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2012: ELCC9a

MEMORANDUM TO: Chiefs of First Nations with Child Care Agreements
Child Care Administrators

FROM: Pam Musson
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Early Learning Division

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DATE: July 6, 2012

SUBJECT: **New 2012 Child Care Funding for Special Needs Resourcing,
Ontario Works Child Care and Health and Safety**

As you may know, on June 27, 2012 the Province released a discussion paper, *Modernizing Child Care in Ontario*, to begin a conversation that will help move Ontario towards a high quality, accessible and coordinated early learning and care system for all children. The discussion paper touches on the government's recent investment in child care and the purpose of this memo is to provide you with information about these new investments for the 2012-13 contract year.

This investment is the next step in the government's commitment to support child care and to create a more integrated and seamless early learning and child care system. The investment includes funding that will provide all eligible First Nations with access to funding for Special Needs Resourcing, Ontario Works child care, and Health and Safety as required.

In addition, the government will develop and implement a new, more transparent approach to funding that responds to demand for services, helps stabilize fees and improves reliability of child care to better support child care operators and parents. In the coming months, the government will be working with its partners to look for opportunities to modernize Ontario's child care system so that it better reflects the needs of children and families, and a component of this will include discussions on funding. First Nations will be integral to this conversation as we look to you to draw on your experience and expertise.

Ontario Works (OW) Child Care

The Ministry is also pleased to announce OW child care funding to First Nations delivering the full OW program, which includes financial assistance and employment support. Funding is available for First Nations who have been delivering the full program without an OW child care allocation and for First Nations that are eligible to transition to full delivery of the OW program in 2012-13.

Annualized OW funding may be used to support both formal and informal child care. Formal OW child care fee subsidies can be used to cover the cost of formal licensed child care for parents who participate in the OW program. Informal OW child care funding can be used to cover the cost of informal child care arrangements of OW participants up to a maximum of \$600 per child per month.

OW formal child care subsidies are cost shared between the Ministry and First Nations, with 80 percent contributed by the province and 20 percent contributed by the First Nation. Informal OW child care is 100 percent funded by the province.

First Nations that are delivering the full OW program on or before April 1, 2012 will receive an allocation retroactive to April 1, 2012. First Nations that began delivering the full OW program after April 1, 2012 will receive an allocation retroactive to the first day of full delivery. Your First Nation's OW child care allocation for 2012-13 is identified in A402/A403 "adjustments (ELCC9)" in the attached budget schedule. Please see the Ministry's 2012-13 Business Practices Guideline for details regarding Ontario Works child care funding and reporting requirements.

Special Needs Resourcing

The Ministry is pleased to announce funding for Special Needs Resourcing for all First Nations with licensed child care that have child care agreements with the Ministry. This funding is intended to support the inclusion of children with special needs in licensed child care settings. This investment includes \$1.88M in 2012-13.

Your First Nation's allocation for Special Needs Resourcing is identified in A377 "adjustments (ELCC9)" in the attached budget schedule. This allocation is based on your licensed capacity and provides funding to support at least one Resource Consultant (including salary, benefits and training) and specialized equipment.

Resource Consultants can be hired directly by your First Nation or their services can be secured through an agreement with a local service agency. Resource Consultants typically provide a wide range of supports for children with special needs in child care settings, including providing child care staff with program adaptation strategies, developing individual program plans, conducting developmental screens, providing referrals to community agencies and obtaining specialized equipment as required.

Additional details regarding reporting and financial requirements will be included in your child care agreement amendments, which will be distributed shortly. In addition, Special Needs Resourcing is one of many components of the child care system that will be reviewed as part of the broader work on child care modernization.

Health and Safety Minor Capital

As communicated to First Nations on April 25, 2012, the Ministry also committed to provide Health and Safety funding to support licensed child care programs that are not in compliance with licensing requirements (or may be at risk of not being in compliance with licensing requirements) under the *Day Nurseries Act* (DNA). Details regarding the use of this funding are outlined in the 2012-13 Child Care Health and Safety Funding Guidelines, which were included with your 2012-13 child care service agreement package. Applications for this funding will be accepted until August 31, 2012.

Child Care Service Agreement Amendments

An amendment to your 2012-13 child care service agreement will be emailed to your First Nation for signature shortly from the Early Learning and Child Care Implementation Branch. Upon receipt of your amended 2012-13 Service Agreement, your regular monthly child care cash flow will begin to include the 2012-13 funding investment. The first payment following receipt of your amended service agreement will include a catch-up to represent the months retroactive to April 2012.

Cash Flow

New Special Needs Resourcing and Ontario Works child care funding will flow upon receipt of your First Nation's signed agreement amendment. This funding will be included in your regular monthly child care payments and will be prorated over the remainder of the fiscal year.

Your Child Care Advisor will contact you in the coming weeks to address any questions/concerns you may have regarding this memo and the enclosed materials.

We look forward to working closely with you and share in your commitment to serving the child care sector, families and young children.

Original signed by
Pam Musson

Original signed by
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Original signed by
Andrew Davis

Copy: Jim Grieve, Assistant Deputy Minister, Early Learning Division, Ministry of Education
Gabriel F. Sékaly, Assistant Deputy Minister, Business and Finance Division, Ministry of Education
David Carter-Whitney, Assistant Deputy Minister, Social Policy Development, Ministry of Community and Social Services
Jeff Butler, Director, Ontario Works Branch, Ministry of Community and Social Services
Regional Directors, Ministry of Community and Social Services

Attachment: Child Care Business Practices Guideline – First Nations and Child Care Transfer Payment Agencies