

Space Expansion Information Sheet

Child Care Centres and Homes - April 2026

- The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to increasing access to high-quality, affordable early learning and child care for families across the province. Thanks to the dedication and hard work of operators, Saskatchewan has continued to expand its regulated child care system and deliver meaningful support to families.
- From April 1, 2021, to December 31, 2025, there has been a 146 per cent increase in the number of early learning and child care spaces in Saskatchewan. This growth has been achieved by directing funds under the *Canada-Saskatchewan Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement* toward capital expansion as well as infrastructure funding to advance inclusive child care spaces in underserved communities.
- As the system has grown, so too have the costs of maintaining and operating an expanded number of regulated child care spaces. Over the past five years, \$536 million (45 per cent) of the funding issued to child care facilities has been directed toward making child care affordable for families at \$10 a day. A further \$363 million has been provided to support operating costs (30 per cent); \$219 million specifically for workforce costs (18 per cent) and \$84 million on specific inclusion initiatives (seven per cent).

Effective July 1, 2026

To manage the growing costs within the federal investment provided under the new extension agreement, Saskatchewan is shifting from rapid expansion toward stabilization and sustainability. This adjustment will provide child care facilities that have recently opened the ability to become fully enrolled and time for the more than 7,000 child care spaces in development to become operational and alleviate pressure across the system.

Moving forward, Saskatchewan will be:

- Strategically targeting additional child care space development to areas most in need, such as areas with no \$10 a day child care spaces as well as rural and northern communities.
- Continuing to build new child care spaces in all new school building projects.

For Additional Information:

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