Child Care Business Models Used by the Surveyed University Child Care Centres

**Definition:** In this report, a child care “business model” includes multiple elements that have an impact on centre’s finances, sustainability and viability.

**GOVERNANCE**
- All centres were not-for-profit. Most operated as separately incorporated non-profit entities, several operated directly by university.
- Most centres had boards of directors made of parents and other members of university community.

**PARENT FEES**
- The main source of revenue in university child care everywhere except Quebec.
- Wide range of parent fees, with Manitoba only province in study outside Quebec that sets maximum fees.
- A minority of centres reported some fee reductions.

**UNIVERSITY SUPPORT**
- Financial and in-kind was quite high. Most centres reported that 10%+ of their budgets came from university-related funds.
- First-ranked support was “reduced or no rent” and most centres were in university buildings, many purpose-built/extensively renovated.

**ENROLMENT**
- Many centres provide infant and toddler spaces; university child care more likely to provide infant and toddler care than child care centres across Canada overall.

**RESEARCH & OBSERVATION**
- Universities made considerable use of centres, although few are used as lab schools for ECE training.

**PROVINCIAL POLICY**
- Over half said that more than 20% of their budget came from government funds. Manitoba had second highest % of funds from provincial government.

**Discussion: Issues and ideas to consider**

1. The support provided to university child care by their respective universities is impressive.
2. When designing university child care, the issues affecting child care generally—accessibility, affordability, quality and sustainability—need to be considered.
3. There are a number of possible innovations, partnerships and leadership opportunities that are timely and could be exciting.
4. From the province’s perspective, it is timely, as Manitoba has recently begun a new five year child care plan.
5. From the university’s perspective, the child care initiative has enormous potential for exploring innovation, partnerships and leadership.

**IN SUMMARY**
- The research and review of university child care across Canada suggests that there is good potential at the University of Manitoba for the child care initiative to undertake directions that could be valuable and exciting in Manitoba and beyond.