

The Community Child Care Standards Amendment Act (Enhanced Powers Respecting Governance and Accountability) and Child Care Regulation Amendments

KNOW THE FACTS

Issue	How the Regulations Are Improved	How Quality is Ensured
LICENSING		
<p>Licensing requirements are onerous, especially for centres that have strong track records as market leaders.</p>	<p>Licensing for child care facilities is less onerous with licenses to be renewed for up to three years for operators in good standing.</p> <p>Childcare facilities that demonstrate regulatory compliance will not have to reapply annually for licenses and undergo annual formal re-licensing inspections.</p>	<p>Extended licenses will not allow facilities to backslide in standards. Instead, the Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) program will be able to focus more on centres that need support in meeting requirements.</p>
DUPLICATION		
<p>Codes of conduct and safety plans are referenced throughout the regulation, making these requirements hard to follow and understand.</p>	<p>The authority to require codes of conduct and safety plans are in the act, while the detail is in the regulation and policy.</p> <p>Regulatory amendments eliminate duplication by bringing all of the provisions together in one place, in plain language to make them easier to understand.</p> <p>Some requirements will be placed in guidelines to make it easier to keep standards and best practices current.</p>	<p>Codes of conduct and safety plans are addressed in the Act to ensure that these standards are enshrined in law.</p> <p>These amendments do not reduce standards for operating facilities safely.</p>

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SUBSIDY OVERPAYMENT		
<p>If subsidy recipients inaccurately report their income, the province should recover the overpayments to ensure that those who most need the subsidy are receiving it.</p>	<p>Subsidy overpayments can be recovered when recipients inaccurately report their household income, or if the program provides overpayments in error.</p>	<p>Collecting these overpayments will not decrease access to child care for lower-income parents, as subsidy overpayments do not occur very often. The ELCC program will work with parents to ensure they are aware of their reporting obligations, which will help to reduce overpayments.</p>
<p>Collecting overpayments should not be left up to child care facilities. This is a provincial responsibility.</p>	<p>The regulatory amendments clarify that facilities are not responsible for recovering subsidy overpayments.</p>	<p>Child care facilities are not responsible to “police” subsidy recipients or collect overpayments.</p>
BOARD GOVERNANCE		
<p>Serious governance-related problems should not put existing child care spaces at risk.</p>	<p>Amendments ensure continuity of care - we do not want child care centres to close because of poor governance. The amendments provide a mechanism for the director to step in and support centres when they need it.</p> <p>The provincial director of child care can now refuse, suspend or revoke a license when a centre is at risk of closure because of governance-related problems.</p> <p>Bill 9 will also give the minister the ability appoint a provisional administrator for governance-related issues, such as board performance or fiscal management. This would be done only if necessary to avoid a centre closure.</p>	<p>This amendment helps ensure provincial assistance and intervention is available so that child care spaces can remain available to families, even if the centre is facing governance issues.</p>

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UPDATES TO THE LANGUAGE		
<p>The regulations use technical language that is difficult to interpret, understand or follow.</p>	<p>Plain language is incorporated to ensure clarity and understanding of requirements, and gender-neutral language.</p> <p>The regulatory amendments introduce a new definition “child care worker” to allow for one term that pulls together “child care assistant (CCA)” and “early childhood educator (ECE).”</p> <p>Similar to using “child care facility” as a global term to refer to centres, nursery schools and homes, “child care workers” will continue to be used as a global term to refer to CCAs and ECEs</p>	<p>The definitions of classifications for ECE II and ECE III remain.</p>
GRANTS TO CHILD CARE FACILITIES		
<p>The enhanced nursery school program creates two tiers of nursery schools - those that receive enhanced operating grants and charge reduced fees and those that do not.</p> <p>The spaces with lower fees are not reserved for parents with lower incomes, and the services are similar to those with the higher fee.</p>	<p>This change provides government with the foundation to improve the nursery school system for families in the future.</p> <p>There are no immediate plans to alter the enhanced nursery school operating grants or parent fees. The funding will continue to flow until a new funding model is in place.</p>	<p>The regulatory change does not end funding to nursery schools.</p>

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INCLUSION SUPPORT		
<p>Inclusion support is a high priority for parents.</p>	<p>These changes expand services through enhanced staffing grant to help children with additional support needs and exceptional additional support needs to participate in programs and activities.</p> <p>This new support will help to ensure children are supported through inclusive programming, staff enhancement and specialized inclusion grants to facilities, through a dual stream approach to better support children with differing needs.</p>	<p>The amendments do not defund or limit inclusion supports for special needs children.</p>
CHILD CARE FEES		
<p>The existing regulatory provisions that allow facilities to charge higher fees to non-subsidized parents are not well understood</p>	<p>This amendment clarifies an existing, long-standing practice established in the regulations.</p> <p>Facilities are able to charge higher fees to non-subsidized parents for any available spaces that are not supported by provincial operating grant funding.</p> <p>If some spaces are approved but more than half are not, the facility may charge higher fees to non-subsidized parents upon application to the director.</p>	<p>The amendment does not remove regulated parent fees for approved spaces. Rather, the amendment clarifies existing practice for unapproved spaces.</p> <p>The ability to charge higher fees already exists. This amendment clarifies this provision, but does not extend or enhance it.</p>