
Early Childhood Education and Care in Canada 2014

MARTHA FRIENDLY • BETHANY GRADY • LYNDSEY MACDONALD • BARRY FORER



**CHILDCARE RESOURCE
AND RESEARCH UNIT**

Childcare Resource and Research Unit

www.childcarecanada.org

December 2015

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Early childhood education and care in Canada 2014
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Childcare Resource and Research Unit
December 2015. vii, 140 pg.
ISBN: 978-1-896051-63-5

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Cover design: opushouse.ca
Interior design/layout: opushouse.ca and *design by Billie Carroll* (UNIFOR Canadian Freelance Union)

Library and Archives Canada Cataloguing in Publication

Early childhood education and care in Canada 2014
Martha Friendly et al —10th edition

Earlier editions by Martha Friendly, Jane Beach and the
Childcare Resource and Research Unit published under several
titles including Child Care in Canada.

1. Child care services—government policy—Canada; 2. Early
childhood education—government policy—Canada; 3.
Friendly, Martha; 4. Childcare Resource and Research Unit;
5. Series: Beach, Jane. Early childhood education and care in
Canada 2008.

ISBN: 978-1-896051-63-5

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Citation: Friendly, M., Grady, B., Macdonald, L., and Forer,
B. (2015). *Early childhood education and care in Canada 2014*.
Toronto: Childcare Resource and Research Unit.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors are most grateful for the participation of provincial/territorial officials responsible for ECEC in their respective jurisdictions, who spent considerable time preparing, providing and verifying the information. As always, these contributions were invaluable—indeed, this work would not be possible without them. Thus, we most respectfully and appreciatively acknowledge the “p/t officials”.

We are tremendously appreciative of the funding for this publication that was made available by the Muttart Foundation on behalf of Alberta and Saskatchewan data and by Unifor’s Social Justice Fund.

The publication was supported as well by a successful crowd funding campaign “Taking Care of Child Care Data”. The terrific Giveffect team lead by Anisa Mirza, Chris Bell and his more than generous creative contribution and the many friends and supporters who came forward all played key roles. We want to express our appreciation to the following individuals and organizations for their more than kind contributions (as well as the others who asked to remain anonymous)—all of whom helped us “take care of child care data”:

Rebecca Acton, Elizabeth Adamson, Marla Allison, Lynell Anderson, Dominique Arbez, Charles Ashmore, Advocates for Progressive Childcare Policy, Association of Early Childhood Educators Ontario, Alberta Federation of Labour, Madeleine Baillargeon, Maxine Balbon, Marsha Barrett, Athina Basiliadis, Jane Beach, Marni Binder, Barbara Byers, Barbara Cameron, Child Care Council of Ottawa, Jennifer Cho, Rita Chudnovsky, Peter Clutterbuck, Bozica Costigliola, Laura Coulman, Lisa Coulman, Cathy Coulthard, Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 1979, Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 2204, Canadian Child Care Federation, Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada, Collingwood Neighbourhood House Society, Janet Davis, Sue Delanoy, Erika Douglas, Sofia Duarte, Art Eggleton, Elaine Ehman, Enid Elliot, Eve Elliot, Bernadette Fegan, Barry Forer, Sarah Fortin, Laura Fowler-Massie, Bonnie Fox, Mylene Freeman, Michael Friendly, Fred Furlong, Ann Gedrose, Don Giesbrecht, Jeremy Gillies, Kenneth N. Grady, Sharon Gregson, Sandra Griffin, Randi Gurholt-Seary, Shukie Halfon, Emily Halfon, Elizabeth Hanson, Jane Hewes, Kim Hiscott, Constance Nina Howe, Bonita V Hudson, Iglia Ivanova, Christa Japel, Sue Johnston, Karin Jordan, Diane Kashin, Jamie Kass, Larry Katz, Noah Kenneally, Michele Kesten, Margo Kirk, Mary Lou Lamont, Michele Landsberg, Tom Langford, Michael Lanier, Elise Larsen, Graham Lowe, Monica Lysack, Elise MacCormick, Andrea Macdonald, Laura MacFeeters, Leanne MacMillan, Cynthia Magloughlin, Rianne Mahon, Manitoba Child Care Association (MCCA), Nikki Martyn, Laura Massi, Amanda Mayer, Debra Mayer, June Maynard, Vivian McCaffrey, Annie McEwan, David McGrane, Christine McLean, Donna Michal, Emily Mileczko, Laurie Monsebraaten, Adrienne Montani, Maryn Novick, Mab Oloman, Diane O’Neill, Catherine O’Toole, Owl Child Care, Cynthia Page, Kelly Pasolli, Lisa Pasolli, Denise Pawliuk, Lorine Pelly, Alana Marie Powell, Nina Prabhu, Susan Prentice, Pamela Preston, Lorna Reid, Brooke Richardson, Arlene Ross, Miriam Rycroft, Munizah Salman, Meghan Savigny, Dasha Shalimo, Allan Shin, Kevin Shinobi, Sandy Silver, Victoria Smallman, Stephanie Smith, Cheryl Stadnichuk, Marci Surkes, KE Swales, Judith Taylor, \$10-a-day, Luc Turgeon, Michelle Turiano, Kathryn Underwood, Tricia van Rhijn, Petr Varmuza, Gustavo Viera, Siobhan Vipond, Nancy L Wilson, Janet Webster, Pat Wege, Linda White, Elaine Winick, Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre, Melanie Yearington, and Anita Zaenker.

■ ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

Early childhood education and care in Canada, a compilation of cross-Canada data on early childhood education and care and associated information, has been published about every two years since the early 1990s (1992, 1995, 1998, 2001, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2012). Note that the 2010 version, titled *Public investments in early childhood education and care in Canada 2010* was developed by the Childcare Resource and Research Unit but published by the Government of Canada using the same methods and format. These publications were available in print through 2008 and versions from 1998 onwards are available at no cost for download on the CRRU website.

The availability of these data collected using a consistent format and methodology over time and across Canada have made it possible to identify trends and reflect on similarities and differences in ECEC across Canada over time and across provincial/territorial boundaries. Note, however, that issues related to data and resource availability have meant that—although core provincial/territorial data about spaces and funding have been provided in every edition of ECEC in Canada—other information (for example, about federal programs and funding) have been absent from recent versions as well as this edition.

A report titled *Preliminary data: Early childhood education and care in Canada 2014* was published in October 2015. This full version of *ECEC in Canada 2014* incorporates the preliminary data.

■ ABOUT THE CHILDCARE RESOURCE AND RESEARCH UNIT

The Childcare Resource and Research Unit is a policy research institute focused on early childhood education and child care (ECEC) and family policy. CRRU has a commitment to a universal, high quality, publicly-funded, not-for-profit, inclusive ECEC system and works collaboratively with other researchers, NGOs, advocacy groups and government policy makers on ECEC and other family policy.

One of CRRU's basic operating premises is that public policy should be based on the best possible evidence about policy and practice available from multidisciplinary research and policy analysis.

All CRRU publications including this document may be downloaded at no fee from our website at www.childcarecanada.org/.

■ METHODS

Most of the information on regulated child care and kindergarten in this report was provided by provincial/territorial government officials. The method used to collect and verify data on regulated child care from each province/territory followed a series of steps. First, a written template was sent to each self-identified official with key responsibility. Following a review of the returned data by the researchers, clarification was sought from relevant jurisdictions where necessary. A draft was then compiled using material provided by government officials and other sources where applicable. Provincial/territorial officials vetted the completed sections. Statistics Canada sources were used for demographic data.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and consistency of the data provided in this publication and to use accurate and consistent terminology and categories across provinces/territories. This was not always possible due to the use of different terminologies, categories, data collection methods and missing information across Canada. In some instances, information that is consistent by date or definition was not available. Where this has occurred, dates and explanations have been provided or noted in the text or footnotes. The authors would appreciate being contacted if any discrepancies are found.

■ DATA SOURCES

Most of the data about ECEC programs in each province/territory was supplied and verified by provincial/territorial officials who have responsibility for early childhood education and care.

OTHER SOURCES:

Number of children 0–12 years

Special tabulation based on the Labour Force Survey, 2014 Annual Average. Conducted by Statistics Canada

Children 0–12 Years with employed mothers

Special tabulation based on the Labour Force Survey, 2014 Annual Average. Conducted by Statistics Canada

Number of children 0–12 Years

Special tabulation based on the Labour Force Survey, 2014 Annual Average. Conducted by Statistics Canada

Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child

Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (2014 annual), CANSIM Table 282-0211

Children 0–14 Years Identifying with an Aboriginal Group

Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey, Catalogue #99-011-x2011 026.

These data on the number of children identifying with an Aboriginal group from the 2011 National Household Survey may or may not be comparable to data in previous editions of *Early childhood education and care in Canada*, which came from Long-form Census data.

Parent fees in selected large cities

Macdonald, D. and Friendly, M. (2014). *The parent trap: Child care fees in Canada's biggest cities*. Ottawa: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

Average staff wages

Flanagan, K., Beach, J. & Varmuza, P. (2013). *You bet we still care. A survey of centre-based early childhood education and care in Canada: Highlights report*. Ottawa: Child Care Human Resources Sector Council. Territorial specific data was not available due to the small number of responses.

Public spending on K-12

Neven Van Pelt, D., & Emes, J. (2015). *Education Spending in Canada: What's Actually Happening?* Vancouver, B.C.: Fraser Institute. These figures are calculated using a Statistics Canada special run.