Prince Edward – Lennox and Addington

Revised Directed Growth Strategy

Introduction

With the implementation of the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) system, an additional 53,000 licensed child care spaces will be created in Ontario from 2022 to 2026. These spaces are intended to increase accessibility for children 0 to 5, with the goals of having one affordable child care space available for approximately every 3 children aged 0 to 5 and meet the needs of typically underserved communities across the Province.

A total of 433 spaces had originally been notionally allocated for the counties of Prince Edward and Lennox and Addington to create. These new spaces were allocated throughout our service system area in respect to priority areas determined by the Consolidated Municipal Service Manager (CMSM), focusing on areas with populations that align with the *Access and Inclusion Framework* that the Province has mandated. The purpose of this document is to provide an overview of the priority areas for child care growth in Prince Edward-Lennox and Addington's service area.

Please refer to Table 1 to see the space allocation by school and community base, as well as by year.

Table 1: Number of Spaces Allocated to Prince Edward-Lennox and Addington

Type of Spaces	School-Based Spaces	Community-Based Spaces
2022	0	26
2023	0	54
2024	49	94
2025	49	98
2026	0	63
Total Spaces	**98**	**335**

Update

In March 2025, a recalibration exercise was undertaken by the Ministry of Education to ensure they were able to meet the CWELCC space creation target by the end of 2026. As a result of the recalibration effort undertaken by the ministry, PELASS is one of 27 out of 47 Service System Mangers that received a decreased allocation in CWELCC spaces. PELASS's spaces for 2024-2026 have been decreased by 127 spaces. The revised space target for 2024-2026 is 226 spaces, as shown below.

Year	Original Spaces Allocated (CB and SB)	Revised Spaces (CB and SB)	TOTAL
2024	143	94	-49
2025	147	50	-97
2026	63	82	19
TOTALS	**353**	**226**	**-127**

Note: we met and exceeded our 2022 and 2023 space target of 80 spaces by 4 spaces, creating 84 new spaces. The 84 spaces in addition to the 226 revised spaces for 2024-2026 will bring our total spaces for our service area to 310.

Targeted Growth

Space allocation provided by the Ministry of Education (Ministry) is not meant to meet the overall demand of our communities but rather provide equitable access to those who have been traditionally underserved through natural growth within the sector.

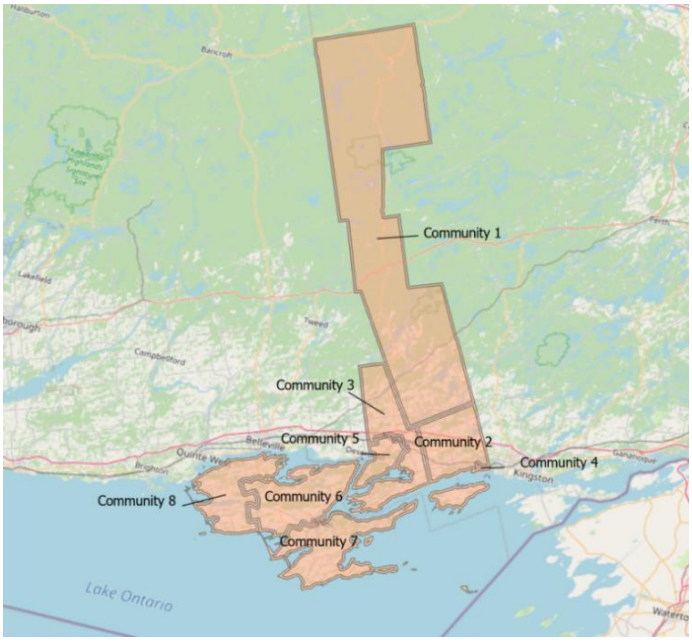
The Ministry has identified the following groups as priority targets for these spaces:

- Children from low-income families
- Children with special needs
- Families who work non-traditional hours
- Children from diverse communities including Black, racialized and newcomers
- Indigenous children
- Francophone children
- Underserved communities/areas

All new spaces are meant to serve the listed groups above as well as comply with the Ministry of Education's direction to maintain current profit and non-profit ratios within the counties. As the CMSM, Prince Edward-Lennox and Addington Social Services (PELASS) is responsible for analyzing relevant data and collaborating with our community partners to identify priority areas which will best serve these focused groups. While PELASS recognizes that all of our communities have unique needs and demands relating to child care, this expansion program is meant to ensure neighborhoods which have been traditionally underserved and have high populations of the Ministry identified groups, be prioritized in the allocation of these limited spaces. However, all opportunities will be reviewed and considered to ensure we entertain all options to best serve our communities.

Data Collection Methodology & Processes

Priority areas were determined by utilizing aggregated dissemination area (ADA) level information from Statistics Canada's 2021 Census. These geographic boundaries are consolidations of existing dissemination areas and other geographically relevant boundaries created by Statistics Canada. ADAs range from populations of 5,000 to 15,000 people based on previous census population counts.



Within PELASS' jurisdiction there is a total of 8 different ADAs; 5 within the County of Lennox and Addington, and 3 within Prince Edward County. Communities were labelled in accordance with their geographic code given by Statistics Canada. The County of Lennox and Addington's ADA identification codes range from *35110001-35110005.* While Prince Edward County has the ADA identification codes ranging from *35130001-35130003.*

Please see Table 2 below for more details relating to the ADA Identification code, as well as the communities within each boundary.

Table 2: PELASS' Aggregated Dissemination Areas and its Communities

ADA Identification	Communities' Within	Community
35110001	Stone Mills & Addington Highlands	Community 1
35110002	Loyalist (Excluding Amherstview)	Community 2
35110003	Roblin, Selby, Switzerville, South Fredericksburgh, & a portion of Napanee	Community 3
35110004	Amherstview	Community 4
35110005	Remainder of Napanee, Richmond & North Fredericksburgh	Community 5
35130001	Sophiasburgh, Bloomfield & Hallowell	Community 6
35130002	Picton, Athol & Marysburgh	Community 7
35130003	Ameliasburgh & Hillier	Community 8

In alignment with the Ministry of Education's space allocation process, PELASS utilized the same socio-economic variables which the ministry used to distribute our service area's notional targets to best allocate the expansion spaces amongst our community.

- Low Income Measure for families with children 0-5
- Residents who spend 30% or more of their income on shelter costs
- Children aged 0 to 5 in lone-parent families
- Women aged 25 to 44 not participating in the labor force
- Recent immigrants 2016 to 2021

Considering the current Infant to Kindergarten licensed child care system in Prince Edward County and the County of Lennox and Addington, there are currently 898 spaces which are eligible to serve families through the CWELCC program as of December 31, 2022. Of those spaces, 404 of them are eligible Kindergarten spaces. Due to the disparity in the number of licensed child care spaces for infant to preschoolers comparatively to kindergarten, PELASS collected and analyzed the data based on the age range of 0 to 4 rather than 0 to 5 to best allocate our expansion spaces to close that disparity. The allocation of spaces is based on serving the infant to preschool community, and PELASS will work on a case by case basis where there is need/demand to create new kindergarten spaces.

From these socio-economic variable populations, a percentage of prevalence was given to each community. From there, an average percentage was calculated and multiplied by the remaining spaces yet to be built, to ensure communities with the average highest target population would receive a space allocation proportional to their vulnerable communities.

In addition to these socioeconomic variables, PELASS reviewed other data such as EDI, Social Risk Index, Parent Survey Data and consulted with key stakeholders. PELASS is committed to continuous consultation with our indigenous, francophone and ethnically diverse communities to ensure these spaces also meet the cultural needs of the children within those groups. Our space allocation methodology prioritizes meeting the needs of the vulnerable communities identified by the Ministry, as well as aligning with our 2020 to 2024 Service Plan's intended outcomes & strategic priorities.

Priority Areas

Following the data collection methods stated above, the following allocation of spaces were distributed as depicted in Table 3. The table shows the community areas in order of highest average percentage of the identified communities, with 1 having the highest and 8 having the lowest.

Table 3: Priority Area Space Allocation

Priority Area	Original CWELCC Spaces Allocated	Recalibrated Spaces	# of CWELCC spaces created as of Dec 31, 2024	# of CWELCC spaces approved for 2025-2026	% of spaces created based on revised targets	Spaces Remaining to be created
1. Amherstview (Community 4)	102*	73	0	0	0%	73
2. Picton, Athol & Marysburgh (Community 7)	53	38	0	49	129%	-11
3. Stone Mills & Addington Highlands (Community 1)	45	32	13	0	40%	19
4. Roblin, Selby, Switzerville, South Fredericksburgh, & North Downtown Napanee (Community 3)	93*	67	57	49	159%	-39
5. South Downtown Napanee, Richmond & North Fredericksburgh (Community 5)	40	29	13	5	63%	11
6. Ameliasburgh , Hillier & Wellington (Community 8)	31	22	14	0	63%	8
7. Loyalist (Excluding Amherstview) (Community 2)	25	18	0	0	0%	18
8. Sophiasburgh, Bloomfield & Hallowell (Community 6)	44	31	31	5	118%	-5
TOTALS	**433**	**310**	**128**	**133****		**49****

**School Based Allocations were committed prior to the implementation of CWELCC, with 49 spaces in Amherstview (Community 4) and 40 spaces in Napanee (Community 3). The 49 spaces in Amherstview will not be completed by December 31, 2026 and thus cannot be counted in our revised targeted number of spaces.*

*** There are additional Home Child Care Spaces approved in both Prince Edward County (10 spaces) and Lennox and Addington County (15 spaces bringing the total approved to 133 and total spaces remaining of 49. We will not know which community these homes will be opening in until they open but we are targeting the highest priority communities.*

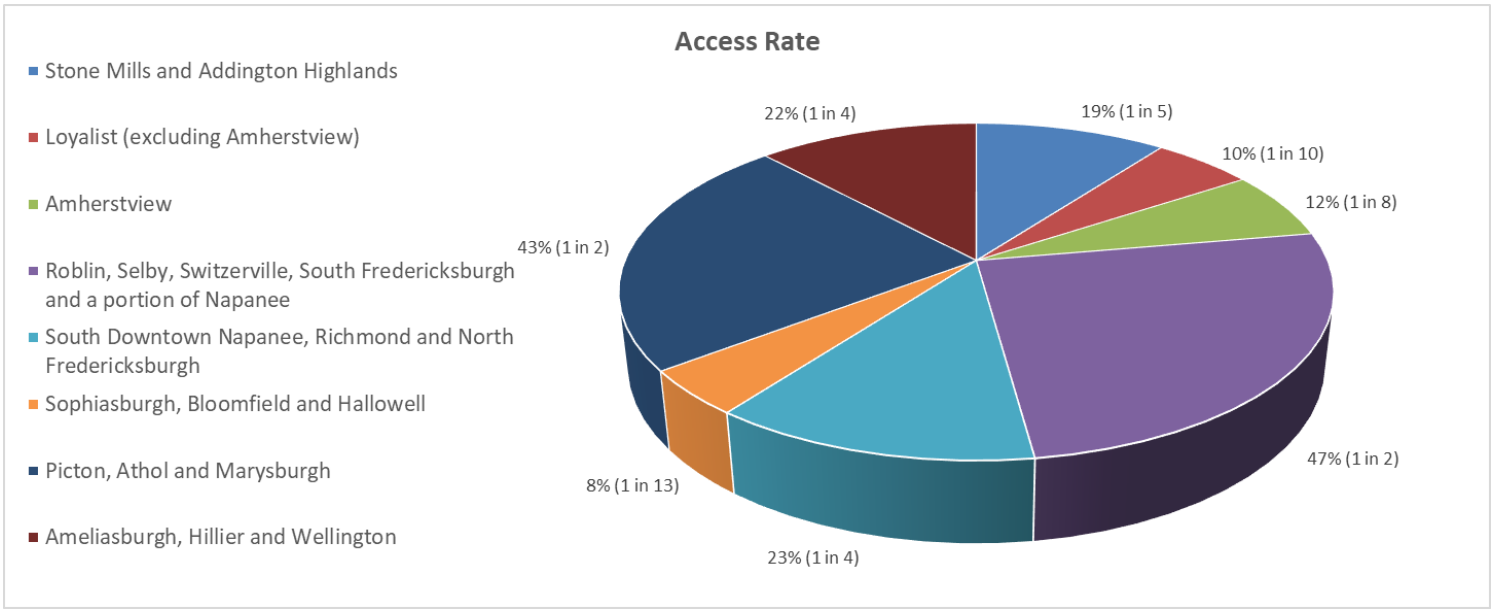
As depicted in Table 3, many communities had have achieved at least 63% of their revised space allocations except for Loyalist Township and Stone Mills/Addington Highlands. Based on this, our priority for the 49 spaces will be in Loyalist Township and/or Stone Mills/Addington Highlands, with a focus on centre-based program(s) that serve infants, toddlers and preschoolers.

In the case where the creation of these spaces is unachievable, PELASS reserves the right to reallocate these spaces to another community. This reallocation process will be determined by analyzing and ranking unfulfilled expressions of interest which would best serve the overall service area and its target populations in accordance with the socio-economic variables. In the scenarios where there are multiple viable options, PELASS will utilize the data gathered from the expansion survey released earlier in 2023 to make a selection.

Note: the spaces shown in Table 3 include HCC spaces which assume that each home child care provider has 5 CWELCC spaces available. The actual number of spaces is constantly changing within home child care and therefore we had to use an approximate number of CWELCC spaces per home. Recently, it was identified that the Ministry is using 4 as the benchmark for the average number of CWELCC spaces per home. PELASS reserves the right to adjust the HCC spaces to align with the ministry methodology and thus this may provide a few additional spaces and flexibility to meet community needs.

As previously stated, the additional spaces were intended to create one affordable child care space for approximately every 3 children. Table 4, below, depicts the access rate for children 0-4 in full day programs (excluding Kinder spaces) across the PELASS service area, assuming the proposed spaces to still be created are created within the priority neighborhoods.

Table 4: Access Ratio



Auspice

The Ministry of Education has mandated a required ratio of not-for profit and for-profit licensed spaces for children ages 0 to 5 years that must be followed by each CMSM under the CWELCC Directed Growth Strategy. CMSM's where less than 90% of their current spaces for infant, toddler, preschool and school-age children are not-for-profit must maintain their current auspice

environment. Alternatively, CMSM where their current licensed spaces exceeds 90% are permitted to reduce their auspice ratio to 90% with the introduction of CWELCC spaces.

To ensure compliance with these mandates, PELASS must maintain the current not-for-profit percentage of 86% and the for-profit percentage of 14%. Based on this ratio of the 433 original CWELCC spaces a minimum of 372 spaces had to be not-for-profit & a maximum of 61 spaces can be for-profit.

Auspice Update

With the re-calibration of spaces, the auspice targets have been revised for the 2024-2026 planning years for each CMSM to ensure the overall auspice target across the province is achieved. Of the 226 spaces to be created, at least 161 of those spaces must be non-profit and 65 spaces may be for-profit.

Of the spaces created as of December 31, 2025, 24 spaces are for-profit leaving 41 potential spaces remaining.

Operator Selection

Application Process

To create an equitable process for awarding the remaining expansion spaces, PELASS has implemented a formal application process and Expression of Interest Process. All interested candidates who are able to meet the deadline of being licensed and operational by December 31, 2026 in the identified priority neighborhoods are being asked to submit an application by August 1, 2025, which is attached to this document. Each application will be reviewed for eligibility including the project location, ability to serve identified socio-economic populations, the timeline of the proposed project and the auspice required ratios. If the applicant is deemed eligible, the applicant will be asked to submit a more detailed business case by September 12, 2025 to further assess the agencies financial viability, suitability of location and site, operational plan requirements, etc. PELASS reserves the right to deny any Application in which they feel as though does not align with the Directed Growth Strategy.

Any operator selected to operate these spaces is required to either currently hold or enter into a Service Agreement with PELASS for CWELCC and is required to maintain their enrollment in CWELCC and participate in the CWELCC system for at least 7 years after opening the new child care spaces and continue operating in the facility for at least 7 years after opening the new child care spaces.

Infrastructure Funding

There are two funding opportunities available to successful directed growth applicants once they have been awarded spaces, Start-Up Grant funding and ELCC Infrastructure funding.

- Start-Up Grant funding is available for both non-profit and for-profit.
- ELCC Infrastructure funding is only available to non-profit.

All spaces must align with PELASS's Directed Growth Strategy and the Ministry of Education's Access and Inclusion Framework. Licensees must enter into a service agreement for enrolment and agree to the Ministry requirements of participating in the CWELCC system as well as all PELASS guideline requirements. Further, Licensees must enter into an infrastructure service agreement to receive infrastructure funding.

Start-Up Grants

This funding supports the creation of new, affordable community-based expansion projects for licensed full-day spaces for children aged 0-4 in targeted locations and for populations most in need. Start-up grants will support directed growth by enabling space creation in neighborhoods that have had historically lower rates of space availability that may not be accommodated through natural growth.

Eligible centre-based applicants may receive a grant up to $350,000 for every 20 child care spaces created. Eligible home child care licensee applicants may be able to receive a grant of up to $1,200 per CWELCC space created, to a maximum of $7,200 per provider.

Eligible Expenses: *Centre-Based Applicants*

- Play-based materials, equipment and furnishings (both indoor & outdoor)
- Non-consumable supplies
- Renovations, additions or repairs to current or potential child care facilities.
- Leasehold improvements
- Changes to outdoor spaces as a result of the expansion

Eligible Expense: *Home-Based Applicants*

- Play-based material, equipment and furnishings (both indoor & outdoor) that can be transferred between home child care licensees as required.

Ineligible Expenses:

- Purchase of land or buildings
- Debt costs including principal and interest payments related to capital loans, mortgage financing and operating loans
- Property taxes
- Expenditures related to the care of children aged 6 to 12
- School-based child care spaces
- Indoor and outdoor renovations, additions or repairs to home child care licensee premises or potential home child care licensee premises

Canada-Ontario Early Learning and Child Care Infrastructure Fund

This funding supports infrastructure projects with a goal of increasing inclusion in child care for underserved communities through the creation of new, licensed community-based child care spaces for children ages 0 to 4.

The ELCC Infrastructure Fund supports not-for-profit licensed child care centres in alignment with Ontario's Access and Inclusion Framework and will complement the Start-up Grant program. ELCC Infrastructure funding must fund projects required for child care facilities to be created, retrofitted, renovated, or expanded to accommodate a maximum group size for each age grouping for eligible children in accordance with O. Reg. 137/15.

Eligible Expenses: Centre-Based Applicants

- Purpose built new construction, renovations, retrofits and additions to community-based child care facilities. This includes expenses incurred through the planning, design and building stages of these projects.
- Purchase of land or buildings.
- Play-based materials, equipment and furnishings (both indoor & outdoor)
- Non-consumable supplies
- Changes to outdoor spaces as a result of the expansion
- Leasehold improvements.

Ineligible Expenses:

- Debt costs including principal and interest payments related to capital loans, mortgage financing and operating loans
- Property taxes
- Amortization of existing assets
- Operating expenses
- Expenditures related to licensed child care programs for kindergarten and school-aged children and before and after school programs.
- Expenditures related to facilities owned by school boards.
- Expenditures related to licensed home child care spaces.

Questions/ Inquiries

For all questions and inquiries relating to PELASS' directed growth strategy please contact:

PELASS Children's Services at

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