

Nunavut

TERRITORIAL CONTEXT

Number of children 0-12 yrs

Information not available.

Children 0-12 yrs with mothers in the paid labour force

Information not available.

Children 0-14 yrs identifying with an Aboriginal group

Information not available.

Children 0-9 yrs with disabilities residing at home

Information not available. See Territorial Context, NWT.

Workforce participation of women by age of youngest child

Information not available.

FAMILY-RELATED LEAVE

Maternity leave

17 weeks.

Parental leave

37 weeks may be shared between the parents. 52 weeks is the maximum allowed for combined maternity and parental leave.

Adoption leave

37 weeks.

Births and EI maternity claims

Number of births (2000): 727

Number of initial maternity claims allowed (2000-2001): 180

Note: Territorial leaves are unpaid. The federal government pays for some portions under Employment Insurance. See federal ecec programs for more information.

KINDERGARTEN

LEGISLATION

Nunavut. Legislative Assembly. *Bill 1: Education Act*. 2002. (Legislation not yet passed)*

Northwest Territories. Legislative Assembly. *Education Act*. 1995, R.S.N.W.T. c.28.

**Note: The Nunavut Act, S.C. 1993, c.28 as amended brought Nunavut into being on April 1, 1999. Laws passed by the Government of the Northwest Territories during this period were inherited by the Government*

of Nunavut upon its creation. The Government of Nunavut is currently in the process of passing its own education legislation.

TERRITORIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR KINDERGARTEN

Department of Education.

KINDERGARTEN SERVICES

KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten is delivered in public schools under regional school operations. It is available to all five year olds in Nunavut on a part-time basis. There is a requirement for no less than 485 hours and no more than 6 hours/day instructional hours per year.

Kindergarten is currently not compulsory in Nunavut but the new Education Act makes it compulsory. Access is legislated: it is an entitlement.

AGE ELIGIBILITY

Five years old by December 31.

CLASS SIZE

There is no territorial class size limit. The average/mean class size is 22.

There is no provincial policy regarding teaching assistants.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

There is a policy of inclusion; children with special needs have the right to be in a regular class with children their own age and in their own community. Extra supports such as student support assistants, Individual Education Plans, and specialists provided through Health are available.

KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT

Five year olds (2001): 655

TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

Must be a certified teacher (B.Ed) or have a Letter of Authority. There is no early childhood requirement.

There is no provincial policy regarding training for assistants.

CURRICULUM

There is a two year development process underway to develop a territorial curriculum. The process includes a group of elders. The curriculum will be grounded in

cultural traditions and language and will also integrate High/Scope materials (U.S.) within a Northern context.

SPENDING ON KINDERGARTEN (2001)

Information is not available.

SPECIAL FEATURES

Instruction in Inuktitut is provided from kindergarten to Grade 3. A transition to English in Grade 4 with some Inuktitut follows from that point on. (It should be noted that 95% of the children have a first language other than English or French).

REGULATED CHILD CARE

LEGISLATION

Nunavut. Legislative Assembly. The Northwest Territories Child Day Care Act and the Child Day Care Standards and Regulations 1988.

TERRITORIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILD CARE

Kathy Okpik
Assistant Deputy Minister
Adult Education, Career and Early Childhood Services
Department of Education, Government of Nunavut
Box 1000, Station 980
Iqaluit, Nunavut X0A 0H0
Telephone: (867) 975-5600
Facsimile: (867) 975-5635

Leslie Leafloor
Early Childhood Program
Telephone: (867) 975-5607
E mail: lleafloor@gov.nu.ca

CHILD CARE SERVICES

UNREGULATED CHILD CARE

Unregulated family child care

Maximum number of children permitted: 4

Figure includes the caregiver's own children up to 12 years.

REGULATED CHILD CARE

Day care centres

Group care, instruction and supervision for five or more children aged 0-12 years by a person who is not a relative of the majority of the children.

Nursery schools

Programs for children less than six years of age for four consecutive hours or less a day, including Aboriginal Head Start Programs.

After-school care

Care outside school hours for school-aged children up to and including 11 years of age.

Family day homes

Care in a private home for up to eight children under 12 years (including the caregiver's own children).

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

There are no segregated child care programs for children with special needs.

Care providers are funded to provide extra support for children with special needs through the daily operating grants which are based on the age of the child and the area in which the centre is located. The operating grant for a preschool child is increased by approximately 50% for a child with an identified special need and is an entitlement.

In order for the centre to receive the additional funding for a child, a letter from a recognized health care professional is required. In addition, centres may apply for funding to the Healthy Children's Initiative for adaptive equipment or for a one-on-one worker if necessary.

Parents are eligible for fee subsidy for their children with special needs even if they are not employed or at school. This subsidy eligibility requires a financial needs assessment to be applied and parents must have a medical referral from a recognized health care professional for the child to be in developmental care.

ABORIGINAL CHILD CARE

Since 1996, the First Nations and Inuit Child Care Initiative (FNICCI) has been responsible for the development of approximately 20 centres in what is now Nunavut. In Nunavut, there are three Aboriginal Human Resource Development Strategy (AHRDAS) regional offices, one in each of Nunavut's three regions*. Each regional AHRDAS office took on the responsibility for the delivery and administration of the Inuit Childcare Program

in their Region which is the program established with FNICCI funding.

In addition to providing capital funding for new child care centres, all centres in Nunavut (with the exception of seven Aboriginal Head Start programs that are funded through Health Canada) receive operating funds through the Inuit Childcare Program. Each AHRDAS office provides block funding to the child care centres and may fund proposals for one-time funding for repairs and renovations. In addition, the AHRDAS may provide a fee subsidy to Land-Claim Beneficiary parents that is in addition to the regular fee subsidy funded through Early Childhood Services.

The Inuit Childcare Program spends approximately \$3 million/year on child care in Nunavut.

** Note: In April 1999, the federal government launched the Aboriginal Human Resource Development Strategy (AHRDAS) within Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC). Each of the HRDC regions entered into an Aboriginal Human Resources Development Agreement with various Aboriginal organizations across Canada.*

SPACE STATISTICS

Number of regulated child care spaces (2001/02)

Centres	
Infants (under two yrs)	161
Preschoolers	671
After-school	100
Total regulated spaces	932

There are 42 centres.

Note: There are currently no regulated family child care homes.

Children with special needs in regulated child care

Information not available.

Number of children in regulated child care receiving subsidies

Information not available.

Subsidized children as a proportion of total regulated spaces

Information not available.

Sponsorship of regulated centre spaces (2001)

Non-profit 932

Note: All child care centres in Nunavut are non-profit.

STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS**REGULATED CENTRES****Maximum centre size**

Not specified.

Maximum staff:child ratios and group sizes

Age	Staff:child ratios	Max. group sizes
0-12 mos	1:3	6
13-24 mos	1:4	8
25-35 mos	1:6	12
3 yrs	1:8	16
4 yrs	1:9	18
5-11 yrs	1:10	20

Staff qualification requirements

Must be at least 19 years of age, have a first-aid certificate and represent the cultural background of the children.

There are no early childhood training requirements at this time.

Parent involvement

The legislation requires non-profit programs whose boards of directors do not have a minimum of 51% parent members to have a parent committee with a minimum of 51% parent members.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

Licenses are granted for one year. Annual inspections of all licensed child care centres are conducted by an Early Childhood Officer from the Department of Education, the Public Health Department, and the Fire Marshall's office. It is recommended that the Early Childhood Officer have a background in early childhood education.

REGULATED FAMILY CHILD CARE**Regulation**

Individually licensed.

Maximum capacity

Maximum of eight children under 12 years (including the provider's children). No more than six of the eight children may be five years or under, no more than three children may be under three years, and no more than two children may be under two years.

Provider qualification requirements

A provider must be a minimum of 19 years of age and have a first-aid certificate. There are no early childhood training requirements.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

Homes are visited at least once a year by staff from the Early Childhood Program and a representative from each of the Public Health Department and the Fire Marshall's office.

FUNDING**CHILD CARE FEE SUBSIDY PROGRAM**

Fee subsidies may be used in both regulated and unregulated child care. Subsidies are paid directly to service providers on behalf of eligible parents if the child care is a regulated service. In the case of unregulated care, the subsidy is paid to the parent and is based on an attendance report signed by the child care provider.

The intention of the subsidy program is to provide assistance for the parent to work or take part in a training program. Eligibility is determined by a needs assessment which takes into consideration parent costs and family size as well as income. An unregulated provider may be a relative of a parent of the child being subsidized.

Eligibility for fee subsidy

Eligibility varies with clients' actual housing, utility and child care costs, plus social assistance rates for food and clothing. To be eligible for a fee subsidy, parents must be working, attending school or a training program, or have a child with a special need, for whom child care is recommended by a recognized health care professional.

A needs assessment is applied so there is no set break-even point.

There is no territory-wide maximum subsidy. Maximums are set for the type of care.

Maximum subsidy rate/child/month (2001)

	Full-time care	Part-time care
Licensed centre	\$700/month/child	\$350/month/child
Licensed family day home	\$600/month/child	\$300/month/child
Unlicensed care	\$500/month/child	\$250/month/child
After-school care		— \$145/month/child

There is no minimum user fee and programs may surcharge subsidized parents.

PUBLIC FUNDING FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE (2001)**One-time funding***Start-up funding*

Available to non-profit licensed centres and family day homes, including part-time, infant, after-school and special needs spaces. Funding ranges from \$263-\$3,420/space depending on the geographic area of the program and the ages of children served.

Recurring funding*Operating funding*

Available to non-profit, licensed centres and family day homes from \$1.93-\$15.67/occupied space/day depending on the age of the child and the location of the program.

TERRITORIAL ALLOCATIONS FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE (2001)

Fee subsidies	\$530,000*
Start-up and operating grants	1,335,000**
Total	\$1,865,000

*Note: The fee subsidy budget includes spending on both regulated and unregulated child care.

**Note: Breakdown between one-time start-up and ongoing operating grants is not available.

Other funding

Funding through the Inuit Childcare Program: \$3,000,000 (approximate)

The Healthy Children's Initiative spends approximately \$259,000 for supportive services for children with special needs. There is no breakdown of how much of the funding is spent in regulated child care.

SALARIES

Gross hourly wage for centre-based child care staff (full- and part-time staff combined) (2000)

	Range	Average
Untrained	\$9.50–15.00	\$13.00
ECE certificate	11.00–21.25	15.00
ECE diploma	11.00–26.22	18.00
Director/supervisors	12.00–25.00	20.00

Source: Information collected in 2000 by territorial officials.

Family child care

Information not available

FEES

Median monthly parent fees for centre-based full-time care (2000)

Infants (Age 0-17 mos)	\$577.00
Toddlers (Age 18 mos-3 yrs)	577.00
Preschool (Age 3-5.11 yrs)	577.00
School-age	n/a

Source: Information collected in 2000 by territorial officials.

Average daily fee in family child care

Information not available.

ADMINISTRATION

The Adult Education, Career and Early Childhood Services Division of the Department of Education is responsible for the development of standards, the regulation of child care services, contributions to child care programs and the development of a territorial child care system. Five Early Childhood Officers within the three regions of Nunavut are responsible for licensing and monitoring child care programs. The Income Support Division of the Department of Education is responsible for the administration of fee subsidy.

MUNICIPAL AND OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENT ROLE

Child care programs may be under the auspice of District Education Authorities who may hold the license.

CHILD CARE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

There is no territorial plan for the development of child care. New centres must complete a needs assessment before they are eligible to apply for start-up funding.

HISTORY OF CHILD CARE AND OTHER ECEC SERVICES

Note: Before Nunavut was established in 1999, it was part of the Northwest Territories.

1971 First child care centre to receive territorial government funding was opened in Iqaluit (then known as Frobisher Bay). It taught children in both English and Inuktitut syllabics and had four Inuit child care workers.

1970s Child care centres set up at the instigation of parents and community members. Funding was generally through the federal government. Local Initiative Project (LIP) grants with some user subsidy for parents in need from the Territorial government were used.

1974 *The Policy Respecting Day Care Services* noted that while numerous child care services were in operation, only two were receiving operational financial support from the Territory (the original centre in Iqaluit and a second centre in Yellowknife).

1976 The Territory finalized a policy on fee subsidies for child care centres, family day care, and after-school programs.

1980 The Territory adopted the *Policy Respecting Subsidized Day Care in the Northwest Territories* which considered costs and income to determine eligibility for subsidization of children in unregulated child care.

1983 Establishment of the Northwest Territories Child Care Association which circulated voluntary standards for child care centres.

1985 The territorial government hired a Day Care Consultant to review child care issues and make recommendations.

1988 The government enacted its first child care legislation, *The Northwest Territories Child Day Care Act*.

The Advisory Council on the Status of Women released a policy paper on child care, *Position Paper on Child Care*, which outlined a comprehensive program to develop a system of child care services.

The first early childhood education training program in the Northwest Territories was opened in Arctic College in Iqaluit and was delivered in both English and Inuktitut.

1989 A consultant was hired by the Native Council of Canada to research the specific child care needs of native peoples in the Northwest Territories.

The Interim Day Care program came into force in April.

1993 Child care responsibilities were moved from the Department of Social Services to the Department of Education, Culture and Employment.

1996 The major initiative was early intervention.

1997 The Healthy Children Initiative was launched to provide funding to communities to enhance existing early childhood programs and services for children aged 0-6. In addition, licensing and monitoring was decentralized to five regions. With decentralization and additional staffing, the function of licensing staff moved away from a strictly monitoring role to more of a program development focus.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN CHILD CARE AND OTHER ECEC SERVICES

April 1999 The Territory of Nunavut was created and responsibility for all programs in the Eastern Arctic moved to the new territory. Nunavut has initially adopted the child care legislation and regulations of the Northwest Territories and they will be reviewed in the future.

September 2000 The Children First Secretariat, made up of the Departments of Education, Justice, Health and Social Services, and Culture, Language, Elders and Youth was formed. This committee is designed to facilitate the coordination of programs and services that promote the healthy development and well-being of all children and youth across Nunavut.

2001 Nunavut received \$300,000 in Early Childhood Development Initiatives funding. The funding was allocated to pre-natal and home care programs.

2002 Responsibility for Child Care Programs moved from the Early Childhood and School Services Division to the Adult Education, Career and Early Childhood Services Division of the Department of Education. The budget for operating and start up grants was increased by \$438,000 or approximately 25%.

KEY TERRITORIAL ECEC ORGANIZATIONS

Nunavut Inuit Childcare Association
Box 459
Pond Inlet, NU X0A 0S0
(established summer 2001)