

**To:** Warden and Members of County Council

**From:** Director of Human Services

## Canada Wide Early Learning Child Care System Update

### RECOMMENDATION

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1. That County Council receive Report No. HS 2022-06, entitled “Canada Wide Early Learning Child Care System Update,” as information.

### REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

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- This report provides a further update to report HS 2022-03, on the new Canada Wide Early Learning Child Care System (“CWELCC”) which is being implemented to achieve an average of \$10 per day child care delivered by licensed providers by September 2025 and support recruitment and retention of Ontario’s child care workforce.

### Implementation Points

The Ministry of Education released several regulatory amendments to O. Reg. 137/15 on August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022. One of the amendments that will impact families is the extension of the September 1, 2022 deadline to notify parents and staff about a licensee’s intent to enrol in CWELCC to November 1, 2022.

Oxford County will receive fee reduction and workforce compensation funding under the new CWELCC system agreement. This funding is in addition to the general operating funding currently provided by the Ministry of Education for the delivery of child care and early learning in Oxford County.

### Financial Impact

There is no financial impact to the 2022 budget.







### Communications

Oxford County has promoted and shared Ministry of Education communications about the CWELCC system in many forums. We have insured that all Oxford County child care Licensees are aware of the CWELCC system and the application process.

After the CWELCC system updates were announced in August 2022, a letter was distributed to all parents with children in licensed child care in Oxford County. All CWELCC system information is posted on the Oxford County website; a news release was issued to local media

in August to provide more information; print ads are booked in newspapers across Oxford County in September; and news is also being shared on the County’s social media channels leading up to the deadline. Human Services staff are in continual communication with the Licensees to provide information and supports through the application process.

**Strategic Plan (2020-2022)**

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

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**Background**

On March 28, 2022, Ontario reached a 13.2 billion dollar agreement with the federal government for funding under the Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care system. The Ministry of Education will provide funds to Consolidated Municipal Services Managers (CMSM’s) to support the objectives for licensed child care programs under the CWELCC system. Further amendments to the CWELCC system were released on August 17, 2022.

CWELCC applies to children enrolled in a licensed child care who are under six years of age. In order for a family to be eligible for a rebate of parent fees for 2022 the licensed child care provider must apply to opt in to the CWELCC program and be deemed eligible by Oxford County as the CMSM based on provincially defined criteria.

**Comments**

The extended enrollment date to November 1, 2022, means that child care Licensees will have longer to make informed decisions about enrolment in the CWELCC program. Although the deadline has been changed, families who qualify for a rebate will still have the rebate retroactive to April 1, 2022, subject to their licensed child care provider applying to be included in the program and is deemed to be eligible.

Oxford County Human Services will continue enrolling our child care providers based on the following processing schedule:

1. Once a provider has submitted the CWELCC application, Oxford County will confirm eligibility within 10 calendar days.
2. Once the approval is in place, Oxford County and the provider will sign the CWELCC agreement. This will be completed within 20 calendar days of eligibility being confirmed.
3. Finally, within 20 calendar days of entering into the agreement, the provider will:

- a. Receive funds from Oxford County;
- b. Begin charging lower fees (decrease of 25%); and
- c. Will begin to issue credits/refunds.

## **Conclusions**

Oxford County Human Services is committed to supporting the implementation of the CWELCC System in Oxford County with a focus on increasing affordability for parents and ensuring the delivery of high-quality child care, and will provide an update on licensee enrolment and implementation of the CWELCC system in Oxford County.

## **SIGNATURES**

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### **Report Author:**

Original signed by

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Manager of Human Services

### **Departmental Approval:**

Original signed by

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Kelly Black  
Director of Human Services

### **Approved for submission:**

Original signed by

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