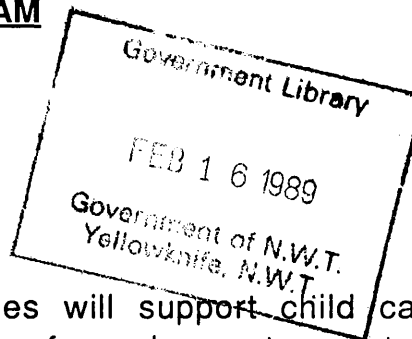


CHILD CARE IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

INTERIM PROGRAM



POSITION STATEMENT

The Government of the Northwest Territories will support child care in order to assist parents to take advantage of employment and training opportunities. The government also recognizes the value of both licensed and unlicensed child care systems in enabling real parental choice.

A secondary purpose is to create employment, training and business opportunities within the child care field for residents of the Northwest Territories.

Principles underlying this position are :

1. Child care, while primarily the concern of parents, is a shared responsibility between parents and government.
2. The role of government is to enable parents to choose the most appropriate care for their children. Consequently, parents will be supported in the use of both licensed and unlicensed facilities.
3. The government wishes to encourage providers of child care to become licensed in order to ensure quality of care. Direct support will therefore only be given to operators of licensed facilities.

This program will come into effect April 1st, 1989.

INTERIM PROGRAM GUIDELINES

PROGRAM COMPONENTS:

A. Support to Users

User Subsidy - To assist parents by subsidizing their child care costs.

B. Support to Providers

Start-Up Assistance - A one-time-only contribution to non-profit, licensed child care providers to assist in meeting initial start-up costs.

Operating Assistance - A per space contribution to non-profit, licensed child care providers in the form of cash payments or in-kind support.

Training - Delivery of training programs, seminars and workshops to child care providers to improve the quality of child care.

C. Definitions

A. SUPPORT TO USERS

USER SUBSIDY

PROGRAM

The Child Care User Subsidy is designed to assist eligible NWT families in meeting their child care costs. Subsidies to employed parents vary according to approved sliding income scales. Parents in full-time training may be entitled to receive the full cost of care. Eligible parents may choose either unlicensed or licensed care (refer to Definitions).

ELIGIBILITY

1. Eligibility is limited to pre-school children receiving full-time child care (refer to Definitions);
2. Parents must be employed or training on a full-time basis (refer to Definitions);
3. In the case of two-parent families, both parents must either be employed or in training full-time;
4. Family income must fall within the specified "After-Tax-Income" range based on approved scales.

SUBSIDY

The amount of subsidy employed parents receive depends on their family structure, monthly income, place of residence and type of care. Subsidy levels reflect the varying costs of delivering care in communities across the N.W.T., and are designed to provide an incentive for parents to enter or remain in employment.

For Example:

Family # 1 - Monthly after-tax income \$1,500

<u>Place of Residence</u>	Subsidy per month	
	<u>Unlicensed (per child)</u>	<u>Licensed (per child)</u>
Yellowknife	\$30	\$100
Iqaluit	128	272
Spence Bay	170	384

Family # 2 - Monthly after-tax income \$800

<u>Place of Residence</u>	Subsidy per month	
	<u>Unlicensed (per child)</u>	<u>Licensed (per child)</u>
Yellowknife	\$100	\$210
Iqaluit	178	372
Spence Bay	200	444

HOW TO APPLY

To apply for a subsidy, parents are asked to complete an "Application for Child Care Subsidy" form. Forms are available at licensed child care centres and homes, or at Social Services Area Offices.

This form will apply to both types of care. Parents with children in licensed care, or contemplating using a licensed care provider, should apply for the subsidy through a licensed child care centre or home. Parents who choose to use unlicensed care can apply for a subsidy through their local Social Services office. Administrative assistance in completing forms and answering questions respecting eligibility, will be available at all Social Services offices. After the application is processed, notices will be sent out to parents informing them as to the details and amount of subsidy they can expect to receive.

B. SUPPORT TO PROVIDERS

OPERATING ASSISTANCE

PROGRAM

Contributions will be available on a per-space basis (refer to Definitions) to non-profit, licensed child care providers. Generally, operating assistance is designed to offset the cost of salaries, food, consumable supplies, utilities and maintenance. The contribution is based on approved scales which reflect the varying cost of delivering child care in communities across the N.W.T. The daily per-space maximum ranges from \$5/day to \$9.50/day.

The per-space contribution may be either a cash payment, in-kind support (provided by GNWT) or a combination of the two to bring the contribution to the daily maximum. (In-kind support provided by the GNWT refers to operating expenses paid on behalf of providers by the GNWT).

ELIGIBILITY

Non-profit licensed home or centre care providers are eligible to receive an operating assistance contribution, if they provide full-time child care (refer to Definitions).

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Recipients must be licensed under the Child Day Care Facilities Act. Recipients will be required to enter into a contribution agreement with the GNWT which specifies the payment schedule and the financial accountabilities required of the recipients .

HOW TO APPLY

Organizations, groups or individuals providing licensed full-time child care may obtain an application for operating assistance by writing or phoning:

Day Care Section
Department of Social Services
6th Flr. Precambrian Bldg.
Yellowknife, NWT X1A 2L9
ph: (403) 920-8920 or 920-8786

START-UP ASSISTANCE

PROGRAM

A contribution based on a proposed number of spaces is available to non-profit groups or individuals who will be providing full-time licensed child care. Start up assistance is provided on a one-time-only basis to defray initial equipment, insurance and other costs at the rate of \$1200/centre space and \$750/home space for new centre or family day homes.

ELIGIBILITY

Non-profit groups or individuals who will be providing full-time licensed child care are eligible to receive a start-up contribution.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Applicants must provide documentation of the need for the child care program and evidence of community support. They must provide evidence that they are in the process of meeting the licensing requirements under the Child Day Care Facilities Act.

Recipients of start-up assistance will be required to enter into a contribution agreement with the GNWT which specifies the payment schedule and the financial accountabilities required of the recipients.

HOW TO APPLY

Organizations, groups or individuals intending to provide full-time licensed child care may obtain an application form by writing or phoning:

Day Care Section
Department of Social Services
6th Flr Precambrian Bldg
Yellowknife, NWT X1A 2L9
ph: (403) 920-8920 or 920-8786

CHILD CARE TRAINING

POSITION STATEMENT

In striving to improve the quality of child care, training will be provided to licensed child care providers.

On-site training programs and workshops will be delivered by departmental staff to licensed care providers, in the areas of:

- child development
- creative play
- discipline
- nutrition
- activity programming

C. DEFINITIONS

Pre-School Child

A child not yet eligible for enrollment in the K-12 school system.

Child Care

The care, instruction and supervision of a child by someone other than the child's parent or guardian, usually in a location which is not the child's home.

Child Care Facility

An establishment where care, instruction and supervision are provided to five (5) or more children in the absence of their parents or guardians by individuals who are not relatives of the majority of the children (commonly referred to as a day care or child care centre). Centres may be either for profit or non-profit.

Family Day Home

A child care service provided for up to eight (8) children usually in the operators residence. The program is usually less structured than in a centre. Family day homes are considered non-profit operations.

"For Profit" Child Care Centre

A child care centre which is privately owned and operated as a business and is able to take advantage of business incentive programs and tax deductions.

"Non-Profit" Child Care Centre

A child care centre operated by a non-profit board or agency, or where no profit is realized. Family day homes are also considered "non-profit".

Licensed Child Care

Child care provided in a centre or family day home which has been inspected and meets the standards set out in the Northwest Territories Child Care Facilities Act and Regulations.

Unlicensed Child Care

Child care provided to fewer than five (5) children in a home which is not licensed under the Child Day Care Facilities Act and Regulations.

Parent or Guardian

A person who is in fact or in law, the legal guardian of the child.

Full-time Care

Child care provided for a period of six (6) hours or more per day for not less than 20 days per month.

Full-time Employment

Paid employment of not less than 30 hours per week.

Full-time Training

Attendance in a training program which is defined by the training institution as full-time.

Space

The capacity to place one child in full-time care during an 8-hour period.