

EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE CIRCULAR

Date: April 05, 2022

CIRCULAR NUMBER: ELCC-2022-08

To: All licensed child care facilities, Early Learning and Child Care Division

Subject: Retirement Enhancement Benefits

Effective Date: June 2020

Type: Policy All Facilities Action Required
 Procedure Centres Information Only
 Licensing Nursery Schools
 Financial Family/Group Homes
 Subsidy

This circular is to advise of the Retirement Enhancement Benefits currently available to all licensed non-profit early learning and child care (ELCC) centres, nursery schools, and family/group homes.

On February 22, 2022, the Manitoba government announced the Retirement Enhancement Benefit initiative as part of the Canada-Manitoba ELCC Agreement, under the Early Childhood Workforce Funding Annex. The Early Childhood Workforce Funding offers a \$19.2M investment for 2021/22, which includes a range of supports to recognize the hard work, dedication and years of service provided by the early learning and child care workforce in Manitoba. This includes the Retirement Enhancement Benefit, which allocates federal funding to provide a one-time enhancement to pension plans for child care staff for the 2021/22 fiscal year.

There are two benefits available for licensed non-profit facilities under this initiative:

- Child care centre staff will receive an additional two per cent to the employer pension contributions, based on 2021/22 pension statements provided to ELCC.
- Family/home-based providers will receive a one-time reimbursement of \$500 per license holder, based on RRSP contributions for 2021/22.

Eligibility:

- The Retirement Enhancement Benefit is available to all staff working in licensed, non-profit child care centres and family/group homes, including both Child Care Assistants and Early Childhood Educators, who have been actively employed since June 2020, to recognize staff who worked during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Implementation:

Child Care Centres

- All licensed, non-profit child care centres and nursery schools must submit their financial statements for employer pension contributions from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022.
- If already submitted, please do not resubmit your pension contributions for this time period. Calculations for the additional funding will be based on your submitted Pension Plan Contribution Reimbursement Application Form for 2021/22.
- **The deadline for submission of any outstanding pension plan contribution forms is April 15, 2022.**
- Note: the additional two per cent contribution for 2021/22 is not a matched contribution. Employers are not required to provide additional funding to match the additional two per cent provided by the Retirement Enhancement Benefit.
- Once the ELCC Division processes the financial statements submitted (approximately 2-4 weeks after April 15), we will provide a grant to child care centres to disburse to their employees for the additional two percent pension contribution.

Family/Group Homes

- Family/group home-based providers will receive an additional \$500 for an RRSP contribution, based on 2021/22 RRSP deposit receipts provided to ELCC.
- If already submitted, please do not resubmit your RRSP deposit receipts for this time period. Calculations for the additional funding will be based on your submitted Retirement Benefit Application Form for 2021/22.
- **The deadline for submitting any outstanding RRSP deposit receipts for reimbursement is April 15, 2022.**
- Once the ELCC Division processes the receipts (approximately 2-4 weeks after April 15), we will provide a \$500 disbursement for RRSP contributions to each license holder.

For more information about the Canada-Manitoba Early Learning and Child Care Agreement and the Early Childhood Workforce Funding Annex visit:

<https://www.manitoba.ca/fs/childcare/actionplan.html>

For additional inquiries, email cdcinfo@gov.mb.ca or call Child Care Information Services at 204-945-0776 or toll-free: 1-888-213-4754.

Thank you for your dedication to ensuring Manitoba families have access to high quality early learning and child care services.

Early Learning and Child Care