

More child care fee deductions coming for Ontario families ^[1]

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Excerpt

On August 15, 2024, the Ontario government announced that it is taking the next step in lowering childcare fees for families as part of the Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) system. Starting in January 2025, parent fees will be capped at \$22 per day for children under the age of six in CWELCC programs, resulting in additional savings of nearly \$300 million in 2025 for families.

“Our government is determined to make life more affordable for families, that’s why we’re putting more money in their pockets by cutting child care fees even further,” said Todd Smith, Minister of Education. “When kids are in child care, they’re able to learn and grow, and their parents are able to enter the workforce with peace of mind.”

Since signing an agreement with the federal government in 2022 for their signature national program, Ontario has already reduced child care fees by an average of 50 per cent from 2020 levels, introduced its Child Care Workforce Strategy and launched a plan to create thousands of new licensed child care spaces in communities across the province.

Ontario continues to call on the federal government to increase funding to this national program so it is sustainable for families throughout the province. This advocacy reflects Ontario’s unique agreement with the federal government which included a mid-agreement program review. Ontario’s new \$22 per day fee cap for children under the age of six in programs enrolled in the CWELCC system will reduce fees for 44 per cent of these spaces. That means families facing the highest fees — often those with the youngest children living in less affordable communities — will see the largest fee reductions. This change will result in additional savings of nearly \$300 million in 2025 for these families.

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