

December 30, 2021

Dear Operators:

Many of you have reached out to express concerns regarding the Winter Plan for Early Learning and Childcare Facilities and the challenges those changes have created, in particular in relation to staffing. To help you deal with those challenges I am happy to tell you about new government assistance for early learning facilities.

#### FINANCIAL SUPPORTS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FACILITIES

- \$200 per month per educator, retroactive to December 1, 2021 and which will remain in place until March 31, 2022. This wage top-up will be reviewed at that time.
- \$50 per month, per space, for any month or part of any month when a facility is operating under Level 2 or 3 of the Winter Plan. This is to offset the costs associated with additional health and safety requirements. This support will be in place from January 1, 2022 to March 31, 2022.

#### PRIORITY FOR BOOSTER SHOTS AND TESTS

- Early learning and childcare staff are now included as a priority group to access POCT and PCR tests. More information on this will be shared with you shortly.
- Early learning and childcare staff are eligible to receive the booster vaccine. We encourage you and all your staff to get this third vaccine as soon as possible. Appointments can be made through RHAs or participating pharmacies.

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## COVID SYMPTOMS AND EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE FACILITIES

- I have heard your concerns regarding symptoms, - in particular runny noses - and have relayed these concerns to Public Health. They will share updated information in the coming days to reduce confusion around symptoms.
- The Department of Health and Public Health will be sharing information about the new Omicron variant of COVID-19 and its impact on early learning and childcare facilities in the coming days.

You have been key New Brunswick's management of this pandemic over the last two years. I would like to thank you again for your dedication and cooperation, and to wish you a calmer and prosperous 2022.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dominic Cardy".

Dominic Cardy  
Minister