



## New funding for enhancing child care options - overview

**GoC investment.** The Government of Canada has committed to making an investment of \$100 million over five years to provide better access to child care for Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) personnel and their families. Supporting military families is crucial to CAF operational readiness and the ability to deploy quickly to protect Canadians. The Government of Canada recognizes that military service demands frequent moves and deployments, which makes it even more difficult for military members and their families to find and maintain child care.

**Who.** This \$100M investment over 5 years will be shared across GoC departments, divisions, agencies and community organizations. A portion of this investment (~\$14.5M annually for 5 years) has been earmarked to CFMWS to be administered and implemented by MFS, for service to be delivered both virtually by MFS and in-person in communities through MFRCs and PSP.

**What.** Within this funding envelope, MFS has been asked to develop and implement 5 major initiatives over the next 5 years:

1. Providing virtual **navigational support** to help CAF families find child care.
2. Increasing the number of **child care workers within the CAF family population** by providing financial reimbursement to train as Early Childhood Educators, support for home-based child care business startups, and financial reimbursement to help them transfer their qualifications when they are posted to a new province or territory.
3. Providing additional funding to MFRCs and NPP entities for **special circumstance child care services** at Bases and Wings, targeting the unique needs of the military community such as before and after school care, occasional care, deployments, spring and summer camp spaces, and programming for children with special needs.
4. Forming **partnerships** with local, regional, and national child care providers to increase access of military families to child care services around CAF locations.
5. Providing **digital information and connection tools** for CAF members and their families seeking child care.

**When.** This investment is time-limited to 5 years (i.e. not baselined) with an end date of 31 October 2030, unless a Treasury Board Submission (anticipated 2028) is approved to baseline funding beyond 2030.

**Where.** Families will be able to access services through these initiatives both virtually for national responsiveness and locally in-person for base/wing location responsiveness. Specifically, families will access the services of Initiatives 1, 2, 4 (partial), and 5 virtually, and Initiatives 3 and 4 (partial) will be delivered in-person at base/wing locations.

**Why.** The Government of Canada has indicated that the overall purpose of these investments is to address CAF operational readiness, retention and recruitment. Child care is essential, especially for military families facing frequent moves and deployments that often leave them at the bottom of local waitlists. Specifically, these investments will help to reduce family child care and cost of living challenges through deployments and relocations. It will also help address CAF recruiting and retention challenges by ensuring they can join and/or remain with the CAF while also being able to prioritize children and family. This investment is about being there for military families so service members can defend Canada and advance the safety, security, and prosperity of Canadians when and wherever needed.

**How.** This investment is for activities that fall within the existing authorities of the Military and Veteran Family Services Program (MVFSP) and current SLAs. It does not expand our existing authorities, meaning it does not provide funding for services that fall under the jurisdiction of provinces and territories. These 5 Initiatives must focus on the expansion of existing services within the MVFSP Strategic Framework, e.g. increased information and awareness activities, navigational support, and individualized intervention for families dealing with relocations, absences and transitions. Expansion of financial support through reimbursements and recertification payments must fall within existing NPP processes and frameworks. Funding disbursements to MFRCs, NPP entities and other organizations must align with the MVFSP Funding Management Framework and NPP SLA and contracting policies. Funding is not available for direct child care provision falling under P/T jurisdiction.

**Next Steps – Local MFRC/PSP/BW Funding Opportunities and POC:**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Examples</b>	<b>Fund POC</b>
<b>Infrastructure</b> (e.g. fixed assets)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capital improvements (renovations, below grade access door, appliances, walls, doors, plumbing, electrical, outdoor fencing)</li> <li>Facility maintenance or improvements (minor renovations, outdoor learning spaces/playgrounds, minor improvements to address existing capacity concerns)</li> <li>Health and safety supports (carbon monoxide detectors, smoke detectors, door alarms, camera systems, emergency kits, transportation upgrades, safe sleep materials) that require infrastructure modifications or installation</li> </ul>	CMP Child Care Team (collaborating with ADM-IE, RP OPS)
<b>Specialized Equipment</b> (e.g. non-fixed assets)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Playground materials to meet safety standards or compliance for serving children with disabilities that do not affect or require infrastructure installation or modifications</li> <li>Assistive technology or adaptive devices that support serving children with disabilities and the provision of inclusionary care</li> </ul>	MFS (Q4)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health and safety supports (carbon monoxide detectors, smoke detectors, door alarms, camera systems, emergency kits, transportation upgrades, safe sleep materials) that do not require infrastructure modifications or installation</li> <li>• Furnishings and appliances to create or increase capacity and improve quality child care environment</li> <li>• Age-appropriate equipment or furnishings for licensed age group</li> <li>• Diverse sensory equipment designed to support children and youth through tactile, visual, and auditory stimulation</li> </ul>	
<b>Materials and Supplies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infant care items (cribs, change-tables, rocking chairs, toys, books, strollers)</li> <li>• MFRC Child Care Centre material enhancements and supplies (play equipment, preschool age toys)</li> <li>• Child program enhancement supplies (learning, educational, and developmental enrichment materials, books, toys, displays)</li> <li>• Materials and supplies for regulations and quality environments</li> <li>• Materials used for learning or meal/feeding activities</li> <li>• Resources or supplies to help augment specialized programming (i.e. sensory room materials)</li> </ul>	MFS (Q4)
<b>Programming</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Within modified MFRC Funding Management Framework and NPF processes, equitably and transparently allocate funding to MFRCs, MFS Entities and PSP for Special circumstance programming, Playcare, Respite care, Relocation spaces (TBD), ECE top-ups (TBD), Underserved area grants, Special needs/inclusion workers, etc.</li> <li>• MFS will work with MFRCs and PSP to scope Initiative 3 key activities and develop the RFP process</li> </ul>	MFS (Q4)
<b>Training and Professional Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for curriculum coaches and consultants</li> <li>• Purchase of educationally rich curriculum</li> <li>• Pediatric First Aid and CPR training and certification for staff working with children to promote safe environments for children</li> <li>• Professional fees for CPA or tax advisors to improve financial stability of child care centres (excluding routine accounting/tax preparation)</li> </ul>	MFS (Q4)