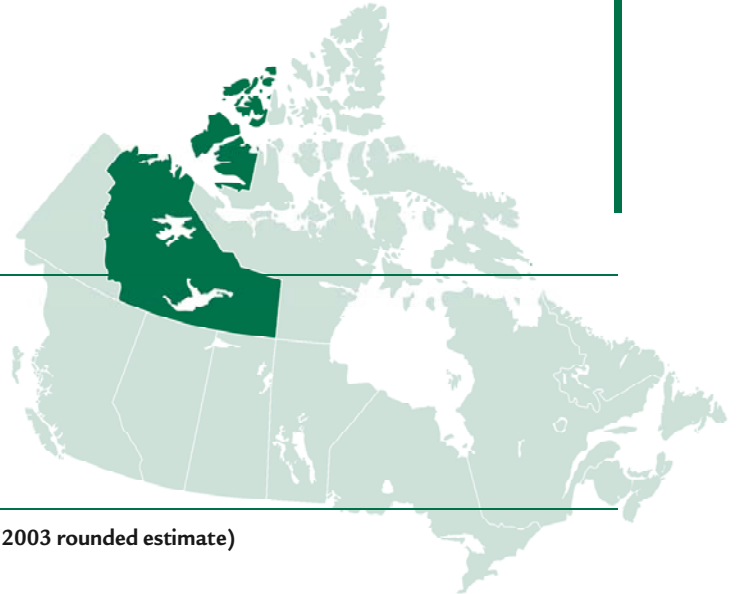


Northwest Territories



TERRITORIAL CONTEXT

Number of children 0-12 yrs (2003 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0-2	2,200
3-5	2,100
6-12	5,000
Total	9,300

Children 0-12 yrs with mothers in the paid labour force (2003 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0-2	1,100
3-5	1,300
6-12	3,200
Total	5,600

Children 0-14 identifying with an Aboriginal group (2001)

Age	North American					Total
	Indian	Metis	Inuit	Multiple	Other	
0-4	1,070	330	400	25	50	1,875
5-9	1,250	410	500	25	55	2,240
10-14	1,215	450	505	30	45	2,245
Total	3,535	1,190	1,405	80	150	6,360

Children 0-9 with disabilities residing at home

Information not available

Number of children by marital status of families (2001)

Age	Children in couple families	Children in lone parent	(with lone mothers)	(with lone fathers)
0-4	2,385	580	460	120
5-9	2,735	790	630	160
10-14	2,635	820	640	175
Total	7,755	2,190	1,730	455

Number of children by mother tongue (2001)

Age	English	French	Non-official language
0-4	2,630	45	295
5-9	3,230	45	310
10-14	3,135	40	330
Total	8,995	130	935

Number and percentage of children living in families below the LICO (2002)

Information not available

Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child (2001)

	Number of mothers in the labour force	Participation Rate
With children at home	5,060	76.1
Children under 6 years only	925	69.0
With at least one child under 2 years	455	64.1
Children 2-5 years only	470	75.2
Children under 6 years as well as children 6 years and over	945	73.3
Children 6 years and over only	3,195	79.6
Youngest child 6-14 years	2,090	84.4

Source: Statistics Canada, 2001 Census

FAMILY-RELATED LEAVE

Maternity leave

Seventeen weeks

Parental leave

Thirty-seven weeks may be shared between the parents. Fifty-two weeks is the maximum allowed for combined maternity and parental leave.

Adoption leave

Thirty-seven weeks

Births and EI maternity and parental claims (2003)

Number of births	636
Birth rate per 1,000 population	15.3
Number of initial maternity claims allowed	350
Average length of maternity claims	14.5 weeks
Number of parental claims	430
Average length of parental claim	22.8 weeks
Number of adoptive parent claims	0
Average length of adoptive claim	n/a

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 \$413/week. See federal ECEC programs for more information.

KINDERGARTEN

LEGISLATION

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

The legislation applies to public and private schools.

There is a departmental directive that provides additional guidelines (funding and reporting, administration, monitoring and education program) for private schools.

TERRITORIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten contact

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Director

Early Childhood and School Services

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KINDERGARTEN SERVICES

The Northwest Territories funds and delivers denominational education. Both “public” and Catholic school boards are publicly funded.

Kindergarten is delivered in public and private schools. It is available to all five year olds in the Northwest Territories on a part-time basis. There is a maximum of 570 hours and a minimum of 485 instructional hours a year. Decisions about hours of instruction are made by school boards.

Kindergarten is not compulsory in the Northwest Territories. Access is a legislated entitlement.

AGE ELIGIBILITY

Five years old by December 31

CLASS SIZE

There is no territorial class size limit.

Mean kindergarten class size 2003/04: Information not available

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

There is a policy of inclusion of children with special needs. Children have access to the education program in a regular instructional classroom setting. Boards are required to provide support to make this possible through School Support funding. There is an exemption from inclusion for children with extreme needs; the child may be in a treatment centre instead of classroom.

The number of kindergarten children with identified special needs is not available.

ENROLMENT (2003/04)

Number of children enrolled in kindergarten (the year before Grade 1): 615

Enrolment includes children from all public and private schools.

KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS

Qualification requirements: A Teaching Certificate (B.Ed. or post secondary degree plus one year course work in a Faculty of Education) or one of the following three levels of education and experience specific to kindergarten:

- *Interim Kindergarten Teaching Certificate*: two-year diploma in Early Childhood plus 25 hours of teacher training
- *Standard Kindergarten Teaching Certificate*: Holds an interim Kindergarten Teaching Certificate and has completed two academic years of teaching
- *Kindergarten Specialist Certificate*: Holds a Standard Kindergarten Teaching Certificate and has successfully completed a one year teacher training program approved by the Registrar.

Teachers are required to take 120 hours of professional development over 5 years, with a minimum of 15 hours each year.

Responsibility for certification: NWT Teacher Qualification Service

Representation: Northwest Territories Teachers' Association

Average salary (2003/04): Information not available

CLASSROOM ASSISTANTS

Title: Education Assistant

Qualifications: No qualifications required

There is no territorial policy regarding Education Assistants. However, student support funding is provided to school boards based on the number of students and the school board makes the decisions regarding assistants.

Role: Assistants usually work with students who have special needs. Some assistants provide support as language specialists. Roles vary at the discretion of the boards, as they are provided with block funding to allocate as they see fit.

Unionization varies by position; some are with Union of Northern Workers, others belong to the NWT Teachers' Association.

Average wage: Information not available

CURRICULUM

The approved Kindergarten curriculum for the NWT is *Children First: A Curriculum Guide for Kindergarten* (1994, Saskatchewan) – it includes NWT content in most subject areas.

SOURCES OF FUNDING FOR KINDERGARTEN

Sources of funding for school boards: The territorial government provides block funding to boards according to a formula. There is some additional targeted/dedicated funding for Aboriginal Languages.

There is a provision for fees for programs offered outside of the regular curriculum but schools have chosen not to charge any fees.

Private schools receive some funding from the NWT (40% of the adjusted school funding formula for the district). There are two funded private schools in NWT.

SPENDING ON KINDERGARTEN (2003/04)

Average spending per kindergarten student

Estimate \$5,900 (half of the \$11,800 FTE funding the board receives per K-12 student). This amount excludes capital.

Total territorial spending on kindergarten

\$3,628,500

SPECIAL FEATURES

The NWT is the only jurisdiction in Canada where Aboriginal languages are recognized as Official Languages alongside English and French (there are 11 official languages in NWT).

Currently, legislation does not allow for full-day kindergarten but a number of boards are offering half-day kindergarten with half-day Early Childhood programs focusing on Francisation and literacy. Programs are co-located, may be coordinated and parents may pay a fee depending on funder and type of program.

REGULATED CHILD CARE

LEGISLATION

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

TERRITORIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILD CARE

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Website: http://www.ece.gov.nt.ca/Divisions/Early_Childhood/index.htm

CHILD CARE SERVICES

UNREGULATED CHILD CARE

Unregulated family child care

Maximum number of children permitted: Four including 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

After-school care

Care outside school hours for school-aged children up to and including 11 years of age, not exceeding five hours outside the required school program

Note: There are no regulated after-school care programs that operate during the summer months.

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 to children with special needs, through higher operating grants, funded at the infant rate. Parents may be eligible for fee subsidies for their children with special needs even if they are not employed or at school. They must meet the same financial eligibility requirements as other parents receiving subsidy, and have a medical referral from a recognized health care official for the child to be in developmental care.

ABORIGINAL CHILD CARE

The Northwest Territories is comprised of Inuit and Dene communities outside the capital City of Yellowknife. The majority of community-based programs are equally available to all children. The Aboriginal Head Start programs are the only programs targeted specifically towards Aboriginal children. However, they may include non-Aboriginal children if their capacity allows.

SPACE STATISTICS (2003/04)

Number of regulated child care spaces

<i>Centre spaces</i>	
Infant (0-2 years)	81
Preschool (2-5 years)	721
After-school (6-12 years)	161
<i>Family child care spaces</i>	
Infant (0-2 years)	64
Preschool (2-5 years)	128
After-school (6-12 years)	64
Total regulated spaces	1,219

Note: All centres are licensed for full-time spaces even though many operate as part-day nursery schools/playschools.

Numbers of centres and homes	
Number of child care centres	49
- Number of full-day child care centres	19
- Number of part-day nursery schools/preschools	21
- Number of stand-alone school age centres	9
Number of licensed family child care providers	32
Number of children with special needs in regulated child care	
Information not available	
Number of children receiving subsidies	
Information not available	
Sponsorship of regulated centre spaces	
Currently all centres are non-profit and family day homes are considered to be non-profit.	
Openings and closings	
New centre licenses issued	1
Number of centre closures	4
Number of new family child care licenses issued 2003/04	7
Number of family child care homes that closed in 2003/04	2

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 and have a first-aid certificate and a clear criminal record with regard to offences respecting a child.

There are no early childhood training requirements.

Parent involvement

The legislation requires non-profit programs to have boards of directors with at least 51% parent members. For-profit programs are required to establish and confirm in writing with the Director of Early Childhood and School Services a plan for involving the parents or guardians of children attending the centre in the operation of the program.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

Licenses may be granted for 3-5 years, often issued in conjunction with annual inspections. All licensed child care centres are inspected by an Early Childhood Consultant from the Early Childhood Program, the Public Health Department, and Fire Marshall's office. The Early Childhood Consultant is required to have a background in early childhood education, either an ECE credential and four years experience at the supervisory level in a child care centre, or a teaching credential and six years front-line child care experience.

REGULATED FAMILY CHILD CARE

Regulation

Individually licensed

Maximum capacity

Maximum of eight children under 12 years (including the provider's own 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 and a clear criminal record with regard to offences respecting a child.

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. Licenses are usually issued in conjunction with annual inspections.

FUNDING

CHILD CARE SUBSIDY PROGRAM

Fee subsidies are paid directly to the parents unless the parent requests that the regulated child care service is paid directly. In the case of unregulated care, the subsidy is paid to the parent based on an invoice signed by the child care provider.

The intention of the subsidy program is to provide assistance for the parent to work, take part in a training program or school. Eligibility is determined by an income test that takes into consideration parent costs and family size as well as income.

Subsidies are payable to any regulated for-profit or non-profit service or for an unregulated arrangement.

The Child Care Subsidy Program was last reviewed in December 2003. This program is the responsibility of the Government's Income Support division.

Eligibility for fee subsidy

Eligibility varies according to the number of family members, actual shelter costs, community of residence, and eligibility for enhanced benefits such as disability allowance and educational expenses. These needs are based on Income Assistance Program schedules.

The lower of the maximum monthly entitlement or the actual monthly child care cost is used when calculating the monthly entitlement.

Maximum child care subsidy rates are as follows:

Type of Care	Maximum Monthly Rate	Maximum Daily Rate
<i>Full-time</i>		
Regulated centre	\$700	\$32
Regulated day home	600	28
Unregulated care	500	23
<i>Part-time</i>		
Regulated centre	\$350	\$16
Regulated day home	300	14
Unregulated care	250	11
After-school	145	7

PUBLIC FUNDING FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE (2003/04)

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 \$1,800-\$3,420/ space. There are ten different rates based on the cost of living in different parts of the territory.

Operating funding

Available to non-profit, licensed centres and family day homes from \$3.00-\$22.80/occupied space/day, depending on the age of the child and the location of the program. For example, in Yellowknife an infant space receives \$12.00/day and a preschool space \$8.00; in Aklavik the rates are \$18.00 and \$12.00 respectively; and in Paulatuk they are \$22.80 and \$15.20. Family child care homes and centres receive the same amounts in operating grants.

TERRITORIAL ALLOCATIONS FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE (2003/04)

Fee subsidies	*\$1,042,000
Start-up and operating grants	**1,500,000
Total	\$2,542,000

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

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

Note: All licensed non-profit centres and family child care homes are eligible for start-up and operating funding. The funding is available on a first-come, first-served basis; however, to date there have been no waiting lists and all eligible centres receive the operating funds.

SALARIES

Mean gross hourly wage for centre-based child care staff (full- and part-time staff combined) (1998)

Assistant teachers	\$12.07
Teachers	13.40
Teacher-directors	19.32
Administrative directors	Not applicable

Source: *You Bet I Care!* Current information is not available.

Family child care

Information not available

FEES

Median monthly parent fees for centre-based full-time care (2001)

Infants and preschool average	\$600/month
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Source: Reported by territorial officials. More recent information is not available.

Average daily fee in family child care

Information not available

ADMINISTRATION

The Early Childhood Program of the Department of Education, Culture and Employment is responsible for the development of standards, the regulation of child care services, fee subsidy administration, contributions and program development support to child care programs.

MUNICIPAL OR OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENT ROLE

There is no local government role.

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.

RELATED PROGRAMS

The Territorial Government provides communities with funding through the Healthy Children Initiative to enhance existing early childhood programs and services. This funding is provided to each community using a population formula and interested non-profit groups may submit proposals to regional management committees for review.

HISTORY OF CHILD CARE AND OTHER ECEC SERVICES

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 federal government Local Initiative Project (LIP) grants with some user subsidy for parents in need from the territorial government.

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 child 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, *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 at 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.

1994 The Child Day Care Program became a permanent program of the Government of the NWT and the program's name was changed to the Early Childhood Program.

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 0-6 years. As well, the licensing and monitoring function 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.

1998 Arctic College began distance delivery of the Early Childhood Education Certificate program in partnership with Yukon College.

April 1 1999 The territory of Nunavut was created and responsibility for all programs in the Eastern Arctic moved to the new territory. Initially, Nunavut adopted the child care legislation and regulations of the Northwest Territories.

2001 The Early Childhood Development Framework for Action and Action Plan were launched. The Framework identifies key priorities for the enhancement of existing early childhood programs, including licensed child care. The Northwest Territories allocated \$2 million to the Framework for Action, which was supplemented by the Early Childhood Development Initiative allocation of \$400,000.

April 1 2002 Operating contributions were increased. Operational funding is available to non-profit, licensed centres and family day homes from \$2.00-\$22.80/occupied space/day, depending on the age of the child and the location of the program.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN CHILD CARE AND OTHER ECEC SERVICES

May 2003 Aurora College (formerly Arctic College) had the first five graduates from the distance education Early Childhood Education Certificate program.

2003/04 As a result of recruitment efforts by the Child Care Consultants there was a considerable increase in the number of regulated family child care providers – from 27 to 39. This expansion took place primarily in the communities surrounding Yellowknife.

2003/04 The \$33,000 received in the Multilateral Framework Agreement funding was used to support post-secondary Early Childhood Education. The 2004/05 allocation is being used to fund a Regulation Review including the cost of community consultation.

KEY TERRITORIAL ECEC ORGANIZATIONS

There is no territorial child care organization.

TEACHERS' ORGANIZATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS

Northwest Territories Teachers' Association
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