

Developing child care for Brandon: Competing visions ^[1]

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Excerpts

As families in Brandon stare down the reality of living a “child care desert,” they can take heart that some good, as well as some troubling, change is on the horizon.

Brandon is not unique in being a child care desert: overall in Manitoba, there is a licensed child space for just one in five children aged 0-12 years. But spaces are in particularly short supply in the Wheat City, where about 6,700 children under the age of nine are vying for one of just 1,000 child care spaces.

...

Finally, in Manitoba, only non-profit child care services receive sufficient funding for them to offer \$10/day child care to parents. This is a longstanding strength of Manitoba’s child care policy architecture, designed to conserve public spending for public good. Exactly how the Connecting the Dots model, which seems corporate and profit-focused in everything but name, will meet Manitoba’s prudent requirements for non-profit child care remains to be seen.

While entrepreneurs are eyeing business opportunities, meaningful support to build stable community-owned and managed child care is being offered by Co-operatives First. If I were a parent in Brandon, I know what I’d be choosing in a heartbeat.

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