



## Early Learning and Child Care

### MONTHLY E-NEWS

**JANUARY 2023**

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## Early Learning and Child Care Division Update

As ELCC continues to welcome new staff into our division, additional adjustments have been to the organizational structure and branch/unit titles specifically:

- **Policy and Planning Branch**— Formerly “Quality Assurance and Program Support Branch”. The new name reflects the functions of the branch more clearly.
- **Strategic Policy and Intergovernmental Relations Unit**, Policy and Planning Branch— Formerly “Strategic Policy and Program Design”. This name change is to reflect the significant relationship and collaboration work with our federal partners, as well as with our provincial/territorial counterparts.
- **Quality Enhancement and Program Development Unit**, Provincial Operations Branch— This unit has been created to bring together the policy and program functions across the branch, in support of diversity, inclusion, licensing and compliance. This unit will also provide leadership for Subsidy Program policy.
- **Accounting Services Unit**, Financial Accountability and Reporting Branch— This is a new unit created to work alongside a more focused “Financial Reporting” unit, ensuring both functions are supported and aligned.

### Staffing Updates

- **Janelle Blaikie, Senior Capital Projects Manager, Capital and Space Development Branch:** Janelle began with the government in 2010 as the Special Assistant to the Deputy Minister of Housing and later worked for the Deputy Minister for Families. She has worked as a Project Coordinator with provincially funded homelessness programs, a Portfolio Manager with non-profit housing providers, a Project Officer for land development and as the A/Manager of Housing Delivery. With two young boys, Janelle has had experience on child care centre boards and is very excited to be joining ELCC to support the construction of new child care spaces.
- **Reed Smith, Leader in Training, Capital and Space Development Branch:** Reed graduated in 2021 from the University of Manitoba with a Bachelor of Commerce in Finance and joined the Government of Manitoba in April 2022 through the Leaders-in-Training Program. For the last eight months, Reed served as an intern in Fiscal Management and Capital Planning at the Treasury Board Secretariat where he developed Power BI Dashboards, created long-term projections using economic data and regression modelling, and worked with internal stakeholders to redesign and improve data collection processes.
- **Joanna Flores, Senior Policy and Program Analyst, Policy and Planning Branch:** Joanna has a Bachelor of Science degree, majoring in Psychology, from the University of the Philippines and a post-degree diploma in Leadership in Early Childhood Care and Education from the University of Winnipeg. Joanna holds an ECE III certification and has over 25 years of experience in the early learning sector, which also includes previous experience as Child Care Coordinator and as a Policy Analyst within the division.
- **Shelly Marques, Senior Policy and Program Analyst, Provincial Operations Branch:** Shelly has a Bachelor of Arts with a major in Developmental Studies—Stream C, specializing in Inclusion from the University of Winnipeg. Shelly holds an ECE III certification and has over 25 years experience in the early learning and child care sector. This includes five years as Director in a child care facility, along with nearly seven years experience with the division as a Quality Enhancement Worker, with the Diversity and Inclusion unit.
- Farewell to **Kaila Wiebe** who has accepted an exciting new position with the department of Sport, Culture and Heritage’s Strategic Policy Branch. Kaila has been with ELCC since 2020 in a variety of roles, including COVID-19 response, Manager of Licensing and Compliance, acting Director, and more recently as Manager of Strategic Policy and Program Design. Her last day with ELCC was January 20, 2023.

## Moving Forward on Child Care Priorities

Over the past several months, the department has been focused on the delivery of initiatives under the existing federal agreement action plans, and in preparing options for the upcoming plans to be negotiated with Canada. The department is incorporating feedback it has received this year from the sector about the roll-out of several initiatives, considering how to design future approaches in a more streamlined and clear way. The department has also been engaging with the Minister's Consultation Table and the Child Care Parent Advisory Committee, as well as the Joint Implementation Committee with Canada, to consider how we might enhance workforce retention and recruitment, affordability, quality, and accessibility of child care spaces.

## Spotlight on Success

### Improving Access to Affordable Child Care for Newcomers

**Specialized assistance for Ukrainian newcomers**—As part of a broader provincial plan, the Manitoba government provided immediate and expedited subsidy support for Ukrainian newcomers beginning last spring. This included a simplified application and an expedited application process for supports offered to children with additional needs to the Inclusion Support Program. As of December 2022, almost 350 children were expected to benefit from these targeted supports.

For more information, visit <https://manitoba4ukraine.ca>.

**Child care building stronger connections through the Newcomer Employment Hub**—In partnership with The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce, the Manitoba government is helping to make child care spaces available at no cost for up to one year for newcomers who are taking part in the Newcomer Employment Hub (Hub).

The Hub is an innovative online job tool offered by The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce that creates quality job matches between newcomers and Manitoba employers. The child care pilot has created dedicated spaces that are made available at participating child care centres, allowing newcomer families to focus their efforts on entering the workforce or employment readiness training.

Currently, 32 child care spaces have been created and are all being used by newcomer families. These spaces are located at three Winnipeg child care centres: Freight House IRCOM location (470 Pacific Avenue), Freight House Ross location (505 Ross Avenue) and Little Voyageurs Learning Centre (619 Des Meurons Street). The department will shortly be releasing an expression of interest to expand the spaces under the Hub as a second phase of this pilot.

For more information on the Newcomer Employment Hub, visit <https://winnipeg-chamber.com/neh/>.

## Announcements and Reminders

### Increased Capital Grant Funding Now Available through the Early Learning and Child Care Building Fund

The Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Building Fund offers grant funding for capital projects that support the development of community-based child care spaces in a new non-profit child care centre or existing non-profit child care centre that will renovate/ expand their existing centre for the purpose of adding child care spaces.

The contribution under the ELCC Building Fund has recently been increased from 40 per cent to 60 per cent of total eligible project construction costs helping to advance Manitoba's commitment towards the creation of 23,000 child care spaces by 2025/26.

For more information about the ELCC Building Fund, including eligibility, proposal completion and submission visit: [https://www.gov.mb.ca/education/childcare/resources/building\\_fund.html](https://www.gov.mb.ca/education/childcare/resources/building_fund.html).

#### For general inquires about the Early Learning and Child Care Division:

**Website:** [www.manitoba.ca/childcare](http://www.manitoba.ca/childcare)

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