



Education and Early Childhood Learning

Early Learning and Child Care Division  
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December 15, 2025

To Centre Director and Board Chair or Home-Based Provider:

I am writing to provide information about the recognized holiday schedule for 2026 and the provision of three professional development (PD) days for the early learning and child care (ELCC) workforce in the 2026 calendar year.

On November 25, 2025, the Honourable Tracy Schmidt, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Learning, announced the [Higher Wages, Good Jobs, More Child Care Workforce Strategy](#). The strategy includes a commitment to increase the annual PD days aligned with Manitoba teachers. For the 2026 calendar year, facilities in receipt of operating grant funding may choose to close for up to three ELCC PD days on a date(s) chosen by the facility without a loss of parent fees or payment for Child Care Subsidy and the Reduced Parent Fee Revenue Grant.

Please note:

- Facilities are **not** required to stay open on another day that the facility would normally be closed (e.g. Easter Monday) as was the practice prior to 2023.
- As facilities have done for many years, they may choose to close on May 21 and/or May 22, 2026 for staff to attend the Manitoba Child Care Association 48<sup>th</sup> annual provincial conference.
- Alternatively, facilities may choose to close for staff to attend other conferences or to host in-house staff training.
- To learn more about continuous learning opportunities and how to access training, visit [manitoba.ca/education/childcare/resources/pd.html](http://manitoba.ca/education/childcare/resources/pd.html).

Please see Appendix: 2026 Closure Days for more information about Child Care Subsidy and Reduced Parent Fee Revenue Grant payments for recognized holidays (or alternate closure days) and three ELCC PD days in 2026

We recognize the importance of professional development in supporting high quality ELCC programs. Thank you for your on-going dedication to children, their families and your communities.

Sincerely,  
Sarah Whiteford  
Assistant Deputy Minister