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NOVA SCOTIA EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING (RPL) PILOT PROJECT Update- March 2019

We are pleased to bring you another update on the RPL Pilot Project that is underway.

As previously described, RPL is a process that provides for the assessment and recognition of learning that has been acquired through experience and/or education in a particular field. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) has partnered with project funders in the Department of Labour and Advanced Education (LAE) and the Association of Early Childhood Educators of Nova Scotia (AECENS) (formally known as the Nova Scotia Child Care Association (NSCCA)) as project managers, to provide people with prior experience and/or training in early childhood education the opportunity to demonstrate the necessary knowledge and experience required for a Level 2 Classification. This is a complex process that involves the development of a competency profile, development of credible assessment tools and a process for delivering RPL in the pilot phase and for long-term delivery.

Phase 1 was the development of a draft competency profile. The profile is necessary as it defines the expected competencies for early childhood educators (ECEs) with a Level 2 Classification. That phase is now complete, and we have moved on to the final stages of the project in preparation to deliver the pilot.

Phase 2 involves the development of the tools to be used for assessment. It has been determined that the best method is through a multiple-choice exam and behavioral interview. Using these tools, individuals will be assessed to determine if they have the necessary skills and knowledge expected of ECEs with a Level 2 Classification. The assessment process will include a 125-question exam followed by an interview conducted by three independent assessors. Upon successful completion of both assessments, individuals will be eligible to apply to EECD for a

Level 2 Classification. To help develop an RPL process that is valid, fair and reliable two technical working groups with subject expertise in early childhood education have been established and will assist with the development of the exam questions and the behavioural interview. This phase will take place over the next several months.

The final phase (Phase 3) will be the delivery of the pilot. This is scheduled to take place in September and will accommodate up to 30 eligible participants. Following the pilot, the results will be provided to the project partners for evaluation and considerations pertaining to the future delivery of RPL.

The development of an RPL process for Nova Scotia is an important step that will support individuals working in early childhood education environments to be eligible for a Level 2 Classification based on experience and prior learning. As project managers working in partnership with EECD and LAE, we are committed to keeping you informed on the progress of the project. The next project update will include more information about the pilot delivery and how to participate.

If you are interested in learning more about the RPL Project, please contact:

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