1908 First charitable day nursery is established in Edmonton.
1912 Children’s Aid Society of Edmonton runs a day care, 1912–17 (approx.).
1930 Edmonton Creche is established on a charitable basis.
1935 Edmonton College, Inc. is established, with kindergarten and day nursery divisions.
1943 Wartime day nurseries cost-sharing agreement is signed by Alberta and Ottawa.
1944 Advisory committee votes four to three against establishing wartime day nurseries.
Demonstration day nursery in Calgary opens and then closes.
1941–60s Strong kindergarten programs are run in Calgary as part of school system until 1954 and later by community groups or commercial operators.
1959 Province agrees to enforce its licensing regulation for day cares.
1960 First provincial civil servant is hired to be responsible for day care.
1961 First provincial standards for day care are put in place.
1964 Edmonton Creche Society decides to close the Edmonton Creche.
Community Day Nursery (CDN) succeeds the Edmonton Creche.
1965 For the first time, the province agrees to finance a day care (CDN).
1966 Preventive Social Service (PSS) program begins.
Canada Assistance Plan (CAP) begins.
Mary Hull introduces a play-oriented program at CDN.
1967 Howard Clifford is hired as Edmonton’s first day care director.
Edmonton adopts the Child Welfare League of America’s day care standards.
Alf Hooke rejects use of PSS funds for Edmonton’s Glengarry Day Care.
Day Care Association of Calgary is formed by commercial operators. A parallel group in Edmonton is headed by Hilde Bloedow.
1968 Province reverses Hooke’s decision on PSS funding for Glengarry Day Care.
1969  Al Hagan is appointed Calgary’s first day care counsellor.  
    Calgary adopts high day care standards much like Edmonton’s.  
    First PSS day care opens in Medicine Hat.  
    Ray Speaker rejects Lethbridge’s request for PSS funds for a day care after  
    commercial operators protest.

1970  Day care opens at Mount Royal College, the first at a college in Canada.  
    Bowness-Montgomery Day Care opens in Calgary.  
    First cohort of early childhood education (ECE) students enters Mount Royal  
    College in Calgary.

1971  Calgary’s first municipal day care (Shaganappi) opens.  
    First cohort of ECE students enters Grant MacEwan College in Edmonton.  
    Red Deer City Council votes against supporting a PSS day care.  
    First change in provincial government in thirty-six years occurs. Peter Lougheed  
    becomes premier.  
    Alberta Association for Young Children has founding conference.

    First PSS day care opens in Grande Prairie.

1974  First PSS day care opens without publicity in Lethbridge.  
    First cohort of ECE students enters Grande Prairie Regional College.

1976  Medicine Hat operates a network of five municipal day cares. There are no  
    commercial day cares in the city.

    Formation of Private Day Care Society of Alberta (PDCS), a province-wide lobby  
    group led by large commercial operators.  
    First cohort of early childhood development students enters Medicine Hat  
    College.

1978  Province imposes new system involving portable day care subsidies and  
    relatively weak day care standards.  
    Commercial centres become eligible to take subsidized children.  
    Calgary and Lethbridge join new system.  
    Edmonton, Medicine Hat, Grande Prairie, and Red Deer delay.  
    Province announces plan to phase out funding to former PSS day cares.

1979  Medicine Hat, Grande Prairie, and Red Deer join new day care system.  

1979–96  Alberta loses at least $255 million (2006 dollars) in CAP transfers from Ottawa  
    because it allows subsidized children to attend commercial centres.

1980  January: Edmonton joins new day care system.  
    February: Review of day care by Tory MLAs favours commercial interests.  
    April: Province assumes responsibility for out-of-school care (OOSC) and then  
    returns it to municipalities in September.
August: Municipal involvement in provincial day care system ends.
September: Universal operating allowances are announced, along with significant improvements in staff-to-child ratios, group size, and indoor space.
September: First appointments are made to Alberta Day Care Advisory Committee (ADCAC).
Autumn: Maximum facility size for day cares is set at eighty spaces.

1980–90s
Lighthouse day cares and family day home (FDH) projects are supported by municipal governments across Alberta in opposition to provincial system.

1981
Operating allowances for infants and toddlers are substantially increased.
Special provincial payments to PSS day cares end.

1982
Minister Bob Bogle funds an alternative staff training program sponsored by the PDCS.
Province abandons plan to establish requirements for day care staff.
Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) boycott threat stops the U.S.-based corporation KinderCare Learning from opening day cares in Alberta.

1983
Municipalities begin to receive CAP flow-through payments for their lighthouse child care programs.
New regulation sets ownership cap at five hundred spaces; it is never enforced.

1984
Glengarry Day Care is transferred from city service to not-for-profit board.

1986
Operating allowance freeze occurs; new spaces do not qualify.
Province discontinues ADCAC.

1987
Kids First Parents Association is formed in Calgary.
Alberta Child Care Network holds its first meeting.

1988
Province considers providing a subsidy to stay-at-home parents. The idea is rejected because of the projected cost.
Canada Childcare Act dies when federal election is called.

1989
Commercial operators’ “war chest” defeats CUPE union drive in Calgary.
Medicine Hat and District Independent Day Care Operators’ Association is established.

1990
Cutbacks to the size of operating allowances begin, but freeze is lifted.
Staff training requirements are added to the Day Care Regulation.

1991
Number of day cares and number of licensed spaces peak.

1992
New right-wing majority on council approves the planned phase-out of Medicine Hat’s municipally run day cares over four years.

1994
“Klein Revolution” budget cuts to social services begin.
Bankruptcy of Dennis Sorensen’s Kindercare chain in Calgary.
Value for Money audit leads to the end of Calgary’s municipal day care program (effective 1995).
Province deregulates FDHS with four to six children.
1995  Edmonton uses Preschool Task Force to shift its emphasis from municipally approved day cares to programs for “children and families in poverty.”
   Grande Prairie council votes to privatize the city-run FDH program.
1996  CAP ends. Flow-through payments to Alberta municipalities end.
   Dedicated funding for municipally approved day cares in Edmonton ends.
1998  Relaxation of standard: a single staff member is now allowed to look after six children as young as eighteen months at beginning and end of day.
   Child and Family Services Authorities begin administering day care.
1999  Operating allowances are eliminated.
   Red Deer City Council votes to phase out its subsidies to the old PSS day cares.
2001  CDN in Edmonton closes.
2002  Wage enhancements begin. Accreditation program is announced.
2003  Alberta sits last among the provinces in per capita spending on child care.
   Not-for-profit child care programs become eligible for gaming licenses.
2005  Accreditation program begins for day cares and FDH agencies.
   Wage enhancements more than double for all trained staff.
   Alberta signs an Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) agreement with the federal Liberal government.
2006–8  Federal Conservative government pursues pro-family agenda by cancelling ELCC agreements with provinces, beginning a $100-per-month “baby bonus” for children under six, and passing two tax measures: a child tax credit and a higher spousal exemption.
2007  Wage enhancements increase by 40 percent.
   Capital grants of $1,500 per new space are created.
   Maximum facility size for day cares is deregulated.
   123 Busy Beavers corporate chain buys centres in Calgary and Edmonton.
2008  Wage enhancements increase by 60 percent.
   Infant space operating allowance of $150 is introduced.
   Municipal involvement in OOSC ends.
   Provincial subsidy program for OOSC begins.
   Capital grants are provided to buy modular buildings for OOSC programs near schools.
2009  Accreditation program is announced for OOSC.
   Wage enhancements are extended to workers in OOSC centres.
   Alberta Child Care Association is founded.
   Edleun Inc., backed by venture capital, acquires the 123 Busy Beavers chain.