

NEW – IAESC and CECE Joint Program Approval Pathway

Toronto, ON — August 5th, 2025

The College of Early Childhood Educators (the College) is proud to introduce a new joint program approval pathway in partnership with the Indigenous Advanced Education and Skills Council (IAESC). This streamlined pathway has been designed specifically for Indigenous Institutes in Ontario seeking approval for Early Childhood Education (ECE) diploma programs.

Through this new process, eligible Indigenous Institutes can submit a single application via IAESC's online application portal to be considered for both IAESC and College program approval. The joint pathway reflects a shared commitment to quality assurance, cultural relevance and the reduction of administrative barriers for Indigenous-led postsecondary institutions.

"We are deeply grateful to IAESC for their leadership, generosity and partnership in this work. It is a powerful example of what is possible when organizations come together with a shared purpose and a commitment to reconciliation and relationship-building."

– Beth Deazeley, Registrar and CEO

Through this harmonized process, IAESC and the College both conduct assessments of aspects of each application. This ensures that their respective requirements and standards are upheld.

"IAESC is pleased to partner with the College of Early Childhood Educators, in the creation of this joint pathway. By working together, Indigenous graduates of early childhood education programs from an Indigenous Institute will be appropriately recognized by this regulatory body. Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) play such an important role in our communities, both on-reserve and in urban areas, they are often the first educators for our young learners and have the ability to shape and guide a child's path. That is truly an honour and something that will have an impact on the next 7 generations. We are grateful to the College of Early Childhood Educators, and to all of the ECE students, graduates and faculty for their commitment to this important work."

– Sean Monteith, Executive Director of IAESC

This initiative aligns with the College's efforts to work towards reconciliation, build and strengthen partnerships with Indigenous organizations, and support Indigenous students and Indigenous Registered Early Childhood Educators who bring specialized skills and knowledge specific to the needs of Indigenous communities in Ontario.

For more information about the joint pathway or to begin an application, Indigenous Institutes are encouraged to contact IAESC at ga@iaesc.ca or the College's Education Program Specialist team at education-programs@college-ece.ca.