

# How municipal roles in child care contribute to accessibility <sup>[1]</sup>



**MOVING FROM PRIVATE TO PUBLIC PROCESSES.**

**A SERIES ON CREATING CHILD CARE IN CANADA**

Childcare Resource and Research Unit  
childcarecanada.org

## 3 How municipal roles in child care contribute to accessibility

Childcare Resource and Research Unit February 2022

**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.

Childcare Resource and Research Unit

22 Feb 2022

16pp

ISBN: 978-1-896051-77-2

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This paper explores the key roles municipalities and other local government entities can play in enhancing public management associated with creating child care services. In many countries, and to a considerably lesser extent in Canada, local municipal level governments play a variety of roles in child care services. These include planning, administration, and financing, all of which can contribute to improving child care availability. This paper concentrates on how municipalities can facilitate, support and assist creation of child care services.

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

*Moving from private to public services: A series on creating child care in Canada* <sup>[3]</sup>



[3]

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