
RENEWAL OF CANADA-WIDE EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE AGREEMENT

Purpose

To discuss the renewal of the federal Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) agreement – and to understand how the province is working to protect the investments communities like Renfrew County have made in building this system.

Background

The CWELCC agreement has made a real and measurable difference here. This did not happen by accident. It happened because as the Service Manager we had the relationships, the expertise, and the community accountability to turn a federal-provincial commitment into real results for real families. That local delivery infrastructure is in place, proven, and ready to keep delivering.

The County of Renfrew is experiencing significant growth across many of its communities. The Town of Petawawa is home to one of Canada's largest military bases, which will see significant expansion in the coming years. As these troops prepare to serve our country, it is critical that their families have access to safe, reliable, and high-quality child-care and early years programming. Accessible childcare is essential to supporting their transition, ensuring family stability, and enabling military members to serve knowing their children are well cared for.

Issue for Discussion – Renewal of CWELCC Agreement

The agreement that funds this entire system is approaching renewal. The gains families have made include lower fees, new spaces, and better-supported early childhood educators. Without renewal, those gains are at risk of being reversed.

Municipalities are not passive observers in this negotiation. We have built the delivery infrastructure that makes this program work. We have the community relationships, the operator partnerships, and the local accountability that cannot be replicated.

The success of CWELCC has demonstrated the critical role municipalities play in delivering provincial and federal priorities. Service Managers have built the local relationships, expertise, accountability structures, and planning capacity necessary to translate government investment into tangible results for families. As governments continue to rely on municipal delivery partners to achieve workforce, housing, and economic development objectives, it is essential that funding agreements recognize and support the local capacity required to sustain these outcomes.

What we are Asking of the Minister

We are asking the province to be an active and urgent champion for renewal, and to bring the demonstrated success of local delivery through Service Managers to that conversation.

- Confirm the Province's commitment to actively pursuing renewal of the federal CWELCC agreement.
- Ensure that the case for renewal includes the demonstrated success of local delivery through Service Managers, and that any renewed agreement protects and strengthens that local delivery model.
- Keep Service Managers informed and engaged as renewal negotiations proceed. The families of Renfrew County have built their lives around what this program delivers. We are asking the province to protect it.
- Allow flexibility within funding frameworks to ensure investments can be fully deployed to expand access to licensed child-care spaces and support families.

