



Report Number: EC2023-0090

Meeting: Executive Committee

Meeting Date: 2023 January 31

NOTICE OF MOTION

RE: Strengthening provincial regulations to improve safety of unlicensed private day homes

Sponsoring Members of Council: Councillor Walcott, Mayor Gondek, Councillor Spencer, Councillor Wyness, Councillor Demong

WHEREAS:

- the Government of Alberta regulates child care through the Early Learning and Child Care Act but has minimal oversight of, and no minimum safety standards for, unlicensed private day homes;
- on 2022 September 14, Council unanimously approved measures to enhance the safety of unlicensed private day homes in Calgary by introducing a mandatory business licence with minimum application requirements (i.e., valid first aid certification and criminal record checks with vulnerable sector searches) for these businesses;
- on 2022 November 9, the Children's Services mandate letter was released and committed to ensuring more transparency and accountability in unlicensed day homes, including increased training;
- although there are several municipalities in Alberta that have regulations in place to try to address the gap in provincial legislation, there remains a lack of consistency across the province and many jurisdictions with no additional regulations for unlicensed child care providers;
- critical incidents, including traumatic injury, sexual assault, and death continue to occur in unlicensed private day homes across the province, including the recent tragic death of a 7-month old infant at the hands of an unlicensed private day home provider in High Prairie in 2022 October; and
- The City of Calgary has committed to continuing to advocate to the Government of Alberta for child care options that reduce risk and help protect children in unlicensed care.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- that Council endorse a request for decision (Attachment 2) containing the following recommendation to Alberta Municipalities' Spring Municipal Leaders' Caucus, and affirm its support for strengthening provincial regulations to improve safety of unlicensed private day homes across Alberta:

RECOMMENDATION:

That Calgary City Council requests that the Alberta Municipalities Board advocate to the Minister of Children's Services to increase protections for the youngest and most vulnerable Albertans by:

1. Mandating minimum safety standards for unlicensed private day homes including, but not limited to:
 - a) Valid First Aid and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification for the day home operator and any employees.
 - b) A criminal record check with vulnerable sector search for the day home operator and any employees.
 - c) A criminal record check with vulnerable sector search for any individual 18 years or older who resides at the day home, regardless of whether they are providing care to children.
2. Ensuring all unlicensed private day home providers across the province have access to affordable and timely First Aid/CPR training, criminal record checks and vulnerable sector searches.

Attachments

1. Notice of Motion Checklist
2. Member Request for Decision Spring Municipal Leaders' Caucus