

Expansion of Regulated Child Care Spaces

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Expansion... the weakest link?

The Canada-Wide Agreements have defined the intended number of spaces and the percentage of coverage.

Parents, families, early child care educators, child care directors, and other stakeholders are waiting with bated breath on how this expansion will be achieved.





Current situation in Nova Scotia

- Current coverage = 25.2% (2019)
- 18,800 spaces
- Child care deserts in rural areas and historically marginalized communities
- Largely commercially operated programs
- Introduction of Pre-Primary in 2017

What's the new plan?



- Plans to add 9500 new child care spaces over the next four years.
- ‘Multiple on-ramps’ to the creation of these new spaces include:
 - Supporting growth in the not-for-profit child care programs
 - Licensed family home child care agencies
 - 3-year old programming in schools (2000 new spaces)
 - Continuation of new-ish Pre-Primary program for 4 year olds in schools
 - Wrap around care offered by regional centres for education for children 3-5 years old.

Proposed 'Provincial Organization to Manage Child Care'

“The organization will oversee contracts for or manage the overall delivery of provincial child care including:

- managing child care spaces and need in community,
- ECE compensation and wages/benefits (labour relations),
- daily parent fees, and
- centre finances.”





Provincial Organization (cont'd)

- Managing any provincial wait lists for child care
- Recruitment and retention of ECEs
- Conducting community needs assessment within communities to determine type of care needed
- First point of contact for families on registering their child for child care anywhere in the province.



Provincial Organization (cont'd)

- Responsible for ensuring that care is of high quality, inclusive and culturally responsive.
- Responsible for ensuring that children with disabilities and children needing enhanced or individual supports are welcome, accepted and supported.



And so, the ‘next generation’ questions become...

- Is this what ‘publicly managed’ looks like?
- What does expansion look like under this model? Who will be the community partners?
- Centres/programs opt out of this system? What would this look like for them? Would new spaces outside of this agency be included in expansion numbers?
- What autonomy will individual programs have, re: expansion, waitlists, hiring, etc.?

Thank 😊
♥ You!