

Wednesday, April 29th, 2026

Dear supporters,

The Early Childhood Development Association of PEI (ECDA) is deeply concerned about the Province of Prince Edward Island's decision to reduce funding for Pedagogical Support positions by up to 50% depending on centre size. We will be raising awareness about the importance of this role within our early learning system and the need for this position to remain fully funded.

Pedagogical Support Staff are essential to delivering high-quality early learning and child care; they support educators in classrooms, provide time for planning and documentation, mentor staff, and help maintain safe, stable environments for children.

*“Since its introduction in 2022, the Pedagogical Support position has been essential in making progress across PEI’s Early Learning and Child Care sector. It directly responded to what our sector (the Early Learning and Child Care workforce) told us in 2021 through “This is Your Workforce” consultations, where an extra set of hands above ratio was the #1 priority!” - Jenn Nanagreaves, Executive Director at the ECDA of PEI*

Pedagogical Support Staff have played a critical role in advancing:

**Quality:** Supporting children’s development through stronger programming and educator capacity.

**Working Conditions:** Improving educator well-being and reducing burnout.

**Sustainability & Growth:** Enabling centres to retain staff, recruit new educators, and expand services for families.

They also provide critical oversight and consistency, particularly during staffing shortages, and help stabilize programs while centres wait for additional supports, such as Inclusion Support Workers.

*“Some children just need a little more time, to get dressed, to settle in, or to work through big emotions like missing their parents. Those are the moments that matter most, and they can’t be rushed. Pedagogical Support staff make that possible; they can step in with the group, or support one child, so no one gets left behind. Without that role, educators are responsible for everyone at once, and those moments become harder to give. That time and care is what helps children grow, and it’s why full funding matters.” — Laura MacNevin, ECDA Board Chair, Pedagogical Support Staff, Hunter River Early Learning Centre*

Reducing this funding risks reversing progress at a time when demand for child care is growing and centres are being encouraged to expand.

In addition, other recent changes impacting sector supports, including education funding, further challenge the system's ability to grow and respond to demand. As an example: The cost of the introductory early childhood educator courses through Holland College and Collège de l'île, which is currently a factor in recruitment to the sector, is no longer covered by this new level of funding.

We recognize the fiscal pressures facing government, and remain grateful for continued investments in the sector, including \$10-a-day child care and recent wage increases.

However, **we respectfully ask the Province to reconsider this decision and continue investing in the foundational supports that ensure quality early learning for Island children.**

**Share your story!** We invite children, educators, families, and community members to share their experiences and help demonstrate the impact of this role: [ecdaofpei.ca/impact](http://ecdaofpei.ca/impact)

Sincerely,  
Your Early Childhood Development Association of PEI

*An educator's teaching conditions, are children's learning conditions.*