



## Minister of Education and Early Childhood Learning

Legislative Building, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8 CANADA

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

The Manitoba government recognizes that a trained and well-supported Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) workforce is essential to provide high-quality early learning programs for children and families.

As such, I am pleased to advise that we are expanding the opportunities for professional development for Early Childhood Educators, Child Care Assistants, and Home-Based Providers by providing two annual Professional Development (PD) days. Facilities may choose to close for up to two days for professional development in the 2024 calendar year, without a loss revenue. This includes operating funding, Child Care Subsidy, parent fees and the Reduced Parent Fee Revenue Grant. Facilities are not required to remain open on another day that they would normally be closed (e.g. Easter Monday) to implement these professional development days.

As many centres and home providers have done in previous years, you may choose to close to attend the Manitoba Child Care Association annual conference. Alternatively, you may choose to close on one or two other days for your staff to attend a conference or to host in-house training and development.

The department will provide further details on how to report closures for professional development days to ensure payment of eligible funding. This communication will also include the full schedule of recognized holidays and alternate closure days for the 2024 year. The calendar will now include the addition of a closure date for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30th, which was made a general holiday through the passage of Bill 4 – The Employment Standards Code and Interpretation Amendment Act (Orange Shirt Day) on December 7, 2023.

Thank you for your continued commitment and dedication to children and families in Manitoba.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Nello Altomare

- c. Brian O'Leary, Deputy Minister of Education and Early Childhood Learning  
Sarah Whiteford, Assistant Deputy Minister, Early Learning and Child Care