

## **Backgrounder: Creating 750 New Licensed Childcare Spaces**

A re-elected Saskatchewan Party government will create 750 new childcare spaces in Saskatchewan by increasing the number of childcare spaces in new schools under development and increasing financial support to grow over 500 new licensed home-based childcare spaces over the next four years.

### **Background:**

- There are approximately 2,320 licensed home-based childcare spaces in Saskatchewan. Increased financial support for home-based childcare is intended to support an increase of 520 new home-based childcare spaces over the next four years.
- It's anticipated that 230 new childcare spaces will be added in new schools under construction or in development.
- Funding for new childcare spaces will begin coming into effect following the 2021-22 Budget.

### ***Funding for Licensed Home-Based Childcare:***

- Increasing home-based childcare grants will benefit the approximately 2,320 existing licensed home-based family childcare spaces in Saskatchewan, in addition to newly created spaces.
- Licensed family childcare homes must meet provincial requirements for licensed childcare and are also eligible to receive monthly and annual grants from the provincial government to assist in childcare costs such as providing meals to children and purchasing play equipment. Licensed childcare homes are also eligible for start-up grants to ensure they meet safety standards and are accessible for children.
- In 2017-18, the Government of Saskatchewan increased financial support for licensed family childcare homes:
  - The monthly nutrition grant per licensed home childcare space increased from \$40 per space / per month to \$60 per space per month for licensed home-based childcare.
  - The annual equipment grant increased from \$100 to \$150 annually per childcare space.
  - Homes became eligible for a one-time Play and Exploration Grant between \$600-\$900 and a one-time Active Play Grant between \$500-\$750.

### ***Funding for New School-Based Childcare Spaces***

- The total number of licensed childcare spaces in Saskatchewan increased from 9,196 spaces in March 2007 to 17,423 spaces in January 2020. This is an increase of over 8,227 spaces since 2007 – an 89 per cent increase.
- Operating funding for 230 new school-based childcare spaces will be available as the new spaces come on-line (its anticipated that 120 new spaces will begin operating in 2021-22).

### **Program Details:**

- **New \$500 Start-Up Grants for Licensed Home-Based Childcare Providers:**
  - A Saskatchewan Party government will provide new licensed home-based childcare providers with an additional \$500 one-time start-up grant.
  - This is in addition to existing Start-up/ Fire, Health and Safety grants that are available to help new home-based childcare providers offset the up-front costs of opening their business. Existing grants range between \$3,000 and \$3,700, depending on the estimated cost of improvements.
- **Increasing the Monthly Nutritional Grant for New and Existing Licensed Home-Based Childcare Providers:**
  - The monthly nutrition grant for all (new and existing)\_licensed home-based childcare spaces will increase by \$20 per month/ per space – from \$60 to \$80 per month / per space.
  - This will increase the annual nutrition grant from \$720 to \$960 per childcare space for licensed home-based childcare providers.
- **Doubling the Annual Equipment Grant for New and Existing Licensed Home-Based Childcare Providers:**
  - The annual equipment grant provided for all (new and existing)\_home-based licensed childcare spaces will double to \$300 annually per childcare space.
- **Continuing to Provide the One-Time Play and Exploration Grant and Active Play Grant.**
  - Homes are eligible for a one-time Play and Exploration Grant between \$600-\$900 and a one-time Active Play Grant between \$500-\$750.

### **Cost:**

- **2021-22: \$2.1M**
- **2022-22: \$2.2M**
- **2023-24: \$2.7M**
- **2024-25: \$2.7M**