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Extracurricular Support Program - Frequently Asked Questions

General Program Questions

What are the changes to the 2026-27 Extracurricular Support Program?

- ELCC reviews programs annually to ensure they meet families' needs and the purpose of the program.
- By October 15, 2026, each child must have submitted an ***acceptable receipt that meets the program's guidelines:***
 - For a registered program or activity that takes place for 8 weeks/sessions
 - and receipts totalling 50% of their funding allocation.
- The Extracurricular Support Program will no longer support full-day summer camp. All summer camps can be supported through the Summer Child Care Subsidy Program for school-age children.
 - The Extracurricular Support Program will support half-day camps that are four hours or less.
- Children born in 2024-2026 can use free programming offered at places such as EarlyON, Healthy Babies Healthy Children, or the public library programming to fulfill the activity requirement.
 - The ELCC team will provide a form to track your child's attendance.
- The program will no longer support the purchase of equipment for infants under six months.
 - Children born after January 1, 2026, are exempt from the October 15 deadline.
- The Extracurricular Support Program will no longer support the following activities:
 - Drop-in bowling passes
 - Trampoline park passes
 - Outdoor tubing passes
 - Indoor playground passes
- The Extracurricular Support Program will no longer support the following items:
 - Sleds/ GT Racers
 - Water mats or trampolines
 - Ziplines
 - Arts and craft kits
 - Raw craft materials will be supported up to \$50 per child.

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Why is the Extracurricular Support Program no longer supporting a full-day summer camp?

- For summer 2026, families can submit summer camp expenses to the Summer Child Care Subsidy Program. Camp is eligible for the program if:
 - The child is attending at least one week of camp (different locations/camps are allowed).
 - The child has completed Junior Kindergarten – Grade 6 as of June 30, 2026.
 - The camp meets the program's guidelines.
- The program provides support based on the family's needs. Families cannot submit the same receipt to both programs.
- Families accessing the program can use extracurricular funding to support non-child-care-focused activities.
- PD day camps, Christmas break camps, half-day summer camps, and March Break camps can only be reimbursed through the Extracurricular Support Program.

Why is there a new policy of 50% of funding and one activity spanning 8 weeks/sessions to be submitted by October 15?

- The ELCC team was finding that families were accumulating receipts and waiting to submit them until late in the year. This caused processing delays and made it challenging to collect additional information if required.
- The program was adapted during the pandemic to support equipment due to limited activity options. These barriers are no longer in place.
- One of the core mandates of the ELCC program is to support children in accessing early learning environments. Registered activities are a type of early learning environment. The sessions ensure that the activity is ongoing.
- These changes will help the ELCC team deliver programs efficiently.

What is the Summer Child Care Subsidy Program?

- The program is for Métis families who need child care for their children when schools are closed during the summer and cannot access the regular subsidy program.
- This program supports the mandatory cost associated with child care or camp.
- The creation of this program allows families who are approved for the Summer Child Care Subsidy Program to use their Extracurricular Support Program funding to support other early learning opportunities that are not child care.

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Why is the MNO no longer supporting children under the age of six months with the purchase of equipment?

- The ELCC team has found that families struggle with purchasing items in this age frame, as they are not yet mobile.
- By six months, we found there are more items/ activities that the children can participate in and engage with.
- Many applications were being declined despite the best intentions of the family.
- Removing these items means less ambiguity about an eligible purchase.

Is there support if I cannot afford the upfront cost of an activity/equipment?

- The Family Support team can support you with the upfront cost of an activity if it is within the allotted amount you have left for your child.
- Please note that the review process takes time, and the family support team is not liable for missed deadlines or limited-time prices.
- All requests for support must be submitted through the application portal no later than September 15, 2026, for the first deadline and January 30, 2027, for the final deadline.
- The ELCC team will attempt to work with other organizations for payment, but we cannot guarantee we will be able to support payment.
- The ELCC team can only support larger equipment purchases of more than \$150 for a single item.
- Please contact your Family Supports Administrator to discuss any available support.

One of my children does not want to participate in anything. Can I use their funds for a sibling?

- Funds are not transferable between children.
- The Extracurricular Support Program provides many options for children, from sports to STEAM, music, and the arts. In some communities, there may be a barrier to accessing non-sport-related programming. The Extracurricular Support Program supports virtual options.

We didn't use all the support from the previous year, and we won't use it all this year. Can I transfer the funding to future years?

- Support cannot be transferred to different program years.

My child requires specific support/items to participate in activities. What support is available?

- If your child has specific needs that may not be met through the general program

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guidelines, please get in touch with your Family Supports Administrator.

- Supports are available on a case-by-case basis. Documentation may be required.

My child or I have a disability that creates barriers to participating or submitting receipts? How can you support us?

- If you or your child has a barrier to participating or struggles with submitting a receipt, please reach out to elccfamilysupports@metisnation.org by September 30, 2026.
- Our team will support you to the best of our capacity, and advise on how the ELCC can help support around these barriers.
 - In some cases, documentation may be requested.

Program Eligibility

How do I qualify for the Extracurricular Support Program?

- A parent, guardian, or child must be an MNO citizen.
- The MNO citizen is eligible for the Direct Benefit Programs and Services Policy: **MNO Policy# 2021- 001: Eligibility for Direct Benefit Programs and Services.**
- The child must be between 0 and 12 years old.
- Applicants must reside permanently in Ontario.

I am an MNO citizen and have kinship with my grandchildren and family. Can we access this program?

- Yes, you can apply for this program for your grandchildren if you have a kinship and are an MNO citizen.
- We require supporting documentation to confirm kinship.

My child has aged out of the program. What other support is available for children aged 13+?

- Supports are available for children and youth through other MNO programs. Some opportunities include:
- Educational and Cultural Camps – Please visit the MNO website or social media for upcoming events.
- Métis Youth Opportunities – Please visit the MNO website or social media for upcoming initiatives or events.
- Please contact your local MNO Community Council, as many councils provide programming and opportunities for Métis youth.
- ELCC cannot support children aged 13 and over due to the terms and conditions of the funding.

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Application Process

When will I find out if my pre-application was approved?

- Families will be informed of the outcome of their pre-application by May 15, 2026.

I am having trouble accessing the portal. What can I do?

- The application portal is accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- If you are having trouble accessing the site, try another browser, clear your cache, try another device, ensure a stable internet connection, etc.
- If you have forgotten your password, reset it on the portal or contact the SMAApply help desk from the portal site.
- ELCC staff cannot make these changes as we do not have those site permissions.
- Please contact your Family Supports Administrator if your problem is unresolved.

I have barriers to completing the application. Can you help?

- Please get in touch with your Family Supports Administrator for support.
- If the internet is a total barrier, please get in touch with our Team Lead, Tamara Robbins, at 905-414-3133 for support.

I did not complete the pre-application. Can I still access the program?

- You can submit your child's information to the waitlist if you did not complete a pre-application.
- We will review the waitlist starting in January 2027.
- Being on the waitlist does not guarantee receiving any funding.
- If there are remaining funds, if we open up the waitlist, the amount each child will receive will be less than the amount each child will receive in the main program's application.
- You must submit receipts that follow the guidelines stated in this document, including the registered activity.
- The waitlist will prioritize children born in 2026 or 2027, applicants who are new MNO citizens, and children who have never received support from the ELCC Extracurricular Support Program.

What can I do to make the application process smooth?

- Receipts should be uploaded as a JPEG, PDF, or TIFF to ensure a smooth review process.

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- If you are submitting receipts for more than one child, please indicate the child's name/initials on the receipt.
- If multiple items are on the receipt, please highlight or indicate which items you seek reimbursement for.
- Equipment CANNOT be shared for reimbursement between children (e.g., a \$1,000 trampoline cannot be split between two or more children, so each child is reimbursed \$500).
- All receipts MUST be purchased/paid for between April 1, 2026, and March 19, 2027. Receipts purchased outside these dates will be declined.
- Receipts MUST have a date (including year) and item(s) purchased. All receipts must fully describe the purchase and the price charged.
- Receipts must be readable:
 - We recommend screenshots rather than taking a photo of a screen.
 - If required, take multiple photos of a receipt. Photos taken from a distance become pixelated when zoomed in.
 - Please try to upload the receipts to facilitate a smooth review process.
 - Debit/credit card receipts are not accepted.
 - Bank, PayPal or credit card statements are not accepted.
 - Only receipts created after an item has been shipped or picked up are accepted.
- We can accept e-transfers if they meet the following criteria:
 - Date of e-transfer.
 - Recipient of the e-transfer.
 - Description of the item/activity.
- We may request photos/ads of purchased equipment or proof of activity enrollment.
- For children turning 13, the receipts must be dated before their 13th birthday, and the amount is not prorated.
- Failure to provide supporting documentation and meet these guidelines will result in the application being declined, with limited opportunities to resubmit if close to the submission deadline.

How many times can I apply?

- Families can apply as often as they like (as long as they meet the \$50 threshold)

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until their funding is exhausted. You should keep track of the dollar amount of the receipts you submit.

- To help with processing, please upload as many receipts as possible into your application when applying.
- You can use one application to apply for multiple children.

How long does it take for an application to be approved?

- If your family is currently involved in an ELCC program, it can take four to six weeks for your application to be reviewed.
- Applications will take longer to review during certain times, such as professional development and the MNO holiday shutdown.
- Once approved, your Family Supports Administrator will email you the approved and remaining amounts. The reimbursement may take up to 3 weeks to be deposited into your account.

Reimbursement

How will I receive the reimbursement?

- Funds will be reimbursed via direct deposit into your bank account on file.
- When applying, please ensure you are attaching accurate banking information. This is limited to
 - Void cheque.
 - Direct deposit form.
 - Screenshot of banking information.
- Handwritten banking information.
- Banking information MUST be in the name of the applicant or the MNO citizen. If the information does not match, we will ask for it in the applicant's or MNO citizen's name.
- Please ensure that any changes to banking information are sent to the ELCC Family Supports Administrator as soon as possible to avoid payment delays.

What is the minimum amount I can submit on an application?

- The minimum amount required per application is \$50 per family.
- For example, if you have two children, you can submit as many receipts as you wish if they add up to \$50. There can be five receipts of \$10 each or two of \$25 each.
- If an application is submitted with receipts totalling less than \$50, it will be declined.

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- You can submit as many applications as you want until the program closes, as long as the application receipts total at least \$50.

I do not have a receipt. Can I provide a written statement?

- Receipts are mandatory.
- If your child is participating in an activity, we may be able to accept a letter from the organization on official letterhead confirming the child's registration and the date the payment was made. We may ask for consent to contact the organizer to verify the details in the letter.
- We can accept dated e-transfer statements accompanied by proof of registration. The e-transfer statement must have enough information for us to link it to the activity/program.

I did not add the tax or shipping to my application. I have already applied for and received the reimbursement. Can I get my taxes and shipping back?

- We can only consider the amount submitted on the application for reimbursement.
- Family Supports Administrators will not add the tax or shipping to the amounts on your application. The family must complete this before applying.
- Please ensure that you add all applicable taxes and Canadian shipping costs to your application totals before submitting it wholly and thoroughly.

I am being asked for proof of payment/purchase for items/activities. This much information was not requested in the past. Why is it required now?

- The ELCC team has grown, and the process of reviewing extracurricular applications has changed. If the criteria for your submission are not met, Family Support Administrators may request additional information before approving it.
- There have, unfortunately, been times when the team has received fraudulent receipts. The team ensures that funding is distributed in accordance with the guidelines approved by MNO leadership.

Equipment and Activities

What types of things can I purchase? Can you recommend something?

- ELCC cannot make specific recommendations as all children have different skills, interests, and abilities.
- If you are unsure if something meets the program parameters, please reach out to your Family Supports Administrator.

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Can activities take place outside of Ontario?

- The program can only be accessed by MNO citizens who live permanently in Ontario.
- If a family moves outside of Ontario during the fiscal year, they must notify their Family Supports Administrator 30 days before moving.
- The program will only accept reimbursements dated before your moving date.
- Failure to notify your FSA about moving will result in the closure of your entire Extracurricular Support Program application. All submitted reimbursements will be declined in full.
- Equipment that meets the parameters can be purchased outside Ontario. Tariffs/import duties are not reimbursable.
- Registered activities such as gymnastics or swimming must be in the province of Ontario only. Exceptions may be granted on a case-by-case basis. These exceptions will be granted to families living in border communities.
- Families will not be reimbursed for travel.

I want to connect my children to their Métis culture. Can this program help?

- Families can use this program to participate in way-of-life activities like fishing, beading, and canoeing.
- ELCC has opportunities to participate in socials and camps, where children and families can learn more about their culture.
- Information is regularly updated on the MNO website or social media.
- Many MNO Community Councils offer family programs and services throughout the year. Please reach out to your local Community Council to learn more about their programming: <https://www.metisnation.org/community-councils/council-contacts/>

I am homeschooling my children. Can I use this fund to help support their learning at home?

- This program cannot support any educational items.
- This includes books, curriculum books, and literacy/numeracy courses.
- ELCC will not reimburse tablets, educational applications, laptops, or educational tools.
- Education resources, such as flashcards, numeracy and literacy activities, will not be reimbursed
- Children under five may be eligible to participate in the Imagination Library- they can receive an age-appropriate children's book each month until they turn five.

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Information is available from the Early Learning Book Program:

<https://www.metisnation.org/programs-and-services/education-training/early-learning-and-child-care/early-learning-book-program/>

I purchased a large piece of equipment last year; can I make the same purchase this year?

- Items used for multiple years (such as trampolines, instruments, canoes, and kayaks) cannot be purchased annually.

The equipment we ordered for our child was lost in transit. What are our next steps?

- Contact the company that shipped the items. If you receive a refund and have been reimbursed, please get in touch with your Family Supports Administrator.

Some of the equipment I purchased was lost/damaged. Can it be replaced?

- No: many items are limited to once per year/ over multiple years.
- If you have questions, please connect with your Family Supports Administrator.

I purchased this item, or something similar, last year, and it was approved; why is it being declined this year?

- The ELCC team reviews the Extracurricular Support Program each year, including adding or removing equipment that no longer aligns with the program's mandate.
- Before purchasing an item, we encourage families to review the program guide and contact your Family Supports Administrator for further information.

We signed my child up for an activity. They do not like it and want to try something else. The organizer is refunding me; what do I do with the funds?

- Please contact your Family Supports Administrator to discuss options.

My child is attending a school activity at a cost. Is this supported?

- The MNO may be able to support extracurricular activities and school trips that meet the general parameters of the program.
- We will request a breakdown of the trip information from the school or organizer.
- The cost of bussing/travel/overnight accommodation will not be supported. Entrance fees to museums, parks, etc., may be supported.

What if I submit a receipt for a child who doesn't meet the age requirement? Can I use it for another child who does?

- Yes, as long as the activity or equipment is age and developmentally appropriate for the child at the time of purchase, and all children have been approved for the

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program.

I see an age requirement for x activity/equipment, and I feel that my child can do the activity or use the equipment even though they are younger than the required age. Can I still buy the item?

- We understand that children develop interests and abilities at different rates. Younger children with older siblings may participate in activities that are not typically developmentally appropriate.
- Our ELCC team has staff who have studied child development, early childhood education, and K -12 education.
- The age guidelines are based on age-appropriate developmental stages for children. This ensures that the equipment meets the child's needs and is appropriate for the child, in accordance with our program parameters and terms and conditions.
- The guidelines reflect the ELECT Document, "How Does Learning Happen," and manufacturer guidelines.
- Families may purchase equipment; however, ELCC cannot support equipment that does not meet the age guidelines, and the application will be declined.

My child is on a rep team, and they have an out-of-town tournament. Can this fund be used for hotels and mileage?

- The program will not cover hotel stays, mileage, or other travel-related costs (such as food).
- It will cover tournament registration fees.
- There is no extra funding for children participating in competitive/ elite sports.

My child is travelling overseas for an event (e.g., a sports or scouting event). Will this fund cover airfare?

- The program cannot cover the cost of overseas travel for events such as sports or jamborees.
- The program will reimburse the cost of participating in the event.

Why did my sibling/cousin/family member receive x item, but I was declined?

- Every application is reviewed based on the parameters of the program.
- You can request a review of the application by emailing Emma Langdon, ELCC Supervisor, Family Supports. Please include your full name and the application number. Reviews may take up to ten business days.

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My child's summer camp is licensed and run through their childcare provider. Should I apply through the Extracurricular Support Program or the Child Care Subsidy Program?

- Licensed and private child care receipts are not eligible for reimbursement through this program.
- Summer camp may be eligible for the Summer Child Care Subsidy Program.
- For more information, please look into the MNO's [Child Care Subsidy Program](#)

My child is anxious about travelling away from me to attend a camp. Will this program pay me to rent a cabin at their summer camp so I can be there for them?

- The Extracurricular Support Program will not cover any hotel/cabin/Airbnb/campsite rentals under the program. In addition, the program does not cover the cost of programs/services used by adults.

I am travelling with my family. We want to participate in "experiences" (e.g., swimming/snorkelling/scuba diving, horseback riding/golf/tennis/skiing, etc.) while on vacation. Is this covered?

- If the activity falls under the program's parameters, you may submit the experience.
- ELCC will only reimburse for the child's portion of the activity and will not reimburse for gratuities.
- Receipts are required, and any receipts not in Canadian funds must be indicated and, if possible, include the conversion amount.
- If we suspect these expenses are not from a vacation but because a family moved out of the province, we may request additional information. If we determine that a family has moved without notice, their expenses will be declined, and your family will be removed from the program. Our terms and conditions do not allow us to support citizens outside the province.

My child is having difficulty in school- can I hire a tutor? My child is homeschooled, and an educator supports us. Can this be supported?

- The program aims to support a child's mental and physical activities outside a formal educational setting, whether traditional schooling, homeschooling, or virtual school, with tutors/in-person tutors. Academic supports are not covered.
- For more information on programs available, please get in touch with us.

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Why was my Hockey Canada Receipt declined/why did I not receive the full amount on the receipt?

- For Hockey Canada receipts, the ELCC team requires: the invoice (which breaks down the cost) and the receipt that Hockey Canada provides after payment confirmation. This will be emailed to the email they have on file.
- We can no longer accept only the invoice that the association provides. If you cannot find the receipt, we may accept the invoice with proof of payment (E-transfer – stating what it is for/who, the correct amount to invoice being transferred, and to a hockey association email or payment log).
- The ELCC team is also unable to reimburse non-mandatory fees on the Hockey Canada invoice (I.E, Volunteering fee, Lottery fee, Jersey deposits, etc.).
- If there is a sibling discount on the invoice, this will be deducted from the hockey registration if no other fees are listed on the invoice.
 - We cannot reimburse for more than what the citizen has paid.

Why did you decline my order summary?

- Order summaries are not proof of payment. They are summaries that the retailer provides to let the customer know what was ordered, the cost, and, in some cases, the tentative shipping date. Order summaries can be changed by the vendor and by the customer. Therefore, it does not demonstrate that the order was completed.
- Amazon Specific: Some vendors, like Amazon, also use 3rd-party vendors on the back end to fulfill your order. Amazon pays those vendors directly using the funds you provided when you placed your order. Once your order is complete, Amazon will issue invoices that you can access in your Amazon account. On the invoice, you will see the line “Sold by”, which indicates a 3rd-party vendor completed your order.
- It is common for Amazon purchases to have multiple invoices within your order. We require the invoice for the item you purchased to confirm it meets the program guidelines. Order summaries do not provide the necessary information.
 - The information below provides instructions for accessing your invoices on Amazon.
 - <https://www.amazon.ca/gp/help/customer/display.html?nodeId=GRPUHK7RCNVRBURD#:~:text=Go%20to%20Your%20Orders.,Select%20your%20browser's%20print%20button>
- **Other online retailers:** Some online retailers use 3rd-party payment providers such as Square, Shopify, PayPal, Stripe, or the Shop App. Often, the online retailer sends an order summary by email to confirm the purchase; however, the actual receipt or invoice is

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available through the 3rd-party payment provider or in your account with the online retailer. Since every online retailer and 3rd party payment provider has a different setup, we are unable to troubleshoot for you. Please reach out to their customer support for assistance.

What are your staff's working hours?

- Most MNO staff work Monday to Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, based on their time zone.
- Some of our staff work outside of these hours. We will respond to you within 2 business days, excluding weekends, holidays, and other holidays.
- Any communication sent outside MNO operational hours will not be responded to until business hours resume. This includes holidays and weekends. We will reply to you within two business days. We encourage a work-life balance for our coordinators.
- During high-volume times, ELCC Family Supports Administrators will set up an automatic reply informing families that our response time may be delayed.
- If you do not get a response back from your ELCC Family Supports Administrator within ten business days, please get in touch with Emma Langdon, ELCC Supervisor of Family Supports.

I have questions for my Family Supports Administrator and would like to see them publicly or at an event. Can I ask them about my applications?

- Staff will only answer programming questions during regular working hours and or when they have the capacity to do so during special events.
- Staff working during events and camps may be unable to access your file during the event. Please email your questions to them; they will follow up after the event.
- If you meet with a staff member outside of working hours, they are not obligated to answer your questions regarding our programs.
- Many staff are also citizens and may be at an event as a citizen, not as staff. They are not expected to answer questions when they are not working.

I am on an MNO Community Council/PCMNO/ MNO Auxiliary Council. Can I still access this program?

- You can access the program if you have children between 0 and 12 years old.
- If you are concerned about privacy, please get in touch with Emma Langdon, Supervisor of Family Supports.

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I am an MNO staff member and an MNO citizen. Can I access this program for my children? If yes, what steps do I have to take?

- You can access the program if you have children between 0 and 12 years old.
- You complete the online application, and the Family Supports Administrator will contact you after your application is reviewed.
- If you are concerned about privacy, please get in touch with Emma Langdon, Supervisor of Family Supports.

I am an MNO staff member working in another program, supporting a client with an application. What can I do to help?

- Contact us, and we will work with you directly on a referral.
- We strongly recommend that staff outside ELCC connect with the ELCC team to support your client's needs.
- Do not create an application for a client using your MNO email.

Other Questions

My child was injured in an activity or on equipment purchased through this fund. Is the MNO liable?

- The MNO is not liable for injuries or accidents during an activity and while using the equipment.
- Parents/guardians take complete responsibility to ensure equipment/activities meet the developmental abilities of their child.
- Parents/guardians are responsible for ensuring that equipment/activities are used safely.

Can I share photos of my child participating in the activity?

- We love to see photos of children participating in activities. Please send them to your Family Supports Administrator.
- Photos may be shared within the ELCC team; sometimes, the MNO will require a media consent form to ask you to sign a release for broader sharing.
- Please ensure the photos you share are allowed to be shared, and only your children are in the photograph.

Can I share a testimonial of the program?

- We love hearing about the impact of programs on our families. Please send them to your Family Supports Administrator.
- Testimonies may be shared within the ELCC team; sometimes, we ask you to sign a

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consent form for broader sharing.

We are moving to another MNO region in Ontario. Do we have to let you know?

- Please get in touch with your Family Supports Administrator before moving so they can make the appropriate internal changes.

I am moving outside of the province. Is there still support through the MNO I can access?

- The program can only be accessed by MNO citizens who live in Ontario.
- If a family moves outside of Ontario during the fiscal year, they must notify their Family Supports Administrator 30 days before moving.
- The program will only accept reimbursements dated before your moving date.
- Failure to notify your FSA about moving will result in the closure of your entire Extra Curricular Support Program application. All submitted reimbursements will be declined in full.
- Please get in touch with your Provincial Métis Government for Early Learning and Child Care Support. Each provincial Métis government has different programs and supports to meet its community's needs.

Contacts

If you need help with your application or would like to learn more about the programs available to you, please get in touch with the Early Learning and Child Care team

elccfamilysupports@metisnation.org

When you email us, please include the MNO region or the municipality you live in so we can help you promptly.

Métis Nation
of Ontario 

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