

Early Learning and Child Care Trust Fund



Annual Report
2008-2009

Forward

I am pleased to present the second 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 2008-2009. 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.

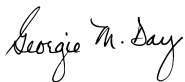
Second, the Trust Fund supports child care staff as they work towards or complete the one year Early Childhood Education Certificate course at a recognized training institution in New Brunswick. Research stresses that having trained staff is a critical factor that can influence the quality of the learning and care environment in child care facilities.

The Trust Fund'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 care facilities and spaces. In particular there are needs: in rural communities; for extended hours care; for parents who work in seasonal industries; and for infant spaces. Money from the 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,



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, extended hours and seasonal child care spaces.

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
- Wendy McLeod MacKnight, Secretary/Treasurer
- Marie-Josée Paulin, 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 accredited 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 curriculum.

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. In 2008-2009, the cost for the development and training of the Francophone and Anglophone early learning and child care curricula to the ELCC Trust Fund was \$1.6 M.

The early learning and child care curricula will be fully implemented in September 2009 in all approved child care facilities in New Brunswick. Training of child care staff in the curricula is well underway.

In addition to supporting the development of the curricula, the Early Learning and Child Care Trust Fund is providing the wages for child care staff while they complete the curriculum training. This program is being administered by Early Childhood Care and Education New Brunswick (ECCENB). In 2008-2009 the Early Learning and Child Care Trust Fund spent \$738,000 on this initiative.



Training Assistance for Child Care Staff

Training of child care workers in child development and early childhood education is an important determinant of the quality of care children receive. Child care workers 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 child care workers with an Early Childhood Education (ECE) certificate, 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 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 one year ECE certificate curriculum. This funding is available on a reimbursement basis once the applicant provides proof the eligible course was successfully completed. Courses must have been completed after January 1st 2007 and only the tuition cost is eligible for reimbursement.

b) child care staff that completed their one year ECE certificate from a recognized New Brunswick training institution after January 1st 2007 and who are working in an approved child care facility. The amount of funding to be provided will take in to consideration other sources of funding that have been received by applicant.

In 2008-2009, 93 child care staff received tuition reimbursement for ECE courses. To date \$239,864 has been paid to eligible applicants.

For more information on eligibility please see the program Guidelines at:

<http://www.gnb.ca/0017/ELCC/trustfundindex-e.asp>.



Funding for the Creation of New Child Care Spaces

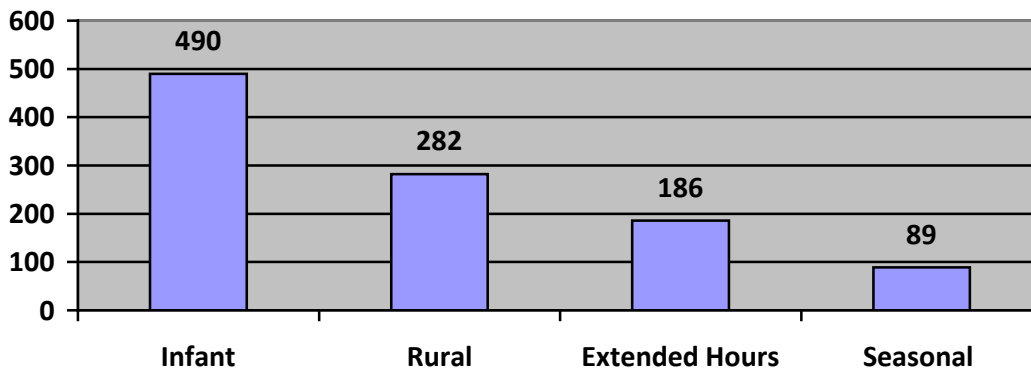
Many families have difficulty finding regulated child care in rural areas or for children under the age of two. Families who work shift-work also have difficulty accessing regulated care for their children during non-traditional work hours such as evenings and weekends.

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)	Seasonal spaces (per facility)
Community Day Care Homes	\$2,500	\$3,000 (min. of 3 new spaces)	\$7,500 (min. of 8 new spaces)	\$3,000 (min. of 3 new spaces)
Child Care Centres	\$2,500	\$5,000 (min. of 5 new spaces)	\$5,000 (min. of 3 new spaces)	\$5,000 (min. of 5 new spaces)

Since the start of the ELCC Trust Fund 138 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. 114 applications have been approved and funding in the amount of \$1,783,500 has been allocated, of which \$1,627,000 has been disbursed to child care facilities. The chart below illustrates the breakdown of spaces funded as of March 31, 2009:

Funded Spaces by Category



Summary of Expenditures

Summary of Trust Fund expenditures as of March 31, 2009:

	2008-2009	2007-2008
Early Learning and Child Care Curriculum	\$1,600,000	\$1,600,000
Training Assistance for Child Care Staff	\$239,864	\$0
New Child Care Spaces – approved applications	\$1,145,250	\$481,750 *
Early Childhood Care and Education New Brunswick	\$738,000	\$0
Administration	\$18,208	\$21,606 **
Total	3,741,322	\$2,103,356

To date, the Early Learning and Child Care Trust Fund has earned \$826,211 in investment income. Approximately \$8.2M remains in the trust for ongoing investment.

* In 2007-2008 \$630,500 was approved for the creation of new child care spaces however \$481,750 was actually disbursed during this period.

** The 2007-2008 amount for Administration has been updated to reflect professional fees incurred during this period.

