



COMMUNICATION UPDATE

TO:	Mayor and Members City Council
DATE:	November 3, 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:	

On March 28, 2022, the Province of Ontario signed the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) agreement with the federal government. The system is designed to support Ontario's children, families, employers and the child care sector to provide high-quality, affordable, accessible and inclusive licensed child care programs. The CWELCC agreement will provide funding to reduce child care fees for families to an average of \$12/day by September 2025.

Since this announcement, the Children's and Community Services division has been implementing the CWELCC system in Hamilton. Currently, 96% of eligible child care operators have opted in as shown below:

Total Eligible Child Care Operator locations (includes both centre-based and licensed home child care)	223
Eligible Child Care Operator locations opted-in	215
Eligible Child Care Operator locations that opted-out	8

The full list of all locations and their CWELCC status can be found on our website at www.hamilton.ca/affordablechildcare.

Changes to Rebates for Families

The Children's and Community Service Division is working closely with all licensed child care operators that have opted-in to process rebates.

Families with a child under 6 years of age in licensed child care that have opted-in, will receive a rebate of 25% of the child care fees they have paid backdated to April 1, 2022, over the next few weeks.

Starting December 31, 2022 parent fees will be further reduced by 37% as the province of Ontario strives to achieve an average child care cost of \$23/day during this phase of implementation.

Additionally, we are pleased to share that child care fee subsidies will continue under CWELCC. For these families, they will receive a 25% rebate of the daily child care fees they have paid to April 1, 2022 and a further reduction of 25% starting December 31, 2022.

Child Care Operators Opt-Out

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

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