

# CHILD CARE POLICY



Effective **Child Care Planning** is key to developing coordinated, accountable child care systems and is an important element of public reporting. The evidence shows that Child Care Plans based on the following commitments are most likely to achieve the goals of quality, affordability and accessibility.\*

Does your government's Child Care Plan clearly reflect these commitments?

	YES	NO
1. A comprehensive, long term <b>vision</b> of child care that supports children's healthy development, women's equality, and parents in all of their roles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	

2. <b>Quality</b> , including <b>developmental</b> programming, through:		
• benchmarks for improving wages and working conditions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• training and caregiver support programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• strengthened regulations, strategies and policies that reflect best practice and evidence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• collaboration and integration with other community-based and/or family support services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	

3. <b>Universality</b> – providing an entitlement for all children...	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
with specific measures to address Inclusion and Accessibility:		
Inclusion – comprehensive planning to address the child care needs of:		
• children with disabilities – including professional training in inclusion, measuring and monitoring of inclusion, and expansion of accessible, non-profit community-based programs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Aboriginal communities – including respect for Aboriginal cultures, values, and languages; community governance, with family and elder involvement; training, capacity-building and recruitment and retention of both Aboriginal and culturally sensitive staff; and transportation supports.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• rural and remote communities – including access to quality, safe, flexible care through training, addressing recruitment and retention issues, community partnerships and non-profit, community-based programs, transportation supports and regulation of home based child care.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• linguistic and cultural communities – including fostering social inclusion through responsiveness to cultural, racial, and linguistic diversity, anti-racism and diversity training, community participation, multiple language resources, and building a representative child care workforce.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• services for families with atypical work schedules – (extended hours, shift work, seasonal work, etc.).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	

YES NO

Accessibility, including Affordability:

- moving from user fees to substantial, direct public funding of services
- limiting, and then reducing user fees, with subsidies for low income families as required
- providing additional, incremental provincial funding, especially for children aged 6-12
- providing information, resource and referral supports for families

Comments

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Accessibility, including Expansion:

- community planning
- clear targets and timelines
- adequate capital and operating budget
- service infrastructure (licensing, training, etc)
- non-profit governance

Comments

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4. Governments and service providers are **Accountable** to parents, children and the public for child care quality, funding and service levels, through:

- public funding provided directly to service providers who meet quality and service standards
- federal funding that supplements, not replaces, provincial and territorial funding
- legislation that reflects the child care principles outlined above.

Comments

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\* This checklist summarizes the key components of a comprehensive provincial or territorial Child Care Plan. Each component should be addressed in detail in the Plan. For more information on these components, including definitions, what the research tells us, and the Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada’s position, see links.

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