

Ministry of Education  
Early Years and Child Care  
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2020: EYCC01

**TO:** Child Care Operators

**FROM:** Shannon Fuller  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Early Years and Child Care Division

**DATE:** April 10, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Parent Fees and Funding Support for the Child Care Sector

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Thank you for your continued partnership during this unprecedented time.

We know that the COVID-19 outbreak is having significant impacts on families and on the child care sector. This memo provides an overview of the next steps we will work through together to support parents and ensure that the child care sector is well positioned to play a critical role in Ontario's economic recovery following this outbreak.

### **Parent Fees**

The Minister of Education announced that effective April 9, all child care providers are prohibited from charging fees to parents where care is not being provided and that parents cannot lose child care spaces or be otherwise penalized as a result of fees not being paid during this closure period. If fees have been paid in advance by parents, child care providers should reimburse parents for any fees paid for April 9 and beyond.

We know that this will be much needed relief for parents, many of whom may be facing layoffs or reduced hours themselves.

We understand that some child care operators have continued to charge parent fees during this period to continue to pay staff and avoid layoffs as well as to pay rent and other fixed costs and we are committed to working together to support the sector.

## **Child Care Sector Funding**

We are committed to working with our federal and municipal colleagues on an approach to support the child care sector.

The federal government has announced federal supports for businesses and individuals related to COVID-19, including the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy for businesses and the Canada Emergency Response Benefit for Individuals.

For your ease of reference, below is a link to the federal government site that outlines all federal supports in Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html>

We encourage child care operators to research and optimize these federal supports for staff not working during the closure so that they are in a position to re-open following the conclusion of the declaration of emergency and ensure staff are supported throughout the outbreak:

- Specifically, we strongly encourage all eligible operators in the sector to consider support through the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy program, which will assist employers to keep staff employed and provide 75% of their salaries.
- We know that some layoffs have already occurred and the federal government has confirmed that employers can rehire staff and still be eligible for this program.
- We recognize that there may be operators in our sector that are not eligible for this program and will therefore require other forms of income support. We encourage these operators to look to the Canada Emergency Response Benefit.

While salary is the most significant cost for operators, clearly there are other fixed costs. We are committed to working with you, our CMSM/DSSAB and federal partners on an approach to support these costs. We also know that we need to move quickly to get you the support you need.

Thank you,

Shannon Fuller

CC: CMSM/DSSABs