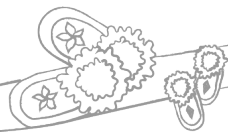




Transforming early learning and child care in the NWT



We are committed to supporting a system that provides children and families with access to high-quality early learning and child care across the Northwest Territories.

Improving affordability of early learning and child care

We will increase funding to licensed early learning and child care programs (licensed programs) to lower child care fees charged to families with children from birth to five years of age enrolled in licensed programs across the NWT.

The amount that families will save will vary depending on the age of the child and the type of child care space enrolled. However, licensed programs that sign up for the new funding program must use the funding towards reduction to child care fees for families with the long-term collaborative goal of achieving an average of \$10 per day by 2025-2026.

Families will be reimbursed 50%, on average, for child care fees paid from January to March 2022, and will see that fee reduction moving forward. This will reduce child care fees across the territory by an average of 50%, effective January 1, 2022.

By the end of 2025-2026 licensed child care fees will be an average of \$10 per day for children birth to five years of age.

Supporting the creation and sustainability of licensed programs

We will work with licensed centre-based and family day home programs to create at least 300 new child care spaces by 2025-2026, either through the expansion of existing licensed programs or the establishment of new ones.

Our priority will be to work with Indigenous Governments, communities, and not-for-profit organizations to create licensed child care spaces in communities that currently do not have licensed programs for children from birth to age three.

Enhancing inclusion and participation

We will focus on supporting inclusive child care and participation by providing funding for licensed programs to support the diverse needs of children, including those from equity-seeking families and children who have specific developmental needs.

In 2022-2023 we will complete a review the current approach to early learning and child care inclusion programs and services within the NWT.

By 2025-2026 we will implement a plan to ensure that all children – including children from equity-seeking families and those needing enhanced or individual supports – have access to child care spaces to meet their needs.

Fostering a qualified early childhood workforce

We value early childhood educators and will work to provide retention incentives to early childhood educators working in licensed centre-based programs.

We will develop a wage grid for early childhood educators working in centre-based programs to inform implementation in 2024-2025.

The NWT will have a certification process for early childhood educators by 2024-2025.

By 2025-2026 the number of early childhood educators in the territory who fully meet the NWT's certification requirements will be increased by at least 30%, and 60% by 2030-2031.

We will work with local NWT post-secondary institutions to deliver early learning and child care programming through a variety of methods (e.g., in-person and distance) and explore options for providing programming for francophone educators.

More information

- [2030 Early Learning and Child Care Strategy](#)
- [Canada – Northwest Territories Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement – 2021 to 2026](#)
- [Northwest Territories' Canada-wide 2021-2022 to 2022-2023 Action Plan](#)
- [Early Learning and Child Care What We Heard Report 2021](#)
- [Early Learning and Child Care Funding Programs Review 2021](#)

Department of Education, Culture and Employment

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