

Early Learning and Child Care Trust Fund



Annual Report 2009-2010

Forward

I am pleased to present the third Annual Report of the Early Learning and Child Care Trust Fund. This Trust Fund was launched on June 1st 2007 and this Annual Report highlights the results of the fiscal year 2009-2010. The Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Project Review Board Inc. is the beneficiary of the Early Learning and Child Care Trust Fund.

Access to quality early learning and child care is a challenge for many families in New Brunswick. The ELCC Trust Fund is taking a three pronged approach to making early learning and child care more accessible to New Brunswick families. First, by supporting an early learning and child care curriculum, all children from birth to age five in the province will receive a consistent, child-focused learning experience in all approved child care facilities.

Second, the Trust Fund supports child care staff as they work towards or complete the Early Childhood Education Certificate at a recognized training institution in New Brunswick or the Early Childhood Education Advocacy and Leadership Diploma offered in 2009-2010 from the New Brunswick Community College. Research stresses that having trained staff is a critical factor that can influence the quality of the learning and care environment in child care facilities.

The Board's support for staff training demonstrates our commitment to creating the best environment and the best learning opportunities for the children being cared for, and for those who care for them.

Finally, New Brunswick is not alone in its need for increased numbers of child care facilities and spaces. In particular there are needs: in rural communities; for extended hours care; and for infant spaces. Money from the ELCC Trust Fund targets these priorities by assisting existing facilities to create additional spaces that address these specific needs.

This year has been very busy for the Project Review Board, and we look forward to continuing to support the early learning and child care sector in its efforts to care for, and to begin, the education of our youngest New Brunswickers.

Sincerely,



Georgie M. Day
Chairperson
Early Learning and Child Care
Project Review Board Inc.

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Introduction

The Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Trust Fund was created by the Government of New Brunswick to promote learning and development in early childhood, support the training and labour force participation of parents, and support parents in the care and nurturing of their children by improving early learning and child care programs and services for families with young children.

The Early Learning and Child Care Project Review Board is the beneficiary of the Early Learning and Child Care Trust and is responsible for disbursing funds from the Trust to early learning and child care operators, post-secondary institutions and current early learning and child care staff for approved projects related to the:

- development and implementation of early learning and child care curriculum
- training for early learning and child care workers
- creation of new rural, infant and extended hours child care spaces.

The Early Learning and Child Care Project Review Board is comprised of a minimum of three members for a fixed term of three years, with the option of re-appointment for one additional term. The current Board Members are:

- Georgie Day, Chair
- Susan McGibbon, Vice-Chair
- Wendy McLeod MacKnight, Secretary/Treasurer
- Marie-Josée Paulin, Director

The initial amount of funding for the ELCC Trust Fund in June 2007 was \$8 million. In March 2008, the New Brunswick Government provided an additional \$5.7 million to support the creation of more child care spaces and training opportunities for staff.



Early Learning and Child Care Curriculum

High quality programming or curriculum is an important determinant in the quality of child care and early learning opportunities. It encourages exploration and play, and promotes children's overall development. It responds to children's differing abilities and interests, builds on their strengths and can help them make a successful transition into the school system.

Given the many benefits of high quality programming, funding was available to recognized post-secondary institutions in New Brunswick for the development and implementation of an Anglophone and Francophone early learning and child care curricula. The implementation phase includes training for all child care staff in the effective use of the new curricula.

The University of New Brunswick has been awarded the development and implementation of the Anglophone Early Learning and Child Care Curriculum and the Université de Moncton is developing and implementing the Francophone Curriculum Éducatif. The cost for the development and training of the Francophone and Anglophone early learning and child care curricula to the ELCC Trust Fund was \$3.2 M.

Ongoing support of the Early Learning and Child Care Curricula in 2009-2010

- In addition to supporting the development of the curricula, the Early Learning and Child Care Trust Fund provided wages for child care staff while they completed the curriculum training. This program is being administered by Early Childhood Care and Education New Brunswick (ECCENB). In 2009-2010 the Early Learning and Child Care Trust Fund provided \$492,000 to continue the support of this initiative which began in 2008-2009.
- Funding was provided to child care facilities to assist with the cost of attending the *2009 Braiding Our Resources* conference in Charlottetown, PEI. This was a one-time expenditure due to changes in other professional development funding from other sources.
- All approved child care facilities were eligible to apply for the Curriculum Materials Grant which provided \$50 per child care space for children aged 0-5 to assist with the purchase of new items that directly support the new curricula.
- To enhance the ongoing implementation of the curricula, the Board provided funds to stakeholders to deliver curriculum training, develop support documents and continue other professional development opportunities which go hand in hand with the curricula.

Training Assistance for Child Care Staff

Training of child care workers in child development and early childhood education is an important determinant of the quality of care children receive. Child care workers must be warm and emotionally engaged with children but also have the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities to stimulate their overall development.

With the goal of increasing the number of child care workers with training in early childhood education (ECE), funding is available to individuals working in approved child care facilities in support of completing the ECE certificate from a recognized institution in New Brunswick or the Early Childhood Education Advocacy and Leadership Diploma* from the New Brunswick Community College.

Funding of up to **\$3,000 per person** is available to:

- a) child care staff that do not yet have their ECE Certificate or ECE Advocacy and Leadership Diploma* but are taking courses on a part-time basis from a recognized New Brunswick training institution that are part of the ECE Certificate curriculum.
- b) child care staff that completed their ECE Certificate or ECE Advocacy and Leadership Diploma* from a recognized New Brunswick training institution and who are working in an approved child care facility.

This funding is available on a reimbursement basis once the applicant provides proof the eligible course/certificate was successfully completed. Courses must have been completed after January 1st 2007 and only the tuition cost is eligible for reimbursement. The amount of funding to be provided will take in to consideration other sources of funding that have been received by applicant

To date, 227 child care staff have received tuition reimbursement for ECE courses. \$548,491 has been paid to eligible applicants.

For more information on eligibility please see the program Guidelines at:

<http://www.gnb.ca/0017/ELCC/trustfundindex-e.asp>.

*The Early Childhood Education Advocacy and Leadership Diploma was offered in 2009-2010 by the New Brunswick Community College



Funding for the Creation of New Child Care Spaces

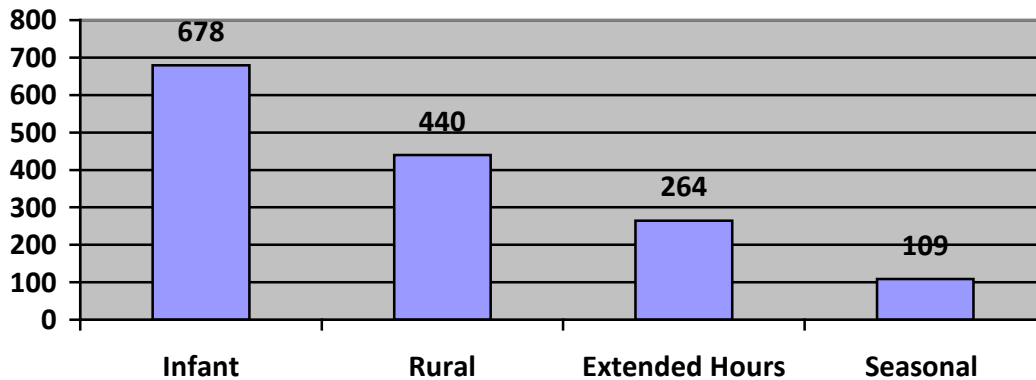
Many families have difficulty finding regulated child care in rural areas or for children under the age of two. Families who work shift-work also have difficulty accessing regulated care for their children during non-traditional work hours such as evenings and weekends.

Improving the availability of these types of child care spaces is a key priority under the Early Learning and Child Care Trust Fund. To that end, one-time incentive funding to approved child care facilities is available as follows:

Type of facility	Infant Spaces (per space)	Rural spaces (per facility)	Extended Hours spaces (per facility)	Seasonal spaces (per facility)
<i>Community Day Care Homes</i>	\$2,500	\$3,000 (min. of 3 new spaces)	\$5,000 (min. of 3 new spaces)	\$3,000 (min. of 3 new spaces)
<i>Child Care Centres</i>	\$2,500	\$5,000 (min. of 5 new spaces)	\$7,500 (min. of 8 new spaces)	\$5,000 (min. of 5 new spaces)

Since the start of the ELCC Trust Fund 197 applications for funding of new child care spaces have been received. Applications were received from both new child care facilities and existing facilities looking to expand their maximum number of child care spaces. 172 applications have been approved and funding in the amount of \$2,496,000 has been allocated, of which \$2,427,000 has been disbursed to child care facilities. The chart below illustrates the breakdown of spaces funded as of March 31, 2010:

Funded Spaces by Category



Summary of Expenditures

Summary of Trust Fund expenditures as of March 31, 2010:

	2009-2010	2008-2009	2007-2008
Early Learning and Child Care Curriculum	\$0	\$1,600,000	\$1,600,000
Training Assistance for Child Care Staff	311,127	237,364	0
New Child Care Spaces – approved applications	797,500	1,147,750	481,750
Early Childhood Care and Education N B (wage reimbursement program)	492,000	738,000	0
Professional Development	755,477	-	-
Braiding Our Resources	23,460	-	-
Curriculum Materials Grant	33,361	-	-
Administration	73,011	18,208	21,606
Total	\$2,485,936	\$3,741,322	\$2,103,356

Approximately \$5.5M remains in the trust for ongoing investment.

