

# Child care and early learning e-newsletter

**April 4, 2022**

Welcome to The Regional Municipality of Durham's Child Care and Early Learning updates e-newsletter. These e-newsletters provide licensed child care operators in Durham Region with updated information related to child care.

This edition includes the following topics:

- Ontario's agreement under the Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) system – Next steps
- Children's Services Division staffing updates

## Ontario's agreement under the Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care system – Next steps

We are excited to support the Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) plan for Durham Region!

Announcements have been made and Regulations amended, but the details on how to implement are yet to come. The Children's Services Division is ready for action as soon as we receive the Ministry of Education CWELCC guidelines. As always, our division is committed to working swiftly with the Province and existing child care licensees to establish a Canada-wide Early Learning system that supports and reflects the needs of our Durham Region families.

The Region of Durham Children's Services Division is the Consolidated Municipal Service Manager (CMSM) for child care in Durham Region. As the service system manager, we are legislatively responsible for implementing the CWELCC system for our region.

In the coming days, the Ministry of Education will be providing system managers with the CWELCC system requirements and the funds to support rebates, fee reductions, and improve salaries for early childhood educators.

With that information, we can begin the process of child care operator enrollment.

We recognize parents are eager to receive rebates and see their fees lowered, and that you are eager to enroll in the CWELCC system. To ensure we are all working with a shared understanding, please see next steps and frequently asked questions below. This information can be used to inform you, your team of educators, and your families on how the new plan will roll out.

On March 28, the CWELCC system was announced, CCEYA Regulatory amendments released, and information shared with child care licensees:

- [Child Care and Early Years Act Regulations amended](#) to include provision of the CWELCC system.
- Announcements of the new deal made by the [Government of Ontario](#) and the [Government of Canada](#).
- Minister Lecce provides a [Letter to Parents](#) about the CWELCC system.
- The Ministry of Education emailed CWELCC system information directly to all Ontario Child Care Licensees for review (includes flow chart and CCEYA Regulatory updates).

Next steps:

1. Licensees to review all information received from the Ministry of Education.
2. Ministry of Education to provide Guidelines - "Coming Soon": The Ministry of Education will provide CMSM's with the toolkit for CWELCC system implementation.
  - a. This will include the guidelines, reporting requirements, sample templates and financial details.
  - b. The Ministry has communicated that the CMSM toolkit information is **"coming soon."**
3. Review and analysis: CMSM's will review and analyze the information included in the Ministry of Education toolkit.
  - a. Review all details and meet with Ministry of Education for any clarifications.
  - b. Begin funding analysis to determine operator allocations, including fee rebates, fee reductions and funding for staff wages (where applicable).
4. Information sharing: The CMSM will share details of the process and next steps with licensees and parents.
  - a. Communicate CWELCC system implementation details via EL updates newsletter and virtual information sessions as required.
  - b. Share information for families via the Durham Region [Children's Services website](#) as applicable.
  - c. Information on calculating rebates, fee reductions, and wage increases will be shared with licensees.

Following the steps above, next steps will align with Ministry Guidelines and include:

- CWELCC Application creation, distribution, review and processing. Once processing is complete, written notification of application review result will be provided to all applicants via the head office email on file.
- Revisions made to Durham's Child Care Service Agreement to include the CWELCC. Agreements must be signed by all parties and duly executed to complete the enrollment process.
- Payments to operators can begin once contracts are duly executed and allocations are calculated according to Ministry Guidelines.
- Refunds and rebates for eligible families can begin after notification of enrollment has been received and according to the Amended Regulations and Guidelines.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **Q: I am a child care licensee in Durham – what can I be doing now to prepare?**

A: Child care licensees can review the email communications sent by the Ministry of Education to all licensees. These emails include CWELCC timeline flow charts and CCEYA Regulatory Amendments. Operators can begin work on updating parent handbooks as per the Regulations and communicate with parents regularly to manage expectations for refunds and fee adjustments.

#### **Q: When do I lower my parent fees?**

A: As per the CCEYA Amended Regulations, operators must charge only the base fee as of the 32<sup>nd</sup> day after receiving notice from the CMSM of their enrollment date.

#### **Q: When do fee refunds need to occur?**

A: Refunds and rebates will occur after licensees receive notice from the CMSM of their enrollment date. It is recommended that child care operators communicate with families to manage expectations. As stated in Minister Lecce's letter, "Rebates to parents retroactive to April 1 will begin in May and follow the enrolment of centres and home child care agencies into the new program." As noted in the next steps listed above, the work to enroll operators can only begin after Ministry Guidelines have been received, and there is much to be done before operator enrollment is complete. Parents can be confident that we will work with all of our child care operators to get families fee refunds and rebates as quickly as possible. Be sure to share Minister Lecce's letter and note that "Parents do not need to proactively enrol, as your licensed child care provider will be in touch." Be sure to review the CCEYA Amended Regulations for additional information.

#### **Q: When will I get funds to pay for the retroactive fee rebates and or refunds?**

A: Funding will begin after contracts between the Region of Durham and the licensee are signed and duly executed.

**Q: When will I get funds to increase my ECE's salaries?**

A: Details about implementing salary increases are to be announced.

### Children's Services Division staffing update

The Children's Services Division (CSD) is pleased to support Ada Lee, Financial Analyst, in her temporary assignment with our Regional Transit Division. Most of you will have worked with Ada on Wage Enhancement applications and reconciliations, Small Water Works applications and/or the many other financial portfolios she has supported. Ada has helped to navigate the many new funding initiatives during her years with the CSD. We are happy for Ada but will miss her expertise and experience and hope to see her back in our division next year!

We will announce our new Financial Analyst in the coming days. In the mean time, if you have questions please contact Jackie Adams, Financial Analyst, at [Jacqueline.Adams@durham.ca](mailto:Jacqueline.Adams@durham.ca). For enquires related to Wage Enhancement, please email [WageEnhancement@durham.ca](mailto:WageEnhancement@durham.ca).