



# The Yukon

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# The Yukon

## OVERVIEW

In the Yukon, the Department of Education is responsible for regulated full-day child care centres, family child care, kindergarten, and before- and after-school child care.

Licensed centre-based child care includes full-day centres and before- and after-school programs. Part-day preschool programs are not required to be licensed.

Centre-based child care is delivered by for-profit and non-profit operators, with a small number of publicly operated spaces. A majority of full-day centre spaces are for-profit.

Family child care (termed Family Day Home) providers are individually licensed.

The Yukon offers part- or full school-day kindergarten for four-year-olds (termed K4) in most rural schools and for all five-year-olds (termed K5). Kindergarten for four- and five-year-olds is not compulsory. Francophone schools offer full school-day K4 and K5 programs.

The Yukon does not have territorially set child care fees. Introduced in April 2021, the Early Learning and Child Care Funding Program provides licensed operators with funding to reduce parent fees for each child registered in part- or full-day early learning and child care programs. The Child Care Subsidy assists eligible families pay for their child to attend a licensed child care centre, Family Day Home, or school-age program.

The Yukon does not have a wage grid. On April 1, 2021, the Yukon introduced a minimum wage level for educators by level of certification, supported by wage supplement funding.

The Yukon signed the Canada-Yukon Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) Agreement on July 23, 2021. It allocated \$41.6 million over five years to the territory.

In March 2025, the Yukon accepted the federal offer to extend its bilateral agreement until 2031.

Net growth in full-day centre spaces for children 0 – 5 years (2021 – 2025)			
	2021	2025	Increase (decrease) 2021 – 2025
Non-profit and public	712	872	+160
For-profit	947	1,324	+377
<b>Total full-day spaces</b>	<b>1,659</b>	<b>2,196</b>	<b>+537</b>
Percentage of full-day spaces that were for-profit	57%	60%	+3.2%
Percentage of growth of full-day spaces that was for-profit	-	-	70%

## ■ TERRITORIAL CONTEXT

Some of the following figures are rounded; however, the totals are based on exact figures. Therefore, totals may not equal the sum of the rounded figures.

### Number of children 0 – 12 years (aggregated) (2024 rounded estimate)

<i>Age</i>	<i>Number of children</i>
0 – 2	1,000
3 – 5	1,000
6 – 12	3,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,600</b>

### Number of children 0 – 12 years with employed mothers (aggregated) (2024 rounded estimate)

<i>Age</i>	<i>Number of children</i>
0 – 2	800
3 – 5	800
6 – 12	2,900
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,500</b>

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

<i>Age</i>	<i>First Nations</i>	<i>Métis</i>	<i>Inuk (Inuit)</i>	<i>Multiple</i>	<i>Other</i>
0 – 4	520	105	25	30	0
5 – 9	570	60	25	25	0
10 – 14	530	105	25	0	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,620</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>10</b>

### Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child (2024 rounded estimate)

Not available

### Living arrangements by age of child (2021)

<i>Age</i>	<i>Living with two parents</i>	<i>Living with one parent</i>		<i>Total</i>
		<i>Lone mother</i>	<i>Lone father</i>	
0 – 4	1,795	275	70	<b>350</b>
5 – 9	1,730	430	150	<b>575</b>
10 – 14	1,520	465	180	<b>645</b>

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**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	1,940	75	95	50
5 – 9	2,180	75	55	60
10 – 14	2,065	75	60	65
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,190</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>180</b>

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**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>
\$123,000	\$63,200	\$54,000

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## KINDERGARTEN POLICY, PROGRAMS, AND DATA

### KINDERGARTEN FOR FOUR- AND FIVE-YEAR-OLDS (K4 AND K5)

#### Territorial responsibility

Department of Education  
Schools and Student Services  
Phone: 867-667-5141  
Email: [publicschools@yukon.ca](mailto:publicschools@yukon.ca)  
Website: [yukon.ca/en/education-and-schools](http://yukon.ca/en/education-and-schools)

#### Legislation

Yukon Territory, Legislative Assembly. [Education Act](#). RSY2002 c.61.

#### Provision

##### Kindergarten for 5-year-olds (K5) provision

<b>Definition</b>	Part or full school-day program for all five-year-old children.
<b>Eligibility</b>	Five years old by December 31.
<b>Compulsory schooling</b>	Not compulsory.
<b>Entitlement</b>	All eligible children have access.
<b>Instructional hours per day</b>	Full school-day (5.13 hours), but part-day in some schools. Francophone schools offer full school-day programs.
<b>Class size</b>	Maximum 18 children.

##### Kindergarten for 4-year-olds (K4) provision

<b>Definition</b>	Part or full school-day program for four-year-olds in most rural schools.
<b>Eligibility</b>	Four years old by December 31.
<b>Compulsory schooling</b>	Not compulsory.
<b>Entitlement</b>	All eligible children have access.
<b>Instructional hours per day</b>	Full school-day (5.13 hours), but part-day in some schools. Francophone schools offer full school-day programs.
<b>Class size</b>	Maximum 18 children.

#### Teacher qualifications and certification

To be a qualified kindergarten (K4 or K5) teacher in the Yukon requires either a Bachelor of Education or a bachelor's degree plus an approved program of teacher preparation of no less than one academic year.

Kindergarten teachers are not required to have an early childhood qualification.

### CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

In September 2017, the Yukon Department of Education adopted the British Columbia kindergarten curriculum. The [British Columbia K – 12 Curriculum](#) (2017) is a mandatory curriculum framework for all English kindergarten programs in the Yukon. The application of the British Columbia curriculum in the Yukon [includes](#) First Nations' ways of knowing, doing, and being, which allows schools to tailor the curriculum for the local community, area, and culture.

## ■ ENROLMENT

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### Kindergarten enrolment (2024 – 2025 school year)

#### *Enrolment in public schools*

Kindergarten for 5-year-olds (K5)	455
Kindergarten for 4-year-olds (K4)	78

#### *Enrolment in private/independent schools*

Kindergarten for 5-year-olds (K5)	<i>Not available</i>
Kindergarten for 4-year-olds (K4)	<i>Not available</i>

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<b>Total kindergarten enrolment</b>	<b>533</b>
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## ■ OTHER EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

### Learning Together

Learning Together is a free drop-in program operated by the Department of Education for children under the age of five and their caregivers. Qualified teachers lead the program, which has the objectives of helping children learn school routines and teaching caregivers how to support learning at home.

# CHILD CARE POLICY AND PROGRAMS

## ■ ADMINISTRATION

### Territorial responsibility

Department of Education  
Early Learning and Child Care Unit  
Phone: 867-667-3492  
Email: [earlylearning@yukon.ca](mailto:earlylearning@yukon.ca)  
Website: [yukon.ca/en/early-childhood-learning-and-programs](http://yukon.ca/en/early-childhood-learning-and-programs)

### Legislation

Yukon Territory. Legislative Assembly. [Child Care Act](#). RSY 2002, c. 30.  
Yukon Territory. Legislative Assembly. [Child Care Centre Program Regulation](#). OIC 1995/087  
Yukon Territory. Legislative Assembly. [Child Care Subsidy Regulation](#). OIC 1995/087  
Yukon Territory. Legislative Assembly. [Family Day Home Program Regulation](#). OIC 1995/087  
Yukon Territory. Legislative Assembly. [School-age Program Regulation](#). OIC 1995/087

On March 11, 2025, the Yukon Minister of Education tabled Bill 48, the [Early Learning and Child Care Act](#), to replace the previous *Child Care Act*. The new Act received assent in the Yukon Legislative Assembly on May 1, 2025, and will come into force when regulations have been developed to support its implementation.

### Service descriptions

#### UNREGULATED CHILD CARE

There are no health, safety, or training requirements or provision for public oversight in unregulated child care. There may be attention by public officials on a complaint basis. See the [Child Care Act](#) for additional information about exemptions to the child care regulations.

#### Family child care

An unregulated family child care provider can care for up to four children, with no more than three children younger than school age, not including the provider's own children.

#### Preschool

Preschools are centre-based programs for preschool-age children operating for fewer than three consecutive hours per day. They are not required to be licensed.

#### REGULATED CHILD CARE

##### Child care centre

Child care centres provide group care for less than 24 hours a day for four or more children up to and including 12 years of age in a place other than a preschool, school-age program, or Family Day Home.

##### School-age child care

School-age child care programs provide care outside school hours for eight or more school-age children in kindergarten through 12 years of age. The Yukon does not license by age group. Programs can offer care to all age groups as long as they meet the requirements for staff:child ratios.

##### Family child care

Family child care (termed a Family Day Home) is located in the provider's own home for up to eight preschool-age children if none are infants, up to six preschool-age children if no more than three are infants, and up to four children if all are under 18 months. The provider's preschool-age children are counted in the maximum number of children.

## ■ CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

The Government of Canada’s [Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Framework](#) (2018) and [British Columbia Early Learning Framework](#) (2019) are two voluntary curriculum frameworks that can be used as starting points for early learning professionals in the Yukon who want to learn more and apply the practices to their work.

An early learning framework will be developed in collaboration with Yukon First Nations as part of the territory’s new *Early Learning and Child Care Act*.

## ■ CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

### Terminology and approach

The Yukon uses the term “children with diverse needs/abilities” to encompass children with disabilities. This includes children 16 years old or younger who have had an individual assessment by a qualified professional and who have a physical, emotional, behavioural, mental, developmental, communicative, or other identifiable and recognized disorder.

All types of licensed facilities are eligible to receive inclusion funding.

The Yukon provides inclusion funding specific to the individual child.

There are no specific qualifications or requirements for staff who work with children with disabilities.

### Programs supporting inclusion in ELCC

The Supported Child Care Program provides funding to assist licensed early learning and child care programs in providing inclusive programs for children with diverse developmental needs in the Yukon. This funding may be used to hire additional early childhood educators, to support inclusion and learning, or for additional training for regular staff. Centres can also apply for funding for renovations

or equipment purchases to support an inclusive and accessible early learning environment suitable for children with diverse abilities. The service provider must have a current Individual Program Plan for each child with disabilities attending the program.

The Supported Child Care Program was reviewed in 2021. A [report on the review](#) was published in 2024.

The Yukon funds one child care service that is primarily for children with disabilities. The Whitehorse Child Development Centre is a non-profit organization that provides therapeutic services and supports the developmental needs of all children from birth to kindergarten entry. See the Yukon’s “[Types of funding](#)” section for more information.

### Access to inclusive ELCC

Child care programs are not required to accept children with disabilities.

A diagnosis or other documentation is required to receive funding under the Supported Child Care Program.

Newly constructed or renovated facilities are required to meet the accessibility standards in the 2020 version of the [National Building Code](#).

In the Yukon, there may be delays for receiving inclusion funding due to budget constraints.

See the [Government of Yukon website](#) for more details about the Yukon’s inclusion policies.

## ■ FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS, AND INUIT CHILD CARE

In the Yukon, 22% of the total population identified as First Nations, Métis, or Inuit in the most recent census (2021).

There are no First Nations reserves in the Yukon. There are 11 First Nations with land claims and self-government agreements and settlement areas,

including part of the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. The Yukon government funds all licensed child care centres, including those owned and operated by Indigenous governing bodies.

First Nations governing bodies operate nine full-day licensed centres, with a total of 291 spaces. All licensed centres may also offer part-day and/or after-school programming. These spaces are included in the overall territorial space statistics.

There are four Aboriginal Head Start in Urban and Northern Communities (AHSUNC) programs, two of which are licensed.

Parents who use First Nations licensed centres and Family Day Homes are eligible for fee subsidies.

### **Indigenous-specific resources/initiatives**

Cultural enhancement funding is available to all licensed centres.

In 2023, the Yukon and the federal government launched [Understanding the Early Years](#), a Yukon First Nations designed and developed course with special focus on communities that have limited access to professional development. It provides opportunities for employees of licensed programs currently working without a certificate level and for Yukoners wanting to enter the early childhood education field. Successful completion of the course leads to a Level 1 certificate to practice as an early childhood educator.

The Yukon also funds a cultural connection program at an urban First Nations-owned and operated program.

### **■ PARENT FEES**

The Yukon does not have territorially set child care fees.

Introduced in April 2021, the Early Learning and Child Care Funding Program provides licensed

operators with funding to reduce parent fees for each child registered in part- or full-day early learning and child care programs.

Licensed early learning and child care operators receive up to \$700/month for each child registered for a full-day program. For each child registered full-time, licensed operators offering after-school care receive \$350/month for children in kindergarten and \$300/month for children in Grade 1 and older. During summer months, licensed operators receive \$700/month for kindergarten-age children and \$500/month for children in Grade 1 and older. Parents and caregivers of children in part-day programs receive a prorated reduction. Those attending on a drop-in basis are not eligible for funding.

Beginning in 2021, service providers have been limited to an annual increase of 3% of the average fee, unless otherwise approved by the Department of Education. In Whitehorse, annual fee increases are limited to 3% for operators charging within 10% of the Yukon average and 1% for those charging 10% or more than the Yukon average, unless otherwise approved by the Department of Education. Fee increases in rural areas are considered on an individual basis depending on program needs.

As of January 2022, every licensed operator in the Yukon had opted into the Early Learning and Child Care Funding Program.

With fee reductions, parents are paying an average of approximately \$4 to \$12.30 per day for full-day care, depending on the age of the child, the type of care, and the region.

### Average posted (market) monthly child care fees not including fee reduction (2022)

Age group	Whitehorse child care centre	Whitehorse Family Day Home	Rural child care centre
Infant	\$970.00	\$846.00	\$835.00
Toddler	\$938.00	\$810.59	\$802.50
Preschool-age	\$922.00	\$803.00	\$780.83
Kindergarten-age (school year)	\$580.00	\$448.57	\$485.00
Kindergarten-age (summer)	\$908.00	\$743.75	\$740.00
School-age (school year)	\$511.00	\$440.57	\$468.50
School-age (summer)	\$824.00	\$690.83	\$675.00

Note: Posted parent fees were reduced by up to \$700 per enrolled child, paid to the service by the territorial government.

### Average posted (market) monthly child care fees not including fee reduction (2025)

Age group	Whitehorse child care centre	Whitehorse Family Day Home	Rural child care centre
Infant	\$1,041.95	\$868.38	\$836.11
Toddler	\$1,001.96	\$800.82	\$819.08
Preschool-age	\$980.79	\$793.18	\$811.23
Kindergarten-age (school year)	\$609.40	\$452.95	\$486.73
Kindergarten-age (summer)	\$953.02	\$774.36	\$815.55
School-age (school year)	\$553.12	\$470.10	\$472.10
School-age (summer)	\$891.52	\$720.13	\$752.10

Note: Posted parent fees were reduced by up to \$700 per enrolled child, paid to the service by the territorial government.

## Additional fees

Operators are permitted to charge waitlist fees and additional fees for food, transportation, extended hours, and field trips.

## Parent fee subsidies

The [Child Care Subsidy](#) assists eligible families pay for their child to attend a for-profit or non-profit licensed child care centre, Family Day Home, or school-age program. The amount of subsidy is based on an income test on combined net family

income, taking into account family size, income, and the community where the applicant resides. The subsidy is calculated using reduced parent fees after the universal reduction (up to \$700) has been applied. All eligible families are entitled to a fee subsidy. There is no waitlist.

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible for a fee subsidy, applicants must be:

- Employed full- or part-time;
- Looking for employment;

- Attending school or a training program full- or part-time; or
- Receiving medical treatment.

A fee subsidy is also available when child care is recommended by a child protection service, approved based on a qualified professional's

individual assessment of disabilities of the family or child, or when emergency child care services are required to meet a short-term family crisis.

## FINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY

### Maximum net monthly income for full subsidy (2025)

	<i>Whitehorse</i>	<i>Rural Yukon</i>	<i>Old Crow</i>
<i>One parent with one child</i>	\$1,941	\$2,028	\$2,479
<i>Two parents with two children</i>	\$2,859	\$3,008	\$3,784

### Maximum net monthly income at which partial subsidy ends (2025)

	<i>Age</i>	<i>Whitehorse</i>	<i>Rural Yukon</i>	<i>Old Crow</i>
<i>One parent with one child</i>	Infant	\$5,055	\$5,142	\$5,593
	School-age	\$3,305	\$3,392	\$3,843
<i>Two parents with two children</i>	Infant	\$5,973	\$6,122	\$6,898
	School-age	\$4,223	\$4,372	\$5,148

## SUBSIDY RATES

The subsidy rate is the maximum amount paid by the territorial government to the service to cover all or part of the parent fee.

### Monthly maximum subsidy rates by age of child (2024)

<i>Full-day (100 hours/month or more)</i>	<i>Monthly maximum subsidy</i>
Infant (0 – 18 months)	\$688
Toddler (19 – 36 months)	\$622
Preschool-age (37 – 59 months)	\$578
Kindergarten-age	\$578
Child with a disability (0 – 59 months or 0 – 71 months for children in part-day kindergarten)	\$688
School-age	\$550

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*Part-day (less than 80 hours/month)*

*Monthly maximum subsidy*

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Kindergarten-age

\$330

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School-age

\$303

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## Additional programs that subsidize individual families

The Grandparent Grant is a fee subsidy for grandparents who are the primary caregivers for their grandchild. Grandparents may also be required to demonstrate a need for child care support based on the grandparent's employment status, school attendance, or other specific circumstances like a medical need of the child or caregiver. Legal custody is not required.

## ■ WORKFORCE

### Child care centre staff wages

#### TERRITORIAL WAGE DATA

Current average wage data are not available.

#### WAGE FLOOR

On April 1, 2021, the Yukon implemented a mandatory wage floor as part of the Early Learning and Child Care Funding Program. This set a \$31.01/hour (\$32.81/hour in rural communities) as a minimum wage floor for full-time educators with Level 3 certification, including Family Day Home providers. However, the wage floor does not function as a comprehensive wage grid that accounts for factors such as job positions or years of experience.

Wages for educators in the Yukon are based on the territorial minimum wage. ECE wages are adjusted annually to align with territorial wage increases.

The Yukon has committed to a mandatory wage grid in its new legislation.

## WAGE ENHANCEMENT

Funding for wage enhancement grants are provided to licensed child care and Family Day Home operators in the form of a wage supplement.

### Wage enhancement for centre-based staff

The wage supplement for centre-based staff is based on the actual hours worked, to a maximum of 40 hours per week, by each staff person. The wages paid to each early childhood educator before the addition of the wage enhancement must be no less than the minimum wage under the *Employment Standards Act*.

Early childhood educators whose wages are paid through the Supported Child Care Program are paid in accordance with the wage floor. The Department of Education pays the full wage, rather than a wage supplement.

### Whitehorse wage enhancement amounts for centre-based staff (2025)

<i>ECE level</i>	<i>Wage enhancement</i>	<i>Territorial minimum wage plus enhancement</i>	<i>Mandatory minimum wage floor</i>
Level 0	<i>Not applicable</i>	<i>Not applicable</i>	\$17.94
Level 1	\$4.12	\$17.94 + \$4.12	\$22.06
Level 1A	\$6.01	\$17.94 + \$6.01	\$23.95
Level 2	\$7.44	\$17.94 + \$7.44	\$25.38
Level 2A	\$9.96	\$17.94 + \$9.96	\$27.90
Level 3 equivalent	\$12.31	\$17.94 + \$12.31	\$30.25
Level 3	\$15.31	\$17.94 + \$15.31	\$33.25

### Rural wage enhancement amounts for centre-based staff (2025)

<i>ECE level</i>	<i>Wage enhancement</i>	<i>Territorial minimum wage plus enhancement</i>	<i>Mandatory minimum wage floor</i>
Level 0	\$1.85	\$17.94 + \$1.85	\$19.79
Level 1	\$4.49	\$17.94 + \$4.49	\$22.43
Level 1A	\$6.71	\$17.94 + \$6.71	\$24.65
Level 2	\$8.39	\$17.94 + \$8.39	\$26.33
Level 2A	\$11.35	\$17.94 + \$11.35	\$29.29
Level 3 equivalent	\$14.11	\$17.94 + \$14.11	\$32.05
Level 3	\$17.11	\$17.94 + \$17.11	\$35.05

*Note: The Yukon minimum wage was \$17.59 in March 2025. On April 1, 2025, the minimum wage increased to \$17.94.*

*Note: The mandatory minimum wages for licensed early learning and child care centre staff include an additional 14% payment for mandatory employment-related costs. The Level 0 wage supplement is only available to programs operating in rural communities, and a training plan and exemption from the training requirements must be approved*

### Wage enhancement for Family Day Home providers

#### Whitehorse wage enhancement – Family Day Home providers (2025)

<i>Child care worker level</i>	<i>Wage enhancement</i>	<i>Territorial minimum wage plus enhancement</i>	<i>Mandatory minimum wage floor</i>
Level 0	<i>Not applicable</i>	<i>Not applicable</i>	\$17.94
Level 1	\$4.12	\$17.94 + \$4.12	\$22.06
Level 1A	\$6.01	\$17.94 + \$6.01	\$23.95
Level 2	\$7.44	\$17.94 + \$7.44	\$25.38
Level 2A	\$9.96	\$17.94 + \$9.96	\$27.90
Level 3 equivalent	\$12.31	\$17.94 + \$12.31	\$30.25
Level 3	\$15.31	\$17.94 + \$15.31	\$33.25

## Rural wage enhancements – Family Day Home providers (2025)

<i>Child care worker level</i>	<i>Wage enhancement</i>	<i>Minimum wage plus enhancement</i>	<i>Mandatory minimum wage floor</i>
Level 0	\$1.85	\$17.94 + \$1.85	\$19.79
Level 1	\$4.49	\$17.94 + \$4.49	\$22.43
Level 1A	\$6.71	\$17.94 + \$6.71	\$24.65
Level 2	\$8.39	\$17.94 + \$8.39	\$26.33
Level 2A	\$11.35	\$17.94 + \$11.35	\$29.29
Level 3 equivalent	\$14.11	\$17.94 + \$14.11	\$32.05
Level 3	\$17.11	\$17.94 + \$17.11	\$35.05

*Note: The Yukon minimum wage was \$17.59 in March 2025. On April 1, 2025, the minimum wage increased to \$17.94.*

*Note: The mandatory minimum wages for Family Day Home providers include an additional 12% payment for mandatory employment-related costs. The Level 0 wage supplement is only available to programs operating in rural communities, and a training plan and exemption from the training requirements must be approved and in place.*

### Staff benefits

On April 1, 2022, the Yukon began providing compensation for up to 8% of staff wages for employers to select and offer a comprehensive benefits package from a registered Canadian insurance provider.

Licensed early learning and child care programs that already offer comprehensive benefits to employees through a registered Canadian insurance provider were able to apply for this funding before January 1, 2022. Approved applications were able to receive retroactive funding covering the period from April 1, 2021, to March 31, 2022.

All licensed early learning programs are eligible to receive benefit funding. New programs no longer need to submit an additional application.

### Other workforce measures

The Yukon has begun a process of proposing regulatory changes aimed at changing ECEs' working conditions. A review of the Yukon *Child Care Act* began in November 2023 with an initial

consultation. New legislation was tabled March 11, 2025, and received assent May 1, 2025. It is not yet in force.

### Early childhood certification

The Yukon has a territorial staff certification process. All staff are required to be certified. The Early Learning and Child Care Unit in the Yukon Department of Education is responsible for assessing applications for certification. See the Yukon's "[Standards and regulations](#)" section for more information.

### ECE CERTIFICATION LEVELS

There are five certification levels with minimum requirements for early childhood educators in the Yukon. The classification criteria for each designation are:

#### Level 1

- 60 hours of coursework in early childhood development;
- Yukon First Nation Education Directorate Understanding the Early Years course; or
- An approved educational equivalency.

#### Level 1A

- Completion of 15 credits or five post-secondary courses in early childhood development offered by a recognized college or university; or
- An approved educational equivalency.

#### Level 2

- Completion of one year of post-secondary coursework in early childhood development offered by a recognized college or university; or
- An approved educational equivalency.

#### Level 2A

- Completion of 45 credits or 15 post-secondary courses in early childhood development offered by a recognized college or university; or
- An approved educational equivalency.

#### Level 3

- Completion of two years of post-secondary coursework in early childhood development offered by a recognized college or university; or
- An approved educational equivalency.

Coursework must be credit coursework from a recognized post-secondary educational institute. See the [Early Childhood Educator Guide to Certification](#) for further details.

As of March 31, 2024, approximately 95% of educators working in licensed programs have at least a Level 1 certificate. Over 50% of ECEs have two or more years of training in early childhood development.

## STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

Child care centres and family child care homes must adhere to standards and regulations regarding staffing requirements, grouping of children, and licensing. Some additional key elements of child care standards and regulations,

such as physical environments and food provision, are covered in the comparative tables in this publication, while others may be found in the [Child Care Act](#), [Child Care Centre Program Regulation](#), [Family Day Home Program Regulation](#), and [School-Age Program Regulation](#).

Bill 48, the [Early Learning and Child Care Act](#), was tabled in March 2025. This legislation will replace the current *Child Care Act*.

### Regulated child care centres

Child care centres are licensed under the [Child Care Act](#), [Child Care Centre Program Regulation](#), and [School-Age Program Regulation](#). The Act was most recently amended in 2018, and both sets of regulations were amended in 2022.

### STAFF:CHILD RATIO AND GROUP SIZE

The maximum centre size is 64 spaces in full-day centres and 60 spaces in school-age programs.

#### Staff:child ratio and maximum group size

Age group	Staff:child ratio	Maximum group size
Infant (<18 months)	1:4	8
Toddler (18 months – 3 years)	1:6	12
Preschool-age (3 years – kindergarten-age)	1:8	16
School-age (Grade 1 – 12 years)	1:12	24

*Note: When more than six children are in attendance, at least two staff members must be on duty, one of whom must be free of other responsibilities while engaged in the care of children.*

## STAFFING REQUIREMENTS FOR CENTRES

### Qualification requirements for staffing a centre

In the Yukon, staff qualification requirements are specified at the centre level.

In all licensed centres (full-day and school-age), all staff who are included in the staff:child ratio must hold one of the three levels of certification: 20% of staff must hold at least Level 3 qualifications, an additional 30% must have at least Level 2 qualifications, and the remaining 50% must have at least Level 1 qualifications.

### Qualification requirements for on-site centre directors/supervisors

All licensed centres are required to have a designated supervisor. There are no regulated qualification requirements for centre supervisors.

### Other requirements

In all centre programs, a staff member who is at least 18 years old must be in charge at all times.

At least one caregiver present in each group of children must have a 14 – 16 hour standard first aid certificate including CPR level C.

All staff must have up-to-date immunizations, a medical note stating that they are in good health, a tuberculosis test, and a confidential police check/vulnerable sector check.

## LICENSING AND MONITORING OF REGULATED CHILD CARE CENTRES

A child care centre licence is valid for a maximum of one year and is not transferable to another person. A centre may be inspected at any time by child care inspectors. Each centre is inspected every three months at a minimum but potentially more often depending on the level of support required.

## Regulated family child care

Regulated family child care homes (termed Family Day Homes) are regulated under the [Child Care Act](#) and [Family Day Home Program Regulation](#).

Family child care is required to be provided in the personal residence of the provider.

### MODEL OF ORGANIZATION

Family Day Homes are individually licensed.

### MAXIMUM CAPACITY

A Family Day Home program can serve from four to eight children with either:

- Four infants (under 18 months);
- Six children with no more than three under 18 months; or
- Eight children all over 18 months.

Four additional school-age children may attend if there is an additional caregiver.

The provider's preschool-age children are included in the above numbers, but their school-age children are not.

### FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDER REQUIREMENTS

Family Day Home operators must complete a 60-hour introductory early childhood development course or a specific Family Day Home course or equivalent within the first year of providing care for children.

A caregiver must be 18 years of age, have up-to-date immunizations, a medical note, a tuberculosis test, and a confidential police/vulnerable sector check. They must also be first aid certified, including CPR level C.



## LICENSING AND MONITORING OF REGULATED FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES

A Family Day Home licence is valid for a maximum of one year and is not transferable to another person.

A Family Day Home may be inspected at any time by child care inspectors. Each Family Day Home is inspected a minimum of every three months or more often depending on support needed.

### ■ OF INTEREST

#### Municipal role

Municipalities in the Yukon do not have a mandated role in child care governance, funding, or administration. There are no municipally operated centres.

#### Early Learning Educators Web Hub

In July 2022, the Yukon Department of Education launched the [Early Learning Educators Web Hub](#), a virtual network that provides early childhood educators access to online courses, resources, and information about early learning events, updates, funding for educators, and more.

## CHILD CARE DATA

### ■ REGULATED CHILD CARE SPACE STATISTICS

#### Number of spaces (2024, 2025)

Centre spaces	2024	2025
<b>Total centre spaces (children 0 – 12 years)</b>	<b>2,101</b>	<b>2,196</b>
Family child care licensed capacity	2024	2025
<b>Total family child care spaces</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>149</b>
<b>TOTAL REGULATED SPACES (centre spaces and family child care licensed capacity)</b>	<b>2,257</b>	<b>2,345</b>

*Note: The Yukon does not license spaces by age group. As a result, further breakdowns for licensed capacity are not available.*

#### Number of child care centres and family child care homes (2024)

Centre-based child care	
<b>Total number of centres</b>	<b>59</b>
Centre-based programs	
Centres providing a full-day program	59
Centres providing infant care (<18 months)	34
Centres providing toddler care (18 – <36 months)	46
Centres providing preschool-age care (36 months – kindergarten)	58
Centres providing a Francophone child care program	2
Centres providing a before- and after-school program for children attending kindergarten or school (approximately 4 – 12 years)	2
<i>Note: In addition to the two programs licensed exclusively for before- and after-school care, 32 other licensed programs in the Yukon also offered before- and after-school care, as well as full-day infant, toddler, or preschool-age care.</i>	
Centres providing non-standard hours care (as defined by the territory)	2
Centres in publicly delivered and funded schools (K – Grade 12)	2
Regulated family child care	
Individually licensed Family Day Homes (active)	18

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## Participation in CWELCC

Centres providing a full-day program	59
Centres providing a before- and after-school program for children attending kindergarten or school (approximately 4 – 12 years)	2
<b>Total number of child care centres receiving CWELCC funding</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>Total number of licensed family child care homes receiving CWELCC funding</b>	<b>18</b>

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## Auspice (2024)

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### Centres by auspice

<i>Auspice</i>	<i>Number of centres</i>
For-profit	38
Non-profit	12
Public	9

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### Centre spaces by auspice

<i>Auspice</i>	<i>Full-day<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>Part-day<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>Total</i>
For-profit	1,286	<i>Not applicable</i>	<b>1,286</b>
Non-profit	427	<i>Not applicable</i>	<b>427</b>
Public	388	<i>Not applicable</i>	<b>388</b>

<sup>1</sup>Includes before- and after-school care (children 4 – 12 years).

<sup>2</sup>The Yukon does not require part-day centres to be licensed.

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## Auspice (2025)

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### Centre spaces by auspice

<i>Auspice</i>	<i>Full-day<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>Part-day<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>Total</i>
For-profit	1,324	<i>Not applicable</i>	<b>1,324</b>
Non-profit	494	<i>Not applicable</i>	<b>494</b>
Public	378	<i>Not applicable</i>	<b>378</b>

<sup>1</sup>Includes before- and after-school care (children 4 – 12 years).

<sup>2</sup>The Yukon does not require part-day centres to be licensed.

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## Publicly operated child care (2024)

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### Publicly operated child care

<i>Entity type</i>	<i>Licence holders</i>	<i>Centres</i>	<i>Total spaces</i>
Indigenous governing body	9	9	291

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## Fee subsidies (2024)

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### Number of children receiving fee subsidies

Full subsidy	378
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## Disability support (2024)

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### Number of children receiving disability support

Children in licensed child care receiving disability support funding	69
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*Note: In addition, the Whitehorse Child Development Centre provided inclusion support to 49 centres and four Family Day Homes.*

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## ■ REGULATED CHILD CARE ENROLMENT STATISTICS

### Number of children enrolled (2024)

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#### Full-day centre enrolment

Infant (<18 months)	153
Toddler (18 months – 3 years)	462
Preschool-age (3 years – kindergarten)	761
<b>Total centre enrolment (children 0 – 5 years)</b>	<b>1,376</b>

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#### Before- and after-school care enrolment (licensed or regulated)

Kindergarten for 4- and 5-year-olds (K4 and K5)	106
Grades 1 – 6	287
<b>Total before- and after-school care enrolment</b>	<b>393</b>
<b>Total centre enrolment (children 0 – 12 years)</b>	<b>1,769</b>

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**Family child care enrolment**

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*Total family child care enrolment (children 0 – 12 years)* 128

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**TOTAL REGULATED ENROLMENT (centre and family child care enrolment)** 1,897

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## CHILD CARE FUNDING

The types of funding available for child care services in the Yukon include operational funding, one-time funding, fee subsidies, and other ELCC funding programs. See [Funding Program for Early Learning and Child Care Centres](#) and [Funding Program for Family Day Homes](#) for more information.

### ■ ELIGIBILITY FOR CWELCC FUNDING

The CWELCC plan provides federal funds to provinces and territories for early learning and child care operational and one-time funding and fee subsidies for licensed child care for children aged 0 – 5. Funded new child care expansion is to be public and non-profit unless otherwise specified in the jurisdiction's agreement. Provinces and territories also contribute their own funds and design their own policies and provision within this framework.

In the Yukon, the following are eligible for operational funding under CWELCC:

- Licensed full-day centres;
- Licensed before- and after-school centres that enrol children under age six; and
- Licensed/approved family child care.

New or expanded for-profit centres are eligible for operational funding. CWELCC funding is used to support non-profit centres.

In the Yukon, the following are eligible for capital funding under CWELCC:

- Licensed full-day centres;
- Licensed before- and after-school centres that enrol children under age six; and
- Licensed/approved family child care.

New or expanded for-profit centres are not eligible for capital funding.

### ■ CHILD CARE SERVICES' ELIGIBILITY FOR FUNDING

All regulated non-profit and for-profit child care programs are eligible for all types of funding.

### ■ TYPES OF FUNDING

#### Operational funding

##### EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE FUNDING PROGRAM

Introduced on April 1, 2021, the Early Learning and Child Care Funding Program for centres and Family Day Homes is the Yukon's primary funding program. It provides funding to offset fees and the cost of operating high-quality programs. The [funding for Family Day Homes](#) has five parts: reducing the cost of early learning and child care for families, support for administration, support to enhance program quality, supporting children with diverse needs, and funding to increase educator wages. The [funding for early learning and child care centres](#) has those same five parts and an additional sixth part: funding towards operating costs.

#### Reducing the cost of early learning and child care for families

Reducing the cost of early learning and child care for families funding is intended to directly help licensed centres lower the amount parents or caregivers pay. Funding for part-time attendance is prorated based on the number of hours a child attends the program as a percent of full-time hours of operation. Children must attend 75% of the time for centre and Family Day Home operators to access this funding. Families only pay the difference between the government funding and the full fee.

### Funding for fee reduction by age group in centres and Family Day Homes (2024)

<i>Age group</i>	<i>Funding per full-time space</i>
Infant	\$700
Toddler	\$700
Preschool-age	\$700
Kindergarten (full-time, not in school)	\$700
Kindergarten (part-time, in school)	\$350
School-age (during school year)	\$300
School-age (during summer)	\$500

### Support for administration

The support for administration payment is 10% of the funding provided to reduce parent or caregiver fees. The intent of this funding is to support administrative needs related to operating a centre and fulfilling reporting requirements, such as hiring a part-time bookkeeper or administrative assistant.

### Support to enhance program quality

Support to enhance program quality funding helps cover the costs of materials, supplies, and equipment. The amount is based on the number of children enrolled. Programs that charge an additional fee to parents/caregivers for a nutritional meal program are not eligible to receive the additional meal funding in this category.

### Quality program enhancement – Whitehorse area programs (2024)

<i>Age group</i>	<i>Funding per space/month<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>Funding per space/month<sup>2</sup></i>
Infant	\$206.10	\$238.16
Toddler	\$154.58	\$186.64
Preschool-age	\$114.50	\$146.56
School-age (Grade 1 and above)	\$97.33	\$129.39

<sup>1</sup> Programs not offering a meal program.

<sup>2</sup> Programs offering a nutritious meal program.

### Quality program enhancement – rural programs (2024)

<i>Age group</i>	<i>Funding per space/month<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>Funding per space/month<sup>2</sup></i>
Infant	\$242.10	\$298.59
Toddler	\$181.58	\$238.07
Preschool-age	\$134.50	\$190.99
School-age (Grade 1 and above)	\$114.33	\$151.99

<sup>1</sup> Programs not offering a meal program.

<sup>2</sup> Programs offering a nutritious meal program.

### Support for children with diverse needs

Support for children with diverse needs funding provides for the inclusion of children with diverse needs and abilities. Centres and Family Day Homes must provide the ELCC Branch with a child's current Individual Program Plan to receive the funding.

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### Funding supports for children with disabilities (2025)

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Age group	Funding per space/month - Whitehorse	Funding per space/month - rural
Toddler	\$54.96	\$64.56
Preschool-age	\$91.60	\$107.60
School-age (Grade 1 and above)	\$114.50	\$134.50

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#### Funding to increase educator wages

Funding to increase educator wages enhances the wage of early childhood educators up to 40 hours per week. To receive this funding, centres must pay each educator, at a minimum, according to the established wage floor. The amounts are based on educators' certification levels. Different amounts are paid in and outside Whitehorse. See the Yukon's "[Workforce](#)" section for specific amounts.

#### Funding towards operating costs

Funding towards operating costs is the sixth part of the funding for early learning and child care centres; it does not apply to licensed Family Day Homes. The intent of this funding is to support child care centres to pay for the cost of operations such as rent, mortgage, heating, or supplies. In Whitehorse, 37% of the cost of eligible operating expenses is provided. In rural communities, 43% of the cost of eligible operating expenses is provided.

#### EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE BENEFITS FUNDING

Since April 1, 2022, funding for benefits for early childhood educators has been a standard part of the Yukon ELCC Funding Program. The [Early Learning and Child Care Benefits Funding](#) program aims to improve access to comprehensive insurance benefits for early childhood educators working in licensed programs. It provides

compensation for up to 8% of staff wages for employers to select and offer a comprehensive benefits package from a registered Canadian insurance provider.

#### One-time funding

##### START-UP FUNDING

Start-up funding is available through the Enhancement Fund to child care centres and Family Day Homes. Child care centres may receive a maximum of \$10,000. Family Day Homes may receive up to \$1,000 per home in Whitehorse and up to \$2,000 per home in the rest of the territory.

##### HEALTH AND SAFETY ENHANCEMENT

Health and Safety Enhancement funding is available to child care centres and Family Day Homes. Providers may not apply for this funding if they received start-up funding during the same fiscal year. Up to \$5,000 is available to child care centres on an annual basis to meet regulatory requirements related to health and safety or playground development and maintenance. Additional funding needs for larger child care centres are considered on a case-by-case basis. For Family Day Homes, up to \$500 is available annually for the replacement of a major appliance (up to 50% of the cost), health and safety requirements, and for outdoor play space development and maintenance.

##### RADON MITIGATION

Child care centres and Family Day Homes can apply to the radon mitigation fund. Applications must include a written quote for radon testing and mitigation, which must be completed by a radon measurement professional. Licensed child care centres can receive up to \$15,000; additional funding is considered on a case-by-case basis for larger centres. Applications are assessed based on a centre's financial or in-kind contribution and

an approved playground plan. Up to \$3,000 is available for Family Day Homes.

### EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

The [Early Learning and Child Care Infrastructure Fund](#) aims to expand child care spaces by funding non-profits, Family Day Homes, Indigenous groups, and First Nations governments in underserved communities. This fund includes minor and major project funding streams.

Minor project funding supports projects that improve physical accessibility in licensed early learning and child care programs or establish new Family Day Homes in rural Yukon. Funding covers accessibility upgrades up to \$100,000 for costs like design, project management, construction, and playground equipment. Start-up costs up to \$10,000 are also covered for new rural Family Day Homes. Funding is available to:

- A Yukon First Nations government;
- A Yukon society in good standing registered under the [Yukon Societies Act](#), including Indigenous organizations;
- A Yukon-based not-for-profit incorporated under the [Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act](#); or
- Individuals interested in opening a Family Day Home in rural Yukon communities.

The major project stream provides funding for planning, design, construction, and renovation of existing facilities to create new early learning and child care spaces in the Yukon. Funding covers planning costs, such as business plans and feasibility studies. It is available to:

- A Yukon First Nations government;
- A Yukon society in good standing and registered under the [Yukon Societies Act](#), including Indigenous organizations; or

- A Yukon-based not-for-profit incorporated under the [Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act](#).

### Fee subsidies

The Child Care Subsidy assists eligible families pay for their child to attend a for-profit or non-profit licensed child care centre, Family Day Home, or school-age program. See the Yukon's "[Parent fees](#)" section for more information.

### Other ELCC funding

#### EMERGENCY FUNDING

Emergency funding is available to licensed child care providers based on individual circumstances. Family Day Homes cannot apply for emergency funding.

#### CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

Established in 1979, the Whitehorse [Child Development Centre](#) is a non-profit organization that supports children in licensed child care. It is funded by the Government of Yukon, Jordan's Principle, and Health Canada, as well as through donations and fundraisers. It offers a range of programs and services, such as diagnostic services and programs for children with diverse needs and abilities. The Child Development Centre has two locations in Whitehorse: the main location downtown and a second centre at the Kwanlin Dün First Nations building, which opened in 2023.

#### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The ELCC Branch offers a variety of professional development workshops, centre-based professional development days, program support visits, and more, free of charge to all ECEs.

## YUKON FIRST NATIONS EDUCATION DIRECTORATE EARLY YEARS COURSE – UNDERSTANDING THE EARLY YEARS

The ELCC Branch provides funding for a Yukon First Nations designed and delivered course that helps support the development of culturally competent educators.

### ■ FUNDING FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE (FISCAL YEAR 2023 – 2024)

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

#### Operational funding

<i>Program</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Operating funding	\$6,223,808
Early childhood educator wage funding	\$8,782,461
Supports to children with special needs	\$1,783,890
Funding to reduce parent or caregiver fee payments to providers	\$13,557,703
Staff benefits	\$1,006,456
<b>Total operational funding</b>	<b>\$31,354,318</b>

*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, disability funding, and other grants/funding paid on a recurring basis.*

#### One-time funding – other

<i>Program</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Health and Safety Enhancement	\$213,184
Cultural Enhancement	\$203,693
<b>Total one-time funding</b>	<b>\$416,877</b>

*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.*

#### Fee subsidies

<i>Program</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Child Care Subsidy	\$596,224

*Note: These are fee subsidies in 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 directly to service providers.*

<b>TOTAL SPENDING FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE (operational funding, one-time funding, and fee subsidies)</b>	<b>\$32,367,419</b>
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#### Other ELCC funding

<i>Program</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Child Development Centre	\$5,392,294
Yukon University – Professional Diploma Pathway	\$185,000
Professional Development	\$437,048
Valuing Educator Campaign	\$30,000
Yukon First Nations Education Directorate Early Years Course	\$301,013
Bursaries	\$59,411
<b>Total other ELCC funding</b>	<b>\$6,404,766</b>

#### Federal transfers to the Yukon

<i>Federal transfer</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Multilateral Early Learning and Child Care Framework – Early Learning and Child Care Bilateral Agreements	\$2,605,511
Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care	\$8,400,207
Early Learning and Child Care Infrastructure Fund	\$2,283,404

*Note: The federal transfers above represent the funds allocated to the Yukon for fiscal year 2023 – 2024. These funds may be slightly different from those included in the original agreements, as they are updated annually in line with population estimates. 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 (2025).