




COMMUNICATION UPDATE

TO:	Mayor and Members City Council
DATE:	August 22, 2022
SUBJECT:	Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Update (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
SUBMITTED BY:	Angela Burden General Manager Healthy and Safe Communities Department
SIGNATURE:	

Since March 2022, the Children's and Community Services Division has been implementing the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) system in the City of Hamilton. The key deliverables include affordability, accessibility, quality workforce, inclusion and enhanced data and reporting in licensed child care system.

On August 17, 2022, the Ontario Ministry of Education released an update to the Addendum to Ontario Child Care and EarlyON Child and Family Centres Service Management and Funding Guidelines (2022) to further assist municipalities and eligible licensed child care operators with implementing the CWELCC System across the province.

Some of the key changes that have been made to better support participation in the CWELCC system include:

- Extending the enrolment deadline for eligible licensed child care operators to opt-in to the CWELCC system to November 1, 2022
- Directing municipalities to process applications and confirm eligibility within 10 calendar days of the application
- Directing municipalities and eligible licensed child care operators to execute an agreement within 30 calendar days of date of application

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

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- Requiring eligible licensed child care operators to provide rebates to families within 20 calendar days after the CWELCC funding agreement is executed
- Eligible licensed child care operators applying to participate in the CWELCC system may withdraw their application at any time
- Clarifying that for-profit child care operators or individuals can continue to earn profit and not-for-profit child care operators will be permitted a surplus amount to build reserves or re-invest in their organization

In July 2022, the Children's and Community Services division released an expression of interest (EOI) to gauge the interest of the child care community in Hamilton and work closely with operators to ensure clarity and consistency for participation in the CWELCC system. To-date 208 out of 222 (94%) child care operators have expressed interest in participating in the CWELCC system. The division will continue working closely with licensees throughout this process. We are taking a phased in approach and rebates will be issued to families as operators begin to formally opt into the CWELCC program.

The full list of all locations and their CWELCC status can be found on our website at www.hamilton.ca/affordablechildcare. The City will be reaching out to each eligible licensed child care operator to execute funding agreements including the CWELCC schedule, as applicable.

Should you require further information on the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care system, please contact Jessica Chase, Director Children's Services and Community Services Division at ext. 3590 or via email at Jessica.Chase@hamilton.ca.