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COVID-19 and childcare in Canada: A tale of ten provinces and three territories

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Excerpted from abstract

This paper examines the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic's first wave on Canadian childcare. Using results from 8,300 responses to a Canada-wide survey of centres and regulated family childcare, it illustrates how limited public funding and reliance on parent fees made childcare unsustainable when services closed. The lack of public funding created financial stress and uncertainty about the future among centres across Canada, including in provinces offering more robust support. The paper concludes by considering how dynamics set in motion by the pandemic shaped political developments and may ultimately contribute to the transformation of Canadian childcare to a publicly funded systemic approach.

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