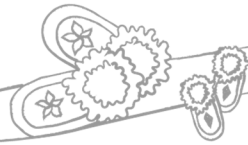




Have your say

Child Day Care Regulations



Background

Act

In June 2022, the department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) [invited public input](#) on proposed amendments to the [Child Day Care Act](#) (Act) to support the early learning and child care system.

The amendments to the Act will allow ECE to:

- Establish an NWT certification process and wage grid,
- Increase inclusion and reporting measures,
- Establish cost control measures, and
- Protect the rights of families.

Following engagement, a [What We Heard Report](#) was published.

Regulations

ECE is now engaging on a first phase of amendments to the [Child Day Care Regulations](#) needed to align with the Act.

What is the Child Day Care Act and Regulations?

The Act and Regulations set minimum standards for quality, care, instruction, and supervision of children in facilities outside of their home.

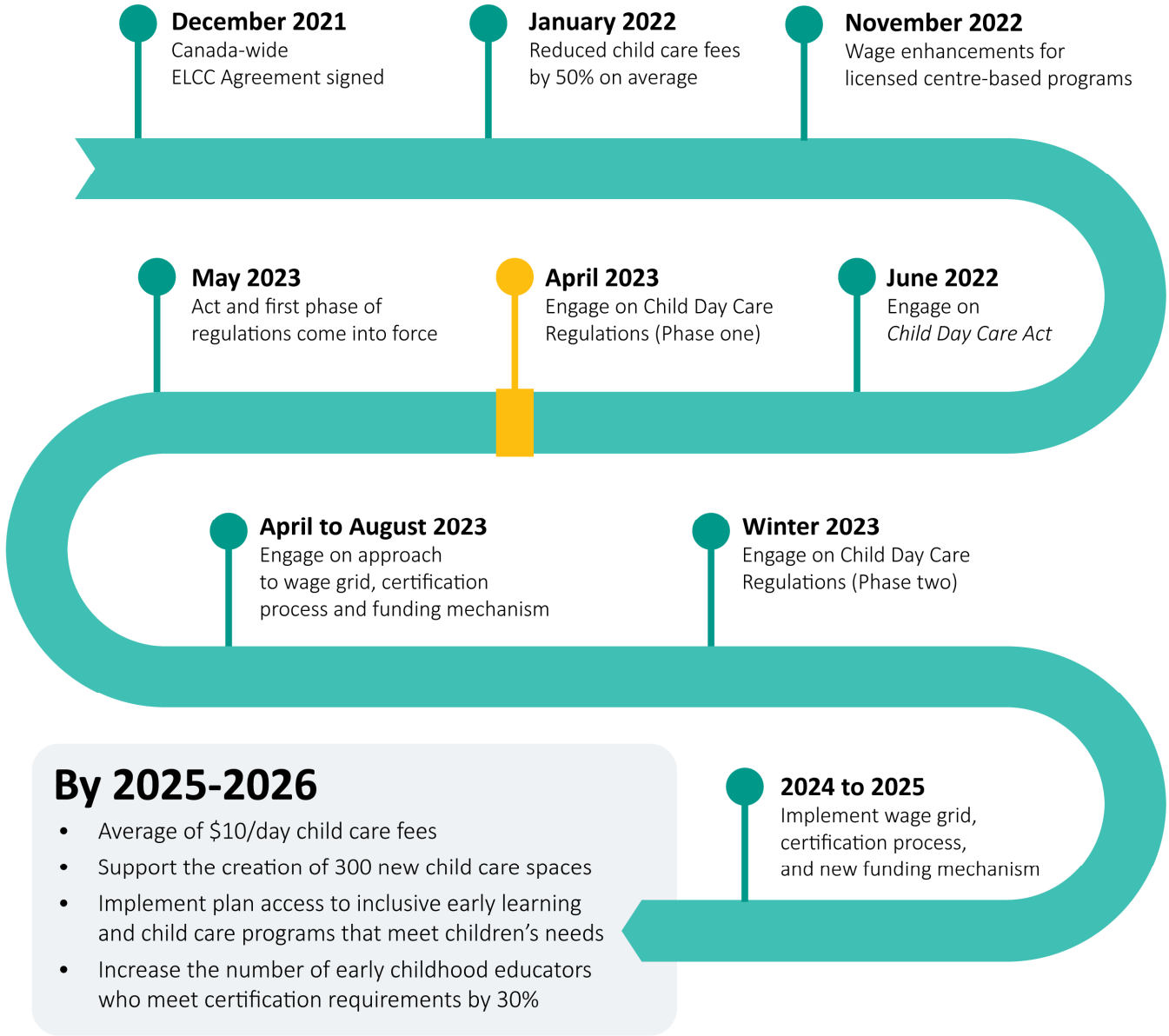
What is the timeline for changes to the Child Day Care legislation?

- ✓ **June 2022**
Engagement on [Child Day Care Act](#) changes
- ✓ **September 2022**
[What We Heard Report](#) on Proposed *Child Day Care Act* amendments published
- **April 2023**
Engagement on phase one of [Child Day Care Regulations](#)
- **May 2023**
Child Day Care Act amendments and phase one Regulations come into force
- **2023/24**
Engagement on next phase(s) of the Child Day Care Standards Regulations

Why is the GNWT taking a phased approach to the Child Day Care Regulations?

The GNWT is taking a phased approach to developing the Regulations which will allow time to engage with the system and have meaningful input. Phase one will address necessary regulatory changes related to targets and reporting associated with the [Canada-NWT Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement \(Canada-wide Agreement\)](#) in advance of the 2023-24 fiscal year. Additional phases will be influenced and determined as the GNWT continues to engage the sector throughout the coming year on updates to regulations that will establish things like a wage grid and certification process for early childhood educators, and additional protections for families.

Milestones and engagement opportunities



Phase One: Child Day Care Regulations

What will these Regulations include?

Maximum Fees

Phase one changes will establish maximum child care fees for newly licenced early learning and child care programs (licensed programs) based on age category (infant, preschool, and school-aged). Newly licensed refers to an early learning and child care program for which a licence has never been issued or which has not been licensed at any point in the last six months. This change does not impact existing licensed programs. The GNWT will be engaging with licensed programs over the next year to discuss these changes.

The proposed amendments remove the requirement for [Child Care Fee Reduction \(CCFR\) Subsidy](#) contribution agreements with each program operators.

Why is it important?

These changes are designed to replace the current CCFR subsidy contribution agreement process for licensed programs. This will streamline how CCFR subsidy funding is provided to programs, reducing the administrative requirements on programs and government.

Achieving an affordable early learning and child care system will not be possible if fees charged to families are unlimited. Maximum fees have been considered and/or implemented in other provinces and territories across Canada under the new Canada-wide system, and will be implemented as part of the changes being made to the Act.

Financial Reporting

Financial reporting required by licensed programs who receive GNWT funding will continue to follow GNWT financial reporting guidelines and any funding received from other government and/or non-government sources.

In situations where funding amounts do not align, a professional auditor will need to verify that the terms and conditions of GNWT funding were met. This ensures that government funding is being used for its intended purposes.

Why is it important?

These regulations are intended to promote financial stability, provide transparency for licensed program operators and the public about funding for licensed early learning and child care programs, and begin to reduce the administrative requirements for both programs and GNWT.

Reporting

Under the *Canada-wide Agreement* the GNWT is required to collect demographic and program information related to:

- **Enrolment:** Licensed programs will be required to provide demographic information related to the children attending the licensed program to the GNWT, including the child's name, age, gender, ethnicity, any exceptional needs identified, and any information the operator has received regarding developmental needs.
- **Annual Report:** Licensed programs will need to submit an annual report that includes demographic information on the children in their care. The annual report will also include: total number of children enrolled, capacity of the program, number of Early Childhood Educators in the program and their education/qualification levels, wages received by educators in the program, fees charged to families, and any funding received from other government and/or non-government sources.

Licensed program operators will be required to collect this information and report this information to the GNWT for each child that enrolls in their program, and to provide an annual update of this information.

Why is it important?

These changes are required to comply with the terms of the *Canada-wide Agreement* and to inform transformation of the system to better meet the needs of young children and families. An important objective of the *Canada-wide Agreement* is improving the inclusivity of early learning and child care for all children and families in the NWT. It is important for the GNWT to obtain information about children attending licensed programming, including demographic information.

More information

Department of Education, Culture and Employment

www.ece.gov.nt.ca