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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**January 10, 2024**

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### **Counties Partnership, Provincial Funding, Allocates 44 New Licensed Child Care Spaces in Gananoque by end of 2024**

The United Counties of Leeds and Grenville, in partnership with the Town of Gananoque and the YMCA of Eastern Ontario, are pleased to announce the allocation of 44 new affordable licensed infant, toddler and preschool child care spaces in Gananoque. These new high-quality licensed child care spaces are expected to begin operations by the end of 2024. The spaces are part of the broader Canada Wide Early Learning Child Care (CWELCC), in which the Province of Ontario has committed to improving access to child care by allocating funding to support the creation of 86,000 new, high-quality, affordable child care spaces. These new licensed child care spaces will include a mix of not-for-profit and for-profit settings to provide families with choice and flexibility.

Under the CWELCC, the Province of Ontario approved the CWELCC Leeds and Grenville Directed Growth Strategy that will see 397 new affordable licensed infant, toddler and preschool spaces being created across Leeds and Grenville by the end of 2026. The 397 CWELCC new child care spaces will be an addition to the current 881 infant, toddler and preschool and 1,271 kindergarten/school age centre-based spaces, and 62 licensed home provider spaces currently operating in Leeds and Grenville.

For more information on Children's Services and Child Care Expansion in Leeds and Grenville, contact Manager of Children's Services, Shannon Brown, at 613-342-3840 ext. 2461, or email [Shannon.Brown@uclg.on.ca](mailto:Shannon.Brown@uclg.on.ca)

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