

All Forms of Childcare Critical to Relaunch Success

Edmonton - May 13, 2020 Albertans are anticipating reductions to public health restrictions later this week, but won't be able to go back to work if childcare isn't available. EndPovertyEdmonton is calling for increased support for both licensed child care centres and approved family day homes throughout relaunch, including attention to quality standards and subsidy rates.

"It's not a situation where you just turn the tap back on," says Erick Ambtman, executive director of EndPovertyEdmonton. "Families are facing different situations, they're having a horrible time juggling the demands of childcare, plus school and work from home, if that's even an option. Parents, and mothers in particular, are saying it's affecting their performance at work, and with increasing unemployment, that's creating even more stress. Alberta families desperately need good childcare to be available with the relaunch."

"As we're hearing it, many child care centres will be unable to reopen because they weren't able to shoulder the burdens of the necessary shut down and many day homes are struggling because of lowered enrollment with no support to make it through," says Ambtman. "Subsidies for childcare at day homes haven't changed during the pandemic, but with school out costs for full time care have, so those using day homes are, or will be, paying more for it and the day home may still be in a precarious position." Despite remaining open, anecdotal evidence suggests enrollment in day homes has dropped by 30% across Alberta.

Both child care centres and day homes are being offered a one-time grant for personal protective equipment and operating expenses. Daycares are being offered short-term operating grants. "Providers are going to need ongoing support through this relaunch effort to accommodate increased sanitation and personal protective needs, as well as precarious enrollment numbers. They're going to need help to recall their workforce. Without clear understanding of how grants will address all forms of childcare, Albertans may face increased childcare costs that will just make it impossible for people to go back to work."

"The last thing we want is for the lack of supply to increase costs or reduce quality, because then the economics in the home just don't work and inevitably fewer people will go to work. That's a really big deal for businesses and workers, it's going to mean a greater number of families in poverty with no opportunity to go to work, and that just slows any recovery effort." says Ambtman. "We need governments to address the full breadth of options in child care from financial, quality and safety perspectives. Only then will we be assured a strong recovery for all."



MEDIA RELEASE

“For me, as a single working parent, affordable and quality childcare means being able to keep my job and put food on the table as well as having shelter and keeping my lights on and other bills being paid on time. Quality means the most though, when it comes to my children...” - Rose [“Childcare Lets Me Support My Family”](#)

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EndPovertyEdmonton focuses on community leadership for policy change and livable incomes for all by acting as a community advisor in areas relating to childcare, transit, income, housing, mental health and addictions, and discrimination. EndPovertyEdmonton is an advocate and community convenor committed to reconciliation. It is not a service or referral agency.

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