



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

**Position Statement**

**Accessibility**

It is the position of AECENL that families should have access to high quality child care.

Access means that there is a suitable high quality space available for the times that child care is required and that it is affordable for families. This allows families to access work or education while their children receive care that promotes their learning and development.

There is a significant shortage of regulated child care in the province and the need varies from community to community. A needs assessment is required to determine the child care needs of each community prior to developing a plan to meeting these needs. A critical component of such a plan must be that the care is of high quality. This requires a fully qualified workforce (See AECENL's Position Papers *Qualified Workforce, March 2012* and *Quality Child Car, March 2012*). Whenever possible the licence should be issued to a parent or community group to allow for stability and longevity of the service.

To assist in the development of needed additional spaces, start-up and operating grants for child care should be available to communities. This may be for centre-based or regulated family child care spaces. When this funding is accessed, there must be a requirement that the fees are capped at an affordable level and that a provincial wage scale is in place. The amount of the operating grant to be determined by the difference between the amount of revenue and the expenses of the service and the amount of the start up grant to be determined by the actual costs.

In addition to capping parent fees, the Child Care Services Subsidy Program should be reviewed and revised to determine if it meets the child care needs of low income families.

A Ten Year Strategy that includes the above will result in sufficient and affordable child care being available to families in all areas of the province.

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