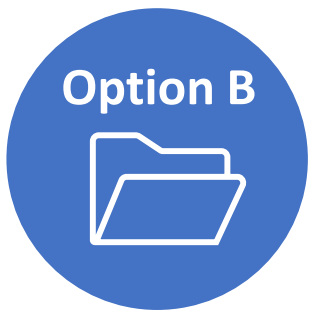
Your interim service and funding agreement terminates.

You transfer your program materials (those required to operate a licensed child care centre) to the NFP child care centre or central organization, depending on the model chosen.

Benefits for Families and ECEs

Families with children attending the centre have access to reduced fees.

ECEs employed in the centre have wages and benefits as per the new compensation framework.



Transition to Not-for Profit Child Care – Models

1. Retire your license & join an existing NFP child care centre

EECD and the new central organization will facilitate this transition with you and an existing NFP child care centre.

NFP child care centre becomes the licensee of the facility and can expand spaces.

You and your staff become employees of NFP child care centre.

NFP centre assumes the lease of the facility, if determined, or if you own the facility, will negotiate with you to lease the space/facility

2. Retire your license & deliver NFP child care on behalf of the new central organization

Central organization becomes the licensee of the facility and can expand spaces.

Your business is contracted to deliver not-for-profit child care in the licensed facility on the central organization's behalf.

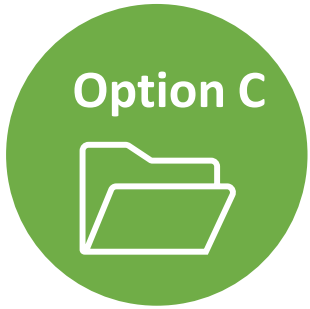
You have a service and funding agreement with the central organization including provision of administrative services, terms of the lease and facility management.

Your business is the employer.

3. Retire your license & you/staff become employees of the central organization

Central organization becomes the licensee of the facility. The central organization agrees to hire staff required for ratio and where possible and needed, all other staff to support child care (i.e., cook, various administrative positions such as Executive Director, Director, Assistant Director, etc).

The timing will be up to the new central organization and will be negotiated over the next year.



Opt-out of the NS CWELCC System

Funding is Terminated

Your current funding is terminated.

You are ineligible to receive NS CWELCC system funding.

Your centre is ineligible to offer the childcare subsidy program to families now or fee reductions in the future.

License in Effect

Your license remains in effect.

You cannot increase your total license capacity as it was on July 13, 2021.

You will be issued a new license at a future date specific to non-CWELCC system licensed centres.

Private Facility

You continue to operate as a licensed private facility under the *Early Learning and Child Care Act* and Regulations

As a private facility, you set parent fees, staff wages, curriculum and policies related to programming.

Families and ECEs

Families will not have access to reduced fees under the new system.

ECEs employed by your centre will not have access to wage/benefits under new compensation framework.

You require families and ECEs to sign an understanding to this effect.

Next Steps

- ▶ Information package, including information on each option, will be sent to all commercial providers.
 - ▶ Copy of this presentation
 - ▶ Declaration form to indicate which option you are choosing
 - ▶ Discussion document on the Nova Scotia Canada-wide early learning and child care system
- ▶ Now you have the options and materials to meet with your business and legal advisors.
- ▶ If your professional advisors have questions or require clarification, EECD has hired business and legal firm to support them. Professional advisors can send enquiries, on your behalf, to:
DEECD@MCAdvisory.com

Questions related to the presentation?
ECDServices@novascotia.ca

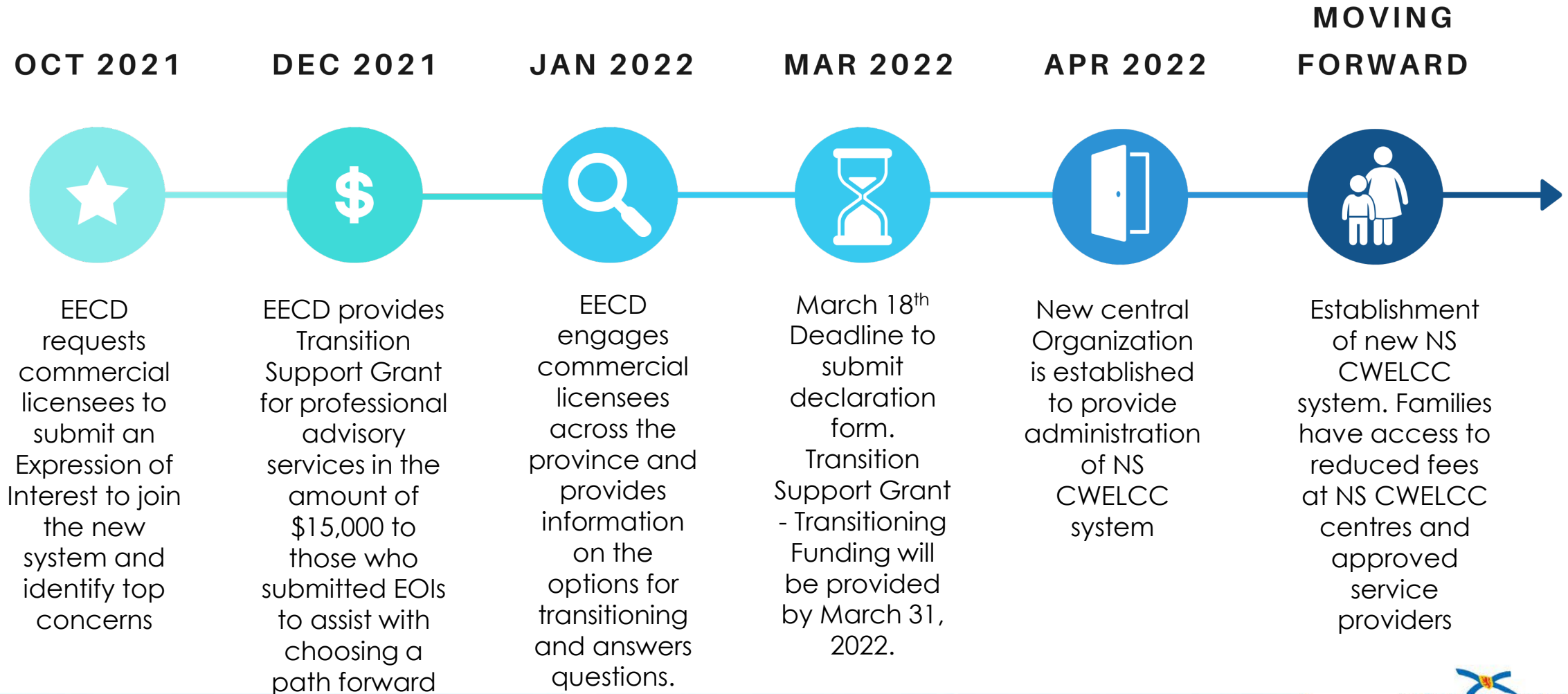
Key Dates

- ▶ January 19th Deadline to apply for Transition Support Grant for professional advisory services in the amount of \$15,000
- ▶ March 18th Deadline to submit declaration form on option chosen
- ▶ March 31st One-time, lump sum transitioning funding

Estimated Timeline

Where we've been, where we're going

15



In Conclusion...

- ▶ You are trusted and valued in community
- ▶ Nova Scotia sees you as a key partner in moving forward with the Canada-wide early learning and child care system and ensured you were part of the negotiated agreement with the Federal Government
- ▶ Families need you.
- ▶ We want you as part of the new system in order to ensure the success of this initiative and to fully support children and families in the province.
- ▶ EECD will work with you and support you anyway we can over the next year to ensure your success in the Canada-Wide system.

Questions?



**DECLARATION FORM RESPECTING OPTIONS FOR JOINING THE NEW NOVA
SCOTIA CANADA-WIDE EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE SYSTEM**

Introduction

The deadline for commercial licensees to select and declare their choice of option for joining the Nova Scotia Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) system to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) is **March 18, 2022**.

All for-profit/commercial child care licensees who submitted an Expression of Interest (EOI) were provided access to \$15,000 in professional advisory services funding (Transition Support Grant) to assist with the completion of their due diligence and to secure professional advice on the most appropriate child care delivery option for their particular circumstances.

It is the licensee's sole responsibility to undertake any due diligence they deem necessary in order to make an informed decision regarding which option to adopt. Licensees are encouraged to examine the full range of options detailed in materials provided with their professional advisors.

Licensees are free to declare their choice of option before March 18, 2022, if they are in a position to do so.

Declaration of Selected Option

- ☐ *[insert licensee name]*_____ received \$15,000 in professional advisory services funding (Transition Support Grant) to assist in my review of the options provided EECD (*check if yes*);

I select the following option (check one):

- ☐ **Option A** – I choose to become a Nova Scotia CWELCC Approved Service Provider and receive a one-time lump sum payment equal to 30% of my 2021-22 Quality Improvement Grant to support my transition to the Nova Scotia CWELCC system.
- ☐ **Option B** – I choose to transition to not-for-profit child care and receive a one-time lump sum payment equal to 60% of my 2021-22 Quality Improvement Grant to support my transition to the Nova Scotia CWELCC system. I understand that I will work with EECD and the new central organization, and determine the not-for-profit model of my choosing by March 31, 2023.
- ☐ **Option C** – I choose to opt out of the Nova Scotia CWELCC system and continue as an unfunded, private licensed facility under the *Early Learning and Child Care Act and Regulations*. In making this decision, I understand that I am not eligible for any current or future EECD or federal funding. I further understand that I will be required to inform families and staff at my facilities of this decision.

In reaching this decision, as a commercial licensee, I confirm that I:

- Have conducted satisfactory due diligence to determine the best option for my particular circumstances.
- Have read and understood the documents provided as part of this option selection process.
- Have made an informed choice based on an analysis of my unique circumstances and with the benefit of having received appropriate professional advice.

I understand that EECD shall not be liable for any losses, damages, or expenses arising from or in connection with any action I may take in respect of the options described herein.

Signature (Licensee): _____

Name (Licensee): _____

Date: _____

Please return the completed signed form to Anne-Marie Smith, Director of Projects, Canada-Wide Implementation at anne-marie.smith@novascotia.ca



Transforming Nova Scotia's Early Child Care System

What does it mean for
licensed child care centres?

January 2022



Nova Scotia Department of Education
and Early Childhood Development

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Transforming Nova Scotia's Early Child Care System

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
January 2022

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At a glance

- On July 13, 2021, Nova Scotia became the second province in the country to sign the historic Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement (CWELCCA) with the Government of Canada.
- This agreement will transform our early learning and child care into a province-wide, publicly funded system.
- Implementing this will result in the creation of approximately 9,500 new not-for-profit child care spaces and will reduce child care fees for families, beginning with a 50% on average reduction by December 31, 2022 and further reductions to an average of \$10 a day by 2026.

Transforming a system

- Nova Scotia's child care sector has relied on a patchwork of grants and funding agreements.
- Owners/operators and not-for-profit boards of directors have spent decades diligently supporting Nova Scotia's children and families.
- We appreciate that it has not always been easy.
- And while we know that moving from an individual child care centre approach to a systematic, community need approach will have its challenges, it is a journey worth taking.

It is a journey underpinned by four fundamental pillars with children and families at its core...

- Affordable
- Accessible
- Inclusive, and
- High-quality

Moving to a systematic approach will take time.

Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) will be with you every step of the way as you make decisions about what role you will have in the Nova Scotia Canada-wide early learning and child care (NS CWELCC) system.

An Early Glimpse of the new central organization...

A new central organization is expected to be operational in the Spring of 2022.

Government and the new central organization will have a strong relationship to ensure the growth and stability of the early learning and child care sector.

All child care centres that are part of the NS CWELCC system will have a funding and reporting relationship with the new central organization and then will be able to offer reduced fees for families and access the compensation framework for early childhood educators.

Administrative duties that traditionally fall with individual child care centers will be managed by the new central organization. For example: wait lists, fee payments, admissions, recruitment and retention of ECEs, etc. This will allow directors and pedagogical leaders to get back to the important work that they are trained to do including working with children and mentoring educators. If the child care centre would like to maintain these functions, they can do so, however there will be no government funding available to support these functions.

The core function and responsibilities of leadership including Directors and administrative positions will change and evolve in the new system. However, it is anticipated that there will be a role for all ECE trained directors within the new organization.

To advance this planning, we are working with Nova Scotia Early Childhood Development Intervention Services (NSECDIS) who are helping map and define the new organizational structure. NSECDIS recently hosted consultations and launched a survey to gather feedback about the role of the new organization. We expect to have more details to share with you on the structure of the new central organization in early 2022.

Child care centres will begin to transition under the new management structure in a phased approach during 2022-23.

Not-For-Profit (NFP) child care organizations

All not-for-profit child care organizations will have the benefits and opportunities of being part of the Nova Scotia Canada-wide early learning and child care system. Over the next year, EECD and the central organization will work with NFP child care organizations on whether they wish to remain status quo or dissolve their board and become part of the new central organization.

There will be no new not-for-profit child care boards established in Nova Scotia in the future.

Pathways to Transition for commercial child care centres

Commercial child care centre licensees can join the NS Canada-wide early learning and child care system through two options:

A. Join as a NS CWELCC Approved Service Provider under a funding and service agreement. Under option A, the licensee will:

- receive a one-time lump sum payment equal to 30% of their 2021-22 Quality Investment Grant;
- keep the current number of spaces. Centres cannot expand (no new spaces can be created) and centres will remain at the total licence capacity (TLC) as per their spaces on July 13, 2021;
- follow strict terms and conditions for service and funding requirements that promote the principles of the CWELCC agreement with respect to quality, accessibility, affordability, and inclusivity; and
- offer families reduced fees and ECEs the wage/benefits under the compensation framework.
- The new central organization may require an approved service provider to adjust the number of children within the age groups identified in their TLC to align with community needs and to address vacancies. This will be up to the discretion of the new central organization.
- In time, an approved service provider may decide to “retire” their business. They will work with the new central organization to negotiate an agreement for the facility’s future use that benefits family and community needs, and the NS CWELCC system. This may include lease take-over, purchase of fit-up, etc.

- All spaces that are funded through the Canada-wide Early Learning and Child care Agreement, including spaces in commercial centres will be considered publicly funded spaces.

B. Transition to Not-for-Profit Child Care. Under option B, the licensee will:

- receive a one-time lump sum payment equal to 60% of their 2021-22 Quality Investment Grant to help support the transition to the NS CWELCC System and transfer program materials (all materials required to operate a licensed child care centre) to a existing NFP child care organization, or the new central organization;
- join as a NS CWELCC Approved Service Provider and enter into a service and funding agreement on April 1, 2022 with EECD (until such time as the new central organization is ready to administer new agreements). This is an interim step (based on feedback from the sector to phase changes in) that will allow time to wind up operations as it exists today and determine which not-for-profit model to choose;
- follow strict terms and conditions for service and funding requirements that promote the principles of the CWELCC agreement with respect to quality, accessibility, affordability, and inclusivity;
- offer families reduced fees and ECEs the wage/benefits under the compensation framework.
- During the transition year from April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023, centres work with EECD and the new central organization to decide which path/not-for-profit model to take:

1. Retire licence and join an existing NFP child care organization

- EECD and the new central organization will facilitate this transition with the licensee and an existing NFP child care organization.
- NFP child care organization becomes the licensee of the facility and can expand spaces.
- Centre staff become employees of NFP organization.
- NFP organization assumes the lease of the facility, if determined, or if licensee owns the facility, will negotiate to lease the space/facility,

OR

2. Retire licence and deliver NFP child care on behalf of the new central organization

- Central organization becomes the licensee of the facility and can expand spaces.

- Child care business owner is contracted to deliver NFP child care in the licensed facility on the central organization's behalf.
 - Child care business owner has a service and funding agreement with the central organization which will include provision of administrative services, terms of the lease and facility management, and wages and benefits for staff.
 - Child care business remains the employer.
- OR

3. Retire licence, and staff become employees of the central organization

- The central organization agrees to hire staff required for ratio and where possible and needed, all other staff to support child care (i.e., cook, various administrative positions like Executive Director, Director, Asst Director, etc). The timing of this transition will be up to the new central organization and will be negotiated over the next year.

Opting Out

A licensed child care centre can opt out of the NS CWELCC system but will be ineligible for funding from EECD (even if previously funded) or NS CWELCC funding and:

- Cannot offer families access to the current child care subsidy program or any new subsidies as part of the NS CWELCC system (reduced parent fees to an average of \$10 a day), and
- Will not have access to the new ECE wages and benefits under new compensation framework.
- Remain as a licensed private facility.

We will work with businesses that decide to opt out of the NS CWELCC system. Families will need to sign letters acknowledging the centre is ineligible for Canada-wide funding and they will not receive fee reductions or move to the average fees of \$10 a day. ECEs working in the centre will also need to sign a letter acknowledging they understand that they are ineligible for the new compensation and wage package.

Further information and specific details about joining the NS CWELCC system will be provided as the implementation process advances.

Other important considerations

We will continue to provide updates as they are available. The following is information based on what is known to date.

Operations...

A new funding formula and model will be developed to reflect:

- the reduction in parent fees,
- the new compensation and wage package for ECEs, and
- the applicable expenses to support a high-quality early learning and childcare environment, and
- a higher level of financial accountability.

Moving forward, funding will be based on utilization, not the number of licensed spaces. Approved Service Providers will receive a new funding agreement to reflect these changes in 2022-23.

An example of this is reasonable rent costs. The new provincial organization will conduct a market analysis of reasonable rent cost per square foot by region, with the intention that all child care centres will align with the proposed rent cost while taking into account anomalies that may exist.

Parent Fees...

- It is expected that the fees for infant, toddler, preschool, and school age (including the average 50% reduction) will be set and communicated by EECD in Spring 2022, with the reduction going into effect by December 31, 2022. Fees will then move to an average of \$10/day in 2025-26.
- Parent fees will be set for all providers who join the new provincial organization.
- Currently, the average fee in the Nova Scotia Before and After program is \$20/day. Beginning September 2022, spaces in centres under the new provincial system and the NS Before and After program will be offered at \$an average of \$10 /day (depending on factors like whether the child attends before care or after care only).
- In 2026, a child care subsidy will be available for those unable to pay \$10/day, which will allow families to pay less than \$10 per day, based on eligibility.

Family Friendly Policies...

In implementing the Canada-wide early learning and child care system in Nova Scotia, with our partners, we will examine policies within the province and nationally that are the most family friendly and reflect quality early learning and care practices. The focus is on further strengthening an overall best practice approach to welcoming all children and their families into early learning and child care programs where and when needed.

Some of the questions to be examined include:

- late fees
- fees for failing to give notice when withdrawing from care
- payment of an annual registration fee
- illness exclusion

Over the next year, we will work with the new provincial organization, centres and families to gather this information and to better understand barriers for families. This work will include consultation with families and jurisdictional scans on current child care policies.

Inclusion...

A universal approach and foundational principle means..... ALL children are welcome, and ALL children belong in early learning and child care programs.

All child care providers under the new provincial organization must include and accept children with special needs. However, we need to better understand the barriers for educators, families and organizations to successfully do this. Therefore the new central organization will take a key role in:

- Working with communities and families to better understand how to systemically address the issues that have kept them from child care and that help them to feel safe, welcomed, and a sense of belonging, and
- Implementing key inclusion initiatives will continue to grow to support children, families, and child care providers: Inclusion Support Grant, Pyramid Model, Nova Scotia Early Childhood Development Intervention Services, and the Nova Scotia Early Learning Curriculum Framework.

The new central organization will ensure that all child care centres participate in these initiatives and have the capacity to welcome all children.

Communication with Families...

- Letting families know about the new Canada-wide system is a priority.
- Beginning in 2022, Nova Scotians will start hearing about how to identify child care settings that are part of the new system.
- It is expected that government will use multiple mediums to communicate to families about the opportunities of the new system including, but not limited to:
 - advertising
 - social media
 - visual identification at centres (i.e., stickers, 'logo' on licence), and
 - targeted direct communication with families
- We will also require that vacancy and space availability data is reported and publicly available for all Nova Scotians to easily access. Centres will be expected to share this data in a timely fashion.

Quality...

- Quality is the foundation for great child care services...quality will be the foundation of the new system. Features include:
 - Beginning in 2022, Nova Scotia will use the Quality Matters (QM) program as the overarching framework in all early learning and child care programs for creating and maintaining quality programming.
 - All centres and agencies who are part of the new system will be required to participate in the applicable QM program.
 - EECD will work with the new central organization to implement all recommendations from a previous evaluation of the QM program by 2023.

What does this mean for Before and After School Care?

- Wrap-around programming is a key component of the new system and is essential to Nova Scotia families.
- Before and after school care will be a focus of the new publicly funded program.
- The emphasis on before and after school care going forward will be the Nova Scotia Before and After (NS-BAP) model which is on site in schools.
- Regional centres for education/Conseil scolaire acadien provincial will survey families to better understand specific community needs and work with providers to ensure options are available for families.
- Under the new system, access to before and after school care spaces will be prioritized for 3, 4, and 5 year olds. Registration for before and after school care will open for two weeks first for 3, 4, and 5 year olds.
- Remaining spaces (after 2 weeks) will be offered to other ages, up to 12.
- All providers will be required to report on their total number of spaces, and the number of 3 - 5 year old spaces.

Going forward

- NS-BAP will be expanded to create an estimated 3,500 before and after spaces located in public schools by March 2023. Sites will not be limited to the number of pre-primary classrooms, as is current practice.
- NS-BAP will not be limited to only the school day but will also be encouraged to address families' needs for care year-round (PD days, vacation days, summer). Programming may remain at the school for these days or could also be delivered in conjunction with an approved provider.
- Approved Service Providers who offer centre-based before and after school care will continue based on community needs and with priority for 3, 4, and 5 year olds.

More early learning opportunities for 3-year-olds in school-based programs

- Nova Scotia to offer access to a free early learning opportunity.
- By September 2022, we are expecting to create up to 2,000 spaces across the province, if space allows.
- The expectation is that 3-year-olds who live in households that experience marginalization due to economic, social, cultural factors or are racialized or underserved will have priority to these spaces. This will be free for families.
- More information on availability and the registration process will be made available in 2022.

Space Growth in Communities

- Space utilization is an important component of the new system. Spaces already in the system need to be optimized, and new spaces need to be created to reach the Canada-NS CWELCC agreement targets.
- The new organization will be responsible for space planning and expansion. They will work with communities, families, and operators to plan for child care growth and adjustments as needed going forward.
- The objective is to ensure that the mix of spaces that exist in a community are the right spaces for the community at the right time.
- We expect all child care centres in the new system to have a space utilization rate of at least 85% to 95% at all times, a metric which will be monitored.

Workforce and ECE staffing

- Nova Scotia is moving to a model of professional regulation for early childhood educators (ECE).
- By 2024, ECEs will be certified, and only those with diplomas or degrees will be able to reference themselves as an 'early childhood educator'. A new certification system will strengthen and grow the workforce.
- The certification status of ECEs will not distinguish a diploma from a degree, however education level will be reflected in compensation from their employer. Those with a Level 1 classification will be considered an ECE assistant and will no longer be able to be considered as the 'lead' educator in the room. There will be a separate scope of practice for an ECE and an ECE Assistant, outlining their professional roles and responsibilities.

Currently, we are not planning to make any immediate regulatory changes with respect to staff requirements for ratio. We may look at changes to group size in rural communities on a case-by-case basis depending on the needs of that community. This work is not immediate, and changes will be considered, if necessary, over the next few years.

We will develop a compensation framework for ECEs in licensed child care, which will be implemented by December 31, 2022. We know that this is a highly anticipated initiative, and we look forward to sharing more information as this work advances.

Reporting and Data Collection

- Data is the foundation for evidence-based decision making.
- Child care centres and the new organization will regularly report on who is accessing child care and who is waiting or wanting care, including information related to inclusion supports. The new organization will also work with communities and families in NS to understand why they are not accessing care.
- Under new service and funding agreements, NS CWELCC approved service providers will be required to submit quarterly/annual reports on operating costs, enrolments, and staffing.

Change is never easy or simple.

We know that a lot is changing for you as providers of child care.

We also know that you, like us, want the best for children and families in Nova Scotia.

While there is much work underway, we don't have all the answers yet. It is a work in progress.

We will work closely with you and continue to share progress.

If we all stay focused on supporting children and families in Nova Scotia, we are confident that – together - we will build the best early learning and child care system in the country.

We remain committed to continuing to update the child care sector in the weeks and months ahead on decisions and milestones as we advance the objectives of the Canada-Nova Scotia Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement.

