

PRESS RELEASE

CHILD CARE NOW NOVA SCOTIA RESPONDS TO NEW EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE ACTION PLAN

FEBRUARY 16, 2024, KJPUKTUK/HALIFAX (FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE) - JANUARY 25, 2023, KJPUKTUK/HALIFAX (FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE) - Child Care Now Nova Scotia welcomes the new Action Plan released by the Government of Canada and the Government of Nova Scotia towards the successful rollout of the Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care plan in Nova Scotia. “The renewed commitment to prioritizing affordability, access, quality, and inclusion in this Action Plan is really promising,” says Kenya Thompson, Coordinating of Child Care Now NS.

Child Care Now NS celebrates ongoing support for early childhood educators (ECEs), including the implementation of a landmark pension and health benefits plan, welcomes the Province’s exploration of a new ECE certification model, and calls on the Province to ensure educators are provided equipped with knowledge and skills necessary to provide high-quality care to children with diverse needs, backgrounds, and abilities across Nova Scotia.

In the new Action Plan, NS went back on its commitment to a central agency. “We’re disappointed the Province is not forming a central agency to support public expansion and ensure quality in centres,” says Thompson. “Though we’re glad to see the Province leveraging public partnerships in its expansion efforts, a central agency could also ensure the effective use of public funds, and relieve non-profit centers of administrative burdens, allowing them to focus on delivering care and early learning opportunities to kids.”

Child Care Now NS calls on the Province to follow through on its commitment to create a central public agency to ensure transparency, accountability, and the effective administration of child care across NS.

Plans to create more child care spaces in Nova Scotia involve expanding the existing Before and After School Program—spaces that are not licensed, nor have requirements on early childhood educators or staff-to-child ratios, and not available during summer months. Child Care Now Nova Scotia urges the province to create additional licensed spaces beyond the Before and After School Program, including infant and toddler spaces which are in short supply across the province.

Child Care Now Nova Scotia urges all levels of government to continue to invest in building a strong child care system that meets the needs of families across the province.

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Child Care Now Nova Scotia advocates for a universal, comprehensive, publicly funded, high quality, affordable, accessible, accountable, and not-for-profit Early Learning and Child Care system in Nova Scotia.

For more information and/or to arrange an interview, please contact Kenya Thompson, Coordinator Child Care Now Nova Scotia, at (778) 581-2057 (cell) or novascotia@childcarenow.ca.