Following are FAQs regarding the new Child Care Act and associated regulations, coming into force on July 31, 2017. This document will be updated as other questions arise and will be posted on the Department’s website at http://www.ed.gov.nl.ca/edu/family/childcare/index.html.

1. **Waivers for buildings and outdoor play areas were supposed to be in and approved by July 31, 2017 – what if this has not been done for my child care service?**

   A child care service that will not meet the new requirements of the Child Care Act and Regulations upon coming into force on July 31, 2017 are required to apply for a waiver (or waivers) by completing a Child Care Building and Outdoor Play Area Waiver Application form. The form is posted online at http://www.ed.gov.nl.ca/edu/family/childcare/index.html. Your Child Care Consultant or Social Worker is available to help you determine what waivers are necessary for your centre. The deadline for the submission of these waivers to your regional office has been extended to August 31, 2017.

2. **If I have a waiver(s) for buildings or outdoor play areas, how long will it be valid?** This waiver is effective under the Child Care Act until there is a break in service (e.g. operating as something other than a child care service, non-operational for six months or more); or there are renovations to the part of the facility that the waiver is in place to address; or the child care service moves to a different location.

3. **What happens if I want to sell my child care centre – will the waiver(s) still be in place?** As long as none of those situations noted in #2 above occur the waiver would stay with the centre.

4. **What about staff who hold staffing waivers currently?** Their current waiver stays in place. The renewal of a staff waiver/new request for staff waiver process has not changed.

5. **What happens to Outdoor Play Area structures that are currently in use at centres with respect to being deemed for commercial use only?** The regulations have been amended to further define “designed for commercial use”. This amended definition will allow centres to have outdoor play structures assessed and approved by Service NL when these structures are not specifically designated for commercial use. This assessment and approval must occur before July 31, 2018.

6. **What happens to an Entry Level certification when the new legislation comes into force on July 31st, 2017?** You do not need to get a new certificate printed as long as you hold a valid Entry Level certificate. When you renew your Entry Level you will submit Professional Learning (PL) hours as required for the certificate you hold and be issued a Trainee certificate if your renewal effective date is July 31st, 2017 or later.
7. **How do I renew Trainee certification?** Trainee certification is issued for one year at a time for a maximum of five years (initial certificate plus four renewals). In order to renew a trainee certificate you need to show proof of completion of two Early Childhood Education (ECE) courses. These courses are available online. Two additional renewals are permitted if courses are not available. You will be required to submit proof that the College was unable to offer you the ECE courses. In the event that this occurs you will also need to submit 10 hours of PL.

Bursaries are available to help with the cost of upgrading your certification – please see [www.ed.gov.nl.ca/edu/family/childcare/childcareresources.html](http://www.ed.gov.nl.ca/edu/family/childcare/childcareresources.html). More information about certification can be found by contacting the Registrar at the Association of Early Childhood Educators Newfoundland and Labrador (AECENL) [www.aecenl.ca](http://www.aecenl.ca).

8. **Is there grandparenting for persons with experience in child care who hold Entry Level certificates?** If you held Entry Level certification for 10 years or more prior to the new legislation (July 31, 2017) or hold a Family Child Care-Mixed Age Trainee certificate you are not required to complete ECE courses. In this case you will have to submit 10 hours of PL to renew your certification each year.

9. **Are centres allowed to enroll 18-23 month olds in their toddler rooms on July 31, 2017?** There are two things that need to happen before 18-23 month olds can be in your toddler homeroom:
   - You will need to request a varied licence to change the age range on your current licence to reflect the younger age range in the homeroom – this is a simple variance that likely does not require inspections.
   - You will also need to ensure that you have at least one staff assigned to the homeroom with Level I or higher (Preschool and Infant certification), or have a waiver in place for the proposed staff to add infant certification to their Level I. If you are enrolling more than three (3) children who are 18-23 months of age the second staff in the homeroom will also need this certification (or a waiver).

10. **Each homeroom must have at least one window that allows children in the homeroom to see outside. Does this mean eye level?** No – as long as the children in the homeroom can stand somewhere in the room and see outside and natural light can come in it would meet this requirement. This regulation is eligible for waiver.

11. **Does the 3.3 metres space per child for family homes include the whole home or rooms used within it?** This includes any space in the home which the applicant identifies to be used as part of the service with the exception of washrooms and administrative areas.

12. **What is the process to be exempt for requiring a licence?** Applicants do not need to apply for an exemption; however, an applicant can seek or request assistance in determining whether or not they are exempt from the requirement to hold a licence. When a request comes in, Inspectors will apply the applicable sections of the Act and Regulations to determine whether or not a proposed child care service is exempt from holding a licence. The Regional Manager will make the final
determination as to whether or not a child care service provider requires a licence or is exempt from the requirement to hold one.

13. **What does a “Secure Building Policy entail?”** A secure building policy is simply a statement of how you intend to ensure the safety of the children registered in your service when they are on the premises. For example, some services have all visitors check in at the administrator’s office, others have a locked door and a doorbell. Your policy should reflect what you will do to prevent unauthorized persons from being on the premises in contact with children and what to do if this happens.

14. **If a centre has a current approval under the Child Care Services Act to have 3 or more age ranges in a single mixed age homeroom can they continue to do so with a waiver under the Child Care Act?** Licensees will have until the licence expires or July 31, 2018, whichever comes first, to apply for a waiver to continue with the age ranges in their current licence. Where a Regional Manager approves a waiver to permit three age ranges to be assigned to a homeroom, it can be approved for a maximum of two years and may be renewed at the discretion of the Regional Manager. Those who currently have approval for four age ranges in a homeroom will need to reduce to three to receive a further waiver or to two to meet the requirements of the Child Care Act. Your Child Care Services Consultant or Social Worker is available to help you determine this for your service.

15. **Who should I contact if I have questions?**
   - Questions about the Legislation can be sent to your Regional Manager:
     - Metro Office: Joanne Juteau – joannejuteau@gov.nl.ca
     - Central-East Office: Kirsty Collins – kirstycollins@gov.nl.ca
     - Western and Labrador Offices: Allison Rice-Roberts – allisonriceroberts@gov.nl.ca
   - Questions about Certification can be sent to the Registrar at the Association of Early Childhood Educators Newfoundland and Labrador: Mojca Baš – aecenl@nfdl.net