

# Bilateral Agreement on Early Learning and Child Care for Yukon Territory

Yukon At-a-Glance	
Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regulated centre-based spaces are available for 31.4% of children aged 0-5 (2016)<sup>30</sup></li> <li>Full-day and half-day kindergarten programs available to 5-year-olds but they are not compulsory</li> </ul>
Fees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Average monthly fees for centres (2016-2017):               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Infants - \$796</li> <li>Toddlers - \$709</li> <li>Preschool - \$693</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Auspice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>65% of regulated child care for 0-12 year-olds is for-profit (2016)</li> </ul>
Wages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NA</li> </ul>
Provincial Allocations (2015-2016)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fee subsidies: \$1,801,000</li> <li>One-time funding               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NA</li> </ul> </li> <li>Recurring funding               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Direct Operating Grant \$3,984,000</li> <li>Supports to children with special needs \$470,000</li> </ul> </li> <li>Other related funding               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whitehorse Child Development Centre \$2,306,571</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Total spending on regulated child care: <b>\$6,255,000</b>	

## Recent Initiatives in Yukon Territory

Geographic remoteness is cited as the source of many ELCC challenges in the territory, including retention of trained staff, costs of food and supplies, and resources required to maintain and operate licensed child care centres. As of October 2017, three communities were without licensed child care services.

In the summer of 2017, the Department of Health and Social Services embarked on a consultation with stakeholder groups and First Nation governments to identify priorities for ELCC.<sup>31</sup> There were a

<sup>30</sup> 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 22% of children aged 0-12.

<sup>31</sup> This consultation will be ongoing as funding is rolled out.

number of common priorities identified, including increasing quality, accessibility, affordability, inclusivity, and flexibility, and keeping programs and services as community-centred as possible.

The Action Plan will address four main areas: (1) quality of ELCC through training, (2) affordability and accessibility, (3) innovation, and (4) inclusive ELCC programs.

## YUKON TERRITORY'S ACTION PLAN

	Year 1:	Year 2:	Year 3:	Total:
Federal transfers	\$2,391,493	\$2,391,156	\$2,391,156	\$7,173,805

### Availability and Affordability<sup>32</sup>

- **\$4,317,112 over three years** to improve affordability and accessibility:
  - \$3,212,112 over three years to increase the Direct Operating Grant. It is anticipated that this will stabilize parent fees for 864 children and make rural programs sustainable. It is also anticipated that this money will create 19 new infant spaces.
  - \$450,000 over three years for the Enhancement Fund, which provides funding to licensed programs to meet regulatory requirements for health and safety (expected to support 100% of centres in remaining operational).
  - \$75,000 over three years for the Grandparent Grant. This will take the form of an increase to the Child Care Subsidy to support grandparents using accessible and affordable ELCC.
  - \$60,000 over three years for the Start Up Fund, which provides a set amount of funding to new programs for health and safety requirements. This funding is expected to create two new centres and approximately 30 ELCC spaces.
  - \$222,200 over three years to fund nine flexible child care spaces, accessible year-round, in Whitehorse, Watson Lake, and Dawson City for children whose parents are attending or accessing addictions treatment. This amount also includes funding for inclusivity and equity, and First Nation Government Funding (see below).

<sup>32</sup> Given the way the Action Plan is laid out, it makes sense to consider these two categories together.

## Working Conditions

- **\$650,000 over three years** to improve quality through training:
  - \$60,000 over three years allocated to an annual professional development training event to provide an opportunity for ECEs to share best practices, access training/development opportunities, and take information back to their colleagues (approximately 132 ECEs will benefit).
  - \$100,000 over three years for Education Bursaries for current and future ECEs (10 students will benefit).
  - \$270,000 over three years to Yukon College to provide additional early childhood instructor support for students in rural Yukon communities, which will support students taking web-based courses towards their ECE diploma (expected to add eight ECE diploma graduates per year).
  - The remainder of this funding will be used to implement a new curriculum.

## Auspice

- Nothing specific mentioned.

## Inclusion, Equity, Diversity

- **\$1,150,000 over three years** to provide inclusive child care programs:
  - \$1,110,000 over three years for the Supportive Child Care Program and Programming for Licensed Child Care Centres. This funding can take the form of supports for one-to-one services, reduced ratios, specialized equipment, and training for staff (expected to benefit five children with challenging behaviours).
  - \$40,000 over three years for *Ages and Stages Online and Training*, a developmental screening tool. Funding will be allocated to train licensed ECEs in the questionnaire, and to make appropriate referrals and provide supports. This tool will be available online for free to all families.
  - \$280,000 over three years for the Enrichment Fund, which provides one-time funding to licensed programs to purchase culturally and developmentally appropriate toys aimed at increasing quality and inclusivity.
  - \$30,000 over three years for a feasibility study, undertaken by the Association Franco-Yukonnaise, on increasing French language ELCC spaces. In the short term, this money will also support the creation of at least 30 additional French language child care spaces.
  - \$210,000 over three years to provide one-time funding for First Nation Governments to better understand ELCC needs, and to better position First Nations Governments to apply for additional funding.
  - \$210,000 over three years to implement the Handle with Care project, which will equip ECEs and parents to deal with attachment issues, mental health concerns, and to create an environment that responds to a child's unique needs.

## Other

- \$220,000 will be allocated over three years to develop culturally appropriate for children aged 0-5. It is expected that 100% of centres will implement this curriculum.
- \$360,000 over three years for administration, including the preparation of reports, audits, and evaluations.

## *What is innovative about the Yukon Action Plan?*

The territory is addressing some challenges through the implementation of unusual mechanisms in the ELCC field, including a Grandparent Grant; services for parents who are accessing addictions services; and the Handle with Care program.



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)

