



## Bredenbury Community Daycare

### CONTACT

Municipality: Town of Bredenbury

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Year awarded: 2024

Project timeline: January 3, 2023 – ongoing

Project video: <https://youtu.be/R7e-yUAj3e0>

### THE PRACTICE

*What was the issue?*

Residents of the town of Bredenbury were moving to other municipalities due to lack of daycare services. Those who were not moving away were often driving in the opposite direction of their employment to take their children to daycare. This was getting very hard on families, especially in winter driving conditions.

*What was the project?*

The town opened a licensed daycare in their old school.

### THE PROCESS

The project was developed over the course of approximately one-and-a-half years. The process began with a draft of the old school, reviewing how the space could be developed for children. The draft was reviewed by engineers to ensure that project plans met code. Extensive renovations were required including:

- Replacing old windows and creating new window spaces.
- Removal of old walls and placement of new walls.
- Installation of new plumbing.
- Complete electrical replacement.
- New flooring.
- Replacement of furnaces and air conditioner.
- Paint.
- New doors.
- Installation of a fire alarm system; and
- Complete kitchen build.

The CAO was the project lead with assistance from the municipal council and Parent Advisory Committee. The Parent Advisory Committee was made up of local parents who helped with fundraising and planning for the new daycare. The project lead worked with several resources including engineers, drafters, plumbers, electricians, and the Ministry of Education to ensure the success of this project.

### *Challenges Faced:*

The building code required a sprinkler system be installed in new daycare facilities in order for the center to be approved for infants, however that is not a requirement for older daycare. A discussion took place with the local MLA and the code was updated so that the facility could move forward with infant spots. This was very important because other new daycares opening in the area were also unable to offer infant spots because of the sprinkler requirement, and the high cost to install the system, making the renovation not financially feasible.

As one of the first municipally owned and operated daycares challenges were faced with the Ministry of Education's annual review due to difference in how municipalities operate, versus businesses. There were some difficulties working through the annual review with this new type of licensed center.

## THE RESULTS

Young families began moving to Bredenburg. The community stepped up to show their support and generosity through monetary and non-monetary donations, and many volunteer hours. Children come not only from the town of Bredenburg, but also from the surrounding communities to experience the new all-inclusive daycare. Bredenburg Community Daycare is one of the first municipality-owned daycares. It now has a waiting list and operates full-time.

## LESSONS LEARNED

1. Coordinating a variety of different contractors to simultaneously work on a project is very difficult.
2. Consultants within the Ministry of Education changed often leading to limited capacity to provide support.
3. Opening a daycare costs a lot of money, particularly if it requires full renovation. This project cost nearly a million dollars with approximately a third of the cost being covered by government grant funding.
4. Staff will apply to work in daycares owned by municipalities, especially when additional health and pension benefits are offered.
5. Community support and sponsorship was paramount in completing a project of this scope. They were instrumental in the final success of the project.