



Nunavut

■ OVERVIEW

In Nunavut, early learning and child care (ELCC) includes kindergarten, centre-based child care, school-age child care, and family child care (termed “family home daycares”). All ELCC programs are the responsibility of the Department of Education.

Part-day kindergarten is available for all five-year-olds. It is not compulsory.

Centre-based child care is delivered by non-profit and public operators, including hamlets and school authorities. There is no for-profit child care in Nunavut.

Family home daycares are individually licensed.

On December 1, 2022, Nunavut became the first jurisdiction to reduce fees to \$10/day for children aged five and younger under Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC).

Further fee reductions are available through the Young Parents Stay Learning Program, for young parents under the age of 18 enrolled in school, and the income-tested Daycare User Subsidy, which can be used in licensed and unlicensed care.

In 2023, Nunavut implemented a [wage scale](#). On April 1, 2024, the wage rates were increased and the [Nunavut Northern Allowance](#) was integrated into the ELCC wage scale. The wage scale applies to staff working in licensed centres for children 0 - 6 years.

Nunavut signed the Canada-Nunavut Early Learning and Child Care Agreement (Multilateral Framework Agreement) on September 20, 2017. This allocated \$7 million over three years to Nunavut for regulated child care; it was extended on August 13, 2021 with an additional \$10 million over four years.

The Canada-Nunavut CWELCC agreement was signed by Nunavut on January 24, 2022. It allocated \$61 million over five years. The Canada-wide agreement does not replace but runs parallel to the Multilateral Framework Agreement.

**Net growth in full-day centre spaces for children
0 – 5 years since CWELCC**

	2021	2023	Increase (decrease) 2021 – 2023
For-profit	0	0	Not applicable
Non-profit and public	794	810	+16
Total full-day spaces	794	810	+16

Percentage of full-day spaces that were for-profit	0%	0%	-
Percentage of growth of full-day spaces that was for-profit			Not applicable

Family child care spaces (2021, 2023)

	2021	2023
Family child care spaces (enrolment of children not yet in school)	30	34

■ TERRITORIAL CONTEXT

Some of the following figures are rounded, while totals are based on exact figures and may therefore not equal the sum of the rounded figures.

Number of children 0 – 12 years (aggregated) (2023 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0 – 2	2,300
3 – 5	2,500
6 – 12	5,200
Total	10,000

Number of children 0 – 12 years with employed mothers (aggregated) (2023 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0 – 2	600
3 – 5	900
6 – 12	2,300
Total	3,800

Number of children 0 – 14 years identifying with an Indigenous group (2021)

Age	First Nations	Métis	Inuk (Inuit)	Multiple	Other
0 – 4	15	0	3,985	30	10
5 – 9	10	0	3,670	25	10
10 – 14	10	0	3,450	25	0
Total	35	0	11,105	80	20

Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child (2021 rounded estimate)

Not available

Living arrangements by age of child by number of parents (2021)

<i>Age</i>	<i>Living with two parents</i>	<i>Living with one parent</i>	<i>Lone mother</i>	<i>Lone father</i>
0 – 4	2,895	1,325	930	395
5 – 9	2,695	1,105	805	295
10 – 14	2,445	995	735	260

Languages spoken most often at home (2021)

<i>Age</i>	<i>English</i>	<i>French</i>	<i>Non-official</i>	<i>Multiple</i>
0 – 4	1,950	30	2,050	355
5 – 9	1,880	45	1,670	390
10 – 14	1,635	30	1,690	345
Total	5,465	105	5,405	1,095

Median after-tax income among families with children 0 – 5 years (2020)

<i>Two-parent families</i>	<i>Male lone parent</i>	<i>Female lone parent</i>
\$118,000	\$42,400	\$52,000

■ KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten enrolment (2023)

Full school-day kindergarten for 5-year-olds	72
Part-day kindergarten for 5-year-olds	768
Total kindergarten enrolment	840

■ FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS, AND INUIT CHILD CARE

The territory of Nunavut is the result of one land claim agreement that took effect April 1, 1999. The entire territory is Inuit Land; there are no reserves.

In the 2021 Canadian Census, 84% of Nunavummiut (individuals living in Nunavut) identified as Inuit.

In the 24 communities outside Iqaluit, the territorial capital, the population is 90 – 95% Inuit. As such, all

licensed child care centres in Nunavut primarily serve Inuit children, with the exception of French-language centres (one child care centre, two after-school programs, and one preschool program), and the six family day homes.

The Department of Education's Early Learning and Child Care Division provides resources to support culturally and linguistically appropriate programming in all licensed child care centres. The materials are Nunavut-focused (Inuit homeland) and are available in all official languages: Inuktitut, English, and French.

In addition to full- and part-day child care, there are seven Aboriginal Head Start in Northern and Urban Communities (AHSUNC) programs in Nunavut funded by the federal government. All AHSUNC programs are licensed.

■ CHILD CARE SPACE STATISTICS

Number of regulated spaces (March 31, 2023)

Full-day centre spaces	
Infant (<2 years)	210
Preschool-age (2 – 5 years, including kindergarten-age children)	600
Total full-day centre spaces (children 0 – 5 years)	810
Part-day centre spaces	
Preschool-age (2 – 5 years, including kindergarten-age children)	250
Total centre spaces (children 0 – 5 years)	1,060
Before- and after-school care centre spaces (licensed or regulated)	
Children in Grades 1 – 6	152
Total centre spaces (children 0 – 12 years)	1,212
Regulated family child care (enrolment)	
Full-day (infants <2 years)	6
Full-day (2 – 5 years, including kindergarten-age children)	28
Part-day (children in full-day school)	0
Total regulated family child care spaces (enrolment)	34
TOTAL REGULATED SPACES (centre spaces and family child care enrolment)	1,246

Number of child care centres and family child care homes (March 31, 2023)

Centre-based child care

Total number of centres	54
--------------------------------	-----------

Note: In 2021, Nunavut included six family child care homes in the total number of centres, and so the 2023 figures are not comparable to 2021.

Centre-based programs

Number of centres providing a full-day program	33
Number of centres providing a part-day (nursery school) program	15
Number of centres providing a part-day program for children attending school (approximately 5 – 12 years)	6
Number of centres providing infant care (<2 years)	31
Number of centres providing preschool-age care (2 – 5 years)	48
Number of centres providing non-standard hours care (non-standard hours as defined by the territory)	0
Number of centres in publicly delivered and funded schools (K – 12)	18

Regulated family child care

Number of family child care homes (active)	6
--	---

Participation in CWELCC

Number of child care centres	33
Number of family child care homes	6

Note: Provision for children older than 0 – 5 years in school-age centres is not eligible for CWELCC funding.

Municipal delivery

Number of municipalities or municipal entities operating child care centres (i.e. are the licence holder)

	5
--	---

Note: The hamlets of Gjoa Haven, Qikiqtarjuaq, Arctic Bay, Coral Harbour, and Cambridge Bay operate child care centres (as of June 1, 2023).

Auspice

Full- and part-day programs by auspice (2023)

	<i>Number of centres</i>
For-profit	0
Non-profit and public	54

Note: Public centres include five operated by a municipal entity and 10 operated by school authorities.

Centre spaces by auspice

	<i>Full-day</i>	<i>Part-day¹</i>	<i>BASC²</i>	<i>Total</i>
For-profit	0	0	0	0
Non-profit and public	810	250	152	1,212

¹ Nursery school.

² Before- and after-school care (children 5 – 12 years).

Note: Public spaces include those operated by a municipal entity and school authorities.

Fee subsidies

Number of children receiving fee subsidies (March 31, 2023)

Daycare User Subsidy – full subsidy	2
Young Parents Stay Learning – partial subsidy	12
Total children receiving fee subsidies	14

Note: The Daycare User Subsidy provides fee subsidies in both licensed and unlicensed care. This number includes only those children in licensed child care.

Disability support

Special needs/disability support (March 31, 2023)

Children in licensed child care receiving special needs/disability support funding	0
--	---

CHILD CARE ENROLMENT STATISTICS

Number of children enrolled in regulated centre-based programs (March 31, 2023)

Full-day centres	
Infant (<2 years)	177
Preschool-age (2 – 5 years including kindergarten-age children)	492

Part-day centres	
Preschool-age (2 – 5 years, including kindergarten-age children)	346

Note: Enrolment exceeds the total number of licensed part-day spaces as attendance is part-time and more than one child may occupy a space.

Total centre enrolment (children 0 – 5 years)	1,015
--	--------------

Number of children enrolled in before- and after-school care (licensed or regulated)

Children in Grades 1 – 6	143
--------------------------	-----

TOTAL CENTRE ENROLMENT (children 0 – 12 years)	1,158
---	--------------

■ PARENT FEES

As of April 2023, parent fees for infants and preschool-age children in child care facilities receiving operating grants were set at a maximum fee of \$10/day.

Full-time median monthly fees for centres and family child care homes in Iqaluit (2021) and territorially set fees for centres and family child care homes participating in CWELCC (2023)

	Full-time median monthly fee in Iqaluit (2021)	Territorially set monthly full-time fee (2023)
Centres		
Infant	\$1,324	\$217
Toddler	\$1,194	\$217
Preschool-age	\$1,194	\$217
Family child care homes		
Infant	\$1,356	\$217
Toddler	\$1,411	\$217
Preschool-age	\$1,411	\$217

Sources: Macdonald, D., & Friendly, M. (2023). *Measuring Matters: Assessing Canada's progress toward \$10-a-day child care for all*. Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

Macdonald, D., & Friendly, M. (2022). *Game Changer: Will provinces and territories meet the new federal child care fee targets? Canadian child care fees 2021*. Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

■ WORKFORCE

In 2023, Nunavut implemented a [wage scale](#). On April 1, 2024, the wage rates were increased and the [Nunavut Northern Allowance](#) was integrated into the ELCC wage scale. The wage scale applies to staff working in licensed centres for children 0 – 6 years.

■ FUNDING FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE (Fiscal year 2022 - 2023)

The funding figures in each category represent territorial spending, which may include both territorial funds and federal funds transferred under bilateral agreements, Canada-wide ELCC agreements, or other federal programs used for early learning and child care.

Fee subsidies

Program	Amount
Daycare User Subsidy	\$3,004
Young Parents Stay Learning	\$35,940
Total fee subsidies	\$38,944

Note: The amount of Daycare User Subsidy for children receiving this subsidy has been estimated, based on one region reporting an expenditure of \$1,502 for one child.

Note: Young Parents Stay Learning fee subsidies are for licensed, regulated, or approved child care. The subsidies are associated with an individual child and family. There are territorial eligibility criteria. Fee subsidies are sent to service providers, not to parents.

Operational funding

<i>Program</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Operating funds	\$4,003,570
Workforce Recruitment and Retention	\$4,400,291
Fee reductions	\$2,279,098
Total operational funding	\$10,682,959

Note: Operational funding includes regularly paid public funding that contributes to the ongoing operation of the child care service. It may include: operating grants or formula-based funding, family child care agency operating funds, wage grants/enhancement, special needs funding and other grants/funding that is paid on a recurring basis.

One-time funding – capital (major and minor)

<i>Program</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Start-up contributions	\$61,470
Infrastructure Funding Program	\$917,358
Total one-time funding	\$978,828

Note: One-time funding is paid occasionally or just once to a child care service and is not part of the regular operating budget. It may include: major capital, minor capital, start up, one time equipment, or repair funding.

**TOTAL SPENDING FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE
(fee subsidies, operational funding, and one-time
funding)** **\$11,700,731**

Other ELCC funding

<i>Program</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Healthy Children Initiative	\$300,814
Early Childhood Education Inuit Language and Culture Funding	\$860,150
Educational Programming Resources and Training	\$833,727
Total other funding	\$1,994,691

Federal transfers to Nunavut

<i>Federal transfer</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Multilateral Early Learning and Child Care Framework – Early Learning and Child Care Bilateral Agreements	\$2,518,780
Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care	\$11,276,000

Note: The federal transfers above represent the funds allocated to Nunavut for fiscal year 2022 – 2023. These funds may be slightly different from those included in the original agreements as they are updated in line with population estimates on an annual basis. They do not represent funds carried over from the previous fiscal year or carried into the next fiscal year.

Source: Early Learning and Child Care Secretariat, Employment and Social Development Canada (2024).
