



About the Early Learning and Child Care Action Plan

What is the Early Learning and Child Care Action Plan?

The Action Plan is a three-year plan which is built on the terms of the bilateral agreement between the federal and provincial governments. The Action Plan addresses the challenges and recommendations raised through the New Brunswick Child Care Review Task Force Report.

The Action Plan is the framework established to increase the quality, accessibility, affordability, flexibility, and inclusivity in early learning and child care for preschool children aged five and under.

The eight objectives are:

1. Establish New Brunswick Early Learning Centres
2. Establish parent advisory boards
3. Develop online resources for parents (i.e. child care registry)
4. Establish Centres of Excellence in Preschool Education
5. Implement professional learning and development opportunities for early childhood educators
6. Implement an inclusion policy
7. Develop guidelines for language acquisition and cultural identity learning environments
8. Introduce requirements for annual quality improvement plans for all early learning and child care facilities

A key component of the plan is to establish the New Brunswick Early Learning Centre designation, which is an agreement between facilities and the department to work together to build on existing quality, and to provide better support to low and middle-income families.

What is the bilateral agreement?

The governments of Canada and New Brunswick have signed a three-year, bilateral early learning and child care agreement, which will see the federal government invest close to \$30 million to improve early learning and child care for preschool-aged children in the province. The province will contribute an additional \$41 million for a total of \$71 million.



This funding will be used to support initiatives that will improve early learning and child care in New Brunswick.

The bilateral agreement is part of the Multilateral Early Learning and Child Care Framework established by Federal-Provincial-Territorial (F-P/T) Ministers Responsible for Early Learning and Child Care. The Framework is designed to make enhancements to the provincial and territorial early learning and child care systems which will improve the lives of Canadian children and their families. Each province and territory will sign a three-year bilateral agreement that outlines the specific needs in the province or territory's child care sector.

What is the vision of early learning and child care for preschool aged children?

By 2030, New Brunswick's early learning and child care system will be transformed to offer higher quality services that are universally accessible and affordable to all families and children through a robust public policy framework, making New Brunswick an ideal place to raise a family. To that end, New Brunswick is embarking on a transformational journey that will focus on removing barriers to families in accessing affordable, high-quality, and inclusive early learning and child care, with a particular focus on families more in need.

What is the New Brunswick Child Care Task Force Review?

The New Brunswick Child Care Task Force Review is an independent study commissioned by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to research the sector and to provide "a path for creating the right conditions for quality early learning and child care that are accessible, affordable and inclusive and that support parents' participation in the workforce." The task force consulted with stakeholders across the province, including parents, early learning and child care administrators, educators and interest groups. The task force team also conducted research on best practices in other jurisdictions.

In August 2016, the Child Care Review Task Force Report published its findings, which included a summary of feedback from stakeholders, best practice research, and a series of recommendations. The report is available online.

For information

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