

**Ministry of Education  
Early Years and Child Care  
Division**

Mowat Block, 24<sup>th</sup> floor  
900 Bay St.  
Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

**Ministère de l'Éducation  
Division de la petite enfance et  
de la garde d'enfants**

Édifice Mowat, 24<sup>e</sup> étage  
900, rue Bay  
Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1L2



**MEMORANDUM TO:** Child Care and Early Years Partners

**FROM:** Shannon Fuller  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Early Years and Child Care Division  
Ministry of Education

**DATE:** **November 22, 2017**

**SUBJECT:** **Centres of Excellence for Early Years and Child Care  
Call for Proposals**

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In June 2017, Canada and Ontario signed the Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Agreement, as part of The National Early Learning and Child Care Multilateral Framework, which sets the foundation for governments to work towards a shared long-term vision where all children across Canada can experience the enriching environment of quality early learning and child care.

Under the Canada-Ontario ELCC agreement, Centres of Excellence for Early Years and Child Care (“Centres of Excellence”) will be established to connect practitioners, education institutions, and service providers through innovative networks. This is an investment that recognizes the importance that access to quality professional learning and development opportunities have on children and families who access child care and early years programs.

Centres of Excellence are a new and innovative initiative that will support transformational change in the sector, and signal both the provincial and federal government commitment to long-term professional learning across the early years sector. The development of the Centre of Excellence approach was informed through engagement with a broad range of early years partners in Fall 2017.

The Ministry is pleased to announce that a Call for Proposals is now open for the Centres of Excellence. The Ministry is seeking proposals from partners interested in leading a Centre of Excellence who can demonstrate an innovative, sustainable and responsive model to delivering on the key objectives and criteria outlined in the Call for Proposal guidelines.

Centres of Excellence will uphold the view that children, families and educators are competent, capable of complex thinking, curious, rich in potential and experience and will ensure professional learning strategies align with the pedagogical approaches articulated in *How Does Learning Happen?*, Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years.

The Ministry of Education will establish three Centres of Excellence to support the strengths and differentiated needs of the sector:

- Provincial Centre of Excellence;
- Francophone Centre of Excellence;
- Indigenous Centre of Excellence.

Each Centre of Excellence will be led by a diverse team of partners with experience, expertise and strengths and coordinated through a centralized Secretariat to ensure consistency, collaboration, and accountability. Centres of Excellence collectively must have partnerships and a presence in the six regions within the Ministry of Education.

Additional details about the Centres of Excellence are available [online](#) in the Call for Proposal Guideline and Application.

## **Eligibility**

Proposals must be submitted by a team of at least two partner organizations, which must include at least one post-secondary institution (publicly funded Ontario college, university and/or Aboriginal Institute). Eligible partners include non-profit organizations, First Nations and post-secondary institutions (publicly funded Ontario college, university and/or Aboriginal Institute).

All applicants submitting a proposal for the Francophone Centre of Excellence must be Francophone organizations or organizations who have, as part of their current mandate, the responsibility to serve Ontario's Francophone community.

All applicants submitting a proposal for the Indigenous Centre of Excellence must be a First Nation, Metis, Inuit or Indigenous organization or organizations who have, as part of their current mandate, the responsibility to serve Ontario's Indigenous communities.

## **Timelines**

Eligible applicants interested in submitting a proposal to the Ministry must submit a Notice of Intent by December 22, 2017. Full proposals are due to the Ministry by February 2, 2018. Further details about key timelines are available in the [Call for Proposal Guidelines](#).

We encourage you to share this information with partners who may be interested in submitting a proposal to the Ministry. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to supporting Ontario's children and families in your communities.

Sincerely,

***Original signed by:***

Shannon Fuller  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Early Years and Child Care Division