

Legislated requirements for outdoor play/environment and physical activity

Province/ Territory	Act and regulations	Requirements re: outdoor environment	Requirements re: time and program aspects of physical activity
Newfoundland and Labrador	Child Care Services Act. 1998. Child Care Services Regulations, 2005, 89/05	8. (1) A child care service (a) shall, if it is centre based, (vi) if it operates more than 4 hours a session, have access to an outdoor play area on-site, surfaced, enclosed, of a size and equipped in the manner determined by the minister, and (vii) if it operates for 4 or fewer hours a session, have access to an outdoor play area which, if it is on-site, shall conform to the requirements of subparagraph (vi), but if it is not on-site, which is safe and appropriate for the purpose, in the opinion of a director; and (b) if it is a family child care service which has an on-site outdoor play area, it shall conform to the requirements of subparagraph (vi), but if it does not have an on-site outdoor play space, then with subparagraph (vii).	Not specified
Prince Edwards Island	Child Care Facilities Act. 1988. Chapter c-5. Child Care Facilities Regulations.	PART II PHYSICAL FACILITIES 12. A facility shall provide a minimum of 3/1/2 square metres of indoor space and a minimum of 7 square metres of outdoor space for each child enrolled in the facility. (EC475/87) 13. Where there is no outdoor space immediately adjacent to the facility, nearby parks or other open space, which in the Board's judgment is appropriate to the nature of the program activities offered, may be used. (EC475/87)	Not specified
Nova Scotia	Day Care Act, 1989. Day Care Regulations (a mended 2011 by N.S. Reg. 155/2011)	Outdoor play equipment and space requirements for facilities 22 (1) An outdoor play space used by a facility must be accessible to all enrolled children, including those with diverse abilities. (2) Children enrolled in a full-day program or a school-age program must be provided with either of the following: (a) One or more outdoor play spaces located at the facility that are safe and suitable for the age range of the children enrolled in the program; or	Program 18 (3) For children enrolled in a full-day program or a family home day care program, all of the following must be provided daily: (a) a rest time; (b) a developmentally appropriate period of outdoor activity in the morning and afternoon,

		<p>(b) access to a safe and suitable outdoor play space that is within a reasonable distance of the facility and that is suitable for the age range of the children enrolled in the program.</p> <p>(3) Except for outdoor play spaces located at a public school or a private school, for the purpose of clause (2)(a) an outdoor play space located at a facility must meet all of the following requirements:</p> <p>(a) it must provide at least 7 m² (75 ft.²) of play space per child using the play space;</p> <p>(b) it must be large enough to accommodate the largest age group of children enrolled in the program, other than infants;</p> <p>(c) it must be enclosed by a fence that is at least 1.2 m (4 ft.) high.</p> <p>(4) If any infants are enrolled in a full-day program, there must be a separate outdoor play space for the infants at the facility or in the immediate vicinity that meets all of the following requirements:</p> <p>(a) it must provide at least 7 m² (75 ft.²) of play space per infant using the play space;</p> <p>(b) it must be large enough to accommodate all of the infants enrolled in the program;</p> <p>(c) it must be enclosed by a fence that is at least 1.2 m (4 ft.) high.</p> <p>Outdoor play space requirements for family day care homes</p> <p>24(1) An outdoor play space used by a family home day care program must be accessible to all enrolled children, including those with diverse abilities.</p> <p>(2) Children enrolled in a family home day care program must be provided with an outdoor play area that is</p> <p>(a) on the premises of the family day care home and enclosed by a fence that is at least 1.2 m (4 ft.) high; or</p> <p>(b) within a reasonable distance of the family day care home and that has been determined by the agency to be safe and appropriate.</p> <p>(3) An outdoor play space used by children enrolled in a family home day care program must be supervised in accordance with the staff-to-children ratios and group sizes set out in Section 34 for a family home day care program.</p>	<p>except when extreme weather conditions exist;</p> <p>(c) opportunities for physical activity.</p>
New Brunswick	Family Services Act and Daycare	<p>4.6 Outdoor Play Space</p> <p>4.6.1 Day Care Centres</p> <p>Outdoor play space must:</p>	Not specified

	<p>Regulations. 1980. Child Day Care Facilities Operator Standards (Interim, June 2012)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -be measured by the Coordinator and provide a minimum of four and one half -(4.5) square metres (48 square feet) per child to accommodate fifty per cent -(50%) of the centre's approved capacity -be enclosed on all sides by a fence of a least 1.22 metre (4 feet) in height for -children under the age of five (5) -have gates equipped with bolts and latches which must be locked at all times -when children are using the play space -have a surface which is well drained and free from depressions in which -water may stand -be maintained free of glass, debris, animal litter -be adjacent to the centre <p>Day care centres, approved to care for children under the age of two (2) must either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ensure this age group use the outdoor play space at a time separate from all other age groups <p>or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - designate an area within the outdoor play space to meet the needs of this age group <p>A fenced outdoor play space is not required for school age children. Day care centres, approved to care for school age children, must ensure that the children have access to an outdoor play space; if this space is not adjacent to the facility, it must be within reasonable walking distance.</p> <p>4.6.2 Community Day Care Homes Community day care homes must provide outdoor play space, which is either directly adjacent to the Operator's home or within walking distance, for example, a neighbourhood park or playground.</p>	
Quebec	<p>Educational Childcare Act. 2006. Educational Childcare Regulation.</p>	<p>§4. Outdoor play spaces and outdoor play areas</p> <p>39. A permit holder must provide the children with</p> <p>(1) an outdoor play space, enclosed by a safety fence at least 1.20 m in height, situated less than 500 m from the facility to which the permit holder has access during the hours childcare is provided and whose minimum area must be 4 m² per child, allowing for at least one third of the maximum number of children stated on the</p>	<p>114. Unless prevented from doing so by inclement weather, a childcare provider must ensure that the children are taken outdoors every day to a safe place where they can be supervised.</p>

		<p>permit to be accommodated at a time; or</p> <p>(2) an outdoor children's play space in a public park within 500 m of the facility, delimited by a fence and accessible during the hours of childcare.</p> <p>The play space must be suitably and safely laid out and, if it has an outdoor play area, that area must be adapted to the age of the children. The distance of 500 m is measured by the shortest route taken to walk the distance safely.</p>	
Ontario	Day Nurseries Act. 1990.	<p>Playground</p> <p>21. (1) Every operator of a day nursery shall ensure that each day nursery operated by the operator that has a program that runs for six hours or more in a day has an outdoor play space that is at least equivalent to 5.6 square metres for each child based on the licensed capacity, unless otherwise approved by a Director. R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 262, s. 21 (1).</p>	<p>Program</p> <p>53.(5)(b) each child over thirty months of age that is in attendance for six hours or more in a day plays outdoors for at least two hours each day, weather permitting, unless a physician or parent of the child advises otherwise in writing. R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 262, s. 53 (4); O. Reg. 50/91, s. 1.</p>
Manitoba	<p>Community Child Care Standards Act. 2004. Chapter c-158.</p> <p>Child Care Regulations 62/86.</p>	<p>Space</p> <p>9(3) Every licensee who operates a full time child care centre, a nursery school which provides child care for more than four continuous hours per day, or a school age child care centre shall provide or have access to outdoor play space which provides for a minimum of seven square metres per child and accommodates the greater of 50% of the number of licensed spaces or 55 square metres, and</p> <p>(a) in the case of a full time child care centre or nursery school providing child care for more than four continuous hours per day the space shall be located within 350 metres of the centre; (b) in the case of a school age child care centre the space shall be located within 700 metres of the centre.</p>	<p>Daily Program</p> <p>10(4) Every licensee who operates a full time child care centre, a nursery school which provides child care for more than four continuous hours per day or a school age child care centre, shall provide outdoor play for children attending the child care centre on a daily basis except where (a) prohibited by a child's parent, guardian or family physician; (b) the wind chill is below !25; (c) the temperature is below !25° C; (d) the wind chill or temperature would, according to the policy of the school division where the facility is located, prohibit</p>

			outdoor play by children; or (e) another form of weather or a condition exists that would affect a child's health, safety or well-being.
Saskatchewan	Child Care Act. 2000. Child Care Regulations 2001	<p>Outdoor play area 58(1) The licensee of a centre must provide a safe outdoor play area of seven square metres per licensed child care space. (2) Unless otherwise provided in the licence, at least half of the outdoor play area required by subsection (1) must be adjacent to the centre and the remainder must be within walking distance of the centre, determined in relation to the youngest age category for which the centre is licensed.</p> <p>66 A licensee of a home must provide a safe outdoor play area that is sufficient for the number of licensed child care spaces and resident child care spaces and that is: (a) adjacent to the home; or (b) where there is insufficient outdoor play area adjacent to the home, within walking distance of the home, determined in relation to the youngest child attending the home.</p>	Not specified
Alberta	Social Care Facilities Licensing Act. 2000. Child Care Regulation 180/2000.	<p>Outdoor play space 19(1) A licence holder must provide outdoor play space that is adjacent to or within easy and safe walking distance from the program premises and accommodates at least 50% of the licensed capacity at a level of not less than 2 square metres for each child under 19 months of age and not less than 4.5 square metres for each child who is 19 months of age or over.</p>	Not specified
British Columbia	Community Care and Assisted Living Act. 2002. Child Care Licensing Regulation 332/2007.	<p>Play area, materials and equipment 16 (1) A licensee, other than a licensee who provides a care program described as Occasional Child Care or Child-minding, must have for each child at least 7 m² of outdoor play area. (2) Subsection (1) does not apply to a licensee who provides a care program described as Family Child Care, but the licensee must provide an indoor and outdoor play area for children. (3) A licensee must ensure that the entire outdoor play area is (a) enclosed in a manner that is suitable for the age and development of children, and will ensure that children are free of harm, and</p>	<p>Program of activities 44 (3) A licensee, other than a licensee providing a care program described as Occasional Child Care, must provide each child with daily outdoor play periods unless weather conditions would make it unreasonable to do so.</p>

		(b) constructed in a manner, and using materials, that are suitable for the age and development of the children intended to use it.	
Northwest Territory	Child Day Care Act. 1990. Chapter c-3. Child Day Care Standards and Regulations. Nutritional standardsNutritional standards	Exterior 20. (1) Every operator shall provide safe outdoor play space. (2) Where the outdoor play space is not adjacent to the child day care facility, the operator shall (a) provide safe access to the space; and (b) ensure that the space is within walking distance of the facility. (3) Where the outdoor play space is adjacent to the child day care facility, the operator shall ensure that (a) a minimum of 5 m ² of play space is provided for each child; and (b) the space is fenced if the surrounding environment is potentially hazardous to children.	Daily program 22. Every operator shall provide daily outdoor play activities for each child unless (a) outdoor play is prohibited by the child's parent or guardian or the health care professional providing health care to the child; or (b) the weather is inclement
Yukon Territory	Child Care Act. 1990. Child Care Centre Program Regulation 1995/087.Nutritional standardsNutritional standards	Space requirements - outdoor space 11. (1) The operator must provide access to outdoor playground space, either on the premises or off, of sufficient size to allow not less than five square metres of play area per child for each child using the outdoor space (it is not necessary that required outdoor playground space be provided for every child in the program, however, at no time may the operator allow the number of children using the space to exceed the limit provided for above). (2) Unless it is a public playground, the outdoor playground space provided by the operator must: (a) be surrounded on all sides by a fence at least 1.2 metres high; and (b) be suitably surfaced and drained for safe and comfortable play; and (c) be designed to allow required supervision of children; and (d) be maintained in a safe and sanitary condition, according to established guidelines; and (e) provide an area for sand play and other activities; and (f) contain equipment allowing for large muscle activity; (g) provide an area for quiet activities. Program of activities 16. (2)(b) an opportunity to play outdoors every day except in inclement weather	Program of activities 16. (3) The daily program must include... (d) physical activities which promote large muscle development and physical competence such as running and climbing.
Nunavut	Child Day Care Act. 1990. Chapter	See Northwest Territories	

	c-3. Child Day Care Standards and Regulations. Nutritional standards Nutri tional standards		
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