

How publicly delivered child care services contribute to accessibility ^[1]



MOVING FROM PRIVATE TO PUBLIC PROCESSES.

A SERIES ON CREATING CHILD CARE IN CANADA

Childcare Resource and Research Unit
childcarecanada.org

4 How publicly delivered child care services contribute to accessibility

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About the series

One aspect of Canadian child care provision is that the supply of child care services is too limited to meet demand, unevenly distributed and inequitable in terms of location. The primary reason for this is that “creating” child care services in Canada has mostly been treated as a private responsibility. This private approach is in contrast to public processes where governments take responsibility for ensuring that child care services are developed where and when they are needed.

As Canada begins to fulfill a historic commitment to build a universal early learning and child care system, the challenge of limited, uneven, inequitable child care availability must be tackled systemically—a more publicly managed, planned, intentional approach based on greater public responsibility for ensuring the availability and determining the characteristics and distribution of regulated child care.

This series of short, topical papers covers the importance of designing effective child care expansion strategies and some elements that can contribute to developing them. The series is based on a longer publication, *Moving from private to public processes to create child care in Canada* (2020), and has been revised and re-developed in this more accessible series format to reflect current Canada-wide policy developments.

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There is little doubt that the private initiatives Canada relies on to create child care services fail to meet the need. As a result, there are too few child care services to meet families’ needs in all regions in Canada. This paper focuses on one of the roles played by local level governments in child care in many countries and to a smaller extent in several Canadian provinces: delivering public child care services. It offers an exploration of how public delivery of child care by local government entities can be a significant tool for increasing service availability and equity.


This publication is paper 4 in the series *Moving from private to public services: A series on creating child care in Canada* ^[3].

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[3]

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