

# Early Learning and Child Care

## Municipal Involvement in Regulated Child Care

### Information Sheet

#### **How are municipalities positioned to support child care development?**

In addition to providing good government, municipalities provide services, facilities and other things that are, in the opinion of council, necessary or desirable for all or part of the municipality. They are charged to develop and maintain a safe and viable community; they foster economic and social well-being; and they provide stewardship of public assets.

Municipalities:

- understand the needs of their citizens;
- can collaborate and foster community partnerships in establishing and operating child care;
- can support child care development through ensuring local bylaws and zoning parameters are conducive to child care development; and,
- can promote economic growth while investing in and supporting child care.

#### **Can municipalities be involved in the development of child care?**

Yes. *The Child Care Act, 2014* and *The Child Care Regulations, 2015* provides authority for the province to accept proposals and license municipalities to develop and operate regulated child care centres.

These regulated child care centers may be operated:

- 1) directly by the municipality whereby the municipality is the license holder and employer of the child care staff: or,
- 2) the municipality has spearheaded the development of child care then turns it over to be operated by a parent board or community-based organization.

#### **Why is child care important to municipalities?**

Municipal governments may be interested in delivering and managing child care that meets their local needs. Adequate child care is important to a municipality as it supports sustainability and growth of the local community. Child care is one of the factors that contribute to attracting young families to rural and urban municipalities along with employment opportunities, good living conditions and access to schools.

### **Can municipalities be a partner in child care services with community-based organizations?**

Yes. Municipalities can be partners in regulated child care within their communities. Partnerships can be developed with Indigenous-lead organizations and Indigenous communities, school divisions and other non-profit community-based organizations. Municipalities may also become partners in a local cooperatives to mobilize access to child care.

### **What capital funding is available for municipalities to support child care development?**

Municipalities and all non-profit organizations willing to establish child care centres are entitled to one-time grants that support centre development. Funding is available from the Ministry of Education to assist with capital and start-up costs.

Municipalities may also choose to seek additional funding through provincial or federal grant programs that focus on community infrastructure needs. Such grants include the **Canada Community Building Fund** and the **Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program**.

### **What ongoing funding is available for municipalities to support child care day-to-day operations?**

In addition to the capital developmental grants, municipalities can seek operating grants to assist with the child care costs. The following funding is available once the child care centre is developed and operational:

- Early Childhood Services Grant;
- Parent Fee Grant; and,
- Wage Enhancement for Early Childhood Educators.

Please visit **Start a Regulated Child Care Centre** for additional information.

### **What governance provisions do municipalities have to support child care development?**

Municipalities have the authority to adopt and amend bylaws, including zoning bylaws, that directly impact where child care can be developed.

In addition, municipalities can support child care development through:

- providing and/or supporting publicly funded spaces to be designated as a child care facility;
- exploring other federal and provincial initiatives that support community members such as housing projects, health care services and community buildings, and other projects that can co-exist with child care facilities;
- partnering with community organizations to provide lease free or rent-free property to the child care operator;
- providing land or tax incentives for child care centre development; and/or

- providing land and building supports, grounds maintenance and services.

### **How does a municipality determine their child care needs?**

Municipalities interested in applying for a child care centre licence complete a **Community Needs Assessment Form**. This form gathers information concerning the child care need in the community and the readiness to move forward with child care space development.

### **How does a municipality start a regulated child care centre?**

Municipalities can apply to become a regulated child care licence holder through an application process with the Ministry of Education. Information on how to apply is located on the Government of Saskatchewan website at **Start a Regulated Child Care Centre**.

Municipalities can contact the Early Learning and Child Care Service Delivery Offices in their region for more information. These offices are located throughout the province and are identified on [Saskatchewan.ca](http://Saskatchewan.ca).

In addition, an ***Early Learning and Child Care Space Development Expression of Interest for Municipalities*** can be completed and submitted to the ministry.

### **Where can I find more information?**

For more information, please contact the Early Learning and Child Care Service Delivery office nearest you:

- Regina: 306-787-4980
- Saskatoon: 306-933-6071
- La Ronge: 1-800-667-4380

You can also visit [Saskatchewan.ca](http://Saskatchewan.ca) on how to **Start a Regulated Child Care Centre** which includes:

- Child Care Licensee Manual
- Child Care Centre Grants
- Child Care Space Development in Saskatchewan
- Community Needs Assessment Form
- Forms and Resources