



Child Care: A Canadian Snapshot

The numbers on early childhood care and education in Canada

The CCCF, amongst others, has long been calling for national leadership and policy for children and families, fueled by the realities of modern Canadian families and the statistics outlined below. They paint a compelling and indisputable need for access to and the right to have affordable, quality and accessible child care options. Quality child care is needed across Canada and is more than a provincial/territorial issue.

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)

The Quebec Experience: For every dollar Quebec invests in its early childhood system, it recoups **\$1.05** and Ottawa receives 44-cents (Source: Fortin, P., Godbout, L., & St-Cerny, S. (2011). Economic consequences of Quebec's educational childcare policy. Retrieved from http://www.oise.utoronto.ca/atkinson/Events/Economic_Forum.html)

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**

Where not stated otherwise these statistics are drawn from Statistics Canada, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC), Child Care Human Resources Sector Council (CCHRSC), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Canadian Child Care Federation (CCCF), www.childcarecanada.org's Early Childhood Education and Care in Canada 2012, and Provincial and Territorial Child Care Organizations. First compiled from CBC News and posted on their National website July 29, 2013, www.childcarecanada.org/sites/default/files/CRRU_ECEC_2012.pdf