

BACKGROUND

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The initiatives outlined in the action plans of both the Canada-Manitoba Early Learning and Child Care Agreement (including the early childhood workforce funding allocation), and the previously announced Canada-Manitoba Canada-Wide ELCC Agreement were developed to be interconnected, and will inform Manitoba’s roadmap for the modernization of its ELCC system.

The Canada-Manitoba Early Learning and Child Care Agreement was originally signed in February 2018 for a three-year period of 2017-2018 to 2019-2020, with an extension in 2020-2021.

As of February 2022, the agreement has been extended for a term from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2025, for a total investment of close to \$98 million. As part of this agreement, Manitoba developed an action plan for 2021-2022 that invests \$15.5 million for ongoing initiatives developed under the previous agreements. An amount of nearly \$19.2 million in one-time funding for 2021-2022 will also be invested in the recruitment, retention and growth of the early childhood educator workforce.

The Canada-Manitoba Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement was signed in August 2021 and is publicly available. This is a new, five-year funding commitment directed at building a Canada-wide early learning and child care system. Manitoba will receive \$1.2 billion in federal funding over the next five years to reduce licensed child-care costs for families to an average out-of-pocket cost for parents of \$10 per day and to expand access to more quality, inclusive child care spaces for children zero to six years of age. The Manitoba action plan initiatives under this agreement focus on the unique needs of Manitoba families, communities and child-care providers and establishes the building blocks to inform further development of these and other initiatives through consultation and engagement with parents and the early learning and child care sector.