

Chapter 41

Education – Child Care Facilities

1.0 MAIN POINTS

This chapter reports the results of our second follow-up of the Ministry of Education's (Ministry) processes to regulate child care facilities.

As of March 31, 2013, the Ministry has implemented the last outstanding recommendation from our *2010 Report – Volume 1* on the Ministry's processes to regulate child care facilities. Ministry management receives quarterly reports on non-compliance with *The Child Care Regulations* (Regulations). Starting with its *2011-12 Annual Report*, the Ministry publicly reports trends in child care facilities' compliance with the Regulations.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

The Ministry is responsible under *The Child Care Act* to set standards for child care, and to license and inspect child care facilities. The purpose of the Ministry's Early Learning and Child Care Program is to support families and communities by promoting high-quality care for children in a safe, nurturing environment. The Ministry licenses and monitors child care facilities and provides information about child care to the public. If the Ministry does not have adequate processes to regulate child care facilities, the safety and well-being of children receiving care may be at risk.

In 2010, we assessed whether the Ministry had adequate processes to regulate child care facilities. Our *2010 Report – Volume 1*, Chapter 5, concluded that, for the year ended February 28, 2010, the Ministry's processes to regulate child care facilities were adequate except for monitoring and reporting facilities' compliance with *The Child Care Regulations*. We made two recommendations.

In our *2012 Report – Volume 1*, Chapter 4, we reported in our first follow-up that the Ministry had met one recommendation but was not publicly reporting trends in child care facilities' compliance with the Regulations. This chapter sets out the results of our second follow-up on the status of this recommendation.

To conduct this review, we followed the standards for assurance engagements published in the *CPA Canada Handbook - Assurance*. To evaluate the Ministry's progress towards meeting our recommendations, we used the relevant criteria from the original audit. The Ministry's management agreed with the criteria in the original audit.

3.0 STATUS OF RECOMMENDATION

This section sets out the recommendation, the Ministry's actions up to March 31, 2013, and the status of the recommendation including the date on which the Standing Committee on Public Accounts agreed to the recommendation. We found that the Ministry has implemented our recommendation.



3.1 Quarterly and Annual Trend Reporting

We recommended that the Ministry of Education report trends in child care facilities' compliance with *The Child Care Regulations* to senior management quarterly and to the public annually. (2010 Report – Volume 1; Public Accounts Committee agreement January 19, 2011)

Status – Implemented

As reported in our 2012 follow-up, the Ministry had established a system to track child care facilities' compliance with the Regulations. The Ministry uses this system to report to senior management. Quarterly reports include trend information about non-compliance with various sections of the Regulations.

The Ministry began publicly reporting trends in child care facilities' compliance with the Regulations in its *2011-12 Annual Report*.