

# MEMBER REQUEST FOR DECISION SPRING MUNICIPAL LEADERS' CAUCUS

**DATE:**

February 29, 2024

**TOPIC:**

Child Care Capital Grant Program

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Alberta Municipalities advocate for the Alberta Government to increase the capital grant amount per each new physical child care space that is created for licensed child care, and;

That the capital grant program be focused on supporting non-profit and municipally operated child care facilities.

**BACKGROUND:**

In Alberta, there is a current shortage of approximately 50,000 (Fletcher, 2024) child care spaces in licensed child care facilities. The capital costs of creating child care spaces in many municipalities is cost-prohibitive to the child care providers in those communities, especially for non-profit and municipal child care providers. The lack of appropriate and significant financial support combined with the structure of the allowable fees renders space creation not possible for many providers in many communities.

Currently the province offers a [Space Creation Grant](#) in the amount of \$5,000 per space created in already licensed facilities and up to \$6,000 per space for new licensed facilities. This amount does not cover the costs of capital project renovations that are required by most facilities to increase space. A larger capital project grant available to licensed non-profit and municipal programs would support an increase in space creation in those communities.

In British Columbia, the ChildCareBC New Spaces Fund grant provides up to \$40,000 per space created, which more closely aligns with actual renovation/construction costs in Alberta. Support of this magnitude would support non-profits and municipalities in helping the province meet the commitments under the recent Federal-Provincial Child Care agreement.

As child care is recognized as one factor in economic development, the lack of affordable high-quality childcare results in diminished economic development opportunities across the province.

Alberta Municipalities could add the strength of their membership to this issue, and advocate directly to the province to increase funding available for space creation.

We are asking Alberta Municipalities to take advocacy action on this issue to help solve this challenge facing many municipalities, regardless of non-profit licensed child care services models in each municipality.



## **MUNICIPAL SUPPORT:**

At the February 20th meeting of Jasper Municipal Council, the following motion was passed unanimously: "Council support submitting the attached Request for Decision to the Alberta Municipalities Spring Leaders' Caucus."

## **SOURCES:**

1. ChildCareBC New Spaces Fund – Frequently Asked Questions [https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/family-and-social-supports/child-care/running-a-daycare-or-preschool/nsf\\_applicant\\_faq.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/family-and-social-supports/child-care/running-a-daycare-or-preschool/nsf_applicant_faq.pdf)
2. BC Space Creation Eligibility Path – Flow Chart [https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/family-and-social-supports/child-care/running-a-daycare-or-preschool/spacecreation\\_eligibility\\_path.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/family-and-social-supports/child-care/running-a-daycare-or-preschool/spacecreation_eligibility_path.pdf)
3. CBC News article: Fletcher, R. (2024, January 31). In Alberta's radical remake of child care, costs are way down but the heavy lifting lies ahead. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/alberta-federal-childcare-agreement-daycare-midpoint-status-feature-1.7087713>