

# Bilateral Agreement on Early Learning and Child Care for Manitoba

Manitoba At-a-Glance	
Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regulated centre-based spaces are available for 23.8% of children aged 0-5 (2016)<sup>23</sup></li> <li>Kindergarten is available to 5-year-olds and is non-compulsory</li> </ul>
Fees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Centres that receive funding from the provincial government have provincially-mandated maximum fees (effective July 1 2013). For children who receive care 4-10 hours per day in regulated services, the daily maximum fees are:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Infants: \$30 in centres; \$22.20 in regulated homes</li> <li>Preschool (includes toddlers): \$20.80 in centres; \$18.20 in homes</li> </ul> </li> <li>Median full-time monthly fees in Winnipeg (2017):               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Infant: \$651</li> <li>Toddlers: \$451</li> <li>Preschool: \$451</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Auspice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5% of regulated child care is for-profit (2016)</li> </ul>
Wages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Median gross hourly wages of program staff: \$16.00 (2012)</li> <li>Median gross hourly wages of program directors: \$24.70 (2012)</li> </ul>
Provincial Allocations (2015-2016)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fee subsidies: \$30,246,000</li> <li>One-time funding               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capital grants \$2,831,000</li> </ul> </li> <li>Recurring funding               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operating grants \$111,052,000 (includes all training, recruitment and retention grants, and pension and retirement supports)</li> <li>Special needs grants \$12,509,000</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Total spending on regulated child care:	<b>\$156,638,000</b>

<sup>23</sup> All provinces and territories also provide regulated home child care, but an age breakdown (0-5, 6-12) is not available. In 2016, there were enough regulated spaces (including centres and home child care) in Manitoba to cover 17.9% of children aged 0-12.

## Recent Initiatives in Manitoba

Over the past several years, the province has had a number of five-year plans: *Manitoba's Five-Year Plan for Child Care (2002-2007)*; *Family Choices: Manitoba's Five Year Agenda for Early Learning and Child Care (2008-2013)*; and *Family Choices: Manitoba's Plan to Expand Early Learning and Child Care (2014-2019)* (Government of Manitoba, 2014).

In March 2015, the province established the Manitoba ELCC Commission:

In order to move towards implementing a universally accessible system capable of growing to meet the needs of all families looking for a licensed child care space, inclusive of centre- and home-based child care services (Flanagan & Beach, 2016).

Additionally, in the Fall of 2015, the province promised to invest in the creation of 12,000 new ELCC spaces by 2021.

The work of this Commission resulted in the latest developments in Manitoba's ELCC Program, which has five pillars:

1. Supporting New and Newly Funded Affordable and Accessible Child Care Spaces
2. Building Sector Capacity and Stability
3. Rural and Northern Strategy
4. Diversity and Inclusion
5. Community Engagement and Public Reporting

Several components of this strategy were announced in 2017, including a commitment of \$6,181,500 for 15 community-based capital projects that will create up to 739 new licensed spaces and an annual operating grant increase for more than 300 home-based, licensed child care providers.

## MANITOBA'S ACTION PLAN

	Year 1:	Year 2:	Year 3:	Total:
Federal transfers	\$15,621,272	\$15,609,534	\$15,609,534	\$46,840,340

The Action Plan uses federal investments to support and build on the five pillars of the province's ELCC Program. These investments will result in the following initiatives in the province:

### Affordability and Availability<sup>24</sup>

- **\$28 million over three years (\$6,142,972/\$13,261,449/\$8,679,832)** for new and newly-funded, affordable and accessible spaces:
  - This includes piloting an enhanced capital funding approach, which will direct funding to major capital projects to create new licensed ELCC spaces, specifically in underserved communities. This will be done in partnership with the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation. The goal is to create up to 750 new spaces, 20% of them infant spaces and the other 80% preschool and nursery spaces. It is anticipated this will result in 10 new projects.<sup>25</sup>
  - It also includes subsidizing operational funding for expansion spaces. The goal is to provide new funding to 650 spaces that have been created in the past several years, but have yet to receive operational funding. 20% of these will be infant spaces; 80% preschool and nursery. It is expected to include 94 new spaces supporting the French-language community.
- **\$2.2 million over three years (\$352,662/\$827,987/\$1,011,981)** for the Rural and Northern Strategy:
  - Create new spaces in isolated communities through a pilot group child care home project. These projects will operate as “hybrid” licensed facilities by combining features of a group child care home and a child care centre. These hybrid facilities will be offered operational funding and could result in 15 new facilities serving up to 240 children.
  - Provide new block funding grants for rural and Northern centres with over 40 spaces (up to \$2,000/month), allowing them to offset high operational costs.
  - See below regarding workplace-based investment under Rural and Northern Strategy.

<sup>24</sup> For the Action Plan, it makes sense to consider these two categories together, since much of the funding is directed at creating and supporting affordable spaces.

<sup>25</sup> On April 6, 2018, the province announced that bilateral funding would be used to create 780 new spaces through new construction at schools and in communities, as well as additional funding for 621 licensed spaces at 63 child care centres (Government of Manitoba, 2018).

## Working Conditions

- **\$1.24 million over three years (\$706,502/\$285,781/243,173)** to build sector capacity and stability by investing in the workforce:
  - Establish an online learning platform (a “living textbook”) to facilitate independent study, workshops, and formal training programs like Child Care Assistant and ECE programs. This resource will be provided for free to all users.
  - Pilot core professional development training on inclusive programming by training 100 facilitators in an early intervention model. These facilitators will in turn each train three ELCC centres per year and provide ongoing consultation in inclusive programming.
  - Partner with a community organization to launch a province-wide online board governance training initiative. This will build capacity in the administration and governance of non-profit centres. Online training modules will be established.
  - Pilot a mentorship program to support licensed home-based providers.
- As part of the Rural and Northern Strategy (see above), the province will also pilot a competency-based assessment program for rural and Northern communities. This will allow participants to be certified as ECE II based on demonstrated skills and knowledge.

## Auspice

- Nothing specified.

## Inclusion, Equity, Diversity

- **\$10.6 million over three years (\$200,000/\$5,223,000/\$5,223,000)** for Diversity and Inclusion initiatives:
  - Piloting a dual stream service and funding approach. This will replace the “one-size-fits-all” Inclusive Support Program, which only provides grants to licensed facilities to hire additional staff (and does not necessarily result in inclusion). The new dual-stream model will allow for an array of interventions/funding, including additional staff as well as equipment grants, room modifications, and more. This new model will also include a new specialized inclusion support team that will allow for coordination and planning with other service providers.
  - Provide grants to community service organizations to hire ECEs. This could include organizations that are providing parents with therapy, counselling, skills development; their children will receive on-site high-quality child care at no cost.

## Other

- **\$4.7 million over three years (\$408,500/\$21,859,217/\$17,170,487)** for community engagement and public reporting. This will include the creation of a Minister’s Advisory Committee to provide advice and feedback on bilateral initiatives. It will also include updates to the province’s information technology systems.

## *What is innovative about Manitoba's Action Plan?*

The Action Plan does not specifically mention innovation, but there are several provincial initiatives that are unique to the province, including grants to community organizations to hire ECEs and the online board governance training initiative to enhance the capacity of non-profit operators.



Following the signing of the Multilateral Framework Agreement on Early Learning and Child Care in 2017, the federal government reached a bilateral agreement with each province and territory, and an asymmetrical agreement with Quebec. For more information about these agreements, go to

[timeforchildcare.ca](http://timeforchildcare.ca)

