Province hopes legislative changes will cut long waitlists for subsidized childcare

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Publication Date: 10 Dec 2024

AVAILABILITY Access online [2]

Excerpts

The province is making legislative changes in hopes of building additional capacity for the federally-subsidized \$10 a day childcare spaces across Saskatchewan.

On Monday, the province announced a series of amendments to the Child Care Act to allow for greater access to affordable early learning and childcare.

Amendments announced Monday allow for increases to the number of children in a group family childcare home - a residence where childcare services are provided — from 12 children to 16 children, while also cleaning up certain language and realigning certain definitions.

The province will also include preschools providing up to three hours of childcare per day in the act.

Sue Delanoy has been advocating for increased child-care capacity and improvements for decades. While Monday's announced changes are welcome news to her, she's cautiously optimistic about their overall impact.

Delanoy said her main takeaway is the increase in group family childcare homes. She isn't so confident all homes will be able to handle the increase, and she'd rather see the province put its support behind agencies providing childcare as opposed to individual business owners.

"Not all homes can handle up to 16 children. Maybe some homes can. I also think that the province would be wise to really look at more of an agency model rather than just licensing individuals, because that individual then owns the asset," she said.

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