

QUEBEC EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROFILE NOVEMBER 2011

GOVERNANCE

Quebec: Governance structure for early childhood education	
Lead ministry/ Department	Ministère de la Famille et des Aînés Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport
Policy for integration	Family policy framework
Legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational Childcare Act (L.R.Q., chapter S-4.1.1) • Education Act (R.S.Q., chapter I-13.3) • L.R.Q., chapitre M-17.2, Loi sur le ministère de la Famille, des Aînés et de la Condition féminine, 2006, c. 25, a. 1. • Loi resserrant l'encadrement des services de garde éducatifs à l'enfance (Projet de loi no 126, 2010, chapitre 39) • An Act Respecting the Representation of Certain Home Childcare Providers and the Negotiation Process for their Group Agreements (R.S.Q., chapter R-24.0.1) • Reduced Contribution Regulation, Educational Childcare Act (R.S.Q., S-4.1.1, s. 106) • Educational Childcare Regulation, Educational Childcare Act (R.S.Q. c. S-4.1.1, s. 106) • An Act to Facilitate the Establishment of a Pension Plan for Employees Working in Childcare Services (R.S.Q., chapter E-12.011) • M-17.2, r. 1, Décret concernant les modalités de signature de certains actes, documents ou écrits du ministère de la Famille, des Aînés et de la Condition féminine.
Public oversight/advisory	Regional advisory committees Avenir d'Enfants
Local service delivery	Kindergarten: 17 school districts. Child care programs: 165 regional coordinating offices of the Ministère de la Famille et Des Aînés.

Department organization

The Ministère de la Famille et des Aînés is responsible for the program supports and monitoring services as well as the licensing and monitoring of the early learning and child care facilities.

The Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport is responsible for kindergarten and prekindergarten and after-school child care.

Policy framework for integrated early childhood education

Québec's policy framework for early childhood education includes educational child care programs for the majority of preschool children and entitlement to before-and after-school child care programs operated by the public school system from kindergarten (or prekindergarten) to age 12-years. Implemented in 1997, Québec's family policy has three components: financial support for parents, child care and parental leave. Early childhood daycare services are considered one of the biggest accomplishments of Québec's family policy.

Finances Québec (2009) *Budget 2009-2010: Status Report on Québec's Family Policy*. Government of Quebec.

<http://www.budget.finances.gouv.qc.ca/Budget/2009-2010/en/documents/pdf/FamilyPolicy.pdf>

Service design

Kindergarten: Children are eligible if five years old by September 30. Attendance is full-time and voluntary.

Pre-kindergarten/Junior kindergarten: Half-day prekindergarten is available in some disadvantaged communities for four-year-old children.

School-age child care: School child care services available for children before and after school hours. Parents pay \$7.00/day.

Reduced-contribution child care: Early childhood education services for children from 0- to 5-years (centres de la petite enfance (CPEs), home child care services and private day care centres) that receive about 86% of program funding from government and parents pay \$7.00/day (about 14% of actual costs)

Private child care centres: Provide programs for children from 0 to 5 years and do not receive program funding from the government.

Public oversight/advisory

Regional advisory committees in each region assist with the distribution of new spaces, The committees include representatives from school boards, health and family agencies and association representatives among others.

Avenir d'enfants is a joint initiative between the Quebec government and the Chagnon Foundation that offers guidance and financial support to collective actions and community-developed projects. Avenir d'enfants also supports initiatives that enhance the knowledge and know-how required to promote the well-being of children and their families. <http://www.avenirdenfants.org/>

Local service delivery

Seventeen school districts are responsible to offer both kindergarten and school-age child care programs for children up to 12-years-old who are attending public schools.

Regional coordinating offices issue, renew, suspend or revoke the permits of home childcare providers and child care licenses and monitor that provincial laws relating to childcare are followed.

Several organizations receive financial support from the government of Quebec and represent the interest of centres and educators.

FUNDING

Quebec: Funding early childhood education/child care 2011/12		\$
Public School Kindergarten		721,320,000 ¹
Public School Prekindergarten		28,111,000 ²
Licensed child care (0 to 12 years)		2,600,000,000 ³
Total ECE spending		3,334,040,000
Total Quebec budget 2011-2012 estimate		71,748,000,000 ⁴
ECE as % of provincial budget		4.7%

1. 78,200 children (2011) x \$9224/child [Estimate based on Brockington, R. (2010) *Summary Public School Indicators for Canada, the Provinces and Territories, 2002/2003 to 2008/2009*. Statistics Canada; <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/81-595-m/81-595-m2010088-eng.htm> plus COLA]

2. 5,900 children (2011) x \$4612/child Estimate based on Brockington, R. (2010) *Summary Public School Indicators for Canada, the Provinces and Territories, 2002/2003 to 2008/2009*. Statistics Canada; <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/81-595-m/81-595-m2010088-eng.htm> plus COLA]

3. Estimate based on Quebec Budget 2011 – 2012. http://www.budget.finances.gouv.qc.ca/Budget/2011-2012/index_en.asp;

http://www.tresor.gouv.qc.ca/fileadmin/PDF/budget_depenses/11-12/Volume_III_FR.pdf. Expenditures estimates do not include refundable tax credit for child care expenses.
4. Quebec Budget 2011 – 2012. http://www.budget.finances.gouv.qc.ca/Budget/2011-2012/index_en.asp

ACCESS

Quebec: Child population 0-5 years 2010¹	
Child population 0-5 years	507,750
Total population	7,907,375
Children 0-5 years as percentage of total population	6.4%
1. Statistics Canada. Estimates of population, by age group and sex for July 1, Canada, provinces and territories, annual 2010. CANSIM Table 051-0001.	

Quebec: Kindergarten 2010	
Children attending 5 year old kindergarten 2010 ¹	76,050
Child population 5-years-old ²	77,654
% of 5-year-old population attending kindergarten	98%
1. Indicateurs de l'éducation édition 2011 http://www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/sections/publications/publications/SICA/DRSI/IndicateursEducation_Edition2011.pdf . Statistics Canada. Estimates of population, by age group and sex for July 1, Canada, provinces and territories, annual 2010. CANSIM Table 051-0001.	

Quebec: Early childhood education 2-to 4-year-olds enrollment 2008-09¹	
Children attending licensed child care/preschool centres	
Children whose parents work or study	154,100
Children whose parent not working	8,000
Children attending prekindergarten programs ²	5,800
Total children attending ECE program	168,000
Child population 2 – 4 years	242,800
% of 2-4 year old population attending an ECE program	69%
1. Data adapted from Statistics Canada. National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth. Cycle 8, 2008-2009. Special tabulation (unless otherwise indicated). 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. 2. Estimated 5,800 four-year-old children attended prekindergarten programs.	

Quebec: Licensed child care spaces March 2011¹	
Centre-based child care	
• Infant (0 - 2 years)	141,021
• Preschool (2 – 5 years)	
• School age (5-12 years) (2008)	
Private-home day care enrolment	91,607
Total licensed capacity	393,606
Note In March 2011, the Quebec government announced plans for 15,000 new child care infant and preschool spaces (funded – reduced contribution programs) The first 3 000 spaces will be available in 2012-2013 and the remainder of the 15 000 spaces will be established over four years and will be completed no later than 2015-2016. The addition of these spaces will bring the number of funded spaces to 235 000. These 15 000 additional spaces will represent an investment of \$557.9 million by 2016-2017. http://www.budget.finances.gouv.qc.ca/Budget/2011-2012/en/documents/BudgetPlan.pdf 1. http://www.mfa.gouv.qc.ca/fr/publication/Documents/rapport_annuel_gestion_2010-2011.pdf	

Quebec: Mothers in labour force by age of youngest child 2010 ¹		
Age of youngest child	Number of Mothers	% of Mothers
Children ages 0 to 2	176,300	75%
Children ages 3 to 5	107,900	80.2%
Total mothers in labour force with youngest child less than 6 years	284,200	76.9%
Number of mothers <i>not</i> in labour force with youngest child less than 6 years	85,000	23.1%
Total mothers with child less than age 6	369,000	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 needs supports in kindergarten: Adapting Our Schools to the Needs of All Students, a New Direction for Success is the policy on special education that guides the practices.

<http://www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/DGFJ/das/orientations/pdf/polite00.pdf>

Special needs support in child care: In March 2010, childcare services of disabled children with major needs. Centres also have access to support for the integration of a child with a disability. Support payments are given directly to centres and parents continue to pay the \$7 per day fee. In March 2010, 5,002 children were receiving special needs resourcing in regulated child care.

<http://www.mfa.gouv.qc.ca/fr/ministere/publications/Pages/moteur.aspx?recherche=1&Axe=3&Categorie=&Langue=&Titre=&ResumePublication=&TypePublication=&Numero=&Frais=&RechercheSimplifiee=>

Affordability

Fees: Province-wide fee is set at \$7 per day or \$147 per month in reduced contribution centres including CPEs, some private child care centres and licensed family child care.

Families with children attending private child care centre programs that are not reduced contribution centres (receiving program operating funding) are eligible for a refundable tax credit for child care expenses.

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Quebec: Curriculum	
Kindergarten/Prek	
Chapter 4 of the <i>Quebec Education Program</i> ¹	The program enables 4- and 5-year-olds to develop psychomotor, emotional, social, language, cognitive and methodological competencies related to self-knowledge, life in society and communication. These six inter-connected competencies are fully described with evaluation criteria. With the support of the teacher, children take part in learning situations drawn from their world of play and their life experiences and begin to play the role of students, active and capable of thinking. Children speaking neither French nor English have access to special services. Quebec offers kindergarten as part of its French program but it can also be provided in English at parents' request under certain conditions relating to the Charter.
<i>Programme Passe-partout</i>	Transition program is available for 4-year-old children and their parents.

<i>A Guide for Developing a Successful School Transition</i> (2010) ²	Guide provides childcare services and the education community with information on what constitutes a successful transition in order to help them analyze, improve and implement transition practices between the different environments that care for and provide services to children. This guide is intended for the staff and management of childcare services, school boards, schools, the health and social services network (CSSSs) and youth centres, as well as various community partners.
<i>Meeting Early Childhood Needs</i> (2007) ³	Educational program intended for all childcare establishments of Québec. Topics range from the objectives and theoretical foundations, the ecological approach, learning through play, interventions, creating positive relationships with parents, and structure. The program identifies children's global development and skills.
School Day Services Information Document (2002) ⁴	Provides an overview of school daycare services, the objectives of these services and the planning of educational activities.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. http://www.meq.gouv.qc.ca/DGFJ/dp/programme_de_formation/primaire/pdf/educprg2001/educprg2001-040.pdf 2. http://www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/sections/publications/publications/EPEPS/Formation_jeunes/Adaptation_scolaire/GuideSioutenirPremiereTransScolQualite_a.pdf 3. http://www.mfa.gouv.qc.ca/fr/publication/Documents/programme_educatif_en.pdf 4. http://www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/dfgj/projets/servicesdegarde/pdf/daycare.pdf 	

In February 2011, Avenir d'enfants announced two knowledge transfer projects that will support the quality of learning environments in child care centres:

- *Community Child Care Centres* – The Association of Community Child Care Centres of Quebec (AHGCQ) will create an education program tailored to the needs of child care centres and will receive funding of \$272,800.
- *Quality in Child Care Centres and Coordinating Offices* The Quebec Association of Child Care Centres (AQCPE) will receive \$2 million to support improved quality in child care centres and to form regional hubs of skills and expertise in early childhood education.
<http://www.avenirdenfants.org/salle-de-presse/communiquede-presse/avenir-d-enfants-soutient-trois-nouveaux-projets-en-transfert-de-connaissances.aspx>

Work environment

Kindergarten class size: 18 for groups of 5 year olds and 15 to 18 for groups of 4 year olds. 15 children for combined age groups.

Child care program size: Maximum number of children: 80. A building may not have more than two facilities.

Quebec: Group size and staff child ratio in licensed child care centres¹		
Age	Staff: child ratio	Maximum group size
Birth- 18 months	1:5	
18 months to 4 years	1:8	24
4 years to less than 5 by Sept. 30	1:10	
5 years and up after Sept. 30	1:20	

1. <http://www.mfa.gouv.qc.ca/fr/ministere/ministere/lois-et-reglements/services-de-garde/Pages/index.aspx>

Educators

Quebec: Educator qualifications	
Kindergarten teachers	4 year Bachelor of Education with specialization in pre-school and primary education plus 750 hours of practice teaching.
Early childhood educators	Diploma of college studies in early childhood education or any other equivalent training recognized by the Minister

	<p>In assessing the equivalency, the Minister if the applicant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) holds one or more diplomas obtained in Québec or elsewhere; (2) successfully completed continuous training or refresher training activities; and (3) has acquired relevant experience. <p>least 2 childcare staff members out of 3 are qualified and present each day with the children while childcare is being provided. If the number of childcare staff members is less than 3, at least 1 of the members must be qualified.</p> <p>http://www.mfa.gouv.qc.ca/fr/publication/Documents/SG_guide_administratif_classification.pdf</p>
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Quebec: Teacher and ECE average annual salaries		
Teachers 2008/09 ¹	Early childhood educator 2010 ²	ECE % of Teacher
\$60,180	\$38,790	65%
<p>1. Brockington, R. (2010) <i>Summary Public School Indicators for Canada, the Provinces and Territories, 2002/2003 to 2008/2009</i>. Statistics Canada; http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/81-595-m/81-595-m2010088-eng.htm</p> <p>2. Calculated at: \$18.65/hour (Adapted from 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</p>		

In 2011, the province-wide salary scale for qualified early childhood educators ranged from \$16.34 to \$21.65 while unqualified staff started at \$14.43. Assistants' salaries started at \$12.83 and topped off at \$15.19.

http://www.mfa.gouv.qc.ca/fr/publication/Documents/SG_guide_administratif_classification.pdf

The *Guide administratif concernant la classification et la rémunération du personnel salarié des services de garde et des bureaux coordonnateurs de la garde en milieu familial* outlines roles and responsibilities of educators and support positions within a child care centre.

http://www.mfa.gouv.qc.ca/fr/publication/Documents/SG_guide_administratif_classification.pdf

In Quebec, there are no professional requirements (recognition or professional learning) for early childhood educators. Required certification of kindergarten teachers is the responsibility of Ministère de l'éducation, du loisir et du sport (MELS). <http://www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/dftps/>

ACCOUNTABILITY

Progress reports: The *Portrait des services de garde* and the Ministry Family and Work's annual report are publicly available government reports that offers a regular update on the status of child care programs.

<http://www.mfa.gouv.qc.ca/fr/services-de-garde/portrait/Pages/index.aspx>

http://www.mfa.gouv.qc.ca/fr/publication/Documents/rapport_annuel_gestion_2010-2011.pdf

Population monitoring: The longitudinal study of children is funded by the *ministère de la Santé et des Services Sociaux (MSSS)* (Ministry of Health and Social Services), the Lucie and André Chagnon Foundation, the *ministère de la Famille et des aînés (MFA)* (Ministry of Family and the Elderly) and the *Institut de la statistique du Québec (ISQ)* (Québec Institute of Statistics). Analyses of the data focus on understanding the factors that contribute to academic success in primary school, while taking into account children's life experiences. <http://www.jesuisjeserai.stat.gouv.qc.ca/>

Several school boards in collaboration with the the Lucie and André Chagnon Foundation have administered and reported on the *Early Development Instrument*. In 2012, supported by Avenir d'Enfants, EDI will be collected on all children attending kindergarten across the province. The Institute du Sante will provide community and provincial reports.