

Early Learning and Child Care Trust Fund



Annual Report 2013-2014

Forward

I am pleased to present the 2013-2014 Annual Report of the Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Trust Fund. This is the seventh Annual Report of the Trust Fund, which was established on June 1st 2007. The ELCC Project Review Board Inc. is the steward 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 takes a three-pronged approach to increasing the accessibility of early learning and child care to New Brunswick families:

1. Early Learning and Child Care Curriculum

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.

2. Training Assistance for Child Care Staff

The Trust Fund supports child care staff as they earn the Early Childhood Education Certificate through a recognized training institution in New Brunswick. Research strongly indicates that trained staff is a critical factor that influences the quality of the learning and care environment in child care facilities.

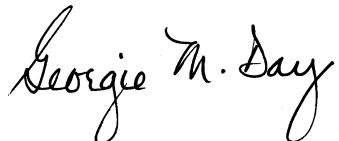
The Board's support for staff training demonstrates its commitment to creating the best environment and learning opportunities for both the children and for those who care for them.

3. Creation of New Child Care Spaces

New Brunswick is not alone in its need for increased numbers of child day care facilities and spaces. There are particular needs in rural communities, for extended hours care, for infant spaces, and to support child care spaces operating in the official minority language of their community. Funds from the ELCC Trust Fund targets these priorities.

This year has been a very productive one for the Project Review Board. We look forward to continuing to support the early learning and child care sector in its efforts to care for 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 ELCC Project Review Board is the steward of the ELCC Trust and is responsible for disbursing funds from the Trust for 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, as well as
- creation of new child care spaces operating in the minority language of their community.

The ELCC Project Review Board is composed of a minimum of three members for a fixed term of three years, with the option of re-appointment for two additional terms. The current Board Members are:

- Georgie Day, Chair
- Susan McGibbon, Vice-Chair
- Nicole Gervais, Secretary/Treasurer
- Marie-Josée Paulin, Director
- Susan Mesheau, 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 \$5.7 million to support the creation of more child care spaces and training opportunities for staff. In 2013-2014, a further investment of \$850,000 was received which was in addition to the amount of \$350,000 which was allocated in 2012-2013.



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 also responds to children's differing abilities and interests, builds on their strengths and helps them make a successful transition into the school system.

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

The University of New Brunswick was awarded the contract for the development and implementation of the Anglophone Early Learning and Child Care Curriculum and the Université de Moncton developed and implemented the Francophone Curriculum Éducatif. The financial support from the ELCC Trust Fund for the development and training of the Francophone and Anglophone early learning and child care curricula was \$3.2 M.

Support for the Early Learning and Child Care Curricula in 2013-2014

- To enhance the implementation of the curricula, the Board provided funds to stakeholders to deliver curriculum training, develop support documents and continue other professional development opportunities which synchronize with the curricula.

Training Assistance for Child Care Staff

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

With a goal to increase the number of early childhood educators trained in early childhood education (ECE), funding is available to individuals who work in approved child care facilities to support the completion of the ECE certificate from a recognized institution in New Brunswick.

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

- a) child care staff who do not have their ECE Certificate but are enrolled in courses, on a part-time basis, from a recognized New Brunswick training institution that is part of the ECE Certificate curriculum.
- b) child care staff who completed their ECE Certificate from a recognized New Brunswick training institution and who are working in an approved child care facility.

The funding is available on a reimbursement basis once the applicant provides proof that the eligible course/certificate was successfully completed. Courses must have been completed after January 1, 2007; the tuition cost only is eligible for reimbursement. The amount of funding provided takes into consideration other funding that has been received by the applicant.

As of March 31, 2014, 669 early childhood educators have received tuition reimbursement for ECE courses, at a total cost of \$1,699,469 to the ELCC Trust Fund.

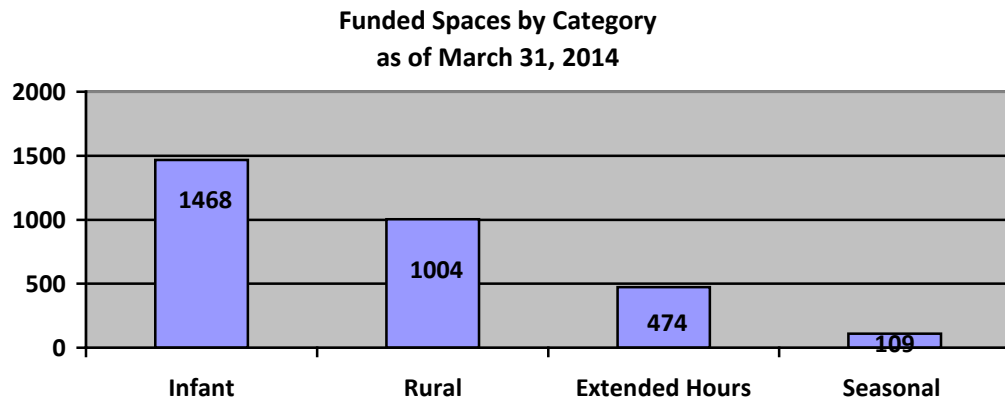
Creation of New Child Care Spaces

Many families have difficulty finding regulated child care in rural areas, or for children under the age of two. Parents who hold shift-work employment 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 of the Early Learning and Child Care Trust Fund. 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)
<i>Community Day Care Homes</i>	\$2,500	\$3,500 (min. of 3 new spaces)	\$5,000 (min. of 3 new spaces)
<i>Child Care Centres</i>	\$2,500	\$5,500 (min. of 5 new spaces)	\$7,500 (min. of 8 new spaces)

Since its inception, the ELCC Trust Fund has received 484 applications for funding of new child care spaces from both new child care facilities and existing facilities that want to expand their maximum number of child care spaces. 434 applications totaling 3,055 spaces have been approved and funding of \$5,203,000 has been allocated, of which \$4,915,250 has been disbursed to child care facilities. The chart below illustrates the breakdown of spaces funded as of March 31, 2014:



With regard to rural and extended hours spaces, the actual number of spaces funded is greater than the figures noted. This is because child day care facilities need to create only a minimum number of spaces in order to qualify for funding. As per the application forms, 4,297 new rural spaces and 1,086 extended hours spaces are now in operation.

Minority Language Funding

As of March 31, 2014, 15 applications were approved as part of the Minority Language Funding initiative. \$348,000 was awarded to create 174 new child care spaces that operate in the official minority language of the community in which the facility is located. To date \$321,200 of the approved amount has been disbursed.

Summary of Expenditures

Summary of Trust Fund expenditures as of March 31, 2014:

	2013-2014	2012-2013
Early Learning and Child Care Curriculum	\$0	\$0
Training Assistance for Child Care Staff	246,567	314,572
New Child Care Spaces – approved applications	499,500	704,000
Minority Language Funding	39,200	70,000
Early Childhood Care and Education N B (wage reimbursement program)	0	0
Professional Development	90,823	522,376
Braiding Our Resources	0	0
Curriculum Materials Grant	0	0
Administration	76,887	77,394
Total	\$952,977	\$1,688,342

Approximately \$490,000 remains in the trust for ongoing investment.

