

Nova Scotia to review daycares' use of waitlist fees ^[1]

Minister stopped short of calling for a ban of the practice

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Source: CBC News

Format: Article

Publication Date: 25 Oct 2023

AVAILABILITY

Access online ^[2]

Excerpts

Education and Early Childhood Development Minister Becky Druhan says daycares should not ask families for money to secure a spot on their waitlists, and she's looking for ways to eliminate the practice.

"The goal is to ensure that Nova Scotians have access to affordable child care. Practices that are inconsistent with that, we need to address," she told reporters Wednesday at Province House.

Daycare provider Kids & Company came under fire earlier this year for taking thousands of dollars from families and then not providing the spots families thought were guaranteed.

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Hansen brought up an email sent this week by a parent from Dartmouth to Druhan and several other MLAs, flagging that Kids & Company recently asked for \$200 to join its waitlist. The parent, like Druhan, thought the practice had stopped, and was asking for clarity on whether or not it was allowed.

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Kids & Company never said it would stop asking for money to join the waitlist. It did say it would eliminate the requirement for a \$1,000 deposit.

Although Druhan said she disapproved of the practice, she stopped short of calling for an outright ban.

"To our knowledge this is a very very limited practice," she said. "The majority of our child-care operators are not engaging in this practice. And so how you address the situation that only involves one or a limited group may be different than if the practice was broad."

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Druhan could not provide a timeline for her department's review, but she said staff were actively looking into it.

Region: Nova Scotia ^[3]

Tags: spaces ^[4]

waitlists ^[5]

Source URL (modified on 1 Nov 2023): <https://childcarecanada.org/documents/child-care-news/23/11/nova-scotia-review-daycares-use-waitlist-fees>

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