

Early Learning and Child Care Action Plan Launch

Early Childhood Development
Développement de la petite enfance

Canada / New Brunswick Bilateral Agreement – Funding



Federal investment:
\$29,1 M for 3 years

Provincial investment:
\$41,2 M for 3 years

Total:
\$70,3 for 3 years

One-time Quality Improvement Grant

- Available to all facilities across the province serving preschool children aged five and under
- 4.7M in funding over two years
- Deadline to apply was February 9, 2018
- Update approximately 85% participation
- Purpose – to increase quality of indoor & outdoor learning environments, 50% must be for enhancing or creating a natural outdoor play space

Action Plan – Key Objectives

- Establish ***New Brunswick Early Learning Centres***
- Establish Parent Advisory Boards
- Develop online resources for parents – The Provincial Child Care Registry
- Establish Centres of Excellence in Preschool Education
- Implement professional learning and development opportunities for early childhood educators
- Implement an inclusion policy
- Develop guidelines for language acquisition and cultural identity learning environments
- Introduce requirements for annual quality improvement plans

Establish *New Brunswick Early Learning Centres*

- Designation given to licensed early learning and child care facilities
- Preschool children aged five and under
- Voluntary application process
- Designated centres must commit to working with government to offer equitable and affordable access to high quality services by removing barriers linked to family income, children's ability and needs, and language minority settings.
- Designation will be accompanied by operational funding for services to children aged five and under

Designation Criteria

Eligibility criteria to become a designated *New Brunswick Early Learning Centre*:

- Be in good standing with legislation and program with the department on their licensing.
- Offer services to children aged five and under, before school entry.
- Choose and follow one of the curriculum frameworks and must deliver services in the language of the curriculum framework chosen:
 - New Brunswick Curriculum Framework for Early Learning and Child Care ~ English OR
 - *Curriculum éducatif des services de garde francophones du Nouveau-Brunswick.*

Requirements for Designated Centres

Designated *New Brunswick Early Learning Centres* will be expected to work with government and commit to implementing the following :

- A low-fee policy through a subsidized fee grid, with particular attention to families with an annual family income of less than \$80,000
- Work with the department to investigate ways to provide more infant and toddler spaces
- Improve their capacity to serve all children including those with disabilities and diverse needs through the implementation of inclusive policy and practices
- Establish a parent advisory board
- Actively participate in communities of practice and engage in professional learning
- Conduct annual Quality Improvement Plans that are results of quality assessments
- Work with government on data sharing to inform public policy

Phase 1

- January 2018 Phase 1 began in the City of Saint John Anglophone sector and Edmunston Francophone sector
- Several information sessions with operators have occurred.
- 3 early learning advisors have been hired to support operators through the application process.
- Currently 18 facilities are now Designated Early Learning Centres with at least 12 more occurring in the next months.
- Parent meetings have begun to explain the application for subsidy