

MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

100% Enrollment in CWELCC System in Timiskaming District

The DTSSAB is pleased to inform that the Timiskaming District has reached 100% enrollment into the Canada-Wide Early Learning Child Care (CWELCC) system in advance of the November 1st, deadline. The Children's Services Team has been diligently working to enroll the six (6) Child Care providers who provide care at sixteen (16) different sites throughout the area into the system.

The Canada-Wide Early Learning Child Care system will give families access to more affordable and high-quality child care options, help lower child care fees for parents of children under the age of six, increase child care spaces, support the child care workforce, and support inclusive child care. Parents or guardians with children under the age of six do not have to apply to receive a child care fee reduction, as the reduction will occur during the child care provider's billing process.

The Children's Services Program has issued over \$375,000 in CWELCC funds to Licensed Child Care providers to support the 25% rebate that was retroactive to April 1, 2022. We are confident that rebates will be issued to families by the end of November 30, 2022, and that Child Care Providers will be well prepared to implement the second 25% reduction by the end of 2022. By September 2025, the province anticipates lowering license child care fees to an average of \$10 a day for children under the age of 6.

This milestone comes at a fitting time with October 18th, 2022, marking Early Childhood Educator and Child Care Worker Appreciation Day. The date was celebrated with a contest highlighting the exceptional dedication and commitment of these individuals who bring joy and education to the district's children daily. The appreciation week was culminated with an evening dinner on October 20th, 2022.

"We look forward to continued collaboration with our Child Care Providers in a smooth transition into the CWELCC system and alleviating a portion of the financial strain that sits with Timiskaming's families," says Lyne Labelle, Children's Services Manager. She continued, "We value the opportunity to celebrate the Early Childhood Educators and Child Care Workers in our district, our team was inspired reading and sharing the insights that were shared about the astounding patience, education, and care that these individuals demonstrate in their roles. I encourage individuals to visit our social media channels to read the heart-warming anecdotes that were shared."

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