# Background

#### Context

Below is a summary of recent developments in the child care sector in Calgary and across Alberta since 2019.

2019 January 14 Public Fatality Enquiry – Mackenzy Jane Woolfsmith A provincial fatality inquiry report was released related to the death of Mackenzy Jane Woolfsmith, a 22-month old toddler who died as a result of injuries sustained while in the care of an unlicensed homebased child care provider in Calgary. The purpose of the inquiry was to review the circumstances of her death and share any recommendations for the prevention of similar fatalities. The report prepared by Justice Hawkes proposed 10 recommendations to enhance child care safety, including shifting the focus from only regulating the number of children that can be cared for by unlicensed providers to reducing risk and increasing protective factors in all forms of child care. **2021 February 01** Provincial Early Learning and Child Care Act Enacted The Government of Alberta introduced a new Act to replace the Childcare Licensing Act. The new Act permits two types of homebased child care: i) providers who work under the oversight of a provincially-licensed family day home agency and ii) providers who are unlicensed and not subject to oversight. Both types are permitted to care for up to 6 children, not including their own. Included in the Act is imminent threat legislation which allows Children's Services to issue stop orders to unlicensed child care providers if imminent threats exist to the health, safety or welfare of children. PFC2021-1139 2021 June 21 Council approves Notice of Motion: Increasing Accessibility to & Safety of Affordable Child Care in Calgary Alberta Canada Early Learning and Child Care Agreement Signed 2021 November 15 The federal and provincial governments signed an agreement to provide \$3.8 billion to reduce child care fees to \$10/day for children 0-5 years by 2026 and to create 42,500 new child care spaces. Only provincially-licensed child care facilities and home-based child care providers who are overseen by a provincially-licensed family day home agency are eligible to participate in the agreement.

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### **Previous Council Direction**

DATE	REPORT NUMBER	DIRECTION/DESCRIPTION
2021 July 20	PFC2021-1139	Notice of Motion: Increasing Accessibility to & Safety of Affordable Child Care in Calgary Council approved the Notice of Motion and directed Administration to report back to the Community Development Committee no later than 2022 Q3.

## Bylaws, Regulations, Council Policies

#### **Child Care Service Policy and Development Guidelines**

Adopted by Council resolution on 2009 June 1 with the following objectives:

- To ensure there are opportunities to develop accessible child care services of different sizes in a variety of land use districts.
- To provide for development guidelines to manage the impact of child care services in low density residential areas and to aid in the use of discretion for child care services in other contexts.

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