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Dear Parents and Guardians,

As you may be aware, on March 28, 2022, Ontario reached an agreement with the federal government for the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) System. The implementation of the CWELCC System is a five-year plan which includes improving affordability, enhancing quality, increasing child care access, supporting inclusion and supporting data reporting. The Province of Ontario has committed to implementing a system in stages:

- **2022:** A fee reduction of up to 25% (to a minimum of \$12 per day) for eligible children retroactive to April 1, 2022
- **2023:** A 50% fee reduction for eligible children
- **2025-2026:** working towards an average fee of \$10 per day per eligible child by the end of the fiscal year 2025-26

Toronto Children's Services has begun the process for the 2022 fee refund and reduction, and is working with child care centres and home childcare agencies, located in the City of Toronto, to support them in enrolling in the CWELCC System.

Who is eligible to have a fee reduction?

- *Your child must be attending a licensed child care centre or Licensed Home Child Care in Toronto.*
- *Your child needs to be under the age of 6 or turning 6 between January 1 and June 30.*
- *The child care centre or Licensed Home Child Care your child attends must apply to opt-into the CWELCC System by September 1st, 2022 **and** be approved by Toronto Children's Services to be part of the CWELCC System.*

How do I know if my child care program or Home Child Care Agency has applied and is approved to be part of the CWELCC System?

Please speak to your child care centre supervisor or Home Child Care Agency to get information on where your centre is in the opt-in process.

If the program is approved to be part of the CWELCC System, when will I get my refund and when will my fees be reduced?

Once a child care centre or Home Child Care Agency has been advised that they have been approved for CWELCC, they will have 31 days to lower their fees. The program must also refund families within 60 days of this notification, retroactive to April 1, 2022.

How much is my refund/reduction?

All programs in Ontario who are part of the CWELCC System were required to freeze their public fees as of March 27, 2022, unless they notified families of a fee increase before March 27, 2022. The fees you have paid, for eligible children, since April 1, 2022 will be refunded by 25% until the day your centre or Home Child Care Agency reduces your fees 25%. Note that some services/charges are not part of the 25% fee reduction, such as late fees.

What if I have a fee subsidy, do I get a reduction on my assessed fee?

Yes, the assessed fee will be reduced based on the number of eligible children.

What if my program opts-out of CWELCC?

If a program decides not to participate in the CWELCC System, they are not required to freeze their rates or provide any refund or fee decrease for families. They must also notify families and staff of their decision.

We understand that this time of transition is challenging for centres, staff and families, we appreciate all the patience and support as this exciting new way to support children and families is rolled-out.

Sincerely,



Shanley McNamee
General Manager
Toronto Children's Services

If you would like more information about the CWELCC System, please visit www.Toronto.ca/CWELCC

If you would like more information about Child Care in the City of Toronto, please visit www.toronto.ca/childcare

If you would like more information on Toronto Children's Services Programs, please visit www.toronto.ca/community-people/children-parenting/