

# NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROFILE NOVEMBER 2011

## GOVERNANCE

<b>Newfoundland and Labrador: Governance structure early childhood education</b>	
Lead ministry/ Department	Department of Education is responsible for 5-year-old kindergarten Department of Child, Youth and Family Services oversees early childhood programs delivered outside education
Common supervisory unit	No
Policy framework	<i>10 Year Early Learning and Child Care Strategy</i> in development
Legislation	<i>Schools Act</i> <a href="http://www.canlii.org/en/nl/laws/stat/snl-1998-c-c-11.1/latest/snl-1998-c-c-11.1.html">http://www.canlii.org/en/nl/laws/stat/snl-1998-c-c-11.1/latest/snl-1998-c-c-11.1.html</a> Child Care Services Act SNL, 1998 c C-11.1 <a href="http://www.canlii.org/en/nl/laws/stat/snl-1998-c-c-11.1/latest/snl-1998-c-c-11.1.html">http://www.canlii.org/en/nl/laws/stat/snl-1998-c-c-11.1/latest/snl-1998-c-c-11.1.html</a>
Related legislation	<i>Child Care Services Regulation</i> NLR 89/05 <a href="http://www.canlii.org/en/nl/laws/stat/snl-1997-c-s-12.2/latest/snl-1997-c-s-12.2.html">http://www.canlii.org/en/nl/laws/stat/snl-1997-c-s-12.2/latest/snl-1997-c-s-12.2.html</a>
Public oversight/advisory	
Local service delivery	Kindergarten: 5 school districts – 4 English, 1 French Child care: 4 regions

### Department organization

The Department of Education includes an Early Childhood Learning Division created in 2005 to support kindergarten. The Division is also responsible for Kinderstart, a kindergarten orientation program. The Division provides assessments and intervention for preschool children with hearing or visual impairments and offers resources and grants for non-profit programs delivering early literacy activities. It will develop an early childhood learning curriculum framework based on developmentally appropriate practice to support all children, including those participating in early childhood education programs.

The Division of Family & Child Development within the Department of Child, Youth and Family Services supports the development of child care programs, promotes best practices in child care settings, provides parenting information and monitors and licenses child care facilities.

### Policy framework for early childhood education integration

The Departments of Education has the lead for the *Early Learning Framework: Learning from the Start* that proposes more support for parents with children under the age of 3; more formal learning opportunities for 4-year olds and full school day kindergarten for 5-year olds. In September 2010, the Department of Education released *Developing a Provincial Early Childhood Learning Strategy: A Discussion Guide*. A summary of the findings is now available.  
[www.ed.gov.nl.ca/edu/earlychildhood/what\\_we\\_heard.pdf](http://www.ed.gov.nl.ca/edu/earlychildhood/what_we_heard.pdf)

In 2009, responsibility for child care moved from the Department of Health and Community Services to a newly-formed Department of Child, Youth and Family Services. The March 2010 Speech from the Throne announced the development of a 10-year Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Initiative. Consultations will take place in late 2011.

### Service design

*Kindergarten:* All children who turn five by December 31 are entitled to a half day (2.5 hour) kindergarten program delivered by schools during the school year. Attendance is voluntary. Programs are offered in English and as part of French Immersion and ESL programming.

At the request of schools, the Department of Education will deliver Kinderstart.

*Child care:* Child care is a market service largely provided by commercial agencies. Approximately 74% of centre spaces are commercial. Care is provided for infants to school age in child care centres, regulated family child care, and through family child care agencies that recruit, monitor and support home child care providers.

### Local service delivery

Five school districts are responsible for delivery of kindergarten programs.  
Four regions monitor child care programs.

## FUNDING

<b>Newfoundland &amp; Labrador: Funding early childhood education services 2011 – 2012</b>	
Kindergarten <sup>1</sup>	26,000,000
Licensed child care <sup>2</sup>	22,300,000
Total ECE spending	48,300,000
Budget 2011-12 estimate <sup>4</sup>	7,840,000,000
ECE as % of provincial budget	.62%
1. Estimate: \$5486/child (Beach 2010 <a href="http://www.cccabc.bc.ca/cccabdocs/integrated/files/IECL_environmental_scan_2010.pdf">http://www.cccabc.bc.ca/cccabdocs/integrated/files/IECL_environmental_scan_2010.pdf</a> ) plus COLA] x 4725 children 2. Budget 2011 <a href="http://www.budget.gov.nl.ca/budget2011/highlights/default.htm#childcare">http://www.budget.gov.nl.ca/budget2011/highlights/default.htm#childcare</a> 3. <a href="http://www.budget.gov.nl.ca/budget2011/">http://www.budget.gov.nl.ca/budget2011/</a>	

Other related programs announced in Budget 2011 include:

- Department of Education: \$1.3 million, as part of a total commitment of \$4.8 million over three years, for brochures, resource kits, a website and other tools that support parents to promote social and early language development for children birth to 3-years-old.
- The Budget also targets \$3 million annually for a non-refundable Child Care Credit to offset parents' child care expenses to a maximum of \$539 annually for children under seven and \$308 annually for children aged seven to 16.

<b>Newfoundland &amp; Labrador: Child care funding breakdown</b>	
Parent fee subsidies	65%
Direct funding	30%
Special needs supports	5%
1. Estimate based on Department of Child, Youth and Family Services, 2011 and Beach et al (2009) ECEC in Canada 2008. <a href="http://childcarecanada.org/publications/ecec-in-canada">http://childcarecanada.org/publications/ecec-in-canada</a>	

## ACCESS

<b>Newfoundland &amp; Labrador: Child population 0-5 years 2010<sup>1</sup></b>	
Child population 0-5 years	28,087
Total population	508,944
Children 0-5 years as percentage of total population	5.52%
1. Statistics Canada. Estimates of population, by age group and sex for July 1, Canada, provinces and territories, annual 2010. CANSIM Table 051-0001.	

<b>Newfoundland &amp; Labrador: Kindergarten 2010</b>	
Children attending 5 year old kindergarten	4,625
Child population 5-years-old <sup>1</sup>	4,674
% of 5-year-old population attending Kindergarten	98.9%
1. Statistics Canada. Estimates of population, by age group and sex for July 1, Canada, provinces and territories, annual 2010. CANSIM Table 051-0001.	

<b>Newfoundland &amp; Labrador: Early childhood education 2-to 4-year-olds enrollment 2008-2009<sup>1</sup></b>	
Children attending licensed child care/preschool centres	4,800
Total children attending ECE program	4,800
Child population 2 – 4 years	15,700
% of 2-4 year old population attending an ECE program	31 %
1. Data adapted from Statistics Canada. National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth. Cycle 8, 2008-2009. Special tabulation. NLSCY interview asks parents to identify primary child care arrangement apart from public schooling. An estimated 20% of the 2- to 4-year-old children who have a parent who does not work or study is assumed to attend a preschool program.	

<b>Newfoundland &amp; Labrador: Licensed child care spaces 2011<sup>1</sup></b>	
Centre-based child care	
• Infant (0 – 2 years)	195 (96 centre based + 99 family child care)
• Preschool (2 – 5 years)	4870 (4546 centre based + 324 family child care)
• School age (5-12 years)	1644 (1578 centre based + 66 family child care).
Total family child care enrolment	(489)
Total licensed capacity	6709
1. Department of Child, Youth and Family Services, 2011.	

<b>Newfoundland &amp; Labrador: Mothers in labour force by age of youngest child 2010<sup>1</sup></b>		
Age of youngest child	Number of mothers	% of mothers
Children ages 0 to 2	8,800	69.3
Children ages 3 to 5	6,800	73.9
Total mothers in labour force with youngest child less than 6 years	15,600	71.2
Number of mothers <i>not</i> in labour force with youngest child less than 6 years	6,300	28.8
Total mothers with child less than age 6	21,900	100
1. Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey, Labour force estimates of women with children by age of youngest child for Canada and the provinces. 2010 annual averages		

### **Inclusion**

Special education teachers and student assistants assist children with special needs in regular Kindergarten classes. The Direct Home Services Program, administered by the Department of Education is an early childhood intervention program aimed at families with children 0 to school-age who are at risk or have a developmental delay.

The Department of Children and Youth Services provides funding for inclusion supports such as enhanced staffing to facilitate the inclusion of children with special needs in licensed child care. Inclusion consultants work with child care centres in each region of the province to facilitate inclusion.

## LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Newfoundland and Labrador: Curriculum Frameworks	
Kindergarten	<i>Completely Kindergarten: Kindergarten Curriculum Guide – Interim Edition (2010)</i> <a href="http://www.ed.gov.nl.ca/edu/k12/curriculum/guides/earlybeginnings/index.html">http://www.ed.gov.nl.ca/edu/k12/curriculum/guides/earlybeginnings/index.html</a>
Early Learning Curriculum framework in development.	

Transition to kindergarten: Kinderstart is a kindergarten orientation program. Eight sessions are scheduled for children 3.8- 4.5-years with their parents/caregivers and kindergarten teachers. Participating families receive a Kinderstart bag with a book and other child-related items. Teachers observe children’s behaviour and performance and note concerns for follow-up.

Newfoundland & Labrador: Group size and staff child ratio in licensed child care centres <sup>1</sup>		
Age	Staff: child ratio	Maximum group size
Infants (birth to 24 months)	1:3	6
Toddlers( 24months – 36 months)	1:5	10
Pre-school (36 months to 5.8 years)	1:8	16
4 ¾ - 7 years if attending school	1:12	24
Maximum child care program size	60 spaces per centre.	
1. <a href="http://www.canlii.org/en/nl/laws/stat/snl-1997-c-s-12.2/latest/snl-1997-c-s-12.2.html">http://www.canlii.org/en/nl/laws/stat/snl-1997-c-s-12.2/latest/snl-1997-c-s-12.2.html</a>		

### Educators

Newfoundland and Labrador: Educator qualifications	
Kindergarten/Kinderstart teachers	Minimum qualification a Bachelor of Education or a B.A. plus one year of post-degree study in education
Early childhood educators	A child care centre operator must have a minimum of Level 2 certification in the age range of the children for which the centre is licensed plus a minimum of 2 years of work experience. Within a child care centre, the lead staff must have a minimum of Level 1 certification in the age range of the children being cared for, as well as a minimum of one year’s work experience in that age classifications. All other staff must have a minimum of entry level certification in the age classifications of the children being cared for, or Level 1 when caring for infants.

Teacher and ECE average annual salaries		
Teachers 2008-2009 <sup>1</sup>	Early childhood educator 2009-2010 <sup>2</sup>	ECE % of teacher
\$67,720	\$25,500	38%
1. Brockington, R. (2010) <i>Summary Public School Indicators for Canada, the Provinces and Territories, 2002/2003 to 2008/2009</i> , Statistics Canada.		
2. Calculated at \$12.26/hour (Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey. Employed employees and average weekly for NOCS 2006 occupations E217-Early Childhood Educators and Assistants by highest level of educational attainment. Canada and the provinces, 2009/ 2010 two years averages. Special tabulation.) x 40 hours/week x 52 weeks/year		

Required professional standards for educators		
	Professional requirement	Professional development required
Kindergarten teachers	Approved education degree from Memorial University or the equivalent as determined by the Registrar of Teacher Certification. <a href="http://www.ed.gov.nl.ca/edu/k12/teaching/certification.html#min">www.ed.gov.nl.ca/edu/k12/teaching/certification.html#min</a>	The Department of Education offers in-service training. Summer institutes are available on topics relating to Kinderstart, Excellence in Mathematics Strategy.

Early Childhood Educators	<p>Certification: Association of Early Childhood Educators NL.  All ECE programs at post-secondary institutions recognized by the Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Education are approved for certification. Approval from the Department of Education is guided by Newfoundland and Labrador's <i>Early Childhood Care and Education Program Standards</i> (2008).  <a href="http://www.aecenl.ca">www.aecenl.ca</a></p>	Minimum 30 hours over for 3 years for certification renewal
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*Professional development resources:*

- The Early Childhood Education (ECE) Bursary Program provides financial assistance to those who have obtained an ECE diploma through a recognized post-secondary institution in the province and have committed to working in a regulated child care facility in the province for a minimum of two years following graduation.
- The Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Supplement provides funding to qualified early childhood educators working in regulated child care settings. Amounts are based on level of certification.
- The Summer Institute Bursary supports qualified early childhood educators and family child care providers to upgrade their qualifications.

## ACCOUNTABILITY

*Annual progress reports:* under the Early Childhood Development Agreement (ECDA) and Multilateral Framework Agreement on Early Learning and Child Care (MFA) governments agreed to report annually on their investments in early childhood development programs and services, and to provide regular reports on how young children are doing. In fulfilling this commitment, they agreed to provide:

- public "baseline" reports of early childhood development programs and expenditures prior to the ECD Agreement, against which new investments can be tracked;
- annual public monitoring reports to help track progress in enhancing early childhood development programs and services, using a shared framework for reporting; and regular public reports on young children's well-being, using a common set of outcome indicators.

Newfoundland's last report: *Stepping into the Future: Early Childhood Development and Early Learning and Child Care Initiatives Progress Report 2005 and 2006.*

[www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/publications/step\\_future\\_annual\\_report\\_2005\\_06.pdf](http://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/publications/step_future_annual_report_2005_06.pdf)

*Assessing Children:* An evaluation logic model and framework is under development to monitor and report on children's developmental outcomes.

*Population monitoring:* The province has piloted the Early Development Instrument (EDI), is working towards ongoing province-wide use and has ongoing commitment to its implementation.