



Supporting Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care through Covid-19 Crisis and Recovery

Prepared by the Government of Canada

Background: In September 2018, the co-developed Indigenous ELCC Framework was released by the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) and the Métis National Council (MNC) and the Government of Canada. To support the implementation of the Framework, the Indigenous ELCC Transformation Initiative with **\$1.7 billion over ten years** (2018-2019 – 2027-2028) is being co-managed through a new partnership model with First Nations, Inuit and Métis Nation and the Government of Canada.

New investments in response to COVID-19: In support of Indigenous ELCC programs, the Government announced emergency funding of \$120 million in 2020-21 to support the evolving needs of Indigenous ELCC in response to the current COVID-19 pandemic. It can:

- Preserve the continued availability of Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care programs and services that many children and families rely on during these unprecedented times
- Ensure new public health measures can be implemented to keep children and families safe.

Funding Envelopes:

- \$71.01 million to be implemented in partnership with First Nations
- \$10.90 million to be implemented in partnership with Inuit
- \$29.88 million to be implemented in partnership with the Métis Nation
- \$8.21 million to the Aboriginal Head Start in Urban and Northern Communities (AHSUNC) Program

This is one-time emergency funding that is in addition to existing federally-funded Indigenous ELCC programs, currently spending approximately **\$132.6 million** annually in three main programs (AHSOR, AHSUNC, FNICCI) and the investment of **\$1.7 billion over 10 years** made in 2018 for the IELCC Transformation Initiative.

New Emergency IELCC Funding Details

Reporting: Reporting requirements would demonstrate how emergency funding contributed to the safe provision of ELCC programs and activities during the pandemic period, including through the implementation of public health measures, alternative program delivery models, and training activities by staff and educators.

Terms and Conditions: This emergency funding is subject to the existing Horizontal Indigenous ELCC Transformation Initiative Terms and Conditions.

Allocation of funding: Funding will be allocated based on Indigenous leadership direction, at the national and regional level:

- For First Nations, funding to regions will be allocated in accordance with current allocations of Indigenous ELCC funding made by the Special Chiefs Assembly in 2018 (Resolution no. 59/2018). Sub-allocations at the regional level: it is proposed to use the latest leadership-endorsed allocation model within each region.
- For Inuit, funding will be allocated in accordance with current allocations of Indigenous ELCC funding made by the ITK Board of Directors in 2019 (B-19-09-05).
- For the Métis Nation, funding will be allocated in accordance with the current Métis Nation ELCC allocation methodology made in partnership with Métis governments and the Government of Canada.

Funding Mechanisms: In order to advance this statutory funding quickly, it is proposed that funding would flow through amendments to ISC and PHAC agreements, where applicable, or through a COVID-19 specific funding agreement for ESDC (applicable to Métis Nation, Inuit Land Claim Corporations, and some First Nations recipients).