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# Early Childhood Education and Care in Canada 2014

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MARTHA FRIENDLY • BETHANY GRADY • LYNDY MACDONALD • BARRY FORER



**CHILDCARE RESOURCE  
AND RESEARCH UNIT**

Childcare Resource and Research Unit

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## ■ 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/](http://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.