

Would-be child-care providers say N.L. needs to remove roadblocks ^[1]

Education minister says department aims to streamline process

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Excerpt

With child care in high demand, two women looking to create more spaces in their rural Newfoundland communities say they're running into too many hurdles.

Natalia Crocker, the mayor Trout River on Newfoundland's southwest coast, has been working for two years to get child care in the community.

She said the need has grown tremendously over the years, adding she knows of people who can't work because they don't have access to child care.

"Every place that I worked, people were trying to work there but they were having issues finding child care. Myself included," Crocker told CBC News in a recent interview.

Crocker's work to create a child-care centre included a business plan that scouted out two town buildings, she said, but the process got caught up in red tape and didn't come to fruition.

"You work so hard to try and get something to happen, and then you have just, you know, parents, young parents that are disappointed. It's the disappointment in them more so than anything else that's bothersome," she said.

"I'm not sure what the solution is there, but maybe if there was somebody who could take a look at what happened in our situation and then say, 'OK, for next time, how can we do this differently? Or how we can help? Or how can we get ahead of this to make sure that this isn't the situation if we try to do this again?'"

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Related link: Parents are giving up their jobs as hundreds remain stuck on daycare waitlists in N.L. ^[3]

Region: Newfoundland ^[4]

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