



Early Learning and Child Care

MONTHLY E-NEWS

DECEMBER 2023

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Happy Holidays!

Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning wishes you all a joyful holiday season, and we look forward to our continued work together in the new year!

Early Learning and Child Care Division Update

Staffing Updates

We continue to welcome new staff into our division to support Manitoba's priorities for early learning and child care.

Reed Smith joined the Strategic Policy and Intergovernmental Relations Unit of Early Learning and Child Care as Senior Data Scientist on December 4, 2023. Reed holds a Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) in Finance. In addition, he recently completed Level I of the Certified Financial Analyst Program and an Innovation Igniter Blue Belt certificate through inVision Edge. Reed is also a part of the Manitoba government's Leaders in Training Program.

Kathy Rogozik has accepted the role of Divisional Coordinator. Kathy has considerable administrative experience, having served in executive offices within the government of Manitoba, as well as with the Southern Chiefs' Organization, the University of Winnipeg, and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Kathy has a Diploma in Business Administration from Red River College Polytechnic.

Senior Policy Analyst **Julia Patrick** is returning to the Public Service Commission after a successful term with the department. Julia was an integral part of coordinating the development of our latest Action Plans for 2023–2026 under our agreements with Canada, and served as project lead for development of Manitoba's ECE Wage Grid. We wish Julia all the best for her return to the Commission.

For the list of key department contacts, visit www.edu.gov.mb.ca/aboutus.html.

2023 ELCC Fall Meeting

On Thursday, November 23 and 24, 2023, Early Learning and Child Care Division staff from across the province gathered for the Fall Provincial Meeting at Louis Riel School Division head office.

More than 130 staff and guests met to reflect on the last six months and chart the path forward in 2024 and beyond. Presentations included *Thriving People – Flourishing Teams* with Shannon Gander, *Early Childhood Heroes: Promoting Well-Being for Educators and Children* with Dr. Leslie Roos, and a special segment from Kimberly Meunier with the Abecedarian Education Foundation. We also heard inspiring words from Elder Mary Wilson, Minister Altomare, and Deputy Minister O'Leary, and took time to recognize several members of our team for their exemplary years of service.



Clockwise from top centre: Séamas Finnerty, Angel Pionela; Adedoyin Olatunji; Peter Mubiayi; Shannon Gander, Director of Life Work Wellness; Assistant Deputy Minister Sarah Whiteford, Deputy Brian O’Leary, and Elder Mary Wilson; Inclusion Support Program Manager Stella Berube; Senior Policy Analyst Carla Kernessed; Lily Mallard, Theresa Courchaine, Monique Lubkiwski, Robyn Frost, Terri Tretjak, and Isabelle Raharjaona

ELCC Attends Career and Post-Secondary Symposium (CAPS) at Louis Riel Arts and Technology Centre



Senior Policy Analyst Robyn McEvoy (left) and Policy and Program Analyst Carla Fleury-Charles at the CAPS Symposium

Department staff Robyn McEvoy and Carla Fleury-Charles attended the Career and Post-Secondary Symposium (CAPS) on Tuesday, November 21 to promote careers in early childhood education. More than 300 people attended the event at the Louis Riel Arts & Technology Centre, with considerable interest in this field.

Early Childhood Educator Tuition Reimbursement

Recent graduates and current students may be eligible for up to **\$5,000** per school-year to help cover tuition-related costs of recognized early childhood educator programs in Manitoba.

To learn more, visit:
Manitoba.ca/childcarecareers

Handout on applying for tuition reimbursement for ECE students and graduates

Moving Forward on Child Care Priorities

Deputy Ministers from across Canada Meet to Discuss Child Care

Deputy Ministers responsible for early learning and child care from across Canada met in Toronto on December 5 and 6, 2023, to discuss opportunities and shared priorities with regard to the early learning and child care sector. All jurisdictions remain committed to furthering the goals of the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreements.

Early Learning and Child Care—Winter/Spring Recruitment

Watch for the Early Learning and Child Care booth to learn more about starting a career in child care at career fairs and employment events around the province, including Brandon, The Pas, and Thompson this winter/spring.

To assist with recruitment and awareness efforts, the department will also be distributing bilingual copies of “Become an ECE” postcards in January 2024 to various organizations including schools, adult learning centres, and employment and newcomer agencies. View or download a copy of the [postcard](#) or [poster](#).

Spotlight on Success

Quality Enhancement Grant Projects Benefiting Child Care Facilities

Earlier this year, the governments of Manitoba and Canada provided Quality Enhancement Grants, supported under the Canada-Manitoba Canada-Wide ELCC Agreement. These grants to existing child care providers are designed to foster quality, inclusivity, and sustainability within their programs. Through this grant, child care providers were given the opportunity to be creative and provided with the flexibility to choose and apply funding to where it was needed the most for their centre/home.

Over 1000 licensed non-profit child care facilities received funding, and many have already put it to good use! Below are examples of two Manitoba child care facilities that obtained funding through the Enhancing Diversity and Inclusion Grant funding stream and decided to dedicate a portion of their funds to improving their space with colour and textures!

Champlain Community Child Care Centre Inc.

Champlain Community Child Care Centre Inc. used a portion of the grant to commission an Indigenous artist for three art murals:

- One on a wall in their school-age program is about healing, wisdom, health, and safety.
- One, which is on a canvas so it can be shared across several rooms throughout the Year of the Wolf, is called "Watching Over Us" and signifies that our ancestors are overseeing us and making sure we are safe.
- One is laminated on the wall, closer to the ground in their infant room so babies can touch it and experience it up close. It signifies that the caregiver bear is responsible for all the children, not just her own.



Champlain Community Child Care Centre Inc. Indigenous Art Murals, Artist: Derek Gerbrand (AKA Purple), purple9@mymts.net

Marthe Melanie, Home-Based Provider

Home-based provider Marthe Melanie dedicated a portion of her funds from the Enhancing Diversity and Inclusion Grant stream to build Diversity House, an outdoor space that reflects the children and families' ethnicities and cultures. Collaborating with parents and guardians, they collected flags, objects, and materials to reflect the diversity within their group. Marthe explains to the children that "Canada, our country, welcomes lots of people from different parts of the world." She observes children playing positively with one another, and older children share special facts about their country. Overall, children play positively with each other, and the conversation that is inspired by the Diversity House carries on through other aspects of the program.



Marthe Melanie Diversity House

Thank you to Marla MacGregor, Director of Champlain Community Centre, and Marthe Melanie for providing these inspiring photos! If you would like to share some of your facility's QEG-funded projects, resources, and renovations, email us at CDCInfo@gov.mb.ca with the subject line "QE Grant." We will continue to feature some of the interesting and innovative projects in future editions!

Listening to Manitoba's Early Childhood Educators

Meet the ELCC Team—Carla Kernsted, Senior Policy Analyst, Strategic Policy and Intergovernmental Relations

I was hired here in November of 1998. Coming up, it's been 25 years, but I've been in the industry for over 40 years.

I sort of landed in child care by accident. I was on a path to being a child psychologist, but in the 1980s when I graduated, the regulations were just coming into effect in Manitoba and the University of Winnipeg was opening a training program for child care workers. I realized my love and strength was with infants and toddlers. Once there was a full-time position working with infants, I moved there and started as an ECE right away.



Carla Kernsted, Manitoba Early Learning and Child Care Senior Policy Analyst

The first national conference for the Canadian Child Care Federation was held in Winnipeg. Gail Provinciano-Lippens and I worked with the video production portion of the university, and we made a 10-minute video about the kinds of things we were doing with children. From that, it spun into making a six-part educational video series about caring for infants and toddlers. I travelled across Canada doing presentations and teaching about the approach to and philosophy of caring for infants. It was my own method.

Children never fail to make me smile, which is why I do this job even though I hardly ever get to see them anymore. Everything we do should be about the best interests of the child.

Announcements and Reminders

Competency-Based Assessment—Application Deadline January 5, 2024

A new intake of the ECE II Assessment Program's [Competency-Based Assessment \(CBA\)](#) stream for rural and northern child care assistants will begin January 24, 2024. There is no application or program fee for the CBA program. To learn more about the CBA and if it is right for you, view the November 28, 2023, information webinar [here](#).

NEW Routine Practices Guidelines

To continue to build healthy, safe, and caring learning environments, the department, in collaboration with Manitoba public health officials, developed *Routine Practices: Guide to Creating a Healthy Environment and Preventing Infections within Child Care Facilities and Schools*. This new document outlines routine practices and infection prevention and control measures to assist child care facilities and schools in reducing the transmission of infection.

More information, including supporting resources, is available [here](#).

ELCC Professional Development Options

Investment in professional development is critical for the early learning and child care sector as it helps to empower the workforce and provide the necessary skills and knowledge supporting high-quality care for children. Learn more about various learning opportunities, including online training options for providers in centres and homes, and members of child care boards [here](#).

Call for Nominations—Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Early Childhood Education

Do you know an exceptional early childhood educator who deserves recognition for their outstanding work? Nominations are now open for the 2024 [Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Early Childhood Education](#). All Canadian citizens and permanent residents who have successfully completed early childhood education training and who have worked in a licensed facility for the past three years could be eligible. Start today by downloading a [nomination form](#). Nominations for the 2024 Prime Minister's Awards must be submitted by January 11, 2024.

We Value Your Input!

Would you like to share some of your facility's ideas or tell us about a program or celebration at your facility? Would you like to share a quote about why you love being an early childhood educator? Email us at CDInfo@gov.mb.ca with the subject line "ELCC Newsletter" and you could be featured in our next edition.

For general inquires about the Early Learning and Child Care Division:

Website: www.manitoba.ca/childcare

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Phone: 204-945-0776

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