



## News Release

For Immediate Release

### Governments of Canada and Nunavut Launch Early Learning and Child Care Action Plan

Nov 10, 2023 Iqaluit, Canada

Employment and Social Development Canada

The Governments of Canada and Nunavut today announced a three-year plan to improve and expand early learning and child care (ELCC) services in the territory. This is part of the Canada-Nunavut ELCC Agreement for 2021-2026. This plan, rooted in Nunavut's strong partnerships with Inuit organizations, sets a road map for strengthening and expanding Nunavut's child care sector, improving access to high-quality, affordable, flexible, and inclusive child care for the territory's families.

Over the course of the three-year plan, Nunavut's Canada-wide ELCC Action Plan 2023-2024 to 2025-2026 outlines spending for more than \$50 million in five areas:

#### 1. Affordability

- More than \$32.5 million towards enhancing affordability of full-time licensed child care for children up to six years old in all Nunavut communities, including reducing out-of-pocket parental fees and providing sustained operations and maintenance funding for licensed child care centres to address rising operational costs in the territory. These funds will help maintain Nunavut's \$10-a-day for licensed child care through the life of the current Canada-wide ELCC Agreement.

#### 2. Access

- \$2 million toward increasing the net number of licensed child care spaces across Nunavut by 238 by March 2026, through assistance with the licensing/regulation process, and assistance with the set-up of new licensed spaces including infrastructure funding. Over the first two years of the Canada-wide ELCC Agreement, 32 new licensed child care spaces have already been created in Nunavut.

#### 3. Inclusion

- More than \$2.6 million to implement an inclusive ELCC strategy for all ELCC stakeholders in the territory to promote inclusion and equity, particularly for children with disabilities, and those requiring additional support, including Inuit, Indigenous, Black, and other racialized children, and children in foster care. Other initiatives also target bolstering the inclusion of quality official language resources to minority language children in ELCC and maintaining a strong collaborative partnership with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.

#### 4. Quality

- More than \$12.6 million toward the ELCC workforce to support professional development and encourage the growth of quality, accessible, and inclusive early learning child care. Another area of focus will be the ELCC wage scale, which aims to address existing wage disparities, support recruitment efforts and act as an incentive for increased ELCC certification.

## 5. Administration and Reporting

- More than \$2.2 million towards building targeted capacity and additional resources within the Government of Nunavut to support the child care space creation, enhance access, and build reporting capacity.

In addition to the investments identified in this action plan, Inuit-specific Indigenous early learning and child care funding in Nunavut is led and coordinated by Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the regional Inuit associations to advance the vision and priorities identified in the co-developed [Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Framework](#).

Building a Canada-wide ELCC system that works for families in every region of the country is a key part of the Government of Canada's plan to make life more affordable for families, while also creating good jobs, and growing the economy.

### Quotes

"I would like to congratulate Nunavut on their commitment to offering high-quality early learning and child care services across the territory. Thanks to our joint work, hundreds of families in Nunavut are already benefitting from \$10 a day child care, three years ahead of schedule. This extensive action plan will further our efforts to make life more affordable for families, while creating new child care spaces and supporting the essential early childhood workforce. When we listen to Canadians, and centre their needs, great things happen!"

– The Honourable Jenna Sudds, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development

"I am pleased that through this action plan, we're not just making child care more affordable, but also laying the groundwork for a system that is inclusive and high-quality. With rates at \$10-a-day in licensed centres, we're eliminating financial barriers for families across Nunavut. Beyond that, this plan paves the way for the future, aiming to broaden accessibility, inclusivity, and elevate the standard of child care over the next three years. A heartfelt thank you to our federal and Inuit organization partners for their invaluable support in this milestone initiative."

– The Honourable Pamela Hakongak Gross, Minister of Education

### Quick Facts

- As part of Budget 2021, the Government of Canada made a transformative investment of more than \$27 billion over five years to build a Canada-wide early learning and child care system with provinces and territories. Combined with other investments, including in Indigenous early learning and child care, up to \$30 billion over five years will be provided in support of early learning and child care.
- Nunavut will be receiving \$66.2 million over the duration of its Canada-wide ELCC Agreement.
- Nearly half of Canada's provinces and territories are delivering regulated early learning and child care for an average of \$10-a-day, or less, and the remainder have reduced fees by 50% or more compared to 2019 levels. The goal is that all families in Canada will have access to regulated early learning and child care for an average cost of \$10-a-day by March 2026.

- On December 1, 2022, Nunavut became the first jurisdiction to achieve \$10-a-day child care under the Canada-wide ELCC system. Quebec and Yukon had both achieved \$10-a-day, or less, through their existing early learning and child care systems, before the Canada-wide agreements were established. Following Nunavut's achievements, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Newfoundland and Labrador have also all achieved their average \$10-a-day goal under the Canada-wide ELCC agreements.

## Associated Links

[Canada-Nunavut Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement - Canada.ca](#)

- 30 -

## For media enquiries, please contact:

Soraya Lemur  
Office of the Minister of Families,  
Children and Social Development  
Government of Canada  
[soraya.lemur@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca](mailto:soraya.lemur@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca)

Matthew Illaszewicz  
Director, Stakeholder Engagement  
Department of Education  
Government of Nunavut  
867-975-5649  
[info.edu@gov.nu.ca](mailto:info.edu@gov.nu.ca)

Media Relations Office  
Employment and Social  
Development Canada  
819-994-5559  
[media@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca](mailto:media@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca)  
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