



## Supporting Durham Region families through the Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care System

### Key Messages

- The Region of Durham is the Consolidated Municipal Service Manager for child care and early years in Durham Region. As the service system manager, we are legislatively responsible for implementing the Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) system for our region.
- The Region of Durham is committed to working swiftly with the province and existing child care operators to establish a CWELCC system that supports and reflects the needs of Durham Region families, once guidelines from the Ministry of Education are received.
- The Region of Durham awaits further information from the Ministry of Education regarding CWELCC system requirements, as well as the funding details to support rebates, fee reductions, and to improve salaries for early childhood educators.
- Once guidelines and funding are received from the Ministry of Education, the Region of Durham will begin the process of child care operator enrolment into the CWELCC system.
- The provincial government announced that a 25 per cent fee decrease will begin April 1, 2022 and that families will begin to receive fee rebates as early as May 2022. Parents are eager to see their fees lowered and receive their fee rebates. Operator enrolment, as well as funding details from the provincial government, is required before families can begin to receive fee rebates.
- Although the province announced that fee rebates may begin as early as May, fee rebates for families may only be provided to parents once operators have applied for and been approved into the system.
- The Region of Durham awaits guidelines from the Ministry of Education on the CWELCC system. The enrolment of operators into the CWELCC system cannot begin until this information is received.
- Child care operators have until September 2022 to inform a parent of every eligible child enrolled in a child care centre or licensed home child care premises it operates as to whether they will apply for enrolment in the CWELCC, as well as the anticipated date of application.

### Background

March 28, the provincial and federal government announced a \$13.2 billion agreement to lower child care fees for families. The announcement includes:

- A reduction of child care fees through four steps of reduction to an average of \$10 a day by September 2025 for children five years of age or younger.
- The creation of approximately 86,000 new, high-quality child care spaces for children five years old and younger.
- Hiring new early childhood educators and support improved compensation for all Registered Early Childhood Educators working in licensed child care.
- Maintaining Ontario's child care tax credit program that supports 300,000 families with expenses in licensed and unlicensed child care.
- Working with municipalities to enrol 5,000 licensed child care centres and home child care agencies into the program between now and September 1, 2022.
- Protection of all for-profit and non-profit child care spaces, helping to support predominantly female entrepreneurs across the province who provide high-quality child care services.
- The Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014 has been amended to include provisions of the CWELCC system.