



COMMUNICATION UPDATE

TO:	Mayor and Members City Council
DATE:	July 29, 2022
SUBJECT:	Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Update (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
SUBMITTED BY:	Jessica Chase Acting General Manager Healthy and Safe Communities Department
SIGNATURE:	<i>Jessica Chase</i>

On March 28, 2022, the Province of Ontario signed the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) agreement with the federal government. The key deliverables of this funding include affordability, accessibility, quality workforce, inclusion and enhanced data and reporting. The CWELCC agreement will provide funding to reduce child care fees for families to an average of \$12/day by September 2025.

Earlier this month, the City released an expression of interest (EOI) available to all licensed child care operators. By completing the EOI, the City is notified that eligible licensed child care operators are interested in learning more about opting-in to CWELCC.

The results of the EOI process are as follows:

Total Eligible Child Care Operator locations (includes both centre-based and licensed home child care)	223
Eligible Child Care Operator locations that expressed interest	201
Eligible Child Care Operator locations that chose to opt-out	5
Eligible Child Care Operator locations we are following up with	17

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.

Licensed child care operators that expressed an interest in proceeding with the CWELCC application will be undergoing a budget review process throughout the month of August. All providers must opt-in or opt-out no later than September 1, 2022.

Child Care Operators Opt-In

If a licensed child care operator chooses to opt-in to the CWELCC system, parents and families will receive a 25% child care fee rebate back-dated to April 1, 2022. This rebate must be received within 60 days of the licensed child care operator opting-in and child care rates will be reduced by 25% within 31 days of opting-in. By January 1, 2023, child care rates will be reduced by a further 25% for a total of 50% reduction.

Child Care Operators Opt-Out

If a child care operator chooses to opt-out of the CWELCC system, the provider must notify families in writing within 14 days of opting-out. For families, this means that child care rates **will not** be reduced by 25% and they will not receive a 25% rebate in fees. Families have the option to transfer their child(ren) to another child care provider with sufficient notice.

Updates regarding licensed child care operators status and information about the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care system will be available on the City of Hamilton's website via www.hamilton.ca/CWELCC.

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