



**ASSOCIATION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS
NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR**

Position Paper

Family Child Care Initiative Announcement of April 19th 2012

The Association of Early Childhood Educators of Newfoundland and Labrador (AECENL) supports in principle the initiative to increase the number of regulated family child care spaces across the province. Family child care is often the best model for small communities with small numbers of children and for parents may prefer the more home-like atmosphere of family child care, particularly for the youngest children.

However, whether centre-based or home-based the quality of the care is the critical factor rather than simply the number of spaces. It is well documented that high quality care supports the child's development and poor quality care does not. Child care is not only to allow parents to access work or education, it is also to support the child's learning and development to promote an educated future workforce. This requires that those working in child care be knowledgeable on child development and how to promote all areas of that development in age appropriate ways. AECENL believes that this requires at least a two year program in Early Childhood Education for both those working in centre-based care and those working in family child care.

Recently consultations were held that provided the opportunity for the field to respond to a potential Ten Year Plan for child care that would include addressing issues of quality child care, recruitment and retention of a qualified workforce, sufficiency and affordability. Such a plan has been promised for several years and AECENL looks forward to the Budget Speech to hear how Government intends to implement this plan.

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