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BACKGROUND

The 2021-22 – 2025-26 Canada-Wide ELCC Agreement and action plan outlines investments for the first two years of the agreement. The agreement invests \$129.31 million in 2021-22 and \$197.35 million in 2022-23 toward establishment of an accessible, affordable and flexible Canada-wide child-care system with an average of \$10-per-day out-of-pocket parent fees, while improving quality and inclusivity.

The funding allocations under the agreement will prioritize investments in Manitoba toward regulated child-care providers and services for children up to six years old. Investments will be directed toward:

Affordability

- reducing parent fees by an average of 50 per cent from 2019 levels by the end of the 2022 calendar year; and
- implementing a parent fee system based on gross household income that supports \$10-per-day average out-of-pocket parent fees for spaces serving children up to six years old by the end of 2022-23

Accessibility

- increasing the number of child-care spaces at not-for-profit centres and homes by 23,000 by 2025-26; and
- supporting all regulated providers through this transition to a Canada-wide system

Quality

- increasing the percentage of child-care workers providing regulated child care who fully meet Manitoba’s certification requirements by 15 percentage points by 2025-26;
- modernizing the curriculum framework and workforce certification to support high-quality and inclusive services;
- developing a comprehensive, integrated and culturally responsive curriculum framework promoting inclusive programming, which will also set the stage for supporting culturally based programs and ensuring learning experiences encouraging acceptance of diversity and the histories and cultures of Indigenous peoples in all programs; and
- developing a minimum wage grid for early childhood educators to support their attraction and retention.

Inclusivity and Diversity

- supporting responsive, integrated and culturally receptive child-care programming and services; and
- developing and funding a plan to ensure vulnerable communities – including children with disabilities, children needing enhanced or individual supports, Indigenous children, Black and other racialized children, children of newcomers and official language minorities – have equitable access to regulated child-care spaces with consideration to their assessed need for child care as part of Manitoba’s enhanced public planning efforts to implement a Canada-wide system.

Reporting

- sharing available financial and administrative data needed to monitor progress in establishing the Canada-wide system;
- conducting an annual census of child-care providers with standard data elements and sharing the results with the federal government; and
- providing a letter to the federal government on the proposed provincial fee structure and next steps.