



ALBERTA

CHILDREN'S SERVICES
Office of the Minister

Ministerial Order No. 2020-04

WHEREAS the Lieutenant Governor in Council made Order in Council 080/2020 under section 52.1(1) of the *Public Health Act* (PHA) on March 17, 2020 declaring a state of public health emergency in Alberta due to pandemic COVID-19 and the significant likelihood of pandemic influenza, which Order has effect for 90 days following March 17, 2020 under section 52.8(1)(a) of the PHA;

WHEREAS the Alberta Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) made Order 01-2020 on March 16, 2020 under section 29(2.1) of the PHA (CMOH Order 01-2020) prohibiting all persons from attending a place where day care, out of school care or preschool programs (Programs) licensed under the *Child Care Licensing Act* (CCLA) are provided or offered, which Order is in effect until rescinded by the CMOH;

WHEREAS the CMOH made Order 04-2020 on March 20, 2020, which amended Order 01-2020 (CMOH Order 04-2020) to allow only essential services workers to have access to child care services so essential services workers can continue to engage in their profession, which Order is in effect until rescinded by the CMOH;

WHEREAS section 4(1)(b) of the *Child Care Licensing Regulation* (CCLR) requires a licence holder to pay a \$100 fee when making an application under section 4(3) of the CCLA to renew a child care program licence;

WHEREAS section 24 of the CCLA authorizes the Minister of Children's Services to temporarily exempt a licence holder or a category of licence holders from any requirement of the CCLA or CCLR if the Minister is of the opinion that there is an exceptional and extraordinary circumstance that warrants a temporary exemption, and it is in the public interest that a temporary exemption be granted;

WHEREAS I am satisfied that licence holders of the Programs are experiencing economic hardship as a result of pandemic COVID-19 and CMOH Order 01-2020 and CMOH Order 04-2020 which have closed or limited the operations of the Programs in Alberta;

WHEREAS I am satisfied that the resulting economic hardship is an exceptional and extraordinary circumstance that warrants a temporary exemption for licence holders of the Programs from the licence renewal application fee required by section 4(1)(b) of the CCLR, and it is in the public interest that a temporary exemption be granted to assist with the economic viability of the Programs;

THEREFORE, I, Rebecca Schulz, Minister of Children's Services, pursuant to section 24 of the CCLA, do hereby order that:

1. Licence holders of the Programs are exempted from paying the \$100 fee for an application for a licence renewal required by section 4(1)(b) of the CCLR;
2. This Order is in effect until CMOH Order 01-2020 and CMOH Order 04-2020 are rescinded by the CMOH.

DATED at Edmonton, Alberta this 7th day of April, 2020.



Rebecca Schulz
Minister of Children's Services