



APR 20 2016

MS. JULIE GREEN  
MLA, YELLOWKNIFE CENTRE

**Oral Question 56-18(2) Wage Subsidy for Child Care Workers**

This letter is in follow-up to the Oral Question you raised on February 24, 2016 regarding the wage subsidy for child care workers.

In 2014, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) introduced the Early Childhood Staff Grant Program (the Program) to increase the earning potential for eligible licensed day care centre staff, and to offer an incentive to attract new professionals to the early childhood workforce.

While developing the Program, ECE learned from employees and operators of licensed day care facilities that providing the wage subsidy to their employees would result in a significant amount of administrative work. As well, they heard concerns about the impact on a workers wage grid. Consequently, ECE rolled out the Early Childhood Staff Grant directly to day care workers rather than obliging licensed facilities to administer the funding on ECE's behalf. As the payment goes directly to staff, it increases their overall income, but not their salaries. The result is that there is no effect to wage grids and minimal administrative burden.

Further information on the Early Childhood Staff Grant program is available online at:

*<https://www.ece.gov.nt.ca/early-childhood-school-services/early-childhood/right-start-early-childhood-development/information-licensed-early-childhood-programs>*.

Thank you.

**ORIGINAL SIGNED BY**  
Alfred Moses

Alfred Moses  
Minister, Education, Culture  
and Employment

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