



## PROVINCIAL CONTEXT

### Number of children 0-12 years (2007 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0	8,600
1	8,000
2	8,400
3	8,400
4	7,800
5	8,200
6	9,400
7	9,000
8	9,100
9	10,500
10	11,000
11	10,500
12	9,900
Total	118,700

### Number of children 0-12 years, aggregated (2007 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0-2	25,000
3-5	24,400
6-12	69,400
Total	118,700

### Children 0-14 years identifying with an Aboriginal group (2006)

Age	North American Indian	Métis	Inuit	Multiple	Other	Total
0-4	1,355	360	0	0	35	1,750
5-9	1,520	495	15	0	45	2,075
10-14	1,825	580	35	0	35	2,475
Total	4,700	1,435	50	0	105	6,300

### Children 0-14 yrs with disabilities (2006)

Age	Number of children with disabilities	Rate of children with disabilities (%)
0-4	770	1.9
5-9	2,430	5.2
10-14	3,330	6.0
Total	6,530	4.5

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**Number of children 0-12 years with mothers in the paid labour force (2007 rounded estimate)**

Age	Number of children
0	5,200
1	4,800
2	5,100
3	4,700
4	5,100
5	5,200
6	5,700
7	5,800
8	6,300
9	7,100
10	7,300
11	7,500
12	6,900
Total	76,700

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**Number of children 0-12 years with mothers in the paid labour force, aggregated (2007 rounded estimate)**

Age	Number of children
0-2	15,100
3-5	15,000
6-12	46,600
Total	76,700

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**Number of children by marital status of families (2006)**

Age	Children in couple families	Children in lone parent families	(with lone mothers)	(with lone fathers)
0-4	32,880	8,860	7,810	1,045
5-9	36,420	11,380	9,855	1,530
10-14	42,190	13,545	11,640	1,910
Total	111,490	33,795	29,305	4,490

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**Number of children by mother tongue (2006)**

Age	English	French	Non-official language
0-4	39,510	630	1,210
5-9	45,490	765	1,060
10-14	53,055	975	1,320
Total	138,055	2,370	3,590

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**Number and percentage of children living in families below the LICO (2006)**

Age	Number	Percent (%)
0-2	n/a	n/a
3-5	n/a	n/a
6-12	10,000	14.0
Total	16,000	13.2

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*Note: Sufficient data for all age breakdowns not available.*

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**Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child (2007 rounded estimate)**

Age of youngest child	Number of mothers	Participation rate (%)
0-2	15,100	70.9
3-5	11,200	77.8
6-15	43,300	82.8

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## FAMILY-RELATED LEAVE

### Maternity leave

Seventeen weeks.

### Parental leave

Both parents are entitled to 52 weeks which must be taken within 12 months of the child's birth. Thirty-five weeks for birth mothers who have taken pregnancy/maternity leave.

### Adoption leave

Fifty-two weeks.

### Births and EI maternity and parental claims (2007)

Number of births: 8,372

Birth rate per 1,000 population: 9.0

Number of initial maternity claims allowed: 5,530

Average length of maternity claim: 14.3 weeks

Number of parental claims: 6,230

Average length of parental claim: 26.9 weeks

Number of adoptive parent claims: 80

Average length of adoptive claim: 27.5 weeks

*Note: Maternity, parental and adoption leaves are determined by provincial and territorial legislation. The federal government pays for up to 15 weeks for maternity leave and 35 weeks for parental and adoptive leave for eligible parents at 55% of earned income to a maximum of \$447/week (2009). See FEDERAL ECEC PROGRAMS for more information.*

## KINDERGARTEN (GRADE PRIMARY)

### LEGISLATION

Nova Scotia. Legislative Assembly. *Education Act and Regulation*. 1995-96. Amended 1998, 2000, 2002.

Nova Scotia. Legislative Assembly. *Pre-primary Education Act*. Chapter 44 of the Acts of 2005. Proclaimed March 24, 2006.

## PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR KINDERGARTEN

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### GRADE PRIMARY PROGRAM

Grade Primary (kindergarten) is delivered in both public and private schools. It is available to all eligible children in Nova Scotia on a full-time basis (a minimum of four hours/day are required for Grade Primary to Grade 2).

Grade Primary is an entitlement and is compulsory in Nova Scotia.

### AGE ELIGIBILITY

Five years old on or before December 31.

### CLASS SIZE

Class size limit of 25 students in Grade Primary to Grade 2.

Class size limit of 20 students in combined Grade Primary/Grade 1 classrooms.

Average/mean class size (2005/06): 22.4. Information specific to Grade Primary is not available.

### CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

In Nova Scotia, programming and services for students with special needs are ensured under the Education Act and Regulation (1996, updated 2008). Students for whom the learning outcomes of the prescribed provincial curriculum do not apply, enter the program planning process and an individualized program plan (IPP) is created. The program planning team includes school staff, the student's family and, when applicable, the student. All programming supports (assistive technology, teacher assistants, transition support) and other specialized programming considerations or services are identified during the program planning process.

In 2007, a provincial average of 4.7% of students from grades Primary to 12 had IPPs.

## ENROLMENT (2007/08)

There were 503 classes of Grade Primary. This includes multi-grade classes.

### Number of children enrolled in Grade Primary (one year before Grade 1)

Public	8,394
Private	273
Total	8,667

### Number of children enrolled in 4 Plus Program in Halifax (two years before Grade 1)

(See SPECIAL FEATURES) 110

### Number of children enrolled in Pre-Primary Program

(see RECENT DEVELOPMENTS) 416

## KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS

Qualification requirements: A valid teaching certificate is required. An Initial Teacher's Certificate is granted upon completion of a minimum of five years of undergraduate education including three years of approved undergraduate studies, two years of an approved program of professional studies including a practicum, and receipt of an approved Bachelor's degree from a recognized university.

Responsibility for certification: Registrar, Teacher Certification, Department of Education.

Representation: Nova Scotia Teachers' Union.

Professional Development: Every teacher who has a probationary or permanent contract with a school board must complete 100 contract hours of professional development every five years and maintain a professional development profile to be submitted to the school board annually.

Average salary: Not available.

In 2003/04 there were 604 full-time kindergarten teachers.

## CLASSROOM ASSISTANTS

Title: Teacher Assistant.

Qualifications: High school diploma or equivalent.

Role: Working with students who have IPPs under direction of supervising teacher and as a support for the instructional program.

## CURRICULUM

There is a provincial kindergarten curriculum, as published in the *Learning Outcomes Framework* document (2004). The focus is on transitioning from home to school, laying the foundations for lifelong learning, and on fostering development in all areas. Subject-specific curriculum outcomes are included.

## MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

Information not available.

## SOURCES OF FUNDING FOR KINDERGARTEN

Public school education is funded by both provincial and municipal levels of government. Generally, this funding represents approximately 97% of school board revenues, with the remainder being board-generated. Nova Scotia does not provide funding to private schools.

*Note: Current information is not available for 2007/08.*

## PUBLIC SPENDING ON KINDERGARTEN

### 2003/04

#### Average spending per kindergarten student

\$5,967.10 per student for all funded students in the education system. Spending per kindergarten student is not available.

*Note: Current information is not available for 2007/08.*

#### Total spending on kindergarten

Information not available.

## SPECIAL FEATURES

The Halifax Regional School Board funds five Early Learning Opportunities programs targeted to children at risk for poor educational outcomes. These programs are led by two trained early childhood educators, the maximum group size is 18 students and the curriculum is play-based.

## RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN PROGRAMMING FOR YOUNG LEARNERS

**2005** A Pre-Primary Program was launched with new provincial funding for 19 sites. It was developed in partnership with the departments of Community Services and Health and Nova Scotia Health Promotion. The pilot program was to run for two years and was offered on a voluntary basis and free of charge.

The pilot program was to explore a developmentally appropriate program for children in the year prior to school entry, situated in the elementary school. A maximum of 18 children attended the full day programs, which were led by two trained early childhood educators. Emphasis was placed on developing social skills, understanding the school system, and acquiring an educational foundation for reading, writing, and learning mathematics, science and social studies in a play-based curriculum model. Programming was supported by learning through the arts — music and visual arts in particular.

**2007/08** Although the Pre-Primary Program pilot ran successfully for three years, it was cancelled at the close of the 2007/08 school year. A change was made in the age of eligibility for entry into Grade Primary (from October 1 to December 31).

## REGULATED CHILD CARE

### LEGISLATION

Nova Scotia. Legislative Assembly. *Day Care Act*. Chapter 120, of the Revised Statutes, 1989. R.S., c. 120, s. 1. *Day Care Regulations* made under Section 15 of the *Day Care Act*, amended to N.S. Reg. 202/2004.

### PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILD CARE

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## CHILD CARE SERVICES

### UNREGULATED CHILD CARE

#### Unregulated family child care

Maximum number of children permitted: Six children who may be of mixed-age groups, including the caregiver's own preschool children. If all children including the caregiver's own are school-age, eight children are permitted.

### REGULATED CHILD CARE

#### Child care centres

Care in a group setting for less than 24 hours/day for seven or more children from 0-12 years. This includes full-day child care centres, preschools, nursery schools and programs for school-age children.

#### Child Development Centres (CDC)

CDCs were established to provide a part-day preschool experience to enhance opportunities for children's development as they prepare for school entry. These non-profit centres receive a grant which cannot exceed 50% of their operating costs. In order to qualify for a grant, a percentage of the families of children enrolled must qualify for assistance under established income guidelines (the former Canada Assistance Plan guidelines). These income guidelines are higher than those that must be met to qualify for regular child care subsidy. The director of the CDC administers the income test and keeps the information on file as required for licensing inspections.

Centres establish their own fees, which are often on a sliding scale according to family income. The amount of funding is generally based on past allocations and not formula-based on capacity or actual costs. There are 27 programs across the province.

#### Family child care

Care in a private home for up to six children of mixed ages including the provider's own children, or eight school-age children including the provider's own school-age children.

## CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

All licensed child care centres are eligible to receive Supported Child Care (SCC) funding to support the inclusion of children with special needs who have developmental delays or behavioural issues that require intervention. The funding is intended to support a child care program to either continue or build its capacity to fully include children with special needs in the centre's daily routine. Funds may be used towards the salary of an additional early childhood special educator or to purchase materials, equipment or resources. The amount of support, required by the program to ensure that children with special needs can be successfully included, is determined in consultation with the centre director and the department's regional Early Childhood Development Officers. Facilities can assign an employee currently at the centre to facilitate inclusion and use SCC funding to hire additional staff to enable an enhanced ratio.

Eligibility is based on whether the centre is licensed, is in compliance with the Day Care Act and Regulations and has a child who is attending who has a special need. SCC funding is program based and is not determined by the diagnosis of the child/ren requesting admittance to the child care centre. The funding depends on availability and is not an entitlement. Families do not pay for the additional supports provided.

## ABORIGINAL CHILD CARE

Development of on-reserve child care as part of the First Nations/Inuit Child Care Initiative is the responsibility of the Nova Scotia Tri-Partite Social Working Committee: Child Care Facilities and Licensing Agreement Sub-Committee. There are 13 on-reserve child care centres with 253 spaces. Centres follow provincial regulations but are not provincially licensed or funded.

## SPACE STATISTICS (MARCH 2008)

<b>Number of regulated child care spaces*</b>			
<i>Centre-based</i>	Full-day	Part-day*	Total
Infants (0-17months)	501	—	501
Toddler (18-35 months)	2,675	—	2,675
Preschool (3.8-5 years)	5,323	2,414	7,737
School-age (6-12 years)	—	2,688	2,688
Total centre-based spaces	8,499	5,102	13,601
<i>Family child care spaces</i>			110
<b>Total number of regulated spaces</b>			13,711

*\* These numbers are approximate as of March 31, 2008.*

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<b>Children with special needs in regulated child care</b>	
	500

*All children with special needs attending child care programs may not be captured in this number, as an application to obtain SCC funding is not necessary for every child with special needs who attends.*

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<b>Children receiving fee subsidies</b>	
	2,863

*In total, there are 3,123 subsidized child care spaces. Of these 1,877 spaces are allocated to specific nonprofit centres and 1,246 portable spaces may be used in for-profit or nonprofit centres and follow the child.*

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<b>Number of centres and homes</b>	
<i>Number of child care centres</i>	380
Full day	260
Part-day nursery schools/preschools	117
Stand-alone after school programs	11
<i>Number of family child care agencies</i>	3
<i>Number of family child care providers</i>	37

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<b>Sponsorship of regulated centre spaces</b>		
Nonprofit	6,868	
For-profit	6,733	
Total	13,601	

## STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

### REGULATED CENTRES

#### Maximum staff:child ratios and group sizes

Age	Staff:child ratios	Max. group sizes
0-17 months	1:4	10
18 months-35 months	1:6	18
36 months-5 years (full-day)	1:8	not specified
30 months-5 years (part-day)	1:12	not specified
5-12 years	1:15	30

*Note: Although group size is not specified for full-day and part-day preschool programs, the Day Care Regulations state that “no more than 25 children shall be in a room or a specified play area at any one time for rest or play”.*

#### Staff qualification requirements

In a licensed child care facility, 2/3 of the staff working with children must have completed a training program in early childhood education or its equivalent. The Centre Director must also be trained in early childhood education or its equivalent and can be considered part of the 2/3 staff ratio. To be considered equivalent, staff must have completed Grade 12, have a minimum of two years experience in a day care centre and have successful completion of a full credit course of two semesters of post-secondary education in at least one of the following:

- human growth and development with an emphasis on the young child, or
- curriculum development and implementation of programs for young children in child care centres; and
- successful completion of 25 hours in training programs, seminars or workshops in another area not completed by way of post-secondary education.

In school-age programs, qualification standards must meet the requirements of the Nova Scotia Day Care Act. Currently, the qualification requirements to work in school-age child care are the same as for early childhood care.

Staff wanting to be considered as trained to work in child care in Nova Scotia may submit their training credentials, transcripts, course descriptions and work record to Early Childhood Development Services for review. Training and experience are measured against the Nova Scotia Standards for ECE Training Programs as well as the qualification requirements as stated in the Nova Scotia *Day Care Act and Regulations*. On completion of the review,

applicants receive a letter verifying their status to work as qualified staff in Nova Scotia, or identifying gaps in their training and/or experience that would need to be filled for them to be considered qualified.

A two-year ECE diploma or a four-year Child and Youth Study degree are considered to be ECE credentials. Nova Scotia also recognizes specific partial training and experience in early childhood education to be eligible for inclusion in the qualified child care staff ratio. Training is required in child development and programming for young children, as well as two years of experience in the field, to be considered qualified.

*Note: Workshops that are directly related to planning the child care curriculum are also offered at conferences. These workshops may be considered as meeting the requirements of equivalency (as stated above).*

#### Parent involvement

Parent meetings must be held at least four times in a year for full-day programs and twice a year for part-day programs.

#### Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

Initial and ongoing inspections are conducted by provincial Early Childhood Development Officers (ECDOs). ECDOs require education, experience and expertise in early childhood education, child development or special needs.

Licences can be issued for up to 24 months for part-day programs and up to 12 months for full-day programs. If a centre is not in compliance with the *Day Care Act and Regulations*, written communication of the enforcement requirements and the compliance dates are sent to the program (centre) director and/or to the operator. The non-compliance will be documented and conditions may be attached to a licence requiring that the violations be corrected. To assist the centre with compliance, the department’s Compliance/Enforcement Policy provides guidelines for this process.

If the centre fails to meet the legislative requirements in this period, the *Day Care Act and Regulations* authorize the Minister to cancel or not renew the licence. A licence may not be renewed if there is evidence of a threat to the health or safety of children, or if there is a pattern of non-compliance with regulations that impact on the physical, social, emotional, or intellectual development of children.

Health inspections are conducted by inspectors from the Department of Agriculture. Fire inspections are conducted by the Department of Environment and Labour.

## REGULATED FAMILY CHILD CARE

### Regulation

Family child care providers are supervised by licensed agencies.

### Maximum capacity

A person who provides approved family home day care may care for a maximum of 6 children up to the age of 12 at a time, including their own children and must not have any other children in their care, subject to the following restrictions:

- no more than two of the six children may be infants (up to 17 months);
- no more than three of the six children may be toddlers or younger than toddlers. (18-35 months).

A person who provides approved family home day care for school-age children may care for a maximum of 8 school-age children at a time, including their own children, and must not have any other children in their care. A person who provides approved family home day care for infants may care for a maximum of three infants at a time, including their own infant(s), and must not have any other children in their care.

### Provider qualification requirements

Providers must be at least 18 years old, be screened through the Child Abuse Register and have undergone a criminal record check by the RCMP or local police, and have completed a first aid course. The provider is required to have Family Home Day Care Training - Level 1 of the Canadian Child Care Federation (CCCCF) Family Home Day Care Training.

### Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

A Family Home Day Care Consultant must have a two-year diploma in early childhood education from a recognized training program approved by the Director; at least 2 years experience working in an early learning and child care program; and current first aid and infant CPR training from a recognized program approved by the Director. The agency is responsible for recruiting, screening and selecting providers, and for approving and monitoring homes. Provincial Early Childhood Development Officers (ECDOs) conduct annual visits and evaluations of agencies to confirm adherence to regulations for child care homes.

## FUNDING

### CHILD CARE FEE SUBSIDY PROGRAM

Fee subsidies are paid directly to service providers on behalf of families eligible for the Child Care Subsidy Program. Subsidy is available at full-day licensed child care centres or family child care agencies. Eligibility for subsidy is determined by evaluating three primary areas of eligibility: social need, financial assets, and family income.

Prior to 2000, only nonprofit centres operated by community-based organizations and family child care agencies could enrol children receiving subsidies. In 2000, the province introduced portable subsidies, which are assigned to the child and not to the child care centre and may be used in any eligible licensed full-day child care centre, nonprofit and for-profit. New subsidized spaces have been portable since 2000.

Programs may surcharge subsidized parents if costs are above the maximum subsidy rate; they must charge full fee parents at least the same as subsidized parents.

#### Eligibility for fee subsidy (net income 2007/08)

	Turning point	Break-even point
1 parent, 1 child	\$16,800	\$24,912
2 parents, 2 children	17,700	34,992

*The turning point is the income level up to which full subsidy is available. Partial subsidy is available up to the break-even point, at which income subsidy ceases.*

#### Maximum subsidy by age of child (2007/08)\*

Infants to 17 months	\$19.75/day for first child in the family; \$22.00/day for additional children
Toddlers	17.75/day for first child in the family; 20.00/day for additional children
Preschoolers	16.75/day for first child in the family; 19.00/day for additional children
School-age	15.45/day for first child in the family; 17.70/day for additional children

*\*Nova Scotia includes the minimum parent fee of \$2.25 per family per day in its subsidy rate. In order to be comparable to other provinces and territories the lower rate, which does not include the minimum parent fee, is used in comparative tables in this report.*



## PUBLIC FUNDING FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE (2007/08)

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### **One-time funding**

#### ***Expansion and Replacement Loan***

To provide funding to create additional licensed child care spaces and to replace existing facilities that may not be able to continue to offer child care services.

- For approved licensed nonprofit facilities: a 75% forgivable loan with the remaining 25% being provided in the form of a contribution by the facility, funding from a third party or a repayable loan (1% interest) from the Department of Community Services.
- For approved licensed commercial facilities: a 25% forgivable loan, with the remaining 75% being provided in the form of a contribution by the facility, funding from a third party or a repayable loan (1% interest) from the Department of Community Services.
- Existing licensed family home day care agencies, full- and part-day child care centres that have been in operation for a period of at least two years and have a history of compliance with the Day Care Act and Regulations over the past two licensing periods are eligible.

If the application is from a new full- or part-day (start-up) child care centre, the applicant must submit a Notice of Intent to Apply for a License to Operate a Child Care Centre. And, in the case of new construction, the centre must plan to utilize the funding to build a child care centre of which they will be the owner/operator (commercial) or director (nonprofit).

- Part-day facilities were eligible to apply for the funding for the purpose of expanding to deliver a full-day program.

#### ***Repair and Renovation Loan***

Up to \$50,000 for approved licensed commercial and nonprofit child care centres to improve or enhance their centres (this amount includes both the forgivable and the repayable portions of the loan). Funding is for repairs, renovations and improvements including energy upgrades and accessibility for children and families with identified special needs.

- For approved nonprofit child care centres: a 75% forgivable loan, with the remaining 25% being provided in the form of a contribution provided by the child care centre or a repayable loan (1% interest) from the Department of Community Services.
- For approved commercial facilities: a 25% forgivable loan, with the remaining 75% being provided in the form

of a contribution by the child care centre or a repayable loan (1% interest) from the Department of Community Services.

- Licensed family home day care agencies, full- and part-day child care centres that have been in operation for a period of at least two years and have a history of compliance with the Day Care Act and Regulations over the past two licensing periods are eligible.

#### ***Program Enhancement Grant***

Up to \$7,500, available in 2007/08 to all licensed full- and part-day centres to purchase approved items related to program enhancement.

#### ***Outdoor Play Space Grant***

Up to \$20,000, available to all nonprofit and commercial full- and part-day licensed child care centres, and family home agencies in 2007/08, to develop or enhance outdoor play spaces.

#### ***Family Home Day Care Start-Up Grant***

A one time start-up grant of \$5,000 to offset expenses directly related to the start-up costs for these agencies.

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### **Recurring funding**

#### ***The Child Care Operating Grant***

Available to licensed full-day and part-day commercial and nonprofit child care centres.

- Full-day licensed centres: \$8 per day per occupied space for infants; \$3 per day per occupied space for toddler and preschool children; and \$2 per day per occupied space for school-age children.
- Part-day licensed centres: \$2 per day per occupied space for infant, toddler, preschool and school-age children.

A minimum of 75% of the funds allocated to the child care centre must be spent on salary and benefits for staff; a maximum of 25% of funds can be spent on operating expenses. A minimum of 60% of the centre's total revenue must be spent on salary and benefits.

- Child Development Centre Grant: Annual operating grants, which cannot exceed 50% of the centre's approved operating budget.
- Family Home Day Care Operating Grant: An annual grant provided to all licensed Family Home Day Care Agencies. The amount of funding depends on the number of child care provider homes of each agency.

*Note: Family home child care providers set the rates that they charge parents.*

- Child Care Stabilization Grant: To improve wages and assist in attracting/retaining quality staff: \$4,500/year per trained staff, \$4,200/year per ECE equivalent and \$1,200/year per untrained staff according to regulated staff:child ratios. At least 80% must be spent on salaries; up to 20% may be spent on benefits and professional development.
- Supported Child Care Funding: Special needs are described as either a developmental delay or behavioural issue presented by the child that requires intervention. Eligibility is based on evidence of the child's disability. This grant depends on availability of funding. The level of support required by the child while attending a child care facility is determined in consultation with the centre director and Early Childhood Development Officer. Facilities can assign an employee currently at the centre to facilitate inclusion and use Supported Child Care funding to hire an additional staff to enable an enhanced ratio.

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#### Eligibility for recurring funding as of March 31, 2008

##### *Full and part-day, nonprofit and commercial facilities:*

- Child Care Operating Grant (CCOG)

##### *Full-day nonprofit and commercial facilities:*

- Child Care Stabilization Grant

##### *Family Home Day Care Agencies:*

- FHDC Start-up Grant
- FHDC Operating Grant

##### *Child Development Centres:*

- Child Care Operating Grant (CCOG)
- Child Development Centre Grant

##### *One-time grants for 2007/08:*

- Outdoor Play Space Grant
- Program Enhancement Grant

#### PROVINCIAL ALLOCATIONS FOR LICENSED CHILD CARE (2007/08)

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<b>Fee subsidy</b>	\$10,660,958
<b>One-time funding</b>	
Outdoor Play Space Grant	\$5,080,806
Program Enhancement Grant	2,621,057
Equipment Grant*	290,342
<b>Recurring funding</b>	
Child Care Operating Grant (CCOG)	\$8,265,948
Family Home Day Care	22,949
Stabilization Grant	4,991,090
Supported Child Care	2,543,991
Partnerships for Inclusion	350,079
Child Development Centre Grant	263,281
<b>Loan programs</b>	
Expansion Loans**	\$420,820
Repair and Renovation Loans***	839,097
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$37,150,418</b>

\*This represents the final portion of this grant, which was assumed by the Child Care Operating Grant in January 2007.

\*\*Portion reported reflects the remainder of forgivable loans paid in 2007/08, as issued to approved licensed nonprofit facilities this fiscal year. Repayable loans issued are not reported as expenditures. Total 2004/05 Expansion funding for forgivable loans was \$2,762,140.

\*\*\* Portion reported reflects forgivable loans only, as issued to approved licensed nonprofit facilities. Repayable loans issued are not reported as expenditures.

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#### Other funding

Early Childhood Education Training Initiative	\$800,000
Funding to parents through Employment Support Income Assistance	\$4,110,842
<i>(provided to an average of 1,294 families/month)</i>	
Payments to clients through Child Welfare	\$1,840,696

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## SALARIES

### Median full-time, full-year employment income for centre-based Early Childhood Educators and Assistants (2005)

All	\$20,060
Those with an ECE credential	20,945

Source: Custom tabulations, 2006 census data on National Occupational Classification for Statistics E-217, Early Childhood Educators and Assistants.

### Family child care

Salary information not available.

## FEES (2006/07)

### Median daily parent fees for centre-based full-time care

Infants (0-17 months)	\$27.02
Toddlers (18-36 months)	24.35
Preschool (3-5 years)	23.88
School-age (5-12 years)	16.51

Source: For centres that receive the child care Stabilization Grant: N.S Child Care Stabilization Grant Application (May/July 2006). More recent information is not available.

### Average daily fee in family child care

Full-day	\$21.96
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Source: Family child care agency annual licensing inspection forms (May/July 2006). More recent information is not available.

## ADMINISTRATION

The Early Childhood Development Services (ECDS) section of the Department of Community Services is responsible for the licensing and inspection of child care and preschool facilities, monitoring family child care agencies, administration of funding, program consultation for licensed programs, and developing policy. The Early Childhood Development Services section approves all new early childhood education and training programs and approves the training status of child care staff working in licensed child care facilities. ECDS is responsible for the administration of the Child Care Subsidy and Supported Child Care program. As well, ECDS is responsible for the coordination of 17 Early Intervention programs in the province. These programs provide home visitation and guidance/support to families of children with identified special needs.

## MUNICIPAL OR OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENT ROLE

There is no legislated municipal or other local government role.

## CHILD CARE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Nova Scotia developed *Our Children: Today's Investment, Tomorrow's Promise* (2001), which serves as the foundation for the province's Early Childhood Development/Early Learning and Child Care investments.

In the fall of 2005, the Department of Community Services consulted Nova Scotians to determine their priorities for child care, including input from representatives of the child care sector.

On May 8, 2006, a ten-year provincial Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Plan was announced.

## RECENT HISTORY OF CHILD CARE AND OTHER ECEC SERVICES

FOR HISTORY BEFORE 2000, SEE THE RELEVANT PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL SECTION OF ECEC IN CANADA 2006, available online at: <http://www.childcarecanada.org/ECEC2006/> or in print.

**2000** One hundred portable subsidized child care spaces were introduced, including five for children with special needs. These spaces follow the child, are not attached to a specific centre, and may be used in both for-profit and nonprofit settings.

### 2001

A funding review was conducted and the *Nova Scotia Child Care Funding Review* was released.

Under the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Agreement on Early Childhood Development, Nova Scotia's strategy for Early Childhood Development was outlined in *Our Children: Today's Investment, Tomorrow's Promise*. The Department of Community Services undertook a number of initiatives designed to improve the quality of and access to child care. Funding was designated to stabilize existing licensed child care programs, support inclusion of additional children with special needs, improve salaries, and

provide early childhood education training initiatives and professional development for early childhood educators.

**2002/03** Stabilizing and Enhancing Childcare Initiatives were introduced:

- *Partnerships for Inclusion*: Facilitators worked with child care centres to evaluate their program and environment, and to improve the centre's environment and daily program in order to support the inclusion of children with special needs.

#### **2003/04**

The development and implementation of the Early Childhood Development Information System was completed on March 31, 2004. The system provides cross-functional access to data, a snapshot of programs and the ability to respond to inquiries in a timely manner.

#### **2004**

**March** A *Child Care Stabilization Grant Survey* was distributed to child care facilities that had received the Nova Scotia Child Care Stabilization Grant. Preliminary analysis showed an increase in the level of training of early childhood staff from 2001 to 2004 and that the grant has enhanced the salaries of early childhood educators.

**September** Effective September 8, 2004, the maximum group size for school-age children was changed from 25 to 30.

**2004/2005** The Child Care Subsidy Program Review entailed a review of subsidy rate structures for maximizing the utilization of subsidized child care spaces by eligible families across the province and options for revising grant funding to child care centres.

**2005** The Child Care Stabilization Grant Utilization Statement for 2005/06 noted that of the total number of full-time equivalent early childhood staff working in licensed child care facilities, 71% were graduates of degree/diploma programs and 18% had completed their equivalency.

## RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN CHILD CARE AND OTHER ECEC SERVICES

**2007/08** The following initiatives were undertaken in 2007/08 as part of the Early Learning and Child Care Plan:

The Plan launched a new Family Home Day Care program in Nova Scotia to give parents the option of a regulated child care service in a monitored home setting. The program provides parents with access to fee assistance through the subsidy program and supports parents who are employed or training for employment.

One hundred new subsidized child care spaces. In addition, 389 fixed subsidy spaces were converted to portable subsidy spaces, allowing more families to move from one centre or region to access licensed child care.

The Repair and Renovation project provided financial assistance to both commercial and nonprofit child care centres to improve or enhance their physical plant and grounds by doing repairs, renovations and improvements, including energy upgrades and accessibility modifications for children and families with identified special needs. This grant provided funding to 35 centres. In 2007, approximately \$1 million was announced for approved licensed commercial and nonprofit child care centres to improve or enhance their centres.

The Expansion and Replacement project provided financial assistance to both commercial and nonprofit licensed child care centres to expand their capacity in the form of low-interest loans. These loans provided funding to centres to increase their capacity by approximately 500 spaces.

The Plan provided annual funding to the child care centres in the form of a Child Care Operating Grant (CCOG) used primarily to enhance salary and benefits to staff of the centres, with the aim of providing a foundation for retention and recruitment of staff, as well as to aid with other operational expenses. This grant provided funding to 243 full-day centres and 87 part-day centres.

The Outdoor Play Space program provided one-time funding to 272 licensed child care centres and licensed family home day care agencies for the creation and maintenance of natural, stimulating outdoor play spaces to encourage healthy development and physical fitness.

The Program Enhancement Grant provided one-time funding for approximately 358 licensed child care centres and licensed family home day care agencies to increase their capacity to offer a high quality early learning environment for the development and/or enhancement of the child care program.

## 2008

### January Enhancements to Child Care Stabilization Grant

- The grant funding amount was enhanced, retroactive to April 1, 2007. The Child Care Stabilization Grant Utilization Statement for 2007/08 noted that of the total number of full-time equivalent early childhood staff working in licensed full-day facilities, 69% were graduates of degree/ diploma programs and 17% had completed equivalency.

### Online Directory of Licensed Child Care Facilities

- The Department developed a new online resource to help parents search for licensed child care by facility name or location. The Directory lists the licensing status of child care centres across the province.

### Food and Nutrition Support in Licensed Child Care Facilities

- Department of Community Service co-chairs, with the Department of Health Promotion and Protection (HPP), the Food and Nutrition Support in Licensed Child Care Facilities Provincial Advisory Group. The Group informs the development of a comprehensive food and nutrition policy for licensed child care facilities.

### ECE Equivalency Project Review Initiative

- This project is reviewing the equivalency of credentialing processes for early childhood educators throughout the province. It is intended to lead to a more streamlined equivalency review process, enabling clarity in design and function.

**February** The Department of Community Services held two consultation sessions to discuss the proposed amendments to the Day Care Regulations. A consultation paper was circulated in advance to participants (available on the Department of Community Services website).

## ■ KEY PROVINCIAL EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE ORGANIZATIONS

Nova Scotia Child Care Association  
c/o Suite 100, 1200 Tower Road  
Halifax, NS, B3H 4K6  
Telephone: (902) 423-8199 / 1-800-565-8199  
Facsimile: (902) 492-8106  
Website: [www.cccns.org/nscca.htm](http://www.cccns.org/nscca.htm)

Child Care Connections Nova Scotia  
Suite 100, 1200 Tower Road  
Halifax, NS, B3H 4K6  
Telephone: (902) 423-8199 / 1-800-565-8199  
Facsimile: (902) 492-8106  
Website: [www.cccns.org](http://www.cccns.org)

Certification Council of Early Childhood Educators of Nova Scotia  
c/o 100 1200 Tower Road  
Halifax, NS, B3H 4K6  
Telephone: (902) 423-8199 or 1-800-565-8199  
Website: [www.cccns.org/cet/home.html](http://www.cccns.org/cet/home.html)

Non-Profit Director's Association  
c/o Point Pleasant Child Care Centre  
5651 Ogilvie Street  
Halifax, NS B3H 1B9  
Telephone: (902) 422-5435

Private Licensed Administrators Association  
2695 Dutch Village Road  
Halifax, NS, B3L 4G5

Société Provinciale des Intervenant(e)s du Prescolaire (SPIP)  
CP 117  
Pointe de L'Eglise, NS, B0W 1M0

## TEACHERS' ORGANIZATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS

Nova Scotia Teachers' Union  
3106 Joseph Howe Dr.  
Halifax, N.S. B3L 4L7  
Telephone (902) 477-5621 / 1-800-565-6788  
Facsimile (902) 477-3517  
Website: [www.nstu.ca](http://www.nstu.ca)

