Allowable Limits for unlicensed and in-home child care supports for Child Care Subsidy Program

Definitions:

RECE Designation:
The Early Childhood Educators Act (ECE Act) recognizes early childhood education as a profession and prohibits any person, other than a member in good standing of the College, from using the titles protected under it. Protected titles include early childhood educator and registered early childhood educator, the designations ECE and RECE, and their French equivalents. The protected titles and designations tell families, employers, colleagues and members of the public that early childhood educators are accountable professionals who have met the education and training requirements for entry to the profession, and whose practice is guided and informed by the Ontario College of Early Childhood Educators Code of Ethics and the Standards of Practice.

OCT Designation:
The Ontario College Council of Teachers grants the OCT designation to members in good standing. The designation signifies that teachers:

- Are certified and qualified to teach in Ontario's publicly funded schools
- Possess distinct knowledge and skills specific to teaching
- Engage in ongoing learning throughout their career
- Belong to a community of highly educated, responsible and caring practitioners who are committed to helping Ontario students develop and succeed.

OCT lets students, parents and the public know that OCT teachers belong to a community of highly educated professionals, people whose practice is guided and informed by the profession’s standards of practice and ethical standards.

Licensed Child Care:
Licensed child care centres care for infants and toddlers, as well as pre-school and school-aged children. They include nursery schools, full-day care, extended hours care, and before-and after-school programs. Child care centres operate in a variety of
locations including workplaces, community centres, schools and places of worship. They are regulated by the Ministry of Education and have regular inspections to ensure that educators, operators, facilities, and programs meet ministry expectations.

**Licensed home-based child care:**
The ministry of Education licenses private-home day care agencies. Those agencies then contract individual caregivers who offer child care out of their own home. These providers may care for infants, toddlers and pre-school-aged children. They may offer care for school-aged children before and after regular school hours, at lunch and on days when schools are closed.

The Ministry of Education inspects the agencies and some home child care locations at least once a year to ensure they meet the licensing standards. Please note that, as of November 1, 2011, all licensed child care operators are required to post information about serious occurrences in a visible area.

**Unlicensed home-based Child Care:**
Unlicensed child care providers are not inspected by the Ministry of Education and are not required to meet most provincial standards. However, the Ministry of Education does investigate complaints from the public about child care providers who may be operating illegally.

Under the Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014, unlicensed child care providers are not allowed to care for more than five children, which includes:

- The provider's own children under the age of four
- No more than three children under the age of two
- This limit on the number of children applies regardless of how many adults are present at the home.
- Unlicensed providers may not operate at multiple premises.

**Before and After School Care**
School boards must offer before and after school programs for children four to 12 years old where there is sufficient demand from parents and families. These programs can be offered by school boards or third-party providers, such as a licensed child care centre or an authorized recreational and skill building program provider.
School boards, working with community partners and families, can decide how they will provide before and after school programs.

Typically, before and after school programs are licensed and regulated by the Ministry of Education however, unlicensed home-based in-home providers may be able to provide this support within the MNO Subsidy Program – if the provider is approved.

**In-home child Care:**
In-home child care provides child care supports within a family’s home. This includes, nanny services, in-home educator services, OCT teachers, RECE’s, babysitters, au pairs, or early learning tutors. Often, these positions require additional in-home tasks above and beyond what a child care centre provides. This may include cooking, cleaning, shopping, and providing transportation for children within the home. For these services, many are charging an hourly rate and work beyond a typical 7.5 hour workday. Some providers will live in the home on a full or part time basis. This work is not regulated through the Ministry of Education. Some providers have formal education and designations while others do not.

To ensure that our Métis children are able to access the highest-quality of care within the child care Subsidy Program, the Métis Nation of Ontario will provide supports to in-home child care on a case by case basis, however will not pay the full salary of employees working within these roles. It is the expectation that families will ensure that providers are being paid a fair wage that is in line with the Ontario Employment Standards Act. Any in-home child care provider is, and will remain, employed/contracted by the citizen. The citizen is responsible for all employment agreements between the provider and citizen.

The Métis Nation of Ontario will require all applicants to submit a resume with references of their preferred provider and a completed unlicensed care form. MNO ELCC will do a reference check and also check the Ontario College of Early Childhood Educators and Ontario College of Teachers to see if the preferred provider is in good standing or if they have any infractions on file.

Once a provider is approved, they will be classified as either a **Designated Provider** or an **Undesignated Provider:**
Designated Provider: RECE or OCT’s providing unlicensed or in-home care:
For providers who hold a RECE or OCT designation and are in good standing, MNO Early Learning and Child Care will cover up to the Designated allowable maximum. In addition, providers will have to provide a resume with references and a completed unlicensed care form. Approval into the Subsidy program is pending manager approval of the application and supporting documents.

Undesignated Provider: Providers without RECE or OCT providing unlicensed or in-home care:
For providers without a RECE or OCT designation, MNO Early Learning and Child care will cover up to the Undesignated allowable maximum. In addition, providers will have to provide a resume with references and a completed unlicensed care form. Approval into the Subsidy program is pending manager approval of the application and supporting documents.

Many providers who are not within the College of ECE or OCT do provide quality in-home and unlicensed supports. These providers may not identify themselves as an OCT, RECE or ECE however can use the following job titles:

- Child care provider
- Child care assistant
- Caregiver
- Home-based child care operator
- Nanny / Au Pair
- Babysitter
- Student Teacher

An Undesignated Provider may be declined as an approved provider for the following reasons:

- No relevant education in early learning, education, or child development. Note: There are many providers who have extensive years of child care experience but do not have a formal education. This will be a consideration when their application is reviewed.
- No relevant child care work experience.
- Are directly related to the children within their care (grandparent, aunt/uncle, or sibling). Families who have a family member providing child care support are encouraged to apply to the Child Care Stipend Program.
• Have had their RECE or OCT designation suspended or revoked (see below)
• Cannot provide supporting documentation to substantiate that the learning
  environment in which care is being provided is safe and conductive to early
  learning.
• Insufficient references or references do not provide supporting information.

Providers with a College of ECE or OCT suspension or have had their
designation revoked:
If a College member’s Certificate of Registration has expired or has been revoked,
cancelled or suspended:

• A notation will be entered on the College’s public register;
• The person may no longer use the title “early childhood educator” or
  “registered early childhood educator” or the designations ECE, RECE, or
  OCT;
• The person may no longer represent or state that they are a member of the
  College;
• The person may no longer engage in the practice of early childhood education
  or state that they are able to do so.

Providers who are still providing in-home or unlicensed care with a College of ECE
suspension or revoked designation are in breach of the ECE Act and could be subject
to charges. Upon conviction, a person is liable for a fine of up to $5,000 for a first
offence and up to $10,000 for a subsequent offence. The College may also apply to a
court for a court order that requires a person to comply with the legislation.

To ensure that the Métis Nation of Ontario Subsidy Program is in line with the ECE
Act and that the college’s Standards of Practice are being followed, no provider with a
suspended or revoked College of Early Childhood Educators or OCT designation will
be supported within this program.

If a provider has a suspended or revoked designation due to non-payment of College
membership, they are encouraged to work with the College to have their designation
reinstated. The Métis Nation of Ontario will NOT pay for any reinstatement fees. Once
they are reinstated into the College and can show the MNO that they are in Good
Standing, they may be considered a Designated Provider. In addition, the provider
will have to complete the unlicensed child care form and provide supporting documentation to show their learning environment meets MNO standards.

If their designation is revoked due to an accusation, investigation, or infractions against the College’s Standards of Practice, the MNO Subsidy program will NOT approve the provider. If the provider can show evidence that the investigation found them not liable and their designation is reinstated they may be considered a Designated Provider. In addition, the provider will have to complete the unlicensed child care form and provide supporting documentation to show their learning environment meets MNO standards.

**Resigned College of ECE or OCT providers:**

Providers may choose to resign from the College of Early Childhood Educators or OCT. If they have made that decision, they may be approved as an Undesignated Provider as long as there are no other infractions on their public register and they are not using the title of OTC, RECE, or ECE.

**Allowable References for Designated and Undesignated Providers:**

Below is a list of allowable references for providers. Note this list is not exhaustive. Please e-mail elccsupport@metisnation.org for further questions.

- Former parents/clients
- Former employers
- Former co-workers
- Former instructors/professors
- Representatives from non-profits that work with children

References cannot be related to the provider and they must be within the past 5 years. Testimonials are approved however, testimonials must also include contact information so MNO ELCC can cross-check.

All references must include: Name, title, how they are connected to the provider, phone number and e-mail address.
**Funding Chart for unlicensed or in-home care:**
The cost of child care in Ontario has a spectrum where average rates for care vary based on location. Based on provincial and regional averages for unlicensed and in-home child care, the Métis Nation of Ontario will cover the per day amounts outlined below. Families will be reimbursed based on the child’s age. If there is more than one child, the family will receive a reimbursement based on the youngest child’s age, plus 10% per child for the remaining children, based on the daily cost. Invoices are required and must show the days care was provided.

The age groups are based on the Ministry of Education definitions and are as follows:
- Infant – younger than 18 months
- Toddler – 18 months to 30 months
- Preschool – 30 months to 6 years
- Kindergarten – 44 months to 6 years
- School age – 68 months to 12 years
### Examples of maximum reimbursements:

- Family in region 2, with an 18-month old, and 5 year old in before and after school care. The provider is a RECE.
$52.00/day + $2.60/day = $54.60/day reimbursement

- Family in region 7 with a school age child, after school care only. Provider is not a RECE/OCT.
  - $13/day reimbursement

- Family in region 9, with two 12-month-olds, and a school age child in before and after school care. The provider is an OCT
  - $68.00/day + $6.80/day + $3.00/day = $77.80 day reimbursement.

Note: These are regional averages based on research on child care rates across the province of Ontario and current child care providers within the MNO Subsidy Program. These averages will be reviewed annually to reflect current child care amounts.

Child care providers who do not meet the requirements of the child care subsidy program will be declined. Parents who have their child care providers declined are encouraged to find another suitable provider or apply to the Child Care Stipend Program: https://metisnation.smapply.io/prog/childcare_stipend_program/

**Kindergarten Aged Children**

Full-day kindergarten is not mandatory. At the schools where full-day kindergarten is offered, parents can choose to remove their child for part of the day if that is what works best for them. Like existing kindergarten programs, parents will continue to have the choice about whether to enroll their four- and five-year-olds in full-day kindergarten. In Ontario, children are required to attend school once they turn six years old.

The Métis Nation of Ontario Child Care Subsidy Program will allow a family with a kindergarten-aged child to attend whatever early learning program is best suited for their child’s learning needs. If the family chooses to enroll their child in a full day kindergarten program, the MNO Subsidy Program will only provide before and after school child care, if needed by the family. If the family chooses to keep their child in a full-day licensed or pre-approved unlicensed home-based or in-home child care until they start Grade 1, the MNO will support through the Subsidy Program.

**For School Aged- Children**

Once a child begins Grade 1, they will only qualify for before and after school programming. The Métis Nation of Ontario Child Care Subsidy program is designed
to provide supports to families with children who are in need of Early Learning or Child Care supports. It is NOT designed to supplement the Education Act through tutors, homeschooling, or full day child care for children in Grades 1-6.

The MNO Subsidy Program will NOT provide full day school-age supports on a full time basis. School-age children only qualify for before and after school care with the following exceptions:

- PD Days
- School Breaks
- Alternative care due to job action or prolonged school closures.

**Note:** Parents must submit a school calendar that indicates PD days and breaks and only the approved provider can provide subsidized care on those days.

If the approved provider cannot provide care on those days, parents are encouraged to apply to the Child Care Stipend Program.

**CONTACT:** If you need help with your application or would like to learn more about the programs available to you, please contact the Early Learning and Child Care team at elccsupport@metisnation.org

When you email us, please include the MNO region, or the municipality, you live in.