



Early Learning and Child Care

MONTHLY E-NEWS

DECEMBER 2022

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Message from the Assistant Deputy Minister

Welcome to the first edition of the Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) monthly e-news. Since joining the division in September 2022, I have had the opportunity to listen and learn from the experience and perspectives of our team, stakeholders, and partners. One of the common themes identified was a need for more information-sharing about the department and the priorities moving forward for the ELCC system. The e-news is one tool that we will be using to support improved communications, and we look forward to expanding other opportunities for engagement. On behalf of the Early Learning and Child Care Division, I wish you and your families all the best this holiday season!

Sarah Whiteford

Early Learning and Child Care Division Update

Earlier this year, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Learning was established, with an Early Learning and Child Care Division. We have designed a new organizational structure and are growing our team to support the sector and to deliver on the priorities for the early learning and child care system in Manitoba. The division has four branches: Quality Assurance and Program Support; Provincial Operations; Capital and Space Development; and Financial Accountability and Reporting. For the list of key contacts, please visit: www.edu.gov.mb.ca/aboutus.html.

Staffing Update

The department would like to welcome the following team members who have joined the Early Learning and Child Care Division over the past three months:

- **Susan Emerson, Executive Director of the Provincial Operations Branch:** Susan joined the department in September 2022, and was recently successful in a competition to transition into this new portfolio. Susan was previously the Vice-President of Operations at the YMCA-YWCA of Winnipeg, responsible for oversight of their many community programs, including early learning and child care. Susan holds a degree in Developmental Studies from the University of Winnipeg, as well as a Certificate in Adult Education from Red River College, and is certified as an ECE III.
- **Nneka Onyenekwu, CPA, CMA, Director of the Financial Accountability and Reporting Branch:** Nneka has over 10 years of experience in financial management in both the private and public sectors. She is fluent in both English and French, and holds a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from the University of Nigeria, as well as a Master of Science with Distinction in Economics and Finance from the University of Leeds.
- **Jennifer Faulder, Executive Director of the Quality Assurance and Program Support Branch** (starting January 9, 2023): Jennifer has over 12 years of experience leading diverse and cross-functional teams in public policy design. For the past several years, she served as the Director of Education Administration Services with the department, and prior to that as Director with the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba. Jennifer has a Bachelor of Arts Honours degree in English and History from the University of Winnipeg.
- **Debra Mayer, Early Childhood Education Consultant:** Debra joins the division with over 30 years of experience in the ELCC and K-12 sectors, focused on early childhood development, curriculum design and collaborative engagement. Debra holds an ECE III certification, along with a Masters degree in Integrated Studies and Community Studies.

- **Carla Fleury-Charles, Committees Coordinator, Continuous Improvement and Engagement:** Carla brings with her extensive work experience and education in the area of business administration and project management with certification received in these areas from Red River College Polytechnic and the University of Winnipeg respectively. Carla is fluent in both French and English and has spent 16 years in government focusing in the area of stakeholder relations.

Moving Forward on Child Care Priorities

Manitoba has signed two federal early learning and child care agreements: the Canada-Wide Agreement and the Canada-Manitoba (Bilateral) Agreement. These two agreements, with a combined investment of almost \$1.3B over the span of 5 years, support a shared commitment to increase the quality, accessibility, affordability, and inclusivity of the early learning and child care system. During this year, many investments have focused on workforce retention and recruitment, capital and space expansion, and affordability.

To learn more about the early learning and child care federal agreements and action plans, visit: www.manitoba.ca/education/childcare/actionplan.html.

Consultation and Engagement

There are several consultative committees that the department supports as part of our work on early learning and child care priorities:

- **The Early Learning and Child Care Minister's Consultation Table:** This committee is co-chaired by Bonnie Ash and Sarah Whiteford and provides advice and recommendations to the minister.
- **The Child Care Parent Advisory Committee:** This committee is comprised of a diverse group of parents from across the province who provide advice and recommendations to the minister.
- **The Child Care Qualifications and Training Committee:** This statutory committee is appointed by the minister and has responsibility for making recommendations on any matter related to the qualifications and training for staff in licensed facilities.

To learn more, visit: www.manitoba.ca/education/childcare/resources/committees.html.

Spotlight on Success

Oakville's Dedication to Child Care

Since 2017, Oakville has fundraised \$1.3M for its community's first child care centre. With the influx of families moving to the surrounding areas to pursue rural job opportunities, the community members of Oakville did a survey and the results indicated the strong need for child care. On October 14, 2022, Manitoba and Canada announced the investment of \$1.02M towards Oakville's community centre capital project that will create 40 new child care spaces. Oakville later received an anonymous donation of \$1.0M that has assisted them in exceeding their fundraising goal for their community centre expansion project and new child care centre. Oakville anticipates their new child care facility will be operational by fall 2023.

For information about the ELCC Capital Building Fund Program and project eligibility, visit: www.gov.mb.ca/education/childcare/resources/building_fund.html.

Announcements and Reminders

ECE Tuition Reimbursement

Manitoba recently launched a tuition reimbursement initiative for students currently enrolled in an ECE training program in the province in the academic years 2021/22 and 2022/23. Students can apply by providing proof of enrollment, completion and tuition paid for each year. Tuition reimbursement is up to a maximum of \$5K per year.

For more information and to apply, visit: www.gov.mb.ca/education/childcare/students_workforce/ece_tuition_support.html.

Are you a child care provider looking to contact your assigned Child Care Coordinator?

Child Care Online is the primary software platform supporting business operations for all child care facilities. Each child care provider has a login username and password to enter Child Care Online, and you will be able to view the name and contact information of your Child Care Coordinator on your facility page. [Logon / Child Care Online \(mbgov.ca\)](#).

For general inquiries about the Early Learning and Child Care Division:

Website: www.manitoba.ca/childcare

Email: cdcinfo@gov.mb.ca

Phone: 204-945-0776

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