



## Early Learning and Child Care

### MONTHLY E-NEWS

**JULY 2023**

[EARLY LEARNING  
AND CHILD CARE  
DIVISION UPDATE](#)

[MOVING FORWARD  
ON CHILD CARE  
PRIORITIES](#)

[SPOTLIGHT ON  
SUCCESS](#)

[ANNOUNCEMENTS  
AND REMINDERS](#)

## 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:

- The Financial Accountability and Reporting Branch welcomed two new Financial Analysts, **Marilyn Sacramento** and **Adedoyin Olatunji** (Doyin): Marilyn holds a Bachelor of Science in Accountancy and her experience includes managerial and senior finance work in Philippines, United Arab Emirates, Sudan, Uganda, and Canada in both the public and private sectors. Adedoyin Olatunji (Doyin) holds a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting and is currently enrolled as a CPA Candidate. Doyin comes to ELCC with over 13 years experience in accounting, financial management, and analysis in the manufacturing and retail sectors.
- The Diversity and Inclusion Unit within the Program Operations Branch welcomed two new supervisors, **Toni Landry** and **Neera Barber**. Both Toni and Neera have their ECE III certification and have worked in the early learning and child care sector for over 15 years, which include experience in Director positions. Toni has been with ELCC since 2012, taking on a variety of roles including Acting Manager for the Diversity and inclusion Team in the fall of 2022 and Neera joined the Diversity and Inclusion Unit in 2019 and has worked as a Child Development Worker and most recently as an ISP Coordinator.
- Farewell to Senior Financial Analyst **Elaine Olais**, whose last day with the Financial Accountability and Reporting Branch was July 14, 2023, as she moves to a new Manitoba government department. Elaine contributed significantly to the ELCC Finance Team, and we wish her all the best in the future!

## Moving Forward on Child Care Priorities

Building on [the recent investments to expand post-secondary education programs](#) to support more individuals in becoming Early Childhood Educators and Child Care Assistants, the department celebrated a number of significant milestones this month towards the creation of more child care spaces, with funding supported through the Canada-Manitoba Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement.

Extension of the [Renovation Expansion Grant](#): On July 11, 2023, the governments of Canada and Manitoba announced the allocation of \$13.5 million to help child care centres expand infant and preschool spaces. Through an expression of interest (EOI) for 2023/2024, the Renovation Expansion Grant will provide a maximum of \$2 million in capital grant funding per project, to increase physical space capacity within existing centres, creating up to an estimated 450 additional spaces for children under the age of seven. The deadline to submit a proposal for the 2023/2024 grant is **Friday, September 15, 2023**.

[Child Care Space Expansion in Public Schools and Post-secondary Institutions](#): On July 20, 2023, the governments of Canada and Manitoba announced a new investment of over \$180 million to create more than 3,700 new licensed and funded infant, pre-school, and school-age spaces across 36 capital projects in public schools and nine capital projects in post-secondary institutions. In addition to new child care spaces, the post-secondary institution expansions will include \$3.5 million for the construction of seven innovative learning labs for practical learning experiences in the early childhood education field.

[Eight Phase One Ready-to Move \(RTM\) Child Care Centres Set to Open Their Doors](#): Under the Municipal and Indigenous Governing Bodies capital stream, eight facilities announced last November will open their doors over the coming weeks, each adding 74 infant and preschool spaces. On July 21, Bright Beginnings Educare announced the opening of their new child care centre in Headingly. This will be followed by Oak Bluff, Whitemouth, Stonewall, East Selkirk, Ile des Chênes and Rosenort by September and Portage la Prairie by October. Construction work on a facility in Peguis First Nation will begin this month, and another 16 projects have been approved in a second phase of the initiative. When complete, the two phases of the project are anticipated to create 1,970 new child-care spaces in 25 rural and First Nations communities across the province.



Premier Heather Stefanson speaks at the opening of Bright Beginnings



Reed Smith, Leaders in Training Program Intern; Lily Mallard Senior Capital Projects Manager; Sarah Whiteford, Assistant Deputy Minister; Minister Wayne Ewasko; Deputy Minister Dana Rudy; Monique Lubkiwski, Child Care Coordinator; Pam Wever, Director, Capital and Space Development

Learn more about child care space creation initiatives and progress supporting Manitoba's ongoing commitment towards the creation of 23,000 accessible, affordable, high-quality child care spaces by 2026 at <https://gov.mb.ca/education/childcare/resources/spacecreation.html>.

## Spotlight on Success

### Quality Enhancement Grants in Action

Earlier this year, the Manitoba Government announced one-time Quality Enhancement Grants, providing Manitoba's early learning and child care providers with the flexibility to choose and apply funding to where it is needed most so that they are better positioned to build a stronger, more responsive early learning and child care system for the future.

The Quality Early Learning and Environment Grant, available to all facilities, was one of the three grant funding streams offered to facilities through this initiative. This grant offered \$875 per licensed space, and was designed to help facilities address aging infrastructure and equipment, improve indoor/outdoor spaces, and expand the range of development materials provided for children, families, and staff.

Home-based providers Anna Fe and Romeo Cruzada recently shared how they made use of funding provided by the Quality Early Learning and Environment Grant funding stream by completely redeveloping their outdoor play space and climbing structure for the children in their care.



*"Some photos of our daycare kiddos' outdoor activities. We have a fence and a deck now. Thankful to ELCC for all the grants given to us, for it helps a lot in enhancing and supporting our programs and activities."*  
— Anna Fe Cruzada

*(Images provided by Anna Fe Cruzada)*

Thank you to Anna Fe and Romeo 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 [CDInfo@gov.mb.ca](mailto:CDInfo@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

Ashtyn (ECE II, Parkland Region)

"When I graduated from high school, I began a job as a summer student at a school-age program and never looked back! Working in child care has given me the opportunity to create lasting relationships with children, families, coworkers, and community members. There is no greater feeling than meeting the children you once cared for in the ELCC sector, now in their teen and adult years. Still, they recall the memories we made, lessons we learned, and adventures we had together; a smile beaming on their face. It makes my heart burst with pride to know that I have made a difference; a legacy that will live on in all of the little lives I have touched."

## Meet the ELCC Team—the Sensei-tional Terry Smith

Child Care Coordinator, Early Learning and Child Care Division

(Terry Smith at Grand Beach Karate exhibition)



*"I didn't think I would continue in child care; it was just a job I did when I was in university. I wanted to be an accountant or a lawyer, I think. And then I met my husband and we had children and I discovered I actually liked being in child care!"*

*I am a third degree black belt in karate. I've been training for 23 years. I'm currently a sensei at the YMCA on Portage Avenue. It's my kid fix. When I became a child care coordinator and didn't have that connection with kids anymore, I started regularly teaching [karate].*

*I enjoy kids. Their enthusiasm, their honesty, their straight forwardness. It's fun watching them develop. I have a little guy that I've been teaching. I've watched*

*this shy, quiet little boy who was really uncertain of himself get a yellow belt and an orange belt. My sensei let me give him his certificate and his belt. His face was just beaming; it still gives me goosebumps. Just seeing their achievements, as a result of my teaching, I get a high from that.*

*I'm very much of the opinion that you've got to stop and smell the flowers. Enjoy the small things and appreciate them."*

## Announcements and Reminders

**Child Care Sustainability Trust—2023/2024 Application for Child Care Providers Available Now:** Deadline to apply is September 30, 2023.

Read more or obtain an application at [www.manitoba.ca/education/childcare/centres\\_homeproviders/providers\\_resources/grants.html#sustainability](http://www.manitoba.ca/education/childcare/centres_homeproviders/providers_resources/grants.html#sustainability).

**ELCC Newsletter Distribution Pause—August and September 2023:** As part of a 60-day restriction on government communications observed before a general election, the ELCC Newsletter will not be distributed in the months of August and September 2023.

**Congratulations to Kiddie Sunshine Centre—New Child Care Breaking Ground in Altona:** Kiddie Sunshine Centre is beginning construction on their new child care centre in the Town of Altona. This capital project was approved through an application submitted under the Early Learning and Child Care Capital Building Fund with a \$4.1M investment fund provided under the Canada-Manitoba, Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement. Kiddie Sunshine will create 98 new child care spaces in the community including 20 infant spaces, 48 preschool spaces, and 30 school-aged spaces, with opening targeted for fall 2024.

For more information about the Early Learning and Child Care Building Fund, visit: [www.manitoba.ca/education/childcare/resources/building\\_fund.html](http://www.manitoba.ca/education/childcare/resources/building_fund.html).

## 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](mailto:CDInfo@gov.mb.ca) with the subject line "ELCC Newsletter" and you could be featured in our next edition.

**For general inquiries about the Early Learning and Child Care Division:**

**Website:** [www.manitoba.ca/childcare](http://www.manitoba.ca/childcare)

**Email:** [cdcinfo@gov.mb.ca](mailto:cdcinfo@gov.mb.ca)

**Phone:** 204-945-0776

If you would like to remove your email from the ELCC Monthly E-News distribution, contact: [melcc-ed@gov.mb.ca](mailto:melcc-ed@gov.mb.ca).