

Ministry of Education
Early Learning Division

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Ministère de l'Éducation
Division de l'apprentissage des
jeunes enfants

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February 3, 2010

Dear Directors:

I know you are all working hard to develop implementation plans for the Early Learning Program (ELP) and I want you to know that I appreciate the effort that it takes to implement a new program. From time to time I will write to you to provide clarification and advice as we gain experience through implementation. We continue to work on moving policy approvals forward (including the need to seek legislative amendments to authorize the ELP), and I will share additional information as early as we are able.

Over the past few days, it has come to my attention that clarification is required with regard to Board responsibility for the extended day program. As indicated in the Extended Day Program Memo on January 13 (2010: EL2), the extended day component would be a Board program, delivered by employees of the Board. Boards are expected to make every effort to move toward this integrated program model for four- and five-year olds enrolled in the early learning program.

In some exceptional circumstances (e.g. where existing contractual arrangements are in place with third party providers) some time may be permitted to transition to the integrated, Board-delivered program. However, the exception does not apply to expanding new third party "wrap-around" programs in schools which are implementing the Early Learning Program. Any new extended day programs should be Board delivered, and not provided via third parties.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to remind you what a tremendous resource your municipal partners can be as you work on plans for the extended day, determine fees, etc. With their deep experience in child care and human service planning, our expectation is that Consolidated Municipal Service Managers and District Social Services Administration Boards will be a key partner for you as you move forward with your approach to the extended day program. As with the site selection process, we know that your planning for the extended day will benefit from municipal expertise in managing and delivering child care.

If your Board is experiencing challenges in these areas or if you have questions, you are asked to contact your Early Learning Education Officer for further information.

Sincerely,

Jim Grieve