

MEMORANDUM

TO: Regulated Child Care Centres; Regional Centres for Early Childhood Education; Conseil scolaire acadien provincial
FROM: Janet Lynn Huntington, Executive Director, Early Childhood Development & Pre-primary
DATE: July 8, 2021
SUBJECT: Accelerated ECE Diploma Program – NSCECE and USA

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) is pleased to continue supporting those working in child care and pre-primary to help them earn a diploma in early childhood education. EECD is pleased to partner with the Nova Scotia College of Early Childhood Education (NSCECE) and Université Sainte-Anne (USA) to provide two accelerated ECE diploma programs starting in September 2021, free of charge. These programs are designed for individuals who are currently working in early learning and care and hold a Level 1 classification to obtain an early childhood education credential.

EECD is pleased to fully fund 60 individuals already enrolled and accepted into the NSCECE Accelerated Program and open up application for another 60 new seats to be fully funded for eligible individuals looking to earn their diploma. First priority for applications will go to those who are newcomers (permanent residents) currently working in child care or pre-primary. In total, EECD expects to fully fund 120 individuals at the NSCECE program. In addition, there will be another 25 seats available for eligible individuals to participate in the accelerated program at USA. Both programs are delivered at no cost to the student.

The accelerated ECE diploma is designed to reduce the time for students to earn an ECE diploma from 2 years full time study to 16 – 18 months while they work. The accelerated timeline is possible as applicants will engage in the Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) process to demonstrate their existing knowledge and competencies. The program consists of online courses and workplace practicums so individuals can continue to work while studying.

This initiative recognizes the financial barriers associated with training opportunities for currently employed staff to advance their education. Tuition and books will be free of charge and both institutions will also provide access to administrative and academic student supports throughout the diploma program.

Applications for these programs will open on Monday, July 12, 2021. To apply to participate in this initiative, individuals must first meet the eligibility requirements through EECD. Visit our website for eligibility requirements and application information: <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/ece>. Once EECD has approved an individual's eligibility, they will receive information on how to apply to NSCECE or USA for admission to the accelerated ECE diploma program.

If you have any questions about this initiative, please speak to your Early Childhood Development or Pre-Primary Consultant, or contact us by email at ecetraining@novascotia.ca, or by phone at (902) 424-3207.

Thank you for your interest in becoming an Early Childhood Educator. Funding for this program is provided by the Canada – Nova Scotia Early Learning and Child Care Agreement.