

# Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Plan

## Q&As for families



### Who is eligible?

- Children under the age of six are eligible regardless of which age group they are enrolled in. Children who are six years old are eligible until June 30 of that calendar year. Children must be enrolled in a licensed centre or home child care program that chooses to participate in the Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) plan.

### When will my fees be reduced?

- If you have a child of eligible age and your provider chooses to participate and is approved, you will see the following reductions:
  - ✓ 2022: 25 per cent for any fees that you paid after April 1, 2022. We expect providers who are participating will be ready to give refunds this fall.
  - ✓ 2023: On January 1, 2023, your fees will drop by another 25 per cent. This means the fees you pay next year will be 50 per cent lower than they are now.
  - ✓ 2024: You will see more reductions in 2024. However, the exact amount is not yet available.

- ✓ 2025: In September 2025, you will get your final reduction as all child care fees move towards an average of \$10-a-day.

### Is my provider participating in the program?

- All licensed child care providers can choose whether or not to participate in the new child care plan, and must tell families when they decide. Providers must decide if they want to participate by September 1, 2022.
- Child care providers who wish to participate in the new plan must apply to the Region of Peel.
- Families will continue to pay their current fees in full until the Region approves their provider's application.
- If your child care provider is approved for the Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care plan, you will receive a refund for any fees that you paid after April 1, 2022.
- When your child care provider tells you that they decide not to participate in the plan or were not approved, you will have 30 days to tell them if you wish to withdraw from their program without penalty.
- The Region of Peel will be releasing information about the application process in late June. During the summer, we'll share more information with child care providers about how the new plan will reduce the cost of child care and what this change will mean for them and for families.
- We have asked providers to wait until they receive this information before deciding whether or not to participate in the plan. The decision to participate in the Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care plan is up to the child care provider.

### What must I do to get my refund?

- You don't need to do anything to get your refund.
- If your child care provider applies to participate in the new child care plan and is approved, they will let you know when to expect your refund.
- Your child care provider must tell you if they decide to not participate, or are not approved. You will not get a refund if that happens.

### When will I get my refund?

- We anticipate that this process will take a few months, as providers must apply to participate and be approved.
- If your child care provider applies to participate in the new child care plan and is approved, they will let you know when you can expect to receive your refund.
- We expect that refunds will be sent this fall.

We will be sharing updates on the Region of Peel's website: [peelregion.ca/children](https://peelregion.ca/children)