

2004/05 Federal Early Learning and Child Care Funding in Peel

On March 13, 2003, the Multilateral Framework on Early Learning and Child Care was released. The federal, provincial and territorial governments agreed to invest in early learning and child care programs that provide direct care and early learning to children in a variety of settings including child care centres, home child care programs and nursery schools. Federal funds could also be used to support capital and operating costs, fee subsidies, wage enhancements, professional development and support, and parent information and referral.

The federal government began to flow funds in November 2003. With the change in government in Ontario in the fall of 2003, Consolidated Municipal Service Managers (CMSM's) received the first investment of \$9.7 million in child care services. On July 15, 2004, the Minister of Children and Youth Services, Dr. Marie Bountrogianni, announced an investment of \$58.2 million of federal child care transfer funds to support existing child care spaces and to create 4000 new subsidized spaces for infants and children up to age five.

The funds increase and stabilize over the five year period, with the majority of federal dollars allocated in the last three years.

The Ministry of Children and Youth Services Share of Federal Early Learning and Child Care Funds:

(\$millions)	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Total Federal Funding	25.0	150.0	225.0	300.0	350.0
Ontario's Share	9.7	58.2	87.6	117.3	137.3

Region of Peel's Allocation

In January 2004, Peel received an allocation of \$1,048,100. The 100 per cent funding was on a one-time basis for minor capital improvements and repairs among licensed, non-profit child care operators serving children under age six.

On July 23, 2004, Peel received the commitment for the following funding allocation based on child population for provincial budget year, 2004/2005.

CMSM	Funding to Increase Service Levels	Admin	Operating Minor Capital - Preschool	Operating Minor Capital - General	Total	Target # Subsidized Spaces
Region of Peel	\$3,009,200	\$189,600	\$1,015,700	\$1,077,600	\$5,292,100	330

The Ministry has also committed the following increase to the annualized base funding, starting with provincial budget year 2005/2006.

CMSM	Funding to Increase Service Levels	Admin	Total
Region of Peel	\$4,508,400	\$288,500	\$4,796,900

Initial Plan

An Early Learning and Child Care Initiative 2004-2005 Service Plan will be submitted to the Ministry of Children and Youth Services no later than September 15, 2004. It will be based on recommendations from the 2004 Child Care Plan which was developed through extensive community consultation.

The focus for this plan will be on an increase of 330 subsidized child care spaces, support for an additional 70 children with special needs, a decrease in user fees for subsidized parents, an increase in the cap on rates paid to child care services providers, an increase in wage subsidy and investment in minor capital. Administrative funding will be used for salaries and accommodation for staff required to put the programs in place and to support service providers.

As required in the guidelines, the new subsidized spaces will be targeted to children up to the age of five and minor capital will be allocated to not-for-profit child care programs for children up to age six with a specific focus on 2 ½ to 5 year olds. Funds to stabilize the child care system through wage subsidy and increases in subsidized rates are available to all service providers.

Details on how to apply for capital funding will be released shortly and will be posted under Child Care in the Region of Peel's website: www.peelregion.ca

This funding will begin to address the service gaps that have built over the last number of years due to growth and lack of investment in child care. A commitment to annualized funding allows Children's Services to increase and sustain service levels, infrastructure and staffing within the child care system.