

What We Heard Summary

Child Care Services Text Amendments

At the October 16-23, 2023 City Council Public Hearing, the following motion was passed:

That Administration, as part of the Zoning Bylaw (Charter Bylaw 20001) 1-year review report, include analysis on the Child Care Services provision since enactment of Charter Bylaw 20001 and provide options for amendments to further expand opportunities for Child Care Services, if required.

At the June 17, 2025 Urban Planning Committee meeting, Administration presented report [UPE02700 - One Year Review of Child Care Services](#). In the report, Administration identified opportunities to reduce regulatory barriers to child care services and committed to further public engagement on two potential changes:

1. Reducing the minimum pick-up and drop-off space requirement for child care services.
2. Changing child care services from a discretionary use to a permitted use in special area zones, where appropriate.

Administration conducted an Edmonton Insight Community survey from January 14 - February 4, 2026 and met with the Women's Advisory Voice of Edmonton (WAVE) Policy Subcommittee to gather feedback on the potential changes. 2,372 people participated at the [ADVISE level of engagement](#).

Feedback Received on Reducing the Pick-up and Drop-off Requirement for Child Care Services

In the survey, participants were asked for their feedback on their level of agreement, potential concerns, and anticipated benefits of the following options:

- **Option 1:** Reduce the on-site pick-up and drop-off space requirement to 1 space for every 10 children.
- **Option 2:** Use public street parking for up to half of the required pick-up and drop-off spaces if the spots are unrestricted and located in front of the child care facility.
- **Option 3:** Adopt both options 1 and 2.

35% of respondents agreed with option 1, 36% agreed with option 2, and 32% agreed with option 3.

Reasons for agreement included:

- Flexibility in child care site design (e.g. potentially more outdoor playspace).
- Easier to open new child care facilities.
- The proposed changes seem minor, given the short-term and staggered nature of pick-up and drop-off activities.
- More daycares in residential areas, close to where people live and away from busy roads, resulting in shorter commutes and more opportunities for walking and biking children to daycare.

42% of respondents disagreed with options 1 and 2, and 44% disagreed with option 3.

Reasons for disagreement included:

- Traffic may increase in residential areas.
- Street parking may become more difficult, especially in winter and with increased infill development.
- Safety of children at peak pick-up and drop-off times.
- Stress that parents and guardians may feel when trying to access the daycare.
- Illegal parking.
- Larger daycares on small sites.

18% of respondents neither agreed nor disagreed with option 1 and 17% neither agreed nor disagreed with options 2 and 3.

5% of respondents were unsure about options 1 and 2, and 6% of respondents were unsure about option 3.

The WAVE Policy Subcommittee generally agreed with the three options to reduce the pick-up and drop-off requirement, however they felt that paid on-street parking spaces should not count toward a reduction in on-site spaces and that the City should consider requiring an on-street loading zone to ensure pick-up and drop-off spaces are available during peak times.

Feedback Received on Changing Child Care Services to a Permitted Use in Select Special Area Zones

In the survey, residents of the special areas subject to the proposed changes and developers of child care facilities were asked for feedback on changing child care services to a permitted use.

39% supported changing child care services to a permitted use in the identified special areas, 22% felt child care services should remain a discretionary use and 39% were unsure.

Reasons for support included making regulations consistent across the city, improving fairness, and meeting the needs of young families in growing neighbourhoods.

Reasons for opposition included concerns that child care services are not compatible with residential activities, that there are complex considerations when determining where child care should develop, and that there are already enough child care facilities close by.

The WAVE Policy Subcommittee agreed with changing child care services from a discretionary use to a permitted use in special area zones, where appropriate. Concerns were raised that continuing to list child care services as a discretionary use in residential and commercial zones without a clear rationale is discriminatory.

Next Steps

The full What We Heard report will be shared as an attachment to the upcoming City Council Public Hearing and posted on Edmonton.ca.

Target City Council Public Hearing Date: June 23, 2026

Council meeting agendas can be found at edmonton.ca/city_government/council-committee-meetings and are posted online two weeks prior to the public hearing.

If you have any questions, please email zoningbylaw@edmonton.ca.