NOVA SCOTIA EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING PROJECT

Update-August 2018

As the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) project comes closer to the completion and validation of the Early Childhood Educator (ECE) competency profile, as project manager we want to provide an update on what has been accomplished and the next steps. We also wanted to acknowledge how important the participation of our Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) is to the success of the project.

The Project:

The Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) project is a process that will provide an alternate pathway to classification in Nova Scotia. Currently underway, the project will include the delivery of a pilot program for up to 25 people in fall 2018 and provide a tool and process for individuals with a combination of experience and alternate training (e.g. credential in a related field, training outside Canada, continuing education courses) working in early childhood programs to demonstrate the competencies required for a Level 2 Classification.

This project responds to government's commitment to recognize professionals working in regulated childcare in the June 2016 plan, *Affordable, Quality Child Care: A Great Place to Grow!*

To address this mandate, the Nova Scotia Child Care Association (NSCCA), the Departments of Education and Early Childhood Development and Labour and Advanced Education, have formed a partnership and contracted an expert in the field to develop the RPL model. This work is not being completed in isolation. It relies on the knowledge and experience of our early childhood educators in the field who have the expertise to inform this work.

Expertise from Nova Scotia Early Childhood Educators

Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) in the RPL project provide practice knowledge, experience and judgment to the project in a variety of ways, providing expertise as required and participating in meetings and focus groups throughout the project. There is also an Advisory Committee of SMEs who have committed to validating the profile to ensuring that it reflects current practice in Nova Scotia. The Advisory Committee will also participate in the validation of the examination tool and the performance appraisal tools.

Competency Profile:

Work on the profile continues with completion anticipated early September 2018.

SMEs have been asked to participate in the revising process using interviews to ensure that the diversity of ECE's in the province is represented.

The profile is the basis for developing examination questions and performance appraisal tools to use in the assessment process.

Next Steps:

Development of Exam Questions and Performance Appraisal tools:

Ten SME's will be required for interviews to provide scenarios to assist in the development of examination questions and five SME's will be interviewed for critical incidents to use in the development of the performance appraisal tool for candidates in the RPL process.

The Project Advisory Committee will go through the validation process for the questions and the performance appraisal tool.

The development of an RPL process for Nova Scotia is an important step in the recognition of competent individuals working in early childhood programs. Participation of SMEs in the development process makes a valuable contribution to an important initiative. The process that SMEs are participating in will contribute to the development of an RPL process that is valid, fair and reliable. As project managers we will continue to keep you informed as the project evolves.

If you are interested in learning more about the RPL Project please contact:

Catherine Cross- RPL Project Manager

Nova Scotia Child Care Association

exd@nschildcareassociation.org