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**2018: EYCC16**

**MEMORANDUM TO:** Chiefs of First Nations with Child Care and Child and Family Program Agreements  
Child Care and Child and Family Program Administrators

**FROM:** Jill Dubrick  
Director, Early Years and Child Care Programs and Service Integration Branch  
Early Years and Child Care Division  
Ministry of Education

**DATE:** November 16, 2018

**SUBJECT:** **Update on 2018-19 Child Care and Child and Family Program Allocations and Service Agreements**

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Further to the memo from Assistant Deputy Minister Shannon Fuller dated September 6, 2018, I am writing to provide additional information on updated 2018-19 child care and child and family program allocations for First Nations communities.

In May 2018, the Ministry of Education (the Ministry) issued 2018-19 service agreement packages to First Nations and Transfer Payment Agencies (TPAs). This memo outlines revisions to this package, including allocations, service agreements and guidelines. Please note that the changes highlighted below may not impact all First Nations, therefore, we encourage you to review this memo in detail along with the reissued service agreement for your First Nation.

### **New Investments**

In 2018-19, the government is investing an additional \$6 million in child care transformation funding in eligible First Nations communities to support the quality and viability of existing child care programs. The planning funding announced in September has been allocated under the Transformation funding line. This new investment has been allocated as follows:

- First Nations with licensed child care spaces are receiving a one-time amount

of \$15,000 as a one-time adjustment under Transformation funding for planning purposes. This funding is to support First Nations with child care planning activities for their communities.

- The remaining investment for Transformation funding has been provided to First Nations with the greatest need based on existing child care allocations. Eligible remote First Nations communities have received additional funding to account for higher child care operating expenses. Please note, Aboriginal Head Start spaces were not included in the allocation methodology. This funding has been added to the existing, ongoing Transformation funding line.

Please refer to your Budget Schedule to determine your First Nation's allocation under Transformation.

For detailed information on expenditure and reporting requirements, please see the attached 2018-19 Ontario Child Care and Child and Family Program Business Practice, Service and Funding Guideline ('Guideline').

#### **A. Fee Stabilization Support Funding**

In response to partner feedback, Fee Stabilization Support funding may now be used to support cost pressures associated with general compensation for licensed child care staff, such as vacation and sick leave. This increased flexibility removes the restriction limiting funding to staff who were earning less than \$14 per hour as of December 31, 2017 and provides greater flexibility to First Nations in efficiently utilizing funding allocations.

First Nations who initially declined fee stabilization support funding because they did not have child care staff earning less than \$14 per hour as of December 31, 2017 are now eligible for this funding. As the new fee stabilization support funding policy change was announced in September 2018, a prorated allocation has been added to the 2018-19 budget schedules for applicable First Nations communities. If applicable, please refer to the budget Schedule in your service agreement for your First Nations allocation.

Please refer to the 2018-19 Guideline, which has been updated to reflect this change in policy.

#### **B. Health and Safety**

For First Nations that have been approved for Repairs and Maintenance (Health and Safety) funding, an allocation for your approved funding now appears in the Budget Schedule of your service agreement. Please refer to the 2018-19 Guideline and your service agreement for more information about this funding. Your first payment will flow upon receipt and processing of your signed service agreement as per the regular

payment schedule.

### **C. Ontario Works Child Care**

The Ministry has learned that a number of First Nations are now delivering the full Ontario Works program, including employment assistance. These First Nations are being offered Ontario Works Child Care funding to support Ontario Works participants who need child care in order to work or participate in employment assistance activities.

Allocations are based on caseload data provided in 2017-18 by the Ministry of Community, Children and Social Services. If applicable, please refer to the budget schedule in your service agreement for your First Nation's Ontario Works Child Care allocation. Further details about Ontario Works Child Care can be found in the 2018-19 Guideline.

### **D. Future Changes to Wage Enhancement/Home Child Care Enhancement Grant**

Please be advised that the Ministry intends to reduce administrative requirements for the Wage Enhancement/Home Child Care Enhancement Grant in 2019-20. Further information will be provided at a later date.

### **E. The Journey Together Funding**

For First Nations currently receiving Journey Together funding, the Ministry will adjust monthly cash flow to reflect 2018-19 allocations upon receipt and processing of your revised service agreement.

For First Nations that were approved for Journey Together funding in 2018-19, however have not yet received 2018-19 funding, the Ministry will flow this funding upon receipt and processing of your revised service agreement and will include a catch-up payment for the amount owed at the time of payment.

### **Revised Service Agreements**

A revised service agreement is included with this memo and reflects the changes described above for your First Nation. This service agreement replaces the service agreement previously issued in May 2018. First Nations must sign and submit the revised service agreement to the Ministry by **December 14, 2018**.

Please submit your service agreement by **email** to: [tpa.edu.earlylearning@ontario.ca](mailto:tpa.edu.earlylearning@ontario.ca) with a copy to your Early Years Advisor. The Ministry will email a scanned signed copy of the completed agreement back to your First Nation for your records.

## Cash Flow in 2018 – 2019

Where applicable, monthly cash flow for operating funding will continue to be based on your signed 2017-18 agreement until the reissued 2018-19 service agreements are signed by both your First Nation and the Ministry. Please note the scheduled payment dates below:

<b>Signed Service Agreement Received by:</b>	<b>Payment Date:</b>
November 26, 2018	January 3, 2019
December 14, 2018	February 4, 2019

You may direct any questions or concerns to Early Years Advisors and/or Financial Analysts who are the Ministry of Education contacts for child care and child and family programs. The contact list is available on the [Financial Analysis and Accountability Branch Website](#).

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to our ongoing collaboration.

Sincerely,

### ***Original signed by***

Jill Dubrick

Director, Early Years and Child Care Programs and Service Integration Branch  
Early Years and Child Care Division

Copy: Jeff Butler, Director, Policy and Programs Branch  
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