



MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

# EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE



## 2026 Frequently Asked Questions for the Métis Nation of Ontario Summer Child Care Subsidy Program

What are the Changes for the 2026 Program _____	2
General Program Questions _____	2
Program Eligibility _____	4
Application Process _____	5
Staff _____	6
Other Questions _____	7
<b>CONTACT</b> _____	<b>8</b>



MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

# EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE



## What are the Changes for the 2026 program?

- Families only require one week of child care/camp to access the program.
- Half-day camps (i.e. camps that are less than 3.5 hours) do not qualify for the program.
  - Half-day camps can be submitted to the 2026-27 Extra-Curricular Reimbursement Program for families who were approved through the OneApp.
- Summer day camps can only be submitted to the summer subsidy program.

## General Program Questions

### *Why did you create a Summer Child Care Subsidy Program?*

- The stipend and subsidy programs have wait lists, which creates a barrier for families who only require child care for the summer months.
- Many families have used the extracurricular program to cover child care or camp costs. These are child care costs, not extracurricular activity costs.
- By supporting families with a specific summer child care program, families who access the Extra-Curricular Reimbursement Program can use that funding for other learning opportunities and skills-building activities.

### *Why are there restrictions on camp/ child care?*

- The ELCC team has always encouraged families to access quality child care programs for children.
- The approved camps and child care historically provide high-quality child care or recreational opportunities.
- The list of approved child care and camps is expansive and includes child care and camp options available in most communities.
- The funding terms and conditions do not allow the team to support education activities (such as tutoring).
- Families have access to programs such as the Child Care Stipend Program (for child care by an individual caregiver) or the Extra-Curricular Reimbursement Program (for overnight camp or half-day camps).

### *Is there a waitlist for the Summer Subsidy Program?*

- There is no waitlist for the Summer Subsidy Program. For the summer 2026 program, all families who meet the qualifications will receive a subsidy.

### *I cannot afford the upfront cost of the camp or child care. Can MNO support me?*

- If there are financial barriers, the MNO will work with the family and camp or child care for payment on a case-by-case basis.
  - The ELCC team will try to work with the child care or camp to pay its portion directly, but it cannot guarantee this. It is suggested that families have multiple child care or camp options available.



MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

# EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE



- Families can identify that they require support at the time of application. If a situation changes, families should reach out as soon as possible.
- Please indicate on the application that you are requesting support, and ELCC Family Supports staff will reach out for more information.

*My camp payments are not scheduled until later in the summer. How will I be reimbursed?*

- You will be able to submit receipts through the application portal. ELCC staff will provide instructions on the process once you are approved.
- Receipts should show:
  - Full details of the camp/child care, including name and phone number
  - Date of payment (including year)
  - Details of the program and/or child's name
  - Full details of the payment, including taxes (if applicable) and other fees
  - Payment is complete (future/scheduled payment dates cannot be reimbursed)
- All receipts must be submitted by October 3, 2026. Receipts submitted after this date **will not be** reimbursed.

*I paid for camp in January-March 2026 and submitted it to the extracurricular program. It was reimbursed. May I request that the camp be considered for the Summer Child Care Subsidy Program?*

- No, we are unable to move receipts between programs.

*What dates are eligible for the program?*

- Only child care or camps that take place between June 22 and September 4, 2026, are eligible
- If your school or school board has an alternate summer holiday schedule, please make note of it in your application. The team may request a copy of the school calendar.

*Due to my work schedule, I must pay additional fees for before or aftercare. Are these eligible?*

- Before and aftercare costs included on receipts will be reimbursed according to the subsidy rate.

*I work shift work, alternating days and times. I only need child care three days in some weeks- can I use this program?*

- Please reach out to the ELCC team to discuss your family's specific needs.

*I only need camp for weeks that include holidays (i.e. Canada Day and the August long weekend/Civic Holiday). Are these considered a full week, even though it's only four days?*

- Yes, as long as you access the camp/child care for the entirety of the week that the camp/child care is running.

*I relied on the extracurricular program to support my summer childcare needs in previous years. Why can I no longer submit summer camp through the Extra-Curricular Program to receive a higher reimbursement?*

- The Early Learning and Child Care programs offered through the MNO are funded by the federal government through the Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Secretariat.



MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

# EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE



- One of the core directives of this funding is to improve access to child care for Métis children.
- Many families face barriers in accessing safe, affordable, quality child care in the summer months.
- This program ensures families have access to summer child care programs and have access to the extra curricular program.
- The Extra-Curricular Reimbursement Program supports families to access opportunities and activities that enhance Métis children's physical, mental, and social well-being, outside a formal child care environment.

## Program Eligibility

*How do I qualify for the Child Care Summer Subsidy 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 have completed Junior Kindergarten-Grade 6 by June 2026.
- Applicants must reside permanently in Ontario.
- The child care or camp must take place in Ontario.

*I am an MNO citizen and have a kinship with my grandchildren/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 attends a private school. Can they access this program?*

- The program does not support the cost of private school during the summer.
- It will cover the cost of camps the school operates, but educational programs will not be supported.

*My child attends an educational program (e.g., tutoring, summer school). Can the program cover these fees?*

- No, the team cannot support primarily educational programs through the Summer Subsidy Program, including tutoring and summer school.

*My child is attending Junior Kindergarten in September 2026. Can they participate in the Summer Child Care Program?*

- Families with non-school-age children have other funding options and do not require the temporary nature of summer child care.
- Many summer child care day camp options are limited to school-age children.
- Families with under four can access the [subsidy program](#)



MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

# EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE



- Children under six can access Canada-Wide Early Learning Child Care funding, which reduces licensed child care costs.

*I require childcare options for other school holidays (such as PD days, March Break, or Christmas). Can I apply to this program to support those times?*

- This program is currently only for summer child care due to the length of time child care is required.

*My school-age child accesses the subsidy program during the school year. Do I need to reapply?*

- If your children access the subsidy program during the school year, you do NOT need to apply to the summer program.
- If the child care is open during the summer, no further action is required, and there will be no changes to how you receive the subsidy.
- If the child care closes during the summer, or if your child attends a day camp in addition to their regular child care, please reach out for more information on how you may qualify for a subsidy for the summer camp.
- MNO will not subsidize or reimburse child care and camp that occur at the same time through any of its programs.

*My child does not access the subsidy program during the school year, but one or more of their siblings do. Which program do I apply to?*

- If your child does not access the subsidy program during the school year, you need to apply to the summer subsidy program.

*We access the stipend program. My child is attending camp this summer as well- can they remain in the stipend program?*

- If your child is in a formal child care setting, including summer camp, you are required to apply to the Summer Subsidy Program.
- You can not receive a stipend and summer camp subsidy on the same days.
- You can receive the before/after stipend for the days your children attend camp, and you require extended care. Documentation is a subsidy.
- Summer subsidy funding must be disclosed in the bi-monthly check-in. Failure to disclose may result in being removed from both programs.

## Application Process

*When will I find out if my application was approved?*

- Every application is reviewed by a Family Support Administrator and the ELCC Family Supports leadership team.
- During peak times, applications may take up to 20 business days to be reviewed and a decision to be made.



MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

# EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE



- Applications that are submitted without the correct supporting documents (for example, pay stubs instead of a Notice of Assessment) will be delayed.

## *How do I know my application was submitted?*

- Each submitted application generates an automatic email to the email address entered in the application. This is usually generated within a few minutes.
- If you do not receive it within a few minutes, check your spam or other email folders for the email.
- ELCC staff do not submit complete applications; it is the applicant's responsibility to ensure the application is submitted.

## *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.
- Please get in touch with [ELCCsupport@metisnation.org](mailto:ELCCsupport@metisnation.org) if your problem is unresolved.

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

- Please get in touch with your Family Supports Administrator, [ELCCsupport@metisnation.org](mailto:ELCCsupport@metisnation.org) or 905-414-3133 for support.
- Please reach out to the team not later than September 15, 2026, for assistance.

## Staff

### *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 flex their day outside of these hours. We will respond within 5 business days, excluding weekends and statutory holidays.
- Any communication sent outside the MNO operational hours will not be responded to until business hours resume. This includes holidays and weekends.
- 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, at [emmal@metisnation.org](mailto:emmal@metisnation.org)

### *I have questions and know the Family Support Staff in the community. If I see them at an event or on social media, can I ask them about my applications?*

- All staff have the right to disconnect from work.



MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

# EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE



- Staff will only answer programming questions during regular working hours.
- Staff will not answer questions through personal email, their personal phone number, social media, etc. All correspondence must be sent to an MNO email address or a work phone number to ensure privacy and confidentiality.
- 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 attend community events as citizens, 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 meet the eligibility requirements.
- 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, at or 807-627-7349.

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

- You can access the program if you meet the eligibility requirements. Complete the online application, and ELCC staff will contact you after it is approved.
- MNO citizen staff will be required to complete the reimbursements through Databasics for privacy reasons. ELCC staff will provide instructions on this process after you are approved. Expenses not processed in this manner will be declined.
- If you are concerned about privacy, please get in touch with Emma Langdon, Supervisor of Family Supports, at or 807-627-7349.

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

- Contact us [elccsupport@metisnation.org](mailto:elccsupport@metisnation.org), and we will work with you directly on a referral.

## Other Questions

*Can I share photos of my child participating in child care or camp? Can I share a testimonial?*

- We love to see photos of children participating in child care or camp. Please send them to your Family Supports Administrator or [elccsupport@metisnation.org](mailto:elccsupport@metisnation.org)
- We love hearing about the impact of programs on our families. Please send them to your Family Supports Administrator or [elccsupport@metisnation.org](mailto:elccsupport@metisnation.org)
- Testimonies and photos may be shared within the ELCC team; in some cases, we may ask you to sign a release for broader sharing.



MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

# EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE



*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. Are there still supports through the MNO I can access?*

- The program can only be accessed by MNO citizens who live in Ontario.
- Please get in touch with your provincial Métis government to inquire about Early Learning and childcare support. Each provincial Métis government has different programs and supports to meet its community's needs.

## CONTACT

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 at [elccsupport@metisnation.org](mailto:elccsupport@metisnation.org)

**When you email us, please include the MNO region or the municipality where you live so we can support you promptly.**