

**EARLY LEARNING
AND
CHILD CARE****OVERVIEW**

At the 2016 Assembly of First Nations Annual General Assembly in Niagara Falls, Chiefs-in-Assembly passed AFN Resolution 39/2016, *First Nations National Working Group on Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC)*. This resolution provided the mandate for the creating a First Nation Experts National Working Group (FNWG) on Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC). This working group is to guide the development of the First Nations component for an Indigenous framework for ELCC. Development of this component is to be facilitated through the coordination of regional engagements and research.

Budget 2016 included a commitment of an additional \$100 million for ELCC in Indigenous communities, which would roll out in 2017-18. Budget 2017 further committed an additional \$7 billion over 10 years for ELCC programs and services nationally (including provinces and regions). Beginning in 2018-19, Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) officials have indicated that there will be an additional \$130 million available for ELCC in Indigenous

communities. The anticipated National Indigenous ELCC (NIELCC) framework is expected to guide spending for ELCC beginning in 2018-19.

The First Nations ELCC Framework was endorsed by Chiefs-in-Assembly in December 2017 through AFN Resolution 83/2017, *Support for National First Nations Early Learning and Child Care Policy Framework*. The resolution calls for the First Nations ELCC Framework to stand as the First Nation component within the co-developed National Indigenous ELCC Framework, which also includes distinction based components for Inuit and Métis. The resolution outlines support for implementation of the First Nations ELCC Framework which would also include continuing support from the FNWG on ELCC and First Nations direction and leadership as required.

The resolution also calls for the AFN to work with the Government of Canada to secure additional funding for existing ELCC programs, new investments for capital funding and to fully and separately fund capacity development related to implementation of the framework.

UPDATE

The NIELCC framework is currently within the process of review for approval by Federal

Cabinet. It is anticipated that the review will be completed by mid-June of 2018.

NEXT STEPS

Upon acceptance of the NIELCC Framework by Federal Cabinet the FNWG on ELCC will support the development of regional implementation plans. It is anticipated that the establishment of each regional implementation plan will be

financially supported by the Government of Canada.