

To: Warden and Members of County Council

From: Director of Human Services

Canada Wide Early Learning Child Care Agreement

RECOMMENDATION

1. That County Council receive Report No. HS 2022-03, entitled “Canada Wide Early Learning Child Care Agreement”, as information.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- This report provides an update on the new Canada Wide Early Learning Agreement (“CWELCC”) designed to achieve an average of \$10 per day child care delivered by licensed providers by September 2025.

Implementation Points

Oxford County will receive fee reduction and workforce compensation funding under the new CWELCC agreement.

Funding provided under the new CWELCC is in addition to the operational funding currently provided by the Province for the delivery of child care and early learning in Oxford County.

2022 is a year of transition and adjustment for the early years and child care sector and will require significant administrative work by Human Services for implementation.

Financial Impact







There is no impact to the 2022 budget. The Ministry of Education is developing a new funding formula to be implemented in 2023, no further details are known at this time.

Communications

Oxford County shared and promoted Government of Ontario communications about the CWELCC to ensure that Oxford County families were aware of the opportunity. In early May 2022, letters were distributed to all parents with children in licensed child care in Oxford and information was added to the Oxford County website. Additionally, the County proactively reached out to local media to add context and more information, with coverage carried by

Tavistock Gazette, 104.7 Heart FM, Rogers radio stations in Tillsonburg, and Rogers TV. Human Services staff further reached out to community partners to update them on the CWELCC and its potential availability to their clients. Additionally, in late May 2022, an information meeting was held for all Oxford County licensed child care operators.

Strategic Plan (2020-2022)

					
<i>WORKS WELL TOGETHER</i>	<i>WELL CONNECTED</i>	<i>SHAPES THE FUTURE</i>	<i>INFORMS & ENGAGES</i>	<i>PERFORMS & DELIVERS</i>	<i>POSITIVE IMPACT</i>
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DISCUSSION

Background

On March 28, 2022, Ontario reached a \$13.2 billion agreement with the federal government for funding under the Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care program. Ontario will provide funds to Consolidated Municipal Service Managers (CMSM's) to support the objectives for licensed child care programs under the CWELCC system.

A phased approach to implementation will ensure the stability and sustainability of the child care system while working toward affordability, accessibility, quality, and inclusion.

Ontario's child care fee subsidy program will continue despite the changes, as reduced child care fees are still unaffordable for some families.

Ontario's child care tax credit program will remain in effect. This program will continue to provide families with up to 75 per cent of their eligible expenses, including for licensed and unlicensed child care in centres, home-based care, camps and other settings.

Comments

The first objectives will be focused on affordability for families and system stability, before moving to accessibility and inclusion.

As a first step, in May 2022, Ontario began work with municipalities to enroll participating licensed child care operators in the new program.

All fees for children under the age of six, as well as children who turn six years before June 30, 2022, will be frozen until licensees notify their CMSM about their decision on enrolment in the program. The deadline for licensees to enroll is September 1, 2022.

All Ontario families with children aged 0-5 in participating licensed child care programs will see a fee reduction of up to 25 per cent, retroactive to April 1, 2022. Rebates to parents, retroactive to April 1, will follow the enrolment of child care centres and home child care agencies into the new program.

Parents can expect a further reduction by the end of December 2022, which will reduce fees by approximately 50 per cent, followed by a reduction in September 2024 and a final decrease in September 2025 to an average of \$10-a-day child care.

Conclusions

Oxford County is committed to building and supporting a child care and early learning system that meets the needs of all families and children. In the coming weeks and months, we will be working closely with our provincial and federal governments to carry out this plan. A report will be provided to County Council in the Fall of 2022 to provide an update on licensee enrolment and implementation of the CWELCC in Oxford County. To learn more about the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Program visit <https://www.ontario.ca/page/canada-ontario-early-years-and-child-care-agreement>.

SIGNATURES

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