

ELCC Plan Priority Area Action Checklist 2011

The following priority areas were identified through consultations with stakeholders in fall 2005. Actions taken by the province to address these priority areas as of March 31, 2011 are identified below.

Priority Area	Action
Increase salaries for early childhood educators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implemented the Early Childhood Enhancement Grant (ECEG) to replace the Child Care Stabilization Grant and the Child Care Operating Grant (CCOG). \$16 million in annual funding (2010/11)
Increase the number of licensed child care spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approx. 1500 new child care spaces created via the Expansion Loan and the Repair and Replacement Loan programs \$18.9 million provided for 40+ Expansion Loans
Increase the number of spaces in family home child care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launched the Family Home Day Care Program (2008) Provided \$900,000 (2010/11) to family home day care agencies for the delivery of regulated child care in a home setting 11 FHDC Agencies, 93 family homes, 400+ children cared for
Decrease the cost of child care for families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All subsidies are portable. Approx. \$17 million (2010/11) Added 1,150 subsidies (since 2007/08) Removed the minimum assessed daily parent fee, and increased income eligibility according to CRA guidelines to enable more parents to access child care
Increase the operational grant funding to licensed child care facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided approx. \$26 million in funding (2007-2010) via the Program Enhancement Grant, Outdoor Play Space Grant, Energy Upgrade Grant, CCOG, and Repair and Renovation Loan A portion of the ECEG (15%) can be used towards operational expenses Developed a one-time Food and Nutrition Grant (to be distributed to licensed child care facilities /agencies April 2011) to support the implementation of the Food and Nutrition Standards
Recruit and retain a stable child care workforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided \$16 M annually in ECEG funding (2010/11); 80% towards salaries, 5% can go towards professional development The Early Childhood Education Assistance Program provides a debt reduction incentive to eligible graduates of ECE diploma/degree programs. Graduates must graduate from an approved ECE training institution and have received a student loan through the Nova Scotia Student Assistance program. Continuing Education Program provides financial support to child care staff of licensed facilities/FHDC agencies to continue their Early Childhood Studies education. This program also requires the accumulation of working hours in return for course reimbursement.
Increase opportunities for training/professional development in early childhood education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early childhood pre-and in-service professional development workshops Provided \$800,000 in funding to eight ECE training and support programs (2010/11) Provided Building Blocks: Strategies for Inclusion training to ECE administrators and staff to facilitate inclusive environments for children of all abilities.
Provide more accessible child care choices for parents of children with special needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased Supported Child Care Funding by approx. \$1.7 million (2010/11), enhancing inclusive environments \$4.6 million annually (2010/11) to 194 centres Increased the number of children served, approx. 655 (2010/11) Repair and Renovation Funding could be used to increase accessibility; inclusive of changes to improve existing structures to increase accessibility for children and families with special needs
Increase parent information & education about early childhood development and the benefits of child care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launched Child Care Awareness Campaign: http://www.gov.ns.ca/coms/families/childcare/families/findingchildcare/index.html Directory of Licensed Child Care Facilities: http://www.gov.ns.ca/coms/families/childcare/directories/FacilitySearch.aspx Information posted on the Department of Community Services website: http://www.gov.ns.ca/coms/families/childcare/index.html Feedback email address: ecdservices@gov.ns.ca
Increase awareness of the Nova Scotia Day Care Act and Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amendments information sessions – March 2011 Amendments to the Regulations effective April 1, 2011 Development of a <i>Regulations and Standards Manual for the Day Care Act and Regulations</i> (2011) Development of a <i>Food and Nutrition Standards Manual</i>

