



# How Municipalities Support, Promote, and Ensure Early Learning and Care



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*The Edmonton Council of Early Learning and Care (ECELc) conducted a review of how municipalities in Canada support, promote, and ensure early learning and care.*

The following is a brief summary of some ways in which city government can include early learning and care in policy and planning.

## **A strong commitment by city government to early learning and care**

A core element is a strong commitment by city government to early learning and care. Policies and strategies that exemplify this commitment typically include the following:

- recognition of early learning and care as a key component in supporting children, families, and communities;
- a clear, public commitment to supporting, promoting, and ensuring early learning and care that is high in quality, affordable, accessible, and inclusive;
- a focus on alignment of city planning and development goals and priorities as they relate to early learning and care;
- statements about the necessity and value of partnerships to ensuring effective and efficient program and service delivery;
- provision for needs assessments and ongoing data collection, analysis, and information sharing; and
- methods for allocating resources to cultivate and strengthen early learning and care initiatives.

## **A variety of ways to support, promote, and ensure early learning and care**

Cities with policies and strategies have chosen to support, promote, and ensure early learning and care in a variety of ways, such as:

- allocating city staff and resources to work with other partners to improve early learning and care;
- providing dedicated, purpose-built, or retrofitted space at reduced rental rates for early learning and care centres in city-owned buildings and recreational centres;
- encouraging early learning and care centres to be co-located with community service hubs;
- considering early learning and care in neighbourhood development, facility design and building projects;
- ongoing monitoring of needs and progress toward goals; and
- advocating to other levels of government and local school boards as required.

## **Examples of municipal policies and strategies for early learning and care**

A few selected examples of many from other municipalities in Canada that have a policy or strategy:

- [City of Burnaby](#)
- [City of Richmond](#)
- [City of Vancouver](#)
- [District of North Vancouver](#)

*The Edmonton Council for Early Learning and Care (ECELc) has **10 recommended actions** for the City of Edmonton to consider, as well as a report about **[Why and How Cities Matter to Early Learning and Care](#)**.*