



COMMUNICATION UPDATE

TO:	Mayor and Members City Council
DATE:	April 24, 2024
SUBJECT:	Ontario's Child Care Workforce Strategy and Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Funding
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
SUBMITTED BY:	Brenda Bax Acting Director, Children's and Community Services Healthy and Safe Communities Department
SIGNATURE:	<i>BBax</i>

On March 28, 2024, the Ministry of Education announced that Hamilton will receive a further investment of \$5,584,149 in 2024 to support the third year of implementation of the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care plan. Staff are anticipating this increase will continue in future years as the Ministry introduces a new funding model for the system in 2025. The purpose of this communication update is to make Council aware of this funding in advance of staff providing a similar overview to participating Canada-Wide Early Learning child care licensees and Hamilton's early years system on Thursday April 25.

This funding investment will support Ontario's Child Care workforce strategy by:

- increasing the base wages of eligible Early Childhood Educators with incremental increases annually
- investments in professional development to support recruitment and retention of Early Childhood Educators

This funding investment will support participating Licensees by:

- Increased funding for emerging issues to address Licensees non-discretionary cost pressures
- Increased funding to support new child care spaces approved through the directed growth application process

The directed growth application for the creation of 265 new child care spaces in wards 5, 6, 11 and 2 are currently under review by staff and approved Licensees are eligible for startup grants.

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OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe, and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

**SUBJECT: Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care - Directed Growth
Application to Create New Child Care Spaces (City Wide) - Page 2 of 2**

Staff are preparing a Recommendation Report to accept this funding for the May 16, 2024 Emergency and Community Services Committee. Once ratified by Council, staff will provide more details and implement a plan for distributing this funding to child care licensees participating in the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care system.

Should you require further information on the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Childcare, please contact Brenda Bax, Acting Director Children's and Community Services via email at brenda.bax@hamilton.ca or cellular 905-973-4463.

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