

# Quebec's \$7-a-day daycares could move to sliding-scale system <sup>[1]</sup>

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## EXCERPTS

Some parents across Quebec could be shelling out more money to send their children to publicly funded daycares in the province.

The government is mum on possible plans to index daycare rates to a sliding scale according to income, but a source told Radio-Canada that it is a serious possibility.

"Right now we're talking to people to get scenarios. We're not looking at scenarios right now, we're talking to people to get the best idea to put on the table," said Families Minister Francine Charbonneau.

Opposition House Leader Agnès Maltais said the Liberals were breaking a promise they made during the 2014 election campaign.

"It's a direct attack on the middle class," she said.

## Indexing vs. sliding scale

It isn't the first time the idea has been floated by the Liberal government. In May, Premier Philippe Couillard said a sliding-scale system could be a possibility.

Jean Charest's previous Liberal government had also discussed a similar idea for parents above a certain income threshold.

The subsidized daycare program has been in existence since 1997 as a way to encourage women to rejoin the workforce after having children.

The parental contribution was first set at \$5 to begin, and was raised only once - to \$7 in January 2004.

In its 2014 election campaign platform, the Liberal party promised to "ensure the longevity of daycare services by indexing the daily contribution made by parents to the inflation rate during its next term, namely over the next five years."

As of Oct. 1 of this year, the rate will rise from \$7 to \$7.30 a day.

CBC Daybreak heard from two parents on Thursday who said that they believe \$7-a-day daycare is a great deal for the value of the services, but expressed frustration that the additional fees would go to the government and not the daycares.

"I think it's one of the worst possible moves that they can make," CPE association spokeswoman Gina Gasparini told CBC Daybreak on Thursday.

She said the Liberals' about-face since campaigning on a \$7-plus-inflation model in the last provincial election is "unacceptable."

She said that her association represents 700 daycares and that she only found out about the sliding-scale consideration on Thursday morning from the media.

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read online at CBC News <sup>[2]</sup>

**Region:** Quebec <sup>[3]</sup>

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