

April 20, 2011

FUNDING FOR 25 NEW CHILD-CARE CENTRES RAISES FAMILY CHOICES COMMITMENT TO 54 NEW CENTRES OVER FIVE YEARS**\$21.3-Million Investment, 2,100 More Funded Spaces in Budget 2011 Creates More Options for Manitoba Families: Selinger**

The province will fund an extra 25 child-care sites, raising its five-year commitment under Family Choices to 54 new centres, Premier Greg Selinger announced today.

Also under Budget 2011, the province is investing an extra \$21.3 million for these child-care centres, 2,100 newly funded spaces, including infant spaces, and improved pensions for child-care workers, the premier said.

"This is an historic investment in child care by any Manitoba government," he said. "When we launched Family Choices in 2008, we committed to create 35 new child-care centres and fund 6,500 more spaces in five years. With today's announcement, we've not only hit our original commitment of 35 centres we have now surpassed it by 19 and have reached almost 90 per cent of our commitment on spaces."

Investments include:

- 46 capital projects over the next two years for 25 new centres and the revitalization of 21 others;
- more spaces, including 2,100 funded spaces, and enhanced funding for 400 nursery school spaces in 2011-12;
- funding for pensions, including a new two per cent incentive for workers who want to join the pension plan, and funding for the employers' share; and
- new funding to centres for rent and other operating costs.

More than half of the 2,100 spaces receiving funds for the first time will be new and the province will focus funding on infant spaces, Selinger said.

Of the 46 capital projects, 15 centres are at school sites and 31 are located in other community sites.

"This past fall, a groundbreaking pension plan for early-learning and child-care workers was introduced to encourage people to enter and stay in the field," the premier said. "Today's announcement builds on this measure by providing new two-year funding to cover two per cent of the employee's share, which will encourage people to join this important plan. This means that workers have to contribute just two per cent of their pay to get an eight per cent pension contribution.

“With today’s announcement, our government will have increased the number of funded child-care spaces by more than 80 per cent since 1999 and the child-care budget has increased by 157 per cent,” said Selinger. “This commitment by our government to an historic expansion of the child-care system is critical for families to work and attend education or training programs, as well as for the well-being of children and the strength of our economy.”

A full copy of Family Choices is available at www.manitoba.ca/childcare.

Today’s announcement supports the province’s ALL Aboard Poverty Reduction Strategy.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ATTACHED

APPROVED EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE CAPITAL PROJECTS

Project	Type	Region, Community, School/School Division	New Centre/ Revitalization
ACCESS St. James	Community site	Winnipeg, St. James-Assiniboia	New centre
ACCESS NorWest	Community site	Winnipeg, Inkster	New centre
Amber Trails	School site	Winnipeg, Seven Oaks; New Amber Trails School, Seven Oaks School Division	New centre
Anne Ross Day Nursery	Community site	Winnipeg, Point Douglas	Centre revitalization
Anne Ross Day Nursery, Mothering Project Infant Centre	Community site	Winnipeg, Point Douglas	New centre
Arborg Play Group	Community site	Interlake, Arborg	Centre revitalization
Brandon Family YMCA	Community site	Westman, Brandon	Centre revitalization
Bright Beginnings Educare	Community site	Central, Headingley	Centre revitalization
Busy Bee Day Care Centre, Punjab Centre	Community site	Winnipeg, Inkster	New centre
Country Kids Learning Centre/St. Francois Nursery School	Community site	Central, St. Francois Xavier	Centre revitalization
Faith Lutheran Day Care	Community site	Winnipeg, St. Vital	New centre
Garden Grove Child Care Program	Community site	Winnipeg, Inkster	New centre
Garderie de Bambins Co-op	Community site	Eastman, St. Malo	Centre revitalization
Garderie Ile des Chenes Daycare	Community site	Eastman, Ile des Chenes	New centre
Gillam Preschool and Child Centre	Community site	Northern, Gillam	Centre revitalization
Happy Thought School	School site	Interlake, Selkirk; Happy Thought School, Lord Selkirk School Division	New centre
Highbury School Site	School site	Winnipeg, St. Vital; Highbury School, Louis Riel School Division	New centre
Holland Child Care	Community site	Central, Holland	New centre
Huron Child Care	Community site	Winnipeg, Inkster	New centre
J.A. Cuddy Child Care Centre	Community site	Central, Sanford	New centre
Keewatinowi Awasisak Opi-Ki-Wak Day Care University College of the North	Community site	Northern, Thompson	New centre
Kinder Korner Early Learning Centre	School site	Eastman, Steinbach; Clearspring Middle School, Hanover School Division	New centre
Kokums Little Friends Daycare	Community site	Westman, Brandon	Centre revitalization
Kookum's Place Daycare Preschool Centre	Community site	Winnipeg, Point Douglas	Centre revitalization
Lakewood Child Care	School site	Winnipeg, St. James; Lakewood School, St. James-Assiniboia School Division	Centre revitalization
Leila Day Care Centre	Community site	Winnipeg, Seven Oaks	Centre revitalization
Les Tournesols de St.Vital	School site	Winnipeg, St. Vital; École Christine-Lespérance, Division Scolaire Franco-Manitobaine	Centre revitalization
Little Dreamers Day Care	School site	Northern, The Pas; Margaret Barbour Collegiate, Kelsey School Division	Centre revitalization

Project	Type	Region, Community, School/School Division	New Centre/ Revitalization
Ma-Mow-We-Tak Friendship Centre Daycare	Community site	Northern, Thompson	New centre
Minnedosa Community Child Care Coop	School site	Westman, Minnedosa; Tanner's Crossing School, Rolling River School Division	Centre revitalization
MFRC Childcare Centre	Community site	Winnipeg, St. James	Centre revitalization
Portage Day Care	Community site	Central, Portage la Prairie	Centre revitalization
Rady Jewish Community Centre	Community site	Winnipeg, River Heights	Centre revitalization
Sage Creek New School	School site	Winnipeg, St. Vital; Louis Riel School Division	New centre
Specialized Services for Children and Youth	Community site	Winnipeg, Inkster	New centre
Spring Meadows School Age Centre	School site	Winnipeg, Transcona; Bernie Wolfe School, River East Transcona School Division	Centre revitalization
St. Andrews Child Care Centre	Community site	Interlake, St. Andrews	New centre
Steinbach High School	School site	Eastman, Steinbach; New Steinbach High School, Hanover School Division	New centre
Taking Charge!	Community site	Winnipeg, Downtown	Centre revitalization
Treasure Keeper's Children's Centre	School site	Eastman, La Broquerie; Arborgate School, Seine River School Division	New centre
Victory School Site	School site	Winnipeg, Seven Oaks; Victory School, Seven Oaks School Division	New centre
Wawanesa Wee Care	Community site	Westman, Wawanesa	Centre revitalization
Wild Strawberry Children's Centre	Community site	Winnipeg, downtown	Centre revitalization
Winkler High School	School site	Central, Winkler; New Winkler High School, Garden Valley School Division	New centre
Winnipeg Mennonite Early Learning Christian Centre	Community site	Winnipeg, St. James	New centre
Woodlands School	School site	Interlake, Woodlands; New K-8 Woodlands School, Interlake School Division	New centre