Child Care: A Canadian Snapshot
The numbers on early childhood care and education in Canada

Demographics
Number of Canadian children ages 0-12: 4.79 Million

Number of Canadian children ages 0-12 with a mother in the paid workforce: 3.09 Million

Number of regulated child care spaces in Canada: 986,842

Percentage of children, aged 0-5 years with mothers in the labour force, 2012: 73.5

Percentage of children, aged 6-15 years with mothers in the labour force, 2012: 84

Mother’s labour force participation rate when her youngest child is 0-2 years: 69.7 percent

Child Care Spaces
Percentage of children aged 0-5 years for whom there was a regulated, licensed, funded child-care space in 2012: 22.5 (up from 14.9 percent in 2001)

Province with the highest share of regulated spaces for 0-5 year olds: Prince Edward Island at 46.5 percent

Province with the lowest share of regulated spaces for 0-5 year olds: Saskatchewan at 11.5 percent

Child Care Funding and Costs
Amount of provincial/territorial funding for regulated child care in 2012: $3.67 billion (up from $1.9 billion in 2001)

Amount per child: $752 ($1,969 in Quebec)

Percentage of child-care spaces that were for-profit in 2012: 29.4 (For-profit spaces fell from 30 to 20 percent during 1992 to 2004, then rose steadily.)

Number of provinces providing no funding or fee subsidies to for-profit child-care centres: 1 (Saskatchewan)

Number of provinces that have set maximum parent fees: 3 (Manitoba, P.E.I. and Quebec)

Province with the lowest average full-time annual fees for a two-year-old in 2010: Quebec ($1820 per year)

Province with the highest: B.C. ($10,199.80 per year)

Average per year cost of an undergrad University degree in Canada: $5,366

Amount the federal government pays to families for each child under six years old, per month: $100

Early childhood education
Canada has the lowest share of public expenditure on early childhood education services among comparable European and English-speaking countries, according to the OECD (UNICEF, Canada Innocenti Report Card 8: The Child Care Transition, Innocenti Research Centre, Italy, December 2008)

Percentage of public expenditure on early childhood education services, as a share of GDP: 0.25 (That’s the lowest share among comparable European and English-speaking countries, (OECD))

Annual public spending increase required for early childhood education for Canada to be at the OECD average: $3-4 billion

Average percentage of a provincial or territorial budget spent on early childhood education: 1.53 (Quebec, 4.67 percent, the highest share)


Number of years since the Royal Commission on the Status of Women first recommended a national child-care program: 43

Median yearly income for full-time, qualified child-care program staff with a post-secondary qualification, 2012: $32,175

Median yearly income in Canada for a Courier/Delivery/Transport/Drivers: $33,600


Permission is not required to make photocopies for public education purposes. Photocopies may not be sold. To purchase this resource sheet, contact the Canadian Child Care Federation, 600-700 Industrial Ave., Ottawa, Ontario, K1G 0Y9. Phone (613)729-5289 or 1 800 858-1412. Fax (613)729-3159. Email: info@cccf-fcge.ca. Website: www.qualitychildcarecanada.ca © CCCF 2013