

# Prince Edward Island

## PROVINCIAL CONTEXT

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### Number of children 0-12 yrs (2001 rounded estimate)

| Age        | Number of children |
|------------|--------------------|
| 0-2        | 4,600              |
| 3-5        | 5,100              |
| 6-12       | 13,000             |
| Total 0-12 | 22,600             |

*Note: Total may not add up due to rounding.*

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### Children 0-12 yrs with mothers in the paid labour force (2001 rounded estimate)

| Age        | Number of children |
|------------|--------------------|
| 0-2        | 3,200              |
| 3-5        | 3,500              |
| 6-12       | 10,100             |
| Total 0-12 | 16,900             |

*Note: Total may not add up due to rounding.*

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### Children 0-14 yrs identifying with an Aboriginal group (1996)

| Age   | North American Indian | Métis | Inuit |
|-------|-----------------------|-------|-------|
| 0-4   | 280                   | 10    | nil   |
| 5-9   | 255                   | 50    | nil   |
| 10-14 | 260                   | 35    | 10    |

*Note: These 1996 data are the most recent currently available.*

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### Children 0-14 yrs with disabilities (2001)

| Age            | Number of children with disabilities | Rate of children with disabilities (%) |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| 0-4            | 170                                  | 2.3                                    |
| 5-9            | 360                                  | 4.0                                    |
| 10-14          | 400                                  | 4.1                                    |
| Total 0-14 yrs | 940                                  | 3.5                                    |

*Note: Total may not add up due to rounding.*

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### Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child (2001 rounded estimate)

| Age of youngest child | No. of mothers | Participation rate (%) |
|-----------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| 0-3                   | 3,000          | 76.9                   |
| 3-5                   | 2,000          | 79.3                   |
| 6-15                  | 8,000          | 85.4                   |

*Note: The numbers of mothers were incorrectly stated in the previous edition of this publication (2000).*

## **FAMILY-RELATED LEAVE**

### **Maternity leave**

17 weeks.

### **Parental leave**

35 weeks. The total parental leave for both parents cannot exceed 35 weeks.

### **Adoption Leave**

52 weeks. The combined total leave for both parents cannot exceed 52 weeks.

### **Births and EI maternity claims**

Number of births (2000): 1,441

Number of initial maternity claims allowed (2000-2001): 920

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

## **KINDERGARTEN**

Prince Edward Island introduced publicly funded kindergarten in September 2000 for the first time.

## **LEGISLATION**

Prince Edward Island. Legislative Assembly. *School Act*. 1994. s. 82-85.

## **PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR KINDERGARTEN**

Department of Education.

Department of Health and Social Services.

The Department of Health and Social Services is responsible for licensing, teacher/staff certification and supports for children with special needs. The Department of Education is responsible for funding, curriculum development and in-service training.

## **KINDERGARTEN SERVICES**

### **KINDERGARTEN**

PEI's kindergarten programs operate within non-profit and for-profit child care centres under child care legislation. A kindergarten program must operate no less than three hours per day, five days per week or the equivalent, and provide 2.5 hours of instructional time (programs may operate for between five and 10 months in a 12 month period).

A three hour day is available at no charge to the parent. Parents whose children attend a full day in the child care service either pay fees for the balance of the day, or, if eligible, receive a child care subsidy.

Kindergarten programs are offered in 50 of the 54 full-day child care centres as well as in 54 part-day programs that provide only kindergarten for five year olds. Approximately 30-40% of these part-day centres are located in schools. To be in a school, a kindergarten must have a parent board and can only provide a half-day program.

Kindergarten is not compulsory. Parents are responsible for transportation. School boards will transport kindergarten age children on buses if there is room available.

While there are enough licensed spaces for every five year old, parents may not be able to access program of first choice.

## **AGE ELIGIBILITY**

Five years old by Jan 31.

## **CLASS SIZE**

There is no specified class size but child:teacher ratios of 1:12 are legislated under the *Child Care Facilities Act*.

## **CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

There is a philosophy of inclusion. Child specific special needs grants are available to centres for additional staffing from the Department of Health and Social Services. A school-aged child with a special need may attend a second year of kindergarten.

## **KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT (2000-01)**

Five year olds: 1,698

97% of eligible children attend (before public funding 85% of eligible children attended).

## **TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS**

Early Childhood Certification as outlined in the child care legislation is required.

## **CURRICULUM**

The Department of Education is introducing core components of the Atlantic Provinces Education Foundation curriculum K to 12 for Atlantic Provinces. Language arts and math are integrated into the curriculum, while the approach remains play-based in kindergarten.

## **SPENDING ON KINDERGARTEN**

Effective September 2001, the funding formula for kindergarten programs is as follows:

|                                 |                   |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Non-profit in schools           | \$150/month/child |
| Non-profit/kindergarten only    | \$160/month/child |
| Non-profit/combined program     | \$170/month/child |
| For-profit /kindergarten only   | \$180/month/child |
| For-profit /combined program    | \$200/month/child |
| Total spending for kindergarten | \$1,621,047       |

*Note: This reflects funding from September 2000, when publicly-funded kindergarten began, to March 31, 2001. Full year funding would be \$3.2 million.*

# REGULATED CHILD CARE

## LEGISLATION

Prince Edward Island. Legislative Assembly. *The Child Care Facilities Act*. 1988.

Prince Edward Island. Legislative Assembly. *Child Care Facilities Regulations*. 1988.

Prince Edward Island. Legislative Assembly. *The Welfare Act*. 1988.

## PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILD CARE

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## CHILD CARE SERVICES

### UNREGULATED CHILD CARE

#### **Unregulated family child care**

Maximum number of children permitted 5

If all children are under two years, three are allowed, or five preschoolers if not more than two of them are younger than two years. Six are allowed in a mixed-age group up to 10 years with no more than two younger than two years. Figures include the caregiver's own preschool-age children.

### REGULATED CHILD CARE

#### **Early childhood centres**

Group care for less than 24 hours/day for children from birth to seven years including half-day kindergartens for children aged five years old and half-day nursery schools for children aged 2-5 years.

#### **School-age child care centres**

Care outside school hours for school-age children (usually 6-12 years).

#### **Family day care homes**

Full-day care in a private home for mixed-age groups up to a maximum of seven children, including the provider's own children under 12, with a maximum of three children under two years.

#### **Occasional centres**

Care on a flexible basis for children between birth and 10 years.

## CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

There are no segregated child care programs for children with disabilities.

Centres may apply for a special needs grant on behalf of a child. A grant of up to \$11.50/hour based on the training and experience of the staff hired is available. Some documentation is required to receive the additional support but it is flexible and may include social need. Additional supports are covered whether or not the parent is subsidized. Parents of children with special needs are not required to be employed or in training to receive a subsidy.

Special needs funding usually provides for additional staff to lower the ratio. The funding is capped, and in 2001, there was a waiting list for the first time.

No specific training is required for staff to work with children with special needs.

A pilot project is underway with the Early Childhood Development Association of Prince Edward Island using the Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale for centres enrolling children with special needs.

## ABORIGINAL CHILD CARE

Prince Edward Island does not fund or license child care programs on-reserve. There are no First Nations/Inuit Child Care Initiative programs in PEI. There is one kindergarten centre on-reserve but it is not licensed.

The Abegweit First Nation on the Scotchfort reserve operates an Aboriginal Head Start program. It serves 2-6 year olds, operates from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and is unregulated.

## SPACE STATISTICS

### Number of regulated child care spaces (2001)

| Centre-based    | Full-time | Part-time* |
|-----------------|-----------|------------|
| Infants         | 75        | 5          |
| Preschool       | 1,243     | 511        |
| School-age      | —         | 519        |
| Kindergarten    | 600       | 1,099      |
| Special needs   | 120       | 44         |
| Total full-time | 2,038     |            |
| Total part-time |           | 2,178**    |

\*Note: Part-time includes spaces in part-time centres and part-time spaces in full-day centres.

\*\*Note: For purposes of comparison with other provinces, the figure 1,079 (excluding part-time kindergarten) is used.

|                        |       |
|------------------------|-------|
| Family child care      | 54    |
| Total regulated spaces | 4,270 |

**Children with special needs in regulated child care (1998)** 125

Note: Information for 2001 is not available.

**Children receiving subsidies (2001)** 1,072

**Subsidized children as a proportion of total regulated spaces (2001)** 34%

Note: For the purpose of comparison with other jurisdictions where kindergarten is in the public education system, this figure does not include part-day kindergarten.

### **Sponsorship of regulated spaces (2001)**

|            |       |
|------------|-------|
| Non-profit | 2,300 |
| For-profit | 1,970 |

## **STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS**

### REGULATED CENTRES

#### **Maximum centre size**

50 spaces

#### **Maximum staff/child ratios and group sizes**

| Age     | Staff:child ratios | Max. group sizes |
|---------|--------------------|------------------|
| 0-2 yrs | 1:3                | 6                |
| 2-3 yrs | 1:5                | not specified    |
| 3-5 yrs | 1:10               | not specified    |
| 5-6 yrs | 1:12               | not specified    |
| 7+ yrs  | 1:15               | not specified    |

#### **Staff qualification requirements**

Centre supervisors and one full time staff member in each program must have at least one year early childhood development diploma or university child study degree.

Thirty hours of in-service training every three years is required for all staff.

#### **Parent involvement**

Not specified.

#### **Licensing, monitoring and enforcement**

Each year, every centre is visited for licensing purposes by Early Childhood Services which observes programming, and by the Child Care Facilities Board, which concentrates primarily on administration. Annual inspections are required by the Fire Marshall's office and the Environmental Health Division of the Department of Health and Social Services.

If a centre is not in compliance with the legislation, it may operate under a regular license but is given a specific time-frame in which to comply. A centre may be permitted to have a provisional license for a period of six months or it may have its license revoked or not renewed. A centre receiving a provisional license or having its license revoked or not renewed may appeal directly to the Minister who then must establish an Appeal Board. This Board must conduct an inquiry and render a decision within 30 days.

The Department of Health and Social Services and the Early Childhood Development Association provides training to the staff of early childhood centres to use the Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale — Revised (ECERS-R) and the Canadian Supplementary Scale (CSS) developed for *You Bet I Care!* In addition, they also provide training to supervisors to use the SpecialLink Child Care Inclusion Profile (SCCIP) to maintain and/or improve inclusive environments.

The Department of Education has appointed a staff resource to the Child Care Facilities Board to be responsible for inspections in Kindergarten centres only.

### REGULATED FAMILY CHILD CARE

#### **Regulation**

Providers are individually licensed.

**Maximum capacity**

Up to seven children including the provider's own children under 12 years, with a maximum of three children under two years.

**Provider qualification requirements**

A 30 hour training program, two letters of reference and current first-aid certificate.

**Licensing, monitoring and enforcement**

Early Childhood Services conducts a program review using the Family Day Care Rating Scale. Annual inspections are made by a Child Care Facilities Board inspector, an inspector for the Fire Marshall's office and an Environmental Health officer.

**FUNDING****CHILD CARE FEE SUBSIDY PROGRAM**

Fee assistance is paid directly to service providers on behalf of eligible parents. Eligibility is determined by an income test and by social criteria: parent(s) working or studying; parental medical emergency; child in need of protection; children with special needs; and school readiness (for five year olds). Eligibility assessments are conducted in person at regional offices of the health authority.

The provincial fee subsidy budget is capped. It changed from an open-ended system to a limited one in 1992/93. If funds are unavailable, eligible families are placed on one of five regional waiting lists. However, there is no waiting list for subsidy.

Any regulated non-profit or for-profit child care program is eligible to enrol children receiving subsidies.

There is no minimum user fee. Centres and family day care homes may surcharge subsidized parents higher than the maximum subsidy. Approximately half the centres charge fees higher than the maximum subsidy but not all require subsidized parents to pay this difference.

Parents in receipt of social assistance have access to the Child Care Subsidy Program.

**Eligibility for fee subsidy (net income, 2001)**

|                       | Turning point | Break-even point |
|-----------------------|---------------|------------------|
| 1 parent, 1 child     | \$13,440      | \$25,440         |
| 2 parents, 2 children | 19,200        | 51,040           |

*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 (2001)**

|            |           |
|------------|-----------|
| 0-2 yrs    | \$24/ day |
| 2-3 yrs    | 20/ day   |
| 3+ yrs     | 19/ day   |
| School-age | 18/day    |

**PUBLIC FUNDING FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE (2001)**

All licensed non-profit and for-profit child care centres are eligible for all funding programs.

**One-time funding** None

## Recurring funding

### *Operating grants*

Full-day centre-based programs \$0.91/day/space

Part-time centre-based programs

– 12 children or fewer \$682/year

– 24 children or fewer \$1,092/year

– 50 children or fewer \$1,820/year

*Note: Funding is calculated according to months of operation and is less than stated above if the program operates less than 12 months a year.*

**Family day care homes** \$450/year

*Note: Operating funding has been frozen since 1992; approximately half the regulated centres and homes receive no funding.*

### *Infant incentive funding*

\$250/year. An annual grant provided to centres and family day care programs enrolling at least one child younger than two years on a regular basis for at least six months.

### *Special needs funding*

Available to centre-based and family day care programs to pay staff to provide individualized programming for children with special needs. The funding will cover wages up to \$11.50/hour based on training and experience.

## PROVINCIAL ALLOCATIONS FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE (2001)

**Child care fee subsidies** \$3,190,507

**One-time funding** None

## Recurring funding

Special needs funding 782,878

Operating grants 256,323

Total\* \$4,229,708

**Kindergarten funding to early childhood centres\*\*** \$1,621,047

*\*For the purposes of comparison with other jurisdictions where kindergarten is in the public education system, kindergarten funding has been separated from spending on regulated child care.*

*\*\*Funding to kindergarten programs began in September 2000. This expenditure reflects funding from September 2000 to March 31, 2001. Full year funding is \$3.2 million.*

## Other funding

### *Training and professional development*

Funds are allocated annually by the Department of Health and Social Services to assist with the purchase of resources and to the Early Childhood Development Association to provide professional development to early childhood educators.

### *Other child care assistance*

The provincial social assistance budget has \$50,000 for unregulated care for infants, or for extended-hour care when regulated care is unavailable, or for occasional "babysitting" costs.



## SALARIES

### Mean gross hourly wage for centre-based child care staff (full and part-time staff combined) (2001)

|                                | Median hourly | Median range<br>(within which<br>80% fall) |
|--------------------------------|---------------|--|
| Uncertified                    | \$7.01        | \$6.15-9.00                                |
| Certified ECEs                 | 8.00          | 7.00-10.50                                 |
| Certified ECEs in kindergarten | 10.00         | 8.50-13.50                                 |
| Special needs staff            | 9.00          | 7.50-10.55                                 |

Source: *Review and Analysis of the PEI ECE Industry (2001)*.

### Family child care

Information not available.

## FEES

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

|            |                           |
|------------|---------------------------|
| Infants    | \$520                     |
| Toddlers   | 432                       |
| Preschool  | 412                       |
| School-age | Information not available |

Source: *Review and Analysis of the PEI ECE Industry (2001)*.

### Average daily fee in family child care

Information not available.

## ADMINISTRATION

The Department of Health and Social Services is responsible for the regulation of child care services and management of government funds allocated to child care.

The Child Care Facilities Board is responsible for standards and regulations, monitoring, qualifications and certification of child care staff. The Board includes six members who represent the health and social services system, the Department of Education, the Early Childhood Association and the public at large, and a Chair who is a public official.

The regional offices of the health authority are responsible for assessing eligibility for subsidy.

## MUNICIPAL ROLE

There is no legislated municipal role for the development or delivery of child care.

## CHILD CARE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Five principles guide the planning of child care: quality, affordability, accessibility, providing for children with special needs, and parent involvement.

Application to the Child Care Facilities Board for a license must include a needs assessment that documents the need for child care in a particular area.

## RELATED PROGRAMS

### **Employment Initiatives**

Employment Enhancement and Job Creation are programs for social assistance recipients. Parents enrolled in either program access regular child care subsidies to use the regulated system. The only exception is for those with infants who cannot find a space, or those who work odd, irregular hours. Those parents may access the same fund in the welfare system that provides for occasional babysitting. The provincial social assistance budget has \$50,000 for unregulated care.

## HISTORY OF CHILD CARE AND OTHER ECEC SERVICES

1950s Head Start program for economically and culturally disadvantaged children was established in Charlotte-town.

1969 Child care centres were initiated in northeastern rural Prince Edward Island with federal Regional Economic Expansion funding.

1971 St. Andrew's Child Development Centre was established as a full-time child care centre. The provincial Department of Social Services was responsible for monitoring and funding.

Funding arrangements were established to pay the full operating costs for six non-profit, community-based centres.

1973 *The Child Care Facilities Act* was enacted.

1974 The Early Childhood Development Association was established as a professional association of early childhood educators.

1977 The operating cost system was changed to a subsidy program for non-profit and for-profit programs.

1987 Implementation of direct grants to licensed child care programs.

1988 Introduction of special needs grants to child care programs enrolling children with special needs.

1993 Report of a working group set up by the Minister of Education recommended that the age of entry into kindergarten and Grade 1 remain as they have been and that a standard kindergarten play-based curriculum be designed. Work of this committee was linked to the development of a common Atlantic curriculum for elementary and secondary schools.

Operating grants for both centre-based programs and family child care were reduced by 9% from 1992 levels (except for infants).

1998 \$600,000 from the National Child Benefit Reinvestment fund was used to raise subsidy eligibility levels 30% and to increase the subsidy rates.

Community Services, the Attorney General, and the Department of Education formed an interdepartmental health and social services committee on children. (The Coordinator of Community Services has the lead.)

Four objectives were developed:

- to encourage secure attachment
- to minimize known risks
- to maximize critical learning periods
- to support early intervention.

## RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN CHILD CARE AND OTHER ECEC SERVICES

2000 Publicly funded, community-delivered kindergarten was introduced for the first time (see kindergarten section for details).

November 2000 The government released *FOR Our Children: A Strategy for Healthy Child Development* and announced the establishment of the Premier's Council on Healthy Child Development to advise the premier on issues affecting young children in PEI. The Departments of Health and Social Services, Education, Development and Technology, the Office of the Attorney General, and Community and Cultural Affairs as well as community groups are working in partnership to implement the strategy. The Council is to monitor the implementation of the province's Healthy Child Development Strategy with a focus on child outcomes in the four goal areas identified by the Strategy: good health, safety and security, success at learning, and social engagement and responsibility. The Healthy Child Development Strategy is the responsibility of the five deputy ministers of the departments listed above.

2001 *The Review and Analysis of the Prince Edward Island ECE Industry*, based on You Bet I Care! and funded through a Labour Market Development Agreement with Human Resources Development Canada was undertaken.

Funding was provided to the Early Childhood Development Association for a pilot project aimed at improving quality.

2001 The \$1.3 million Early Childhood Development Initiative funding was allocated as follows:

- early intervention for children with autism: \$700,000
- kindergarten: \$500,000
- support to the Premier's Council for the Healthy Child Development Strategy: \$100,000

2001/2002 The focus was children with special needs, based on the *Keeping the Door Open* model (see FURTHER READINGS, Lysack, M., 2001). Funds were provided for two staff to work with 200 child care staff in 29 centres. The goal is to expand the program to include all centres.

A new Aboriginal two year ECE diploma program is under development at Holland College.

## KEY PROVINCIAL ECEC ORGANIZATIONS

Early Childhood Development Association of Prince Edward Island  
40 Enman Crescent, Room #228  
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### TEACHERS' ORGANIZATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS

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