

ANNOUNCED PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL FUNDING PRIORITIES FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT (ECD) -BY JURISDICTION

PROVINCE/ OFFICIAL Y ANNOUNCED PRIORITIES AND PROGRAMS TERRITORY

British Columbia A longer-term strategy for ECD investments is currently being developed. Announced investments for 2001-02 include:

- 1) Support for child care
- 2) Urban Aboriginal early intervention
- 3) Other supports for ECD services

ECD public contact: Pamela Bishop, Ministry of Human Resources, (250) 387 -3456

Carol Carman, Ministry of Children and Family Development, (250) 356-2007
Helen Myers, Ministry of Children and Family Development, (250) 356-2489

Alberta Alberta has not announced its ECD strategy, but will be building on current initiatives, and responding to the recommendations of the Alberta Children's Forum and the Task Force on Children at Risk, including:

- 1) Early intervention and ECD programs, including home visitation, mentoring program, and parent resource centres
- 2) Fetal Alcohol Syndrome
- 3) Day care
- 4) Prevention of family violence

ECD public contact: Mark Kastner, Ministry of Children's Services, (780) 415-6451

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Saskatchewan ECD Strategy, "Kids First" a comprehensive long-term plan for children, prenatal to age five, to provide support for high-needs families via partnerships with families, communities, schools, health districts, Aboriginal organizations and governments. Announced funding includes \$8.4M in 2001-02 for:

- 1) Prenatal services for FASIFAE prevention
- 2) Universal screening of newborns and their families at risk (psychosocial)
- 3) Home visiting in targeted communities
- 4) Enhanced child care initiatives in targeted communities
- 5) Increased access to early learning programs in targeted communities (i.e. , school readiness, literacy programs)
- 6) Parent Supports in targeted communities

Will further invest \$1.6M in child day care enhancements, additional spaces In early child intervention programs, and an infant mortality initiative.

ECD public contact: Kelly Richter, Department of Health, (306)787-8301
Bill Carney, Department of Social Services, (306)787-0916

Manitoba Since April 2000, Manitoba has increased investments in early childhood development by \$29M. Through Healthy Child Manitoba, a continuum of services to support children and families is being developed, including:

1. Healthy Baby (\$4.1M)*, assists income eligible women to meet nutritional needs during pregnancy and provides access to expanded community support programs.
- ' 2. BabyFirst (\$1.63M)*, provides a three-year home visiting program for newborns and their families based on universal screening delivered through the community health system.
3. STOP FAS-(\$165,000)*, is a three-year mentoring program for women at risk of having a child with FASIFAE.
4. Parent-Child Centred Approach (\$1.35M)*, brings resources together through community coalitions which support parenting, improve children's nutrition and literacy and build capacity for helping families in their own communities.
5. Child Day Care (\$13.76M)*, improves salaries for early childhood educators and additional subsidies for children; increases funding to integrate more children with disabilities into the child care system and to expand the number of licensed spaces.

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6. Early Start (\$102,000)*, enhances children's readiness to learn prior to school entry through a three-year home visiting program for families with children who have special social needs and are currently attending licensed child care.
7. Manitoba Education, Training and Youth -Early Childhood Development Initiative (\$500,000)*, Designed in partnership with Healthy Child Manitoba, assists school divisions to provide intersectoral services to facilitate preschoolers' readiness to learn.
8. Children's Special Services (\$1.26M)*, provides community-based in-home services to an increased number of families who support children with a mental and/or physical disability.
9. National Child Benefit Restoration (\$5.45M)*, allows families receiving income assistance, with children six and under, to not have the NCB reduced from their provincial benefits. All families will keep increases in the Canada Child Tax Benefit.

* Denotes incremental funding, not the whole program budget.

ECD public contact: Jan Sanderson, Healthy Child Manitoba, (204) 945-6707
Grant Doak, Department of Family Services and Housing, (204) 945-8665

Ontario Investments totalling \$114M have been announced in three broad areas:

- 1) Targeted programs (over \$51 M) including (among others): autism, infant development, children's mental health, infant hearing, FAS, a nutrition program for Aboriginal children, community health centres, and injury and family abuse prevention
- 2) Universal programs (over \$32M) including (among others): program effectiveness and child outcome measurement, Early Years Challenge Fund, early literacy, Healthy Babies, Healthy Children, a province- wide early childhood resource centre, healthy pregnancy and child development promotion, at-risk pregnancies, public education and a perinatal and child health survey
- 3) Ontario Early Years Centres (over \$30M)

ECD public contact: Lynne Livingstone, Ministry of Community and Social Services, (416) 327 -0326

Quebec The Government of Quebec has stated that while sharing the same concerns on early childhood development, it does not adhere to the federal-provincial-territorial Early Childhood Development Initiative. The Government of Quebec is receiving its share of funding from the Government of Canada for early childhood development programs and services through the Canada Health and Social Transfer (CHST). The Government of Quebec will invest these funds in areas that best meet their priorities.

New Brunswick "Greater Opportunities for New Brunswick Children: An Early Childhood Development Agenda" (Phase 1 , 2001/02) announced policy priorities for this year, including total funding of \$7.3M for: 1) Early Language Program for Preschool Children (\$0.45M) 2) Prenatal Benefit Program (\$1.8M) 3) Community Capacity Building for Children and Families (\$0.225M) 4) Enhanced Child Day Care Services (\$3.0M) 5) Enhancements to Early Childhood Initiatives (Early Intervention and Integrated Day Care Services) (\$1.4M) 6) Excellence in Parenting (\$0.25M) 7) Child Witnesses of Family Violence Program (\$0.4M)

ECD public contact: Mary McIntosh, Department of Family and Community Services, (506) 444-3684

Nova Scotia "Our Children... Today's Investment, Tomorrow's Promise" announced a three-prong approach, with funding totalling \$9.1 M: 1) A comprehensive Home Visitation Program (\$1.5M) for expectant and new parents and newborns via public health nurses and a new network of jay home visitors 2) Enhanced child care (\$6 M), including wages and start-up grants to non-profit centres 3) Development of a co-ordinated system of early childhood development (\$1.6M)

ECD public contact: Steve Bone, Department of Community Services, (902) 424-4326
Virginia O'Connell, Department of Community Services (902) 424-5499

Prince Edward PEI Healthy Child Development Strategy lays out a multi-year strategy for children from prenatal to early school Island years. A new Premier's Council on Healthy Child Development and a Children's Secretariat have been established. The strategy outlines 13 key areas for action and investments will be made according to the

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strategic directions of this initiative. Funding announcements are expected to follow shortly.

ECD public contact: Kathleen Flanagan-Rochon, Department of Health and Social Services, (902) 368-6517

Newfoundland and "Stepping into the Future" announced 2001-2002 ECD funding of \$5.2M, with support for:
Labrador 1. Pre/Postnatal Mother Baby Nutrition Benefit, building on the Mother Baby Food Allowance (\$0.21 M) 2. Early Childhood Literacy Programs and Transition to School Program (\$0.357M)
3. New and enhanced existing Family Resource Programs and Healthy Baby Clubs (\$1.17M)
4. Enhancements to Child Care Services through the creation of new subsidized spaces, an annual educational supplement for Early Childhood Educators working in licensed child care centres, and

equipment grants for family home child care (\$2.2M)

5. Enhancements to Early Intervention Services to families of children with delay/disabilities, including Autism

Spectrum Disorder (\$0.957M)

ECD public contact: Rosalind Smyth, Department of Health and Community Services, (709) 729-0281

Yukon No announcement has been made on ECD policy priorities or funding details. Minister of Health and Social Services will be establishing an Inter-Ministerial committee, including himself, Ministers of Education and Justice plus two members of public, to provide direction for future ECD priorities. Will be consulting with the general public on priorities and future investment of ECD funding. An announcement is expected shortly.

ECD public contact: Patricia Living, Department of Health and Social Services, (867) 667-3673

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