



COVID-19 PANDEMIC CHILD CARE

April 1, 2020

The National Union of Public and General Employees (NUPGE) is a family of 11 Component and 3 affiliate unions. Taken together, we are one of the largest unions in Canada. Most of our 390,000 members work to deliver public services of every kind to the citizens of their home provinces. We also have a large and growing number of members who work for private businesses.

Larry Brown, President

Bert Blundon, Secretary-Treasurer

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COVID-19 Pandemic: Child Care

British Columbia

Arrangements	Sources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Child care providers are to prioritize placements for those children whose parents are employed as front-line workers in public health and health services, social services, law enforcement, and emergency response. Additional spaces will then be given to families working in other crucial roles, defined as essential service workers. - Beginning March 31, the Province is launching a process that will match parents working on the front lines and have children up to 5 years old, with child care in their community. - Essential workers fill out a form to identify their need for urgent child care - Child Care Resource Referral (CCRR) centres in 38 communities will act as community-based hubs that will reach out to essential service workers in their area who completed the form to connect them with available licensed child care spaces. - The number of spaces available for essential service workers, and the hours of operation, will vary by facility. - Child care services for school aged children (5-12 years) can be obtained through their school directly. 	<p>Media release: Province helps essential service workers find child care - March 31</p> <p>Child Care Response to COVID-19 for Parents</p> <p>List of COVID-19 Essential Services - last updated March 26</p>

Arrangements	Sources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Providers that stay open will receive enhanced funding to keep their operations going. The funding is expected to cover approximately 75% of a group facility's average monthly operating costs. - Providers who close due to COVID-19 will also receive support to help cover their fixed costs. Providers that close will receive funding that is expected to cover approximately 20% of an average group facility's monthly operating expenses. - Providers that receive temporary emergency funding must not charge parent fees for any period of closure or for any vacant spaces related to COVID-19; ensure spaces are reserved once the pandemic passes for those familiar that were receiving child care prior to the pandemic and who choose to temporarily withdraw their child; and make every effort to provide inclusive child care programming. 	<p>Child Care Response to COVID-19 for Providers</p> <p>Child Care Operating Funding: Temporary Emergency Funding</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Child care providers may choose to use the additional funding to support early childhood educator (ECE) wages during this period. - Implementing previously announced increase to ECE Wage Enhancement to \$2 per hour, effective April 1 - Ministry of Health is developing guidelines for providers, ECEs and licensing offices on best practices. 	<p>Q&A for the Child Care Sector</p> <p>Public health guidelines for child care settings</p>

Alberta

Arrangements	Sources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Licensed child care facilities are closed. - Select licensed child care centres will reopen to provide child care for core service workers. - Access will be prioritized to health care practitioners and critical infrastructure workers. Additional space will be available to first responders and others. - Children’s Services will contact the centres that will be reopening directly. Centres will initially be chosen based on proximity to health care facilities and will be reopened in phases based on areas of need, beginning March 23. - Working to open up to 15,000 spaces in the province - Centres will be limited to 30 people, including staff, and adhere to strict sanitation practices. - Parents will be notified by their employer if they qualify. 	<p>Alberta government information</p> <p>Media release: child care for core service workers - March 22</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Approved family day homes are exempt as they care for fewer than 7 children at a time, but should use enhanced sanitation practices. - Private home-based child care providers remain open as they can only care for up to 6 children, not including their own, at one time. - Government does not monitor private child care providers but can issue closures if they exceed limits. 	<p><i>Ibid.</i></p>

Saskatchewan

Arrangements	Sources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Beginning March 20, child care centres co-located in schools are closed to parents currently using the service who are not directly associated with pandemic response. - Government will support centres to remain operational and open spaces <i>exclusively</i> to workers who are associated with the pandemic response who need child care and do not have other options available to them. - Each centre sets their own fees. Eligible workers will pay a fee according to the rate set by the centre. 	<p>Information for Workers Associated with the Pandemic Response Who Need Child Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outlines who is eligible - Downloadable application form - Downloadable information for licensed child care facilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Child care facilities can maintain operations with their existing capacity, as long as, children are separated into defined groups. - The maximum capacity of any defined group is 8 children. Children are to be kept in the same group and same space throughout the day and every day. - Guidelines for social distancing, health and safety measures, screening, and cleaning. 	<p><i>Ibid.</i></p>

Manitoba

Arrangements	Sources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suspended services at licensed child care centres effective end-of-day March 20. Recommending parents with children in these centres make alternate arrangements - Recommending all centres, including those in schools, consider remaining open with a reduced number of spaces (maximum 16 children) and prioritized for critical service workers - Sustaining full operating grants and subsidies to child care centres and facilities that remain open within new guidelines for reduced spaces and prioritization for “critical service providers” - Continuing to allow home-based child care providers to operate - Creating dedicated child care options for front-line and critical services staff who need them 	<p>Licensed Child Care Facilities and Child Care Programming to Support Essential Workers</p> <p>Essential Services Worker Child Care Request Form</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identifies essential service workers <p>Guidance for Early Learning and Child Care Providers to Limit the Spread of a Virus</p> <p>Q&A for Child Care Centres</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Temporary Child Care Services Grant program helps ECEs begin independently offering child care services at their homes or in the community - Capital grants to child care providers to ensure safe, quality care 	<p>Temporary Child Care Services Grant for ECE I or II and Child Care Assistants</p>

Ontario

Arrangements	Sources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Select child care centres will be open for children of health care and front-line workers, as the province exempts certain centres from the order to close all licensed child care centres under the emergency declaration. - Workers who can access the emergency child care are “health care and other frontline workers, including doctors, nurses, paramedics, firefighters, police and correctional officers.” - These centres will be required to follow existing health and safety requirements and have a plan in place should any staff, children, or parents be exposed to the virus. The number of children in any one centre will be kept low. 	<p>Media Release: Province Takes Steps to Ensure Frontline Staff Can Continue to Work - March 22</p> <p>Ministry of Health COVID-19 webpage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - List of centres will be posted here when open
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry of Health has provided guidance to emergency child care centres on health and safety. - If a child care worker is suspected to have or diagnosed with COVID-19, the worker must remain off work until symptoms are fully resolved and negative laboratory tests have been confirmed. - The employer should consult with the local public health unit to determine when the care provider can return to work. Workers should report to their occupational health and safety department prior to return to work. 	<p>COVID-19 Guidance: Emergency Childcare Centres - March 29</p>

Arrangements	Sources
- Some cities are offering emergency child care.	News story about Windsor-Essex News story about Hamilton

Quebec

Arrangements	Sources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Emergency daycare for children of parents who are entitled to emergency childcare services by governmental decree - The services will be offered free of charge, Monday to Friday, until May 1. - Public health guidelines for centres that remain open - Children who attend a recognized daycare centre may obtain a place in one for the duration of the public health emergency. Children who already attend a daycare centre may continue to do so according to their regular schedule. - For children who attend kindergarten or elementary school, emergency daycare services will be available in some schools. - People who operate non-recognized daycare centres can proceed in the same way as recognized educational child care centres. 	<p>Quebec government: Emergency daycare services</p> <p>Quebec government: Emergency school daycare services</p> <p>List of workers who are entitled to emergency child care services</p> <p>Public health guidelines for educations in special child care centres offering services to workers in essential services</p>

Arrangements	Sources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Educational child care personnel: everyone who was supposed to work during this period must be available to ensure emergency services available. Exceptions may apply. - Child care administrators can take into account the number of children present to adjust the number of staff required. - Until March 27, all personnel will be remunerated on the basis of the assignment they had on March 13, regardless of the number of hours they worked. - Employees can bring their children to the daycare where they work during this period. 	<p>Childcare services: Q&A</p>

New Brunswick

Arrangements	Sources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Child care centres were closed as of March 17. - Essential service workers can still obtain child care services. - Facilities remaining open to support essential service workers will follow advice set out by the chief medical officer, including reduced group sizes and social distancing, and follow health and safety directives. - The directives to individuals who have travelled internationally on or after March 9 continue to apply and those people are to avoid early learning and child care centres for 14 days. - The government will cover the fees of anyone who has lost their income due to the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak. It will continue to provide parent subsidies as scheduled. - Essential service workers will not have to pay double fees. This includes those paying to reserve a space at their usual child care facility, but whose child is attending one of the emergency facilities. In this case, the department will cover the costs of emergency child care. - Parents must continue to hold their space at a centre that has not laid off its staff. 	<p>Media release: Essential service workers can still obtain child care services - March 16</p> <p>Media release: Essential workers will not be required to pay double child care fees - March 20</p> <p>Parent Portal</p>

Nova Scotia

Arrangements	Sources
- All licensed child care providers are required to close until at least May 1.	Nova Scotia government COVID-19 webpage: Alerts and notices

Prince Edward Island

Arrangements	Sources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All licensed child care centres are closed, but the government is working on implementing emergency child care services for essential service workers. 	<p>Emergency Child Care Services</p> <p>Essential vs. Non-Essential Services Information Sheet</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishing a fund of up to \$2 million to support early learning centres and their staff, maintain child care spaces, and ensure parents do not pay fees during the period of closures. - The fund is expected to cover 6 weeks. 	<p>Media release: New educational and financial supports for Islanders - March 20</p> <p>News story about the announcement</p>
<p>Health care workers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Due to school and daycare closures, employees are asked to try to make alternate child care arrangements. If unable, they are to talk to their manager about possible options to work from home or modify work hours. - If employees are able to demonstrate that they pursued all reasonable options, they will be provided with special leave with pay for those work periods where they have no reasonable alternate child care arrangements until schools and daycares re-open. (March 31) 	<p>Health Care Workers: COVID-19 FAQs</p>

Newfoundland and Labrador

Arrangements	Sources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regulated child care centres, regulated family child care homes, and Family Resource Centres were closed effective end of day March 18. - Government is permitting the operation of regulated child care services for children in order to support and enable essential workers to provide critical services if they have no other options available. - Services will be available in existing child care centres and family child care homes, subject to availability. - Existing health and safety requirements will apply, but reduced child care group sizes will be implemented in order to protect the safety of staff and children. - Regulated child care centres will continue to receive operational grants and subsidies, regulated family child care will continue to receive subsidies, and Family Resource Centres will receive their funding as usual. - There will be no charge for the emergency child care service as it is covered under the compensation grant. 	<p>Media release: Minister Warr Provides Update on Child Care Services - March 18</p> <p>Media release: Provincial Government Permitting Regulated Child Care Services for Essential Workers - March 25</p> <p>Essential Worker Child Care Service Application Form</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outlines who are essential workers



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union**

NATIONAL UNION OF PUBLIC AND GENERAL EMPLOYEES

B. C. Government and Service Employees' Union
Health Sciences Association of British Columbia
Health Sciences Association of Alberta
Saskatchewan Government and General Employees' Union
Manitoba Government and General Employees' Union
Ontario Public Service Employees Union
Canadian Union of Brewery and General Workers
New Brunswick Union of Public and Private Employees
Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union
PEI Union of Public Sector Employees
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NUPGE is an affiliate of the **Canadian Labour Congress** and a member of the **Public Services International**

