

Early Learning and Child Care Trust Fund



Annual Report 2011-2012

Forward

I am pleased to present the fifth 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 2011-2012. 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. 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 day care facilities and spaces. In particular there are 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. 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Georgie M. Day". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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
- creation of new child care spaces operating in the minority language of their community.

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
- 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 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 2011-2012

- The Board supported a joint proposal from the New Brunswick Association for Community Living and Early Childhood Care and Education New Brunswick entitled *Growing Together – Building the Capacity of the NB Early Learning and Childcare Sector to sustain the Ongoing Implementation of the Curricula*. This is a three year project with a focus on the use of the curricula by the early childhood sector.
- 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 early childhood educators in child development and early childhood education is an important determinant of the quality of care 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 the goal of increasing the number of early childhood educators 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. Funding was available to individuals who completed the Early Childhood Education Advocacy and Leadership Diploma from the New Brunswick Community College which was offered in 2009-2010. To date 8 individuals have received funding of the Diploma.

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

- a) child care staff that do not yet have their ECE Certificate 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 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 the applicant.

As of March 31, 2012, 456 early childhood educators have received tuition reimbursement for ECE courses. \$1,138,330 has been paid to eligible applicants.

In the fall of 2011 a survey was sent to all approved applicants of the ELCC Trust Fund. The results provided some interesting information regarding the tuition reimbursement program:

- 86% of respondents reported that they had completed their ECE Certificate
- 12% were continuing their studies with the goal of completing the ECE Certificate by 2012
- 80% of respondents were employed at the same child day care facility as when they received the tuition reimbursement
- 95% of respondents found the ELCC Trust Fund application form easy to complete

Funding for the Creation of New Child Care Spaces

Creation of New Child Care Spaces

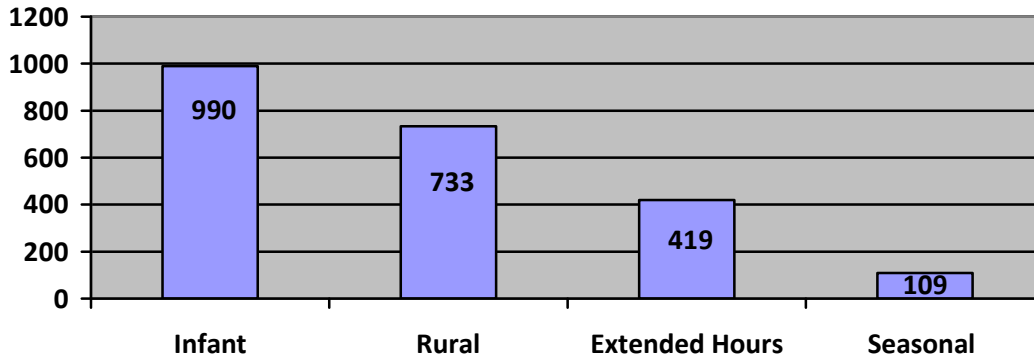
Many families have difficulty finding regulated child care in rural areas or for children under the age of two. Families who work shift-work also have difficulty accessing regulated care for their children during non-traditional work hours such as evenings and weekends.

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)
<i>Community Day Care Homes</i>	\$2,500	\$3,000 (min. of 3 new spaces)	\$5,000 (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)

Since the start of the ELCC Trust Fund 338 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. 294 applications have been approved and funding in the amount of \$3,707,000 has been allocated, of which \$3,696,750 has been disbursed to child care facilities. The chart below illustrates the breakdown of spaces funded as of March 31, 2012:

Funded Spaces by Category



Concerning rural and extended hours spaces, the actual number of spaces funded is higher than the figures above as child day care facilities only need to create a minimum number of spaces in order to qualify for funding. As per the application forms, 3,051 new rural spaces and 992 extended spaces are now in operation.

In the fall of 2011 a survey was sent to all approved applicants of the ELCC Trust Fund. The results provided some interesting information regarding the funding of new child day care spaces:

- 73% of respondents said they would not have increased the number of child care spaces in their facility if the funding was not available
- The top three responses to how the funding was spent were:
 - Equipment, materials and supplies
 - Renovations
 - Outdoor play space
- All but one of the respondents reported that the ELCC Trust Fund application was easy to complete

Minority Language Funding

As of March 31, 2012, 7 applications were approved as part of the Minority Language Funding initiative. \$212,000 was awarded to create 106 new child care spaces operating in the official minority language of the community in which the facility was located.

Summary of Expenditures

Summary of Trust Fund expenditures as of March 31, 2012:

	2011-2012	2010-2011
Early Learning and Child Care Curriculum	\$0	\$0
Training Assistance for Child Care Staff	270,027	319,811
New Child Care Spaces – approved applications	753,250	531,500
Minority Language Funding	90,000	122,000
Early Childhood Care and Education N B (wage reimbursement program)	0	0
Professional Development	501,255	697,645
Braiding Our Resources	0	1,610
Curriculum Materials Grant	2,897	370,836
Administration	76,121	76,889
Total	\$1,693,550	\$2,120,291

Approximately \$1.7M remains in the trust for ongoing investment.

