

Dear families with children in Licensed Child Care,

The federal and provincial governments recently signed the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement (CWELCC) which will work towards making child care more affordable for families.

### **What does this mean for my family?**

Licensed child care providers must choose whether to apply to participate in the CWELCC by September 1, 2022.

If you have a child under 6 years of age in a licensed child care provider is participating in CWELCC, you will receive a 25% child care fee reduction retroactive to April 1, 2022. An additional 25% fee reduction is set to take place by the end of 2022.

### **When will child care fees be reduced, and retroactive payments be issued?**

Child care providers can apply to the CWELCC starting this summer, and applications will be reviewed in the summer and fall. If your child care provider is approved to participate in the CWELCC, they will let you know when you will receive your refund. If your provider will not be participating in the CWELCC, they must also let you know.

We understand the importance of lowering the costs of licensed child care for families. We are working hard to develop the tools and procedures needed to manage the CWELCC program. Child care is in a time of significant change, and we thank you for your patience as we continue to review information and work to introduce the CWELCC.

Once your child care provider is accepted into the CWELCC, it will likely take some time for you to get your fee rebate from your child care provider. Please be assured that your rebate will be issued retroactive to April 1, 2022. As this is a new program for the child care sector, we require time to develop the right approach to support the plan.

### **How are you preparing for the CWELCC?**

County of Middlesex Children's Services is committed to building and supporting a strong child care and early years system that meets the needs of all families and children. In the coming weeks, we will continue to work closely with the provincial and federal governments to carry out this plan. We are committed to keeping you up to date as more information becomes available.

## Where can I find more information?

Please visit our website for the most up to date information:

<https://www.middlesex.ca/departments/social-services/canada-wide-early-learning-and-child-care-agreement>

We encourage you to reach out your child care providers with any questions they might have relative to the child care provider's intention to apply to participate in the agreement.

We are very excited to be working with our community to support all families accessing high-quality affordable child care that supports healthy child development and makes the County of Middlesex the best place to raise a child.

Sincerely,

Joe Winser  
Manager - Social Services  
County of Middlesex