The Current Situation of Early Childhood Care and Education

[EPYC (Education.Professionalism.Young Children 2015)]

This document was created by the EPYC Board of Directors and is used for information purposes only.
Introduction

EPYC (Education. Professionalism. & Young Children) is an organization that was established in 2006 by a group of Owners/Operators/Directors, and consists of early childhood educators from NB. EPYC is the passion, commitment and dedication of early childhood educators in action, to improve the quality of the services that are offered to young children and their families by working together as a team. This group has been providing quality early childhood care to children in NB for many years.

Over the years there has been a positive evolution of early childhood care, however, early childhood professionals continue to be engaged in a silent struggle.

The sector has faced many challenges and, as professionals in the field, there are a number of serious concerns for the sustainability of the industry and the potential negative impact on families with young children in NB.

This report outlines the current situation of Early Childhood Care highlighting the positive aspects of the sector and the challenges being confronted by professionals and families.

Early Childhood Education and Care

Research over the past few decades clearly shows that the care children receive as infants and toddlers influences the people they will become. Supporting early learning will translate to less problems down the road in schools and improve education outcomes for students without placing a burden on the education system. The following are key observations noted about early childhood education and care in NB:

- Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) has become the norm in our province, where most children attend a regulated early education service.
- Early childhood services represent much more than a drop-off location for working parents, but play an important role in child development by giving children an opportunity to engage in a range of educational and social activities.
- A caring environment is particularly valuable for children who experience inferior care at home by reducing the risk of behavioural problems and by providing opportunities for improved cognitive and language development. On the other hand, when combined with social and economic stressors at home, inadequate ECEC arrangements (poor quality child care, long hours, and instability) represent a double-threat to children’s security.
- The system should be accessible. No child should be excluded on the basis of income, parental employment status, place of residence, etc. Yet access is a problem as there are insufficient spaces and fees represent a barrier to quality child care for many families.
- The program should be high quality. Numerous studies have documented the importance of quality child care in the form of a healthy, safe, and stimulating physical environment;
appropriate staff: child ratios; and a curriculum program that recognises the child as an actor in the here and now. This requires public investment, not only to deal with affordability, but also to provide well-educated staff who will receive fair wages.

Current Situation

There are currently approximately 135 Early Learning and Child care centres offering a total of 4,314 childcare spaces in the Anglophone School District East (ASD-E).

The average full-time monthly parent fees in full-day centres by age group (2012) shown in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provinces</th>
<th>Infants ($)</th>
<th>Toddlers ($)</th>
<th>Pre-schoolers ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NL</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>773</td>
<td>783</td>
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<tr>
<td>PE</td>
<td>696</td>
<td>566</td>
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<tr>
<td>NS</td>
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<tr>
<td>QC</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>152</td>
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<tr>
<td>ON</td>
<td>1,152</td>
<td>925</td>
<td>835</td>
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<tr>
<td>MB</td>
<td>631</td>
<td>431</td>
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<td>650</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>BC</td>
<td>1,047</td>
<td>907</td>
<td>761</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Challenges

1. **Sustainability of existing centres**: current threats to the sustainability of current licensed facilities are the private unlicensed child care businesses and saturation of the market.
   a. **Possible solutions**: placing a restriction or cap on the number of spaces/centres permitted to operate in a certain geographical area based on the number of spaces/centres currently operating in that neighbourhood.
   **Outcomes**: this will ensure that each facility operating in a certain geographical area will continue to be viable and offering effective service to families.

2. **Private unlicensed unregulated child care businesses**: These businesses offer parents flexibility of care, however, they are not regulated and in most cases do not adhere to any standards or rules. The danger of these businesses is that they pose a risk to the health and safety of children. They also threaten the viability of existing quality regulated licensed Early Learning and Child care centres.
   a. **Possible solutions**: allow coordinators more authority and control over the monitoring and subsequent closure of those businesses. Restrict the advertisement of those businesses on online sites such as Kijiji.
   b. **Possible solutions**: Promoting and marketing child care services. Providing information to the public and parents regarding the advantages of licensed, regulated childcare facilities. Educating individuals regarding the differences of
licensed, regulated childcare facilities versus unlicensed childcare businesses so that parents can make informed decisions regarding childcare.

**Outcomes:** Reducing and eliminating those unlicensed unregulated businesses will help to sustain existing quality regulated licensed Early Learning and Child care centres. This will also remove those businesses that pose a risk of harm to children.

**Advertisements for Childcare in Moncton**

In 2013 a snapshot of childcare ads on Kijiji was analyzed. Looking at the top 31 ads:
- 3 ads were from licensed facilities and;
- 28 ads were from non-licensed facilities. Those 19 were divided into groups of ECE (or similar), and those with no formal training. More than 50% of the non-licensed facilities are those who are educated in the ECE field.

In 2015 another snapshot of childcare ads on Kijiji was analyzed once again. Looking at ads posted on September 16, 2015 there were 326 ads for childcare services. Out of those 326, 32% (103) were ads posted by private individuals offering childcare in their homes.

Some key observations noted during the researching of these ads:
- most were stay at home mothers looking to take care of children
- offered full time, part time and afterschool care
- services available Monday - Friday, 6:30/7am - 5:30/6pm.
- pick up from neighbouring school available
- flexible hours and days
- meals included
- bilingual service
- help with homework
- various play activities offered
- rates of $15/day for afterschool and $20-$30 for full day care
- most stated they had first aid, criminal record check as well as ECE training
- most stated they were experienced and have been looking after children in their home for several years

*See Appendix A for links and examples of Kijiji ads.*

**Summary**

Unlicensed child care businesses such as some of those that are advertised on Kijiji do not adhere to any of the rigorous standards as licensed facilities, putting children at great risk and in danger of harm. As Kijiji is a highly regarded online advertising tool and resource, many individuals use its various services. Most recently Kijiji has changed its terms on the advertisement of dogs in which only reputable licensed individuals are allowed to place an ad. This is a positive step that was accomplished by the government of NB legislating that change. As the concern for child welfare is increasingly becoming urgent we feel that families must be made aware of the dangers that unlicensed unregulated childcare businesses pose to their children. One of the solutions moving forward is to have that Kijiji place the same terms and conditions for ads regarding Daycares/Childcare Services as it does for dogs. It’s important to ensure
that Kijiji does not allow unlicensed unregulated childcare businesses to advertise childcare services on their website. Some of the ads from private individuals stated that they were "daycares", however this could not be verified which means they may be misleading parents by stating they are "daycares" and implying that they may be government licensed/regulated.

Most of these unlicensed unregulated childcare businesses essentially operate as licensed regulated facilities, offering the same hours of operation, rates, activities, caregiver education and qualifications, etc, but unlike licensed regulated facilities there is no requirement for these individuals to meet any government rules, standards and inspections.

Due to the proliferation of unlicensed, unregulated childcare businesses in NB will possibly put safe licensed Centres in jeopardy, who may face closing their door. This will displace children and put them at risk for being cared for in substandard conditions.

Compare provincial regulations & guidelines

"This information was excerpted from and provided by the Childcare Resource and Research Unit and the Canadian Union of Postal Workers’ “Finding Quality Child Care” project. The full edition of their online child care information guide for parents is available in English and French at http://findingqualitychildcare.ca"

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Unregulated/Unlicensed child care
There are two categories of legal unregulated home child care in BC; "license-not-required" (LNR) and "registered license-not-required" (RLNR). The maximum capacity in a home is two children or one sibling group of any age, not including children related to the caregiver. RLNRs must be registered with a CCRR and meet registration requirement criteria established by the Ministry of Children and Family Development. Child care providers caring for more than two children (or one sibling group) are required to have a license.

Regulated child care
• In BC, child care centres (referred to as "group child care"), preschools, and family child care must operate in accordance with the regulations set out in the Community Care and Assisted Living Act. This document is not specific to child care, though there are certain regulations only relevant to child care (i.e., certification of educators of young children) and to child care subsidies.

Facts and Figures
• There is a regulated space for 17% of children age 0-12
• There is a regulated full or part-time centre-based space for 20% of children age 0-5 years

Who's responsible for child care?
• In British Columbia, the Ministry of Children and Family Development is responsible for child care.
• Licensing and monitoring of child care facilities is the responsibility of the Ministry of Health. A Medical Health Officer oversees the issuing of licenses, inspecting licensed facilities and investigating complaints that an unlicensed facility is being operated. These duties are carried out by licensing officers on a daily basis.
• The Ministry of Children and Family Development is responsible for administering child care fee subsidies and funding for service providers, registering early childhood educators and funding local Child
Care Resource and Referral programs. Unique to British Columbia, monitoring and licensing regulated childcare is the responsibility of Ministry of Health.

Finding child care
• The Ministry of Children and Family Development has established a child care lookup tool that allows parents to search for daycare facilities.

ALBERTA

Unregulated family child care
Family child care providers do not have to be licensed or approved to work with an agency. Unregulated providers are permitted to have up to six children under the age of 13 years, not including the caregiver’s own children.

Regulated child care
• In Alberta child care centres, preschools, group family child care and out-of-school care must operate in accordance with the regulations set out in the Child Care Licensing Regulation, Alberta Regulation 143/2008.

Facts and Figures
• There is a regulated space for 15% of children aged 0 - 12 yrs
• There is a regulated full or part-time centre-based space for 20% of children aged 0 - 5 yrs.

Who’s responsible for child care?
In Alberta, the Ministry of Human Services is responsible for child care.
• Early Childhood Services (ECS) including kindergarten are the responsibility of the Ministry of Education.
• Ten local Child and Family Services Authorities (CFSAs) offices and 18 Delegated First Nation Agencies (DFNAs) are responsible for monitoring and licensing regulated child care.

Finding child care
• Parents are responsible for finding and obtaining a child care space for their child(ren).
• The Alberta government has developed an online Child Care Look-Up Tool, which provides the location, age group, served, program capacity, accreditation status and recent inspection results of all regulated child care services. Users are able to search by program name and city or postal code, age group and type of care.

SASKATCHEWAN

Unregulated/unlicensed care
A family child care home is not required to be regulated if it has eight or fewer children under 13 years, including the caregiver’s own school-aged children. Of the eight children, five may be younger than six years and of these five, only two may be younger than 30 months. Preschools (nursery schools) are not required to be regulated if they operate less than three hours/day or three days/week and school-age child care programs located in schools are not required to be regulated.
Regulated child care
• In Saskatchewan, only not-for-profit centres are eligible for public funding of any kind. There are usually no (or very few) for-profit centres, although they are permitted to operate.
• In Saskatchewan, child care centres, regulated family child care, school-age child care programs, and teen student support centres/homes (which provide care to parents attending high school) must operate in accordance with the regulations set out in the C-7.3 - Child Care Act.

Who’s responsible for child care?
• In Saskatchewan, the Ministry of Education is responsible for child care, kindergarten and pre-kindergarten services overall.
• The Early Learning and Child Care Branch of the Ministry of Education administers the legislation and is responsible for child care services, consultations, standards and training.
• Monitoring, licensing and consultation are provided through regional offices.

Finding child care
• Parents are responsible for finding and obtaining a child care space for their child(ren).
• Saskatchewan has an online Licensed Directory of Child Care Homes and Centres, which provides contact information for licensed centres and family child care providers in all 12 regions.

MANITOBA

Unregulated/unlicensed child care
A childcare provider in a private home can legally care for a maximum of four children, including their own children under 12 years. School-age childcare provided in public schools may be exempt from licensing.

Regulated child care
• In Manitoba, child care centres, nursery schools (half-day centre-based programs or full days less than three days/week), family child care homes, and occasional child care centres (care on a casual basis for more than 4 children) are regulated by the Community Child Care Standards Act This act defines the types of child care that need regulating and sets out licensing standards.
• Manitoba makes licensing order histories (licensing reports) available online. These provide details about specific child care services such as what regulation(s) were violated, and description of the circumstances.

Facts and Figures
• There is a regulated child care space for 16.8% of children aged 0 - 12 yrs.
• There is a regulated full or part-time centre-based space for 22.8% of children aged 0 - 5 yrs.
• Most child care services in Manitoba charge fees set by age group by the provincial government; there are a few regulated centres that do not receive government funding that are free to set their own rates.

Who’s responsible for child care?
• Manitoba Early Learning and Child Care, part of Manitoba Family Services and Consumer Affairs is responsible for child care overall. Manitoba Education is responsible for kindergarten.
• Early Learning and Child Care administers the legislation and oversees the operation of child care in the province. Monitoring, licensing and administration of the fee subsidy program is provided through local offices.

Finding child care
• Parents are responsible for finding and obtaining a child care space for their child(ren); there is no entitlement.
• Manitoba Early Learning and Child Care has created an online licensed child care search tool that allows parents to search for child care centres and family child care by type of care, location and age of child(ren). Parents are also able to limit the search to centres with vacancies. This search tool is designed to allow parents to browse potential child care options without registering or actively placing their child's name on a waiting list.
• Manitoba is the only province to have established an online child care registry which serves as a centralized waiting list. The registry provides information about child care services to parents and places child(ren) on waiting lists of centres and family child care that meet the individual family's needs. Parents are able to update and/or change their information at any point.

ONTARIO

Unregulated/unlicensed child care
A family child care home is not required to be regulated if it has five or fewer children less than 10 years old; this does not include the caregiver's own children. This number may not be exceeded, regardless of the number of adults present or on site.

Regulated child care
• In Ontario, child care centres (sometimes referred to as "day nurseries"), nursery schools, and before/after school programs and regulated family child care must operate in accordance with the regulations set out in the Day Nurseries Act (DNA), R.R.O. 1990, REGULATION 262
• The New Child Care and Early Years Act 2015 (See Appendix B for Key Standards)

  The Act will apply to:
  • Unlicensed child care
  • Home child care providers contracted by a licensed agency
  • Licensed home child care agencies; and
  • Licensed child care centres.
  An unlicensed provider must inform parents that they are unlicensed in writing.

Facts and Figures
• There is a space for 14.9% of children aged 0 - 12 yrs
• There is a regulated full or part-time centre-based space for 19.7% of children aged 0 - 5 yrs.

Who's responsible for child care?
• In Ontario, the Ministry of Education is responsible for child care and kindergarten overall.
• The Early Years Division of the Ministry of Education administers the legislation and is responsible for monitoring and Licensing regulated child care.

Finding child care
• Parents are responsible for finding and obtaining a child care space for their child(ren). A Licensed Child Care Search tool is available through the Ministry of Education. This tool allows users to find
licensed child care providers by city, postal code, type of program (i.e., centre vs. home care), age group and/or name of centre. In most of Ontario, parents are required to contact the program directly to place their child on the waiting list.

QUEBEC

Unregulated child care
A family child care home is not required to be regulated if it has six or fewer children, including the caregiver's own children.
There are no part-time licensed centres (nursery schools) for 0-4 year olds. Unregulated part-day centre-based programs opened before a specified date (1995) are permitted to operate in Quebec as jardins d'enfants.

Regulated child care
• In Quebec, regulated child care centres and family child care must operate in accordance with the regulations set out in the Educational Child Care Act R.S.Q. cC-8.2. Child care provided through school boards must operate in accordance with the Education Act. R.S.Q., c.1-13.3.

Facts and Figures
• There is a regulated space for 37.4% of children aged 0 - 12 yrs;
• There is a full-time centre-based space for 28.5% of children aged 0 - 5 yrs;
• 39% of regulated child care spaces for 0-4 year olds are in garderies, which are primarily for-profit centres;
• All school-age centres are publicly-operated (by school boards); there are no publicly-operated centres for 0-4 year olds.

Who's responsible for child care?
• Quebec has established its own unique approach to child care provision and services. A significant amount of public funding has been provided so regulated child care centres and family day homes provide spaces at a flat parent fee of $7/ day (referred to as "reduced contribution spaces") for infants through school-age children.
• Two ministries regulate, oversee and administer child care programs. The Ministère de la Famille et des Aînés (MFA) is responsible for services for children 0-4 years and the Ministère de l'éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) http://www.mels.gouv.qc.ca is responsible for services for school-age children and is also responsible for kindergarten.

Finding child care
Quebec provides several types of centre-based and family child care programs for 0-12 year olds:
• Non-profit centres (under MFA) for 0-4 year olds are always part of small networks of non-profit services called centre de la petite enfances (CPEs); there are more than 1000 CPEs in Quebec. CPEs are typically include several child care centres and usually regulated family child care as well. All CPEs are publicly funded to provide child care at $7/day for all age groups whether the child's parents are in the labour force or not.
• There are also centre-based programs for 0-4 year olds called garderies. Garderies are usually for-profit operations, although there are some non-profit organizations that operate garderies. Many garderies are publicly funded to provide $7/day care for 0-4 year olds.
School authorities, under MELS, are required to provide school-age child care outside regular school hours if there is a "demonstrated need", which may include children from age 4 to 12 years. All school-aged child care in Quebec is delivered by schools.

In addition to centre-based programs:

- 165 family child care coordinating offices are either part of CPEs or are (occasionally) freestanding organizations. Family child care agencies, whether CPEs or freestanding, hold permits (licences) to manage family child care homes, and are issued by MFA.
- Individual family child caregivers are not licensed in Quebec. Instead, family coordinating offices are responsible for monitoring individual homes under the regulations on behalf of the MFA. They also coordinate the providers, provide training and equipment, and maintain information for current and prospective parents.
- Quebec also offers group family child care--care in a private home provided by two caregivers--also managed by family child care coordinating offices.

NEW BRUNSWICK

Unregulated/unlicensed child care
A family child care home is not required to be regulated if it has five or fewer children younger than 12 years old (including the caregiver's own school-aged children). It is not legal to operate a nursery school or child care centre without a license.

Regulated child care
- In New Brunswick, day care centres, nursery schools, school-age child care centres and community day care homes must operate in accordance with the regulations set out in the Family Services Act and Day Care Regulations, 83-85.

Facts and Figures
- There is a regulated space for 20% of children aged 0 - 12 yrs
- There is a regulated full or part-time centre-based space for 21% of children aged 0 - 5 yrs.

Who's responsible for child care?
- In April 2011, the New Brunswick government formally integrated Early Childhood Development with the Department of Education to form the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. In a 2012 policy paper, Putting Children First: Positioning early childhood for the future, the provincial government noted that "early childhood services now will focus on children from birth to age eight, which we believe will facilitate a smooth and seamless transition of services from one part of our system to the other".
- The Child Day Care Services Program is responsible for the approval and monitoring of centre-based and home-based day care facilities and administration of the Day Care Assistance Program through their social development regional offices.

Finding child care
- Parents are responsible for finding and obtaining a child care space for their child(ren).
- There is a List of Approved Day Care Centres available online. This list allows users to find licensed child care providers by region, and provides location and contact information. Parents are required to contact the program directly to register or place their child on the waiting list.
NOVA SCOTIA

Unregulated child care
A family child care home is not required to be regulated if it has six or fewer children of any age, including the preschool-age children of the person providing the care. Care is allowed for a maximum of eight school-age children, including the children of the person providing the care.

Regulated child care
• In Nova Scotia, child care centres, child development centres (CDCs), and family child care daycare agencies must operate in accordance with the regulations set out in the Day Care Act and Day Care Regulations.
• Family child care is subject to similar regulations and is approved, managed and monitored by licensed family child care agencies.

Facts and Figures
• There is a space for 13% of children aged 0 - 12 yrs
• There is a regulated full or part-time centre-based space for 22.6% of children aged 0 - 5 yrs.

Who's responsible for child care?
• In Nova Scotia, the Department of Community Services is responsible for child care. Kindergarten is the responsibility of the Department of Education.
• Within the department, Early Childhood Development Services administers the legislation. Monitoring, licensing and the fee subsidy program are administered through regional offices.

Finding child care
• Parents are responsible for finding and obtaining a child care space for their child(ren).
• A Child Care Directory is available through the Department of Community Services. The directory allows a search for facilities by name and/or location, and shows whether a facility currently meets its licensing requirements. Parents need to contact centres directly to register their child or put their name on a waiting list.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Unregulated/unlicensed child care
A family child care home is not required to be regulated if it has five or fewer children of any age, including the preschool-age children of the person providing the care. If all children are under 2 years, three are allowed, or five preschoolers with no more than two of them younger than 2 years. Six are allowed in a mixed-age group up to 10 years with no more than two younger than 2 years.

Regulated child care
• In Prince Edward Island, early childhood centres, school-age child care centres and regulated family child care must operate in accordance with the regulations set out in the Child Care Facilities Regulations.

Facts and Figures
• There is a space for 25.9% of children aged 0 - 12 yrs;
• There is regulated full or part-time centre-based space for 41.6% of children aged 0 - 5 yrs.
Who's responsible for child care?
• In Prince Edward Island, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development is responsible for child care and kindergarten.
• The PEI Child Care Facilities Board is responsible for licensing and license renewal of child care/early childhood programs through regional offices.

Finding child care
Parents are responsible for finding and obtaining a child care space for their child(ren).
Early learning and child care registry allows families to search for regulated child care and early learning programs across PEI. Parents can search by care type and region/area. Contact and location information is available and families can then register their child(ren) or join a centre waitlist through the online registry.

PEI Excellence Initiative Plan (Appendix C)
A system that provides support to young Island children from birth to age four, their parents and their educators. The Preschool Excellence Initiative plan will achieve that goal by helping to build an accessible, sustainable and quality-driven system – which recognizes the need for parental choice.
The foundation of the new system continues to be the dedicated educators who teach and care for children. In the past, this group was often neglected – resulting in high levels of turnover and losses of experienced staff to other opportunities. The Preschool Excellence Initiative will treat these educators as the professionals they are. In turn, it is anticipated that measures taken under the plan will maintain a stable workforce – and thus enhance the educational experience of Island children throughout their earliest years. Many dedicated individuals have provided early childhood services to children over the years and their long-standing commitment to their communities is widely recognized and valued. Under the new plan, operators will have several choices. Private operators who wish to move to the new model will be assisted to convert their operations to Early Years Centres or Infant Homes. Operators will also have the option of remaining in business as a private, licensed operation.

Key Highlights of this plan include:
• Providing a high quality learning environment.
• Ensuring that all early childhood personnel are trained and certified.
• Regulating or moderating parent fees
• Maintaining access to licensed early childhood services throughout the province.
• Giving parents a voice through Parents' Advisory Committees
• Increasing wages for certified early childhood educators.
• Supporting ongoing professional development for all levels of early childhood staff.
• Ensuring long-term quality and sustainability of centres.
• Addressing operators’ human resource priorities of improved wages, training and professionalization.
• Providing professional development and advisory support to supervisors and owner-operators.
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Unregulated/Unlicensed child care
A family child care home is not required to be regulated if it has four or fewer children less than 13 years old (including the caregiver’s own children under 13). If all the children are under 24 months, the legal maximum is three children. It is not legal to operate a part-day nursery school or child care centre without a license. However, unregulated group programs are allowed if they do not receive more than six children for not more than nine hours a week, or for an unspecified number of children for not more than six hours a day for fewer than eight weeks in a 12-week period.

Regulated child care
• In Newfoundland and Labrador, child care centres must operate in accordance with the regulations set out in the Child Care Services Regulations, 2005, under the Child Care Services Act.
• Some family child care is subject to regulations as well and is either directly monitored by the licensing officials from the ministry or by a licensed agency that monitors multiple family child care homes, both through regular home visits. However, most family child care is not regulated.

Who's responsible for child care?
• In Newfoundland and Labrador, the Department of Child, Youth and Family Services is responsible for child care overall.
• The Division of Family and Child Development within the Department of Child, Youth and Family Services administers the legislation. Licensing and monitoring centres and home-based child care providers and family child care agencies is done through regional offices.

Facts and figures
• There is a regulated space for 9.6% of children aged 0-12 yrs (2010).
• There is a centre-based space for 17.9% of children aged 0-5 yrs (2010).

Finding child care
• Parents are responsible for finding and obtaining a child care space for their child(ren).
• Lists of child care facilities by region is available online. This list provides location and contact information for mostly centre based child care services. Parents must contact centres directly to register their child or put their child on the waiting list.
• In some parts of NL, regulated family child care providers are individually licensed in which case it may be a matter of finding them on your own.

YUKON TERRITORIES

Unregulated child care
A family day care home is not required to be regulated if it has three or fewer children of any age, not including the preschool-age children of the person providing the care. Preschool programs for children aged 3-6 years that operate for less than three consecutive hours are not required to be licensed.

Regulated child care
• In the Yukon, child care centres, family day homes and school-age child care centres must operate in accordance with the regulations set out in the Child Care Act, 1990 and the appropriate program regulations (i.e. child care, family day home, or school-age program)
• A government Child Care Inspector is required to conduct an annual inspection and two to four unannounced visits per year to each child care centre.

**Facts and Figures**
• There is a space for 29.5% of children aged 0 - 12 yrs
• There regulated full or part-time centre-based space for 27.9% of children aged 0 - 5 yrs.

**Who's responsible for child care?**
• In the Yukon, the Ministry of Health and Social Services is responsible for licensing and monitoring child care centres and family day care homes.
• The Childcare Service Unit is responsible for monitoring and licensing programs and administering the fee subsidy program.

**Finding child care**
• Parents are responsible for finding and obtaining a child care space for their child(ren).
• A list of Licensed Child Care Centres and Family Day Home Programs can be found here. Parents must contact centres directly to register their child or put their name on a waiting list.

**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**

**Unregulated child care**
A family child care home is not required to be regulated if it has four or fewer children including the provider's own children up to 12 years old. It is not legal to operate a nursery school or child care centre without a license.

**Regulated child care**
• In the Northwest Territories, day care centres, nursery schools, after-school care and regulated family day homes operate in accordance with the regulations set out in the Northwest Territories Child Day Care Act and the Child Day Care Standards and Regulations 1988.

**Facts and Figures**
• There is a space for 21.7% of children aged 0 - 12 yrs
• There regulated full or part-time centre-based space for 22.9% of children aged 0 - 5 yrs.

**Who's responsible for child care?**
• The Department of Education, Culture and Employment is responsible for child care overall and for kindergarten. The department administers the legislation and is responsible for monitoring and licensing programs.

**Finding child care**
Parents are responsible for finding and obtaining a child care space for their child(ren). Information for parents is available on the territorial government website.
Nunavut

Unregulated child care
A family child care home is not required to be regulated if it has four or fewer children including the provider’s own children up to 12 years old. It is not legal to operate a nursery school or child care centre without a license.

Regulated child care
• In Nunavut, day care centres, nursery schools, after-school care and regulated family day homes operate in accordance with the regulations set out in the Northwest Territories Child Day Care Act and the Child Day Care Standards and Regulations 1988.

Facts and Figures
• There is a space for 11.3% of children aged 0 - 12 yrs
• There is a regulated full or part-time centre-based space for 20.5% of children aged 0 - 5 yrs.
• All regulated child care is non-profit

Who's responsible for child care?
• In Nunavut, the Department of Education is responsible for child care overall and for kindergarten. The department is responsible for monitoring and licensing programs through regional Early Childhood Division offices.

Finding child care
• Parents are responsible for finding and obtaining a child care space for their child(ren).
• A list of licensed child care facilities is available online. This list provides location and contact information. Parents are then responsible for contacting centres directly to register their child or put their name on a waiting list.

Conclusion

In recent years early childhood education and care in NB has evolved. Many positive changes have been realized but there is definitely need for further improvement. The future of early childhood education and care in NB is place where quality regulated licensed Early Learning and Child care centres are not only viable but thrive in every community and region. There must be investment in the sustainability and support of pre-existing licensed Early Learning and Child care centres, small businesses who contribute to the community and economy. Unlicensed unregulated childcare businesses take children away from quality regulated licensed Early Learning and Child care centres will put children at risk for being cared for by facilities/individuals who are not regulated and controlled by childcare standards. With all the financial challenges facing NB targeting unlicensed unregulated childcare businesses who do not pay taxes and contribute fully to the economy, will also help to generate much needed revenue for the province and strengthen the economy.

There is also value in identifying and recognizing the strength of other models and standards implemented in other Canadian provinces, specifically Ontario and PEI. These other versions of childcare regulations have enhanced the quality and delivery of childcare as well as the sector as a whole.
We must ensure that the facilities/individuals responsible for the care or protection of children shall conform with the standards established by the Government of NB, particularly in the areas of safety, health, in the number and suitability of their educators, as well as competent supervision. The new Child Care and Early Years Act of Ontario encompasses standards that apply to all forms of childcare, licensed and unlicensed. Some of these standards are similar to current standards in NB, however, there are additional guidelines regarding unlicensed childcare that need to be a required regulated standard in NB as well.

Ensuring that current existing centres, who, in most cases have been serving families for over 10 years, are sustained. Some of those centres are not at full capacity, many are in danger of closing their doors. Sustaining these businesses will have positive outcomes to children, families, educators, the economy, etc. All families must be able to have available as well as access at anytime, to quality early childhood education and care that is affordable with the peace of mind that their child is protected, happy and safe.
References

7. Securing The Future For Our Children, Preschool Excellence Initiative. PEI Education and Early Childhood Development
Appendix A


“I have one full-time space for a child aged 1-4 years. In home daycare in quiet area in Riverview. Lunch and 2 snacks provided, as well as indoor and outdoor play and quiet/nap time. I have studied the NB curriculum and have first aid certification. Excellent references. Feel free to contact me to set up a convenient time to meet”


“I’m a loving stay at home mom of 2 kids, both in school, looking to provide before and after school care and full day care. I have years of childcare experience at church as well as being a mom myself. I’m in the zone for Northrup Frye School and can make sure your child gets safely on and off the school bus. I can provide healthy snacks, homework help, and a safe neighborhood to play in. My home is also smoke free. We have a large backyard and a play center. We will do crafts, games, and other fun activities to make your child feel at home. I can feed your child breakfast in the morning, as well as lunch and supper. I can pick up your child from school in case of illness, and will provide care on PD days and weather days. My hours are 6am-6pm. I can work with your schedule. I have excellent references available. Please contact me if interested and ask any questions. Thanks so much. Looking forward to hearing from you!!”


“I am offering ages 1-4 to come into my house for me to babysit them. Mon to Fri I am offering these services. I have twin girls of my own who start school soon and I have over 10 years of experience working with all ages in childcare and babysitting. I would charge 30 dollars a day from ages 1-3 then 25 a day. If this works for you then email me. Close to Hildegar, Mountain RD and Berry Mills”

“Hello. I am a 30 year old Christian mother of a one year old boy, and I am offering childcare in my home. I have 3 full time spaces available. My home is safe and smoke free with a nice backyard and a little park nearby. I have my Early Childhood Education certificate and I am First Aid trained. My son is my pride and joy, and I will care for your child with the most excellent care. I live in the Birchmount area of Moncton. My fee is 28$ a day. My hours are from 7:30 to 5:30. Please message through Kijiji or call if you would like more information. Thank you”


“have 1 full time spot available for a child in my in home day care OR 1 spot for an after school child who is attending St Henri school. I've been a day care provider for over 5 years now in my home. I provide 1 full meal (lunch) and 2 snacks. I am open from monday to friday from 7h35 am until 5 pm my spot is available beginning sept 8th.

We do some crafts, alot of play time learning activities, alot of outdoors play. Smoke / pet free home we are fluenty bilingual
I would love to hear from you
Message me for more info"
Appendix B

The New Child Care and Early Years Act: What Providers and Parents Need to Know

General

What is the Child Care and Early Years Act?
Together, we have been working hard to ensure child care in Ontario reflects the realities of our modern world. Our overarching goal is to build a child care and early years system that better supports parents and gives children the best possible start in life. Extensive consultation with parents and early years partners was key to developing this modernization plan.

To support our ambitious goals, the Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014 (CCEYA) will come into effect on August 31, 2015. This legislation will replace the outdated Day Nurseries Act (DNA) and establish new rules governing child care in Ontario.

Many of the new provisions will strengthen compliance and health and safety in child care settings, and help parents make informed choices about their options. Many of the provisions that existed under the regulations under the Day Nurseries Act are unchanged and will be carried forward under the CCEYA.

Who does the Act apply to?
The Act will apply to:
- Unlicensed child care
- Home child care providers contracted by a licensed agency
- Licensed home child care agencies, and
- Licensed child care centres.

ontario.ca/childcare
Who is exempt from the Act?
The following are some examples:
• Nannies or babysitters that provide care to children in the children’s home
• Care by relatives
• Camps that only care for children aged 4 and over
• Programs with a primary purpose of academic or skill-based recreation
• Private schools that only care for children aged 4 and over.

When do the new rules come in effect?
The new rules will come into effect on August 31, 2015. However, the following two rules for unlicensed providers will not apply until January 1, 2016:
1. Providers must count their own children under the age of 6
2. Providers can only care for a maximum of 2 children under the age of 2.

The following rule will not apply until August 31, 2017:
• Providers must include 10, 11, and 12 year olds in the total count of children they care for.

* However, these exceptions only apply to children who were already being cared for by the provider on December 4, 2014. For example, if a provider was caring for three 1-year-old children on December 4, 2014, they can continue to care for those children until January 1, 2016.

What happens if someone doesn’t follow the rules?
Contraventions of the Act and its regulations could lead to administrative penalties, and/or convictions that could include fines. The Ministry of Education will typically take progressive measures, such as compliance orders, as appropriate, before issuing a penalty. Administrative penalties would increase based on the length of the violation, and previous violations.

For instance, if a provider has more than the permitted number of children in care, the penalty would start at $2,000 per child per day. In addition to financial penalties, the ministry will post on their website when a child care provider has been issued a compliance order, administrative penalty, protection order and/or restraining order.
Where can I get more information on the new rules?
- Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014
- Ontario regulations made under the Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014:
  - O. Reg. 137/15: General
  - O. Reg. 138/15: Funding, Cost Sharing and Financial Assistance
- The Minister’s Policy Statement on Programming and Pedagogy

Home-based Child Care

How many children can a home child care provider care for?
A licensed home child care provider can care for a maximum of 6 children under the age of 13.
An unlicensed child care provider can care for a maximum of 5 children under the age of 13.

Does a provider have to count their own children?
Yes. Both licensed home child care providers and unlicensed providers must count their own children under the age of 6.

Are there age restrictions for the children a home child care provider can care for?
Yes. Both licensed and unlicensed child care providers must:
- Count their own children under the age of 6
- Care for a maximum of only 2 children under the age of 2 (including their own children).

Is it true that a home child care provider can only care for 3 children under the age of 3?
No. Both licensed home child care providers and unlicensed providers must:
- Count their own children under the age of 6
- Care for a maximum of only 2 children under the age of 2 (including their own children).
Can a home child care provider care for more children if another adult is present?
No. The maximum number of children applies regardless of the number of adults in the home.

Do the rules apply any time of day, or can a home child care provider care for more children outside of regular school hours?
The rules apply at any time of day.

If a home child care provider has a child in Full-Day Kindergarten, do they count toward the maximum number of children they can care for?
If a provider’s own 4 or 5 year old child is attending publicly-funded Full-Day Kindergarten or grade one, they only need to count them during summer vacation. The provider’s own child does not need to be included in their count during the school year (including March break and PA days), as long as:
• Care is only being provided between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m.
• The provider cares for a maximum of one child younger than 2 years old; and
• The provider has not been convicted of an offence under the DNA or CCEYA.

If an unlicensed home child care provider is caring for five children and their child aged 6 or older is home sick from school, would they be over the maximum number of children?
No. Licensed and unlicensed home child care providers must only include their own children under the age of six in their total count.

What other new requirements will take effect?
An unlicensed provider must inform parents that they are unlicensed in writing (either hard-copy or electronic). A provider must keep proof of their disclosure for two years. The disclosure must say: “This child care program is not licensed by the Government of Ontario.”

All providers, both licensed and unlicensed, are required to provide receipts for payment of services upon request.

With specific exceptions, all providers, both licensed and unlicensed, are required to allow parental access to the premises and their child.

An unlicensed provider cannot operate in more than one location.
Licensing Standards

What are the ratios for licensed child care centres?

Licensed child care centres are required to meet the minimum standards set out in the following ratios.

The majority of the ratios for licensed child care centres remain unchanged. Only the ratios for 4-5 year olds and 9-12 year olds have been changed and operators may choose to use the former ratios or the new ones.

Licensed child care centres can choose to have more staff than is required, but may not have less:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Grouping</th>
<th>Ratio of staff to children</th>
<th>Maximum number of children in group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infants (younger than 18 months)</td>
<td>3 to 10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toddlers (18 months or older but younger than 30 months)</td>
<td>1 to 5</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool (30 months or older but younger than 6 years)</td>
<td>1 to 8</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten (44 months or older but younger than 68 months)</td>
<td>1 to 13</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary/junior school age (68 months or older but younger than 13 years)</td>
<td>1 to 15</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior school age (9 years or older but younger than 13 years)</td>
<td>1 to 20</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The square footage requirements for licensed child care centres have been aligned to support the new kindergarten and school-age ratios to 2.58 square metres per child.

What new health and safety regulations are required under the new Act?

Many provisions were carried forward from the DNA and remain unchanged.

All staff, volunteers, and students at licensed child care centres and agencies require criminal reference checks. This includes vulnerable sector screening, which must be updated every five years. Offence declarations must be provided every year that Vulnerable Sector Checks are not required.

All child care supervisors, employees, and home child care providers must have a valid standard first aid certification including infant and child cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).
All parents must be notified when any accident or incident occurs that could affect the health, safety, or well-being of their child, and be provided with a copy of the report.

All meals, snacks and beverages must meet the recommendations set out in the Health Canada documents “Canada’s Food Guide”, “Canada’s Food Guide – First Nations, Inuit and Métis” or “Nutrition for Healthy Term Infants”, as the case may be.

**Is there a deadline for employees to get their first aid certification?**

Many employees and home child care providers already have their first aid certification. It is expected that when the CCEYA is proclaimed, employees and home child care providers would have valid certification in standard first aid, including infant and child CPR.

**When do employees or home child care providers have to complete their Vulnerable Sector Checks?**

Many employees and home child care providers already have a Vulnerable Sector Check. Employees and home child care providers with Vulnerable Sector Checks older than five years must apply to obtain a new one within 30 days after the legislation comes into force.

**Can a new employee start work before they have their Vulnerable Sector Check?**

New employees and home child care providers must obtain a Vulnerable Sector Check before they begin employment and/or provide care to children.

In certain circumstances, new employees and home child care providers can begin working with children before they receive their Vulnerable Sector Check, as long as they apply for it as soon as possible and the length of time it takes to receive it justifies the delay.

Employers and agencies are required to ensure additional measures are in place to protect children until the Vulnerable Sector Check is obtained.

**What are the new program requirements for licensed providers?**

Every licensed provider must have a program statement that is consistent with the Minister of Education’s Policy Statement that sets out *How Does Learning Happen?* (HDLH) as the framework to guide programming and pedagogy. HDLH
reflects the province’s view of children as competent, capable, curious and rich in potential. It is grounded in current research in early child development and provides a positive framework to support children and families.

To read the Minister of Education’s Policy Statement go to: http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/programCCEYA.pdf.

**How will parents know their child care is licensed?**

Under the new legislation, all licensed child care centres, home child care agencies, and homes contracted with a home child care agency will receive and display decals to identify them as licensed by the government of Ontario. Decals will be mailed to centres in fall, 2015.

**How will the new Act affect child care centres in schools?**

A child care centre located in a school, serving children age 4 and up, will be considered part of the school. This means the building and accommodation standards and requirements that apply to the school will also apply to the child care centre. Separate requirements such as zoning, building code, playground regulations and window glass will no longer be required for these centres.

**Are there any changes to staff qualifications?**

Staff qualifications remain unchanged for licensed child care centres.

A home visitor, who is employed by licensed home child care agencies to visit and monitor homes providing licensed home child care, must now be a Registered Early Childhood Educator (RECE), or otherwise have director approval.

Anyone who possesses an Early Childhood Educator (ECE) qualification, and is working within the scope of practice (planning, delivering and assessing inclusive play-based programs for children), must register with the College of ECEs.
Further Resources

- *How Does Learning Happen? Ontario’s Pedagogy for the Early Years:*
  - An Introduction to *How Does Learning Happen?* for Educators:
    http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/EducatorsEn.pdf
  - An Introduction to *How Does Learning Happen?* for Leaders:
    http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/LeadersEn.pdf
  - An Introduction to *How Does Learning Happen?* for Home Child Care
    Providers: http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/HomeChildCareEn.pdf

- *Think Feel Act: Lessons from Research about Young Children:*
  - Think Feel Act Videos: http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/research.html

- ECE Qualifications Upgrade Program: As of July 1, 2015 this program will be
  expanded to allow unlicensed home child care providers to apply for funding.
  Funding will be prioritized for individuals working under a Director Approval.
  http://www.ecegrants.on.ca/English/home_en.html

- The College of Early Childhood Educators: www.college-ece.ca
Appendix C

Excerpt from Securing The Future For Our Children, Preschool Excellence Initiative. PEI Education and Early Childhood Development
SECURING THE FUTURE FOR ISLAND CHILDREN

In the coming months and years, Prince Edward Island will take a massive step forward in the education of our children. New supports are being built with one fundamental goal in mind: As a province, we can do a great deal more to prepare young Islanders for a lifetime of education.

The first step in the process was the introduction of kindergarten as a full-day program in the public school system. The next logical step in the plan to improve education is a system that provides support to young Island children from birth to age four, their parents and their educators.

The Preschool Excellence Initiative plan will achieve that goal by helping to build an accessible, sustainable and quality-driven system – which recognizes the need for parental choice.

Founded on extensive research and consultations, the plan provides the Island’s largest ever increase in investment in early learning for children from birth to age four. Funding will grow from $5.35 million in 2009-10 to $8.7 million in the current year, a 63% increase.

This new investment will better prepare Island children for kindergarten – which in turn, will strengthen their ability to excel during a lifetime of educational opportunities.

THE PRESCHOOL EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE - IN BRIEF

There are five groups who will benefit from the Preschool Excellence Initiative.

CHILDREN
Currently, there are about 6,300 Island children from birth to age four. Of those, approximately 2,000 are enrolled in licensed early childhood programs across the province. Presently, the remaining children are cared for at home, or are in unregulated care.

For Island children, the plan will:
- Provide a high quality learning environment.
- Stimulate and foster creativity, discovery and a love of learning.
- Ensure indoor and outdoor play-based learning experiences.
- Ensure that all early childhood personnel are trained and certified.
- Expand early learning opportunities for Island children with special needs.

PARENTS
In today’s world, many Island parents have to work – which means that their children require an environment that values both learning and care. A range of options will remain available to Island parents when it comes to their child care needs. This plan adds options to enhance their children’s early educational experiences – while maintaining accessibility through regulation of costs, and provision of programs throughout the province.
For Island parents, the plan will:

- Regulate or moderate parent fees to ensure that the majority of families will see a decrease or no change in fees, and that any rate increases for remaining families are held to no more than $1 per day.
- Provide new and expanded options for infant care in family home settings.
- Maintain access to licensed early childhood services throughout the province.
- Provide quality early learning opportunities for children, with regular feedback on progress and development.
- Give parents a voice through Parents’ Advisory Committees.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS

Of course, the foundation of the new system continues to be the dedicated Island educators who teach and care for children. In the past, this group was often neglected – resulting in high levels of turnover and losses of experienced staff to other opportunities. The Preschool Excellence Initiative will treat these educators as the professionals they are. In turn, it is anticipated that measures taken under the plan will maintain a stable workforce – and thus enhance the educational experience of Island children throughout their earliest years.

To acknowledge and support the valued role played by our early childhood educators, the plan will:

- Increase wages for certified early childhood educators.
- Develop and deliver new entry-level and one-year training programs for all early childhood staff, creating a career ladder.
- Support ongoing professional development for all levels of early childhood staff.
- Provide a curriculum framework to support the work of educators.
- Provide a new opportunity for early childhood educators to become self-employed through the establishment of Infant Homes.

EARLY CHILDHOOD FACILITY OPERATORS

Many dedicated individuals have provided early childhood services to Island children over the years and their long-standing commitment to their communities is widely recognized and valued.

Under the new plan, operators will have several choices. Private operators who wish to retire their licenses will be offered funding to help them transition out of the sector, and will have the options of employment in an Early Years Centre or opening an Infant Home. Those who wish to move to the new model will be assisted to convert their operations to Early Years Centres or Infant Homes. Operators will also have the option of remaining in business as a private, licensed operation.

For operators, the plan will:

- Offer choices from a range of options.
- Ensure long-term quality and sustainability.
- Address operators’ human resource priorities of improved wages, training and professionalization.
- Provide professional development and advisory support to supervisors and owner-operators.
- Provide one-time funding to those who wish to retire their licenses.
Documents and Articles of Interest

   http://www.macleans.ca/politics/ottawa/child-care-primer/

   http://www.ijccep.com/content/8/1/1


   http://www.nbccc-csgnb.ca/resources-e.htm


6. PEI Parent Fees and Wage Grid. Government of PEI
   http://www.dpe-agje-ecd-elcc.ca/eng/ecd/ececc/page06.shtml

   http://www.gov.pe.ca/photos/original/FirstYearImplem.pdf

8. Securing The Future For Our Children Preschool Excellence Initiative. PEI Education and Early Childhood Development
   http://www.gov.pe.ca/photos/original/edu_ExcellIniti.pdf