

Bilateral Agreement on Early Learning and Child Care for Nunavut

Nunavut At-a-Glance	
Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulated centre-based spaces are available for 18.3% of children aged 0-5 (2016)³⁵ Kindergarten is not compulsory for 5-year-olds but most attend
Fees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Average daily parent fees, centre-based and full-time (2016): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infants – \$35.12 Preschoolers (including toddlers) - \$34.95
Auspice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0% of regulated child care is for-profit (2016)
Wages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NA
Territorial Allocations (2015/2016) Total spending on regulated child care: \$3,655,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fee subsidies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Day Care User Subsidy \$502,200 Young Parents Stay Learning \$170,000 One-time funding \$833,000 Recurring funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start-up and operating grants \$2,150,000 Other funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthy Children Initiative \$908,000 DEA-ECE Language/Cultural Funding \$1,000,000

Recent Initiatives in Nunavut

Delivering high quality ELCC programs in Nunavut is challenging due to Nunavut's remoteness and high capital and operating costs. The training and retention of qualified staff and inconsistent services are also barriers. Although high parent fees and access are problems, the Action Plan notes that

Simply providing fee subsidies would do little to address the pervasive system gaps and would not allow the flexibility for ELCC programs to increase accessibility to and quality of their programs.

³⁵ All provinces and territories also provide regulated home child care. However, an age breakdown (0-5, 6-12) is not available. In 2016, there were enough regulated spaces (including centres and home child care) to cover 10.9% of children aged 0-12.

Nunavut's Action Plan

Based on consultations, Nunavut identified five ELCC commitments using federal contributions:

1. To support the healthy development of children by ensuring high quality ELCC programs.
2. To support the training and professional development of the ELCC workforce.
3. To support the delivery of ELCC programming in every community.
4. To acknowledge and recognize the importance of ELCC and ELCC educators.
5. To promote and resource ELCC to enable and support greater use of Inuktitut.

There will be an investment in funding for operations and maintenance, the creation of child care spaces in underserved communities, training and professional development opportunities for the ELCC workforce, and learning and teaching resources in all of Nunavut's official languages.

Availability
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$220,000 in each of the three years to fund ELCC centres that have been closed for more than three years.³⁶ Funding will be contingent on ELCC staff participating in financial literacy/management training and the development of a strategic plan.
Affordability
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$1,118,250 in each of the three years to provide Operations and Maintenance Top-Up funding for all licensed ELCC centres in Nunavut. Centres must agree to use this money to maintain or lower parent fees in order to be eligible for funding.
Working Conditions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$1,030,000 in each of the three years to provide training:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In years 1 and 3, a Territory-Wide ELCC Training and Professional Development Session, where one staff person from each ELCC centre shares best practices, identifies common challenges, and accesses professional development• In year 2, the Department of Education will deliver training on financial literacy and management (this is mandatory for re-opened centres; see above).• \$690,000 in each of the three years to fund the development of standardized program materials to support the delivery of consistent, high- quality instruction in ELCC centres. Resources will be available in all official languages.
Auspice
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All ELCC in Nunavut is run by not-for-profit organizations.
Inclusion, Equity, Diversity
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The training provided to ELCC workers will focus on approaches to program delivery that are inclusive in nature, in keeping with the principles of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

³⁶ These centres are located in underserved communities.

What is innovative about Nunavut's Action Plan?

To deal with the challenges of geographic remoteness and the high costs of operation and capital expenses, Nunavut must be innovative in the way it ensures access and quality. Re-opening spaces, and tying this funding to quality commitments, is one such way that Nunavut achieves this goal. Including financial management in ECE training is another innovative way that Nunavut proposes to support the sustainability of ELCC programs.



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

