

Québec

PROVINCIAL CONTEXT

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

0-2 yrs	225,000
3-5	234,700
6-12	655,500
Total 0-12	1,115,200

Note: Total may not add up due to rounding.

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

0-2 yrs	144,000
3-5	160,100
6-12	469,000
Total 0-12	773,100

Note: Total may not add up due to rounding.

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

Age	North American Indian	Métis	Inuit
0-4	11,420	2,070	1,545
5-9	10,655	1,845	1,370
10-14	10,020	1,865	1,040

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

Children 0-14 yrs with disabilities (2001)

Age	Number of children with disabilities	Rate of children with disabilities (%)
0-4	4,630	1.3
5-9	11,300	2.5
10-14	10,960	2.4
Total 0-14 yrs	26,890	2.1

Note: Total may not add up due to rounding.

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

Age of youngest child	No. of mothers	Participation rate (%)
0-2	133,000	67.3
3-5	108,000	75.1
6-15	340,000	79.1

FAMILY-RELATED LEAVE

Maternity leave

18 weeks. An additional six weeks is available to the birth mother if she is unable to return to work for health reasons related to the birth or pregnancy.

Parental leave

Both the the father and the mother of a newborn and the person who adopts a child that has not yet reached school age are entitled to a parental leave without pay of not more than 52 consecutive weeks.

Family-related leave

5 days per year.

Births and EI maternity claims

Number of births (2000): 72,007

Number of initial maternity claims allowed (2000-2001): 40,870

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

KINDERGARTEN

LEGISLATION

Québec. National Assembly. *Education Act*. R.S.Q, c.I-13.3

Québec. National Assembly. *An Act to amend the Education Act concerning the Conseil scolaire de l'île de Montréal*, Bill 41 (2001, c. 30).

Québec. National Assembly. *An Act to amend the Education Act*, Bill 35. (2001, c. 46).

Québec. National Assembly. *Education Act for Cree, Inuit and Naskapi Native Persons*. R.S.Q., c. I-14.

PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR KINDERGARTEN

Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec (MEQ)

KINDERGARTEN SERVICES

MATERNELLE

Maternelle for five year olds is delivered on a full time basis in public and private schools (both English and French). There are 23.5 hours/week for 36 weeks or 846 hours a year.

Kindergarten is not compulsory in Québec nor is access legislated.

There are two programs for four year olds:

Pré-maternelle

This pre-kindergarten program varies from 9.15 hours/ week for 36 weeks (or 332 hours) to 11.45 hours/week for 36 weeks (or 412 hours). It may be four half-days or five half-days. Some programs include parent participation.

Initially, pré-maternelle was developed for inner-city children (although this is no longer their sole clientele). Most pré-maternelles are in Montreal (4,066 out of 6,932 children enrolled). Pré-maternelles were developed prior to the new family policy and child care expansion. There is no new development of pré-maternelles; those existing will be maintained.

Passe-partout

These programs, exclusively for four year olds, were developed for low-income children living mostly in rural Québec. Passe-partout consists of a total of 24 sessions, 16 with the children only and eight with the parents.

Like the pré-maternelle programs, with the new family policy and child care expansion, passe-partout is no longer being developed but only maintained.

AGE ELIGIBILITY

Five years old by September 30.

Four years old by September 30.

CLASS SIZE

There are provincial class size limits:

- Five year olds: Maximum 20 (defined in the collective agreement), average 18;
- Four year olds: Maximum 18 (defined in the collective agreement), average 15;
- Multi-age groups: Maximum 15 children per group. (According to the collective agreement, the same teacher can't have more than 20 children under her responsibility).

Average/mean class sizes

Five year olds: 18

Four year olds: 15

No provincial policies regarding teaching assistants are available. No assistants are provided, although there are professional services under the component "services complémentaires" such as psychologists, speech therapists, etc.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

There is a Québec policy — Politique d'adaptation scolaire — that addresses inclusion issues, specialised services and corresponding budgets. School boards can adopt additional policies that expand on it but cannot restrict it.

About 50% of children with special needs are included in regular classes. Others either attend special classes in schools or attend specialised schools (for instance, schools for the deaf).

For four year olds with special needs (handicaps as defined in Québec), the school board has the obligation to deliver a kindergarten program if the parents so request.

In 2001, 778 children out of 1,552 identified with special needs were included in regular kindergarten classes.

There are additional budgets tied to inclusion of children with special needs.

KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT

Five year olds: 77, 500

(Information is not available from the Québec government. See source below.)

Four year olds

– Pre-K: 6,932

– Passe-partout: 8,879

Note: Estimate of enrollment of five year olds from data in the Education Quarterly Review (2002), Vol. 8 (3).

TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

Four year degree — Education préscolaire et primaire. There are mandatory practica in kindergarten and elementary.

Information for training requirements of assistants is not available.

CURRICULUM

There is a provincial kindergarten curriculum. It comes under the reform that was implemented in 1997. The curriculum for four and five year olds is the same.

SPENDING ON KINDERGARTEN (2001)

Total provincial spending on kindergarten

Information not available.

Average spending per five year old kindergarten student

\$1,694 (special needs \$3,300)

Note: This may not represent the total average spending but was the only figure that provincial officials were able to provide.

Average spending per four year old in pré-maternelle

\$1,879 (special need \$ 3,700)

Spending per student in Passe-partout

\$900

Five year old children attending programs paid for by the MEQ but delivered in specialised establishments

\$4,100

SPECIAL FEATURES

Allophone children have access to Services particuliers under the regulation. The policy and formula for this is established at the Québec level. Schools boards receive and distribute budgets for these services to schools.

For inner-city children, there is a reduction in ratio in Grades 1 and 2 based on Statistics Canada data for the area.

REGULATED CHILD CARE

LEGISLATION

Québec. *An Act Respecting the Ministère de la Famille et de l'Enfance and amending the Act Respecting Child Day Care Centres*. Bill 145, 15 June 2000

Québec. *Public Education Act. Regulation on School-Age Child Care*. L.R.Q., c. 1-133, a.454.1; 1998, c.58, a51; 1992, c.96, a.132. D1316.98

Québec. *An Act Respecting Child Care Centres and Child Care Services R.S.Q.* chapter S-4.1, R.2., as amended 24 November 1999

Québec. *Regulation Respecting Day Care Centres*, 4.1, r.2., as amended September 1, 1997. *Regulation Respecting Home Day Care Agencies and Home Day Care*. S-4.1, r.0.001 as amended 24 November 1999

Québec. *Regulation Respecting Child Care Centres*. C-8.2, r.2, as amended April 1, 1998. *Regulation Respecting Reduced Contributions*. C-8.2, r.3, as amended 24 November 1999.

PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILD CARE

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CHILD CARE SERVICES

UNREGULATED CHILD CARE

Unregulated family child care

Maximum number of children permitted 6
Figure includes the caregiver's own children.

Jardins d'enfants (nursery schools)

Programs for a minimum of seven children aged 2-5 years on a regular basis for up to four hours/day.

Haltes-garderies (stop-over centres)

Programs for a minimum of seven children on a casual, drop-in basis for up to 24 consecutive hours.

REGULATED CHILD CARE

Centre de la petite enfance (CPE)

A CPE provides educational child care in both centres and private homes primarily for children from 0-4 years old. Seven or more children may be cared for in centre-based programs for periods not exceeding 48 consecutive hours.

Family child care is provided in a private residence by an individual for up to six children including the provider's own children for periods which may exceed 24 consecutive hours; no more than two children may

be under 18 months. If the provider is assisted by another adult, nine children are permitted with no more than four children under 18 months.

A CPE may have up to 350 children — up to 240 in child care centres with 80 in each individual facility and up to 250 in its family child care component.

CPEs must be non-profit with a board of directors having a minimum of seven persons, at least 2/3 of whom (who are neither staff nor family child care providers) must be parent-users of the program.

Garderie (day care centre)

An establishment that provides child care in a facility where seven or more children receive care on a regular basis for periods not exceeding 24 consecutive hours that is not operated by a CPE. This includes for-profit operations and those operated by a non-profit group that does not have a majority of parents on the board of directors (e.g. church run centres).

Milieu scolaire (school-age child care)

Programs provided by a school board for children attending kindergarten or elementary grades. Under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Québec has a policy encouraging inclusion of children with special needs in regular programs. For a child who has a diagnosed disability or who meets the ministry definition of a “disabled” child, a one-time grant of \$2,000 and an additional \$21/day/child on top of the regular operating grants is available. Admission is at the discretion of the CPE.

ABORIGINAL CHILD CARE

Québec regulates child care on-reserve. In 2001, there were 25 child care centres, three family child care services and two garderies on-reserve. Other centres were under construction. On-reserve child care is funded through agreements between First Nations communities and federal and provincial governments. The Québec Native Women’s Association, Band Councils, the Cree and the Kativik regional administrations play key roles in First Nations child care in Québec.

SPACE STATISTICS

Number of regulated child care spaces (2001)

Centre-based	Child care centres (CPE)	Day care centres (garderie)
Infant/toddler	5,224	1,684
Preschooler (18 mos-4 yrs)	46,346	24,017
Total	51,570	25,701
Family child care	55,979	
Total spaces regulated by Ministère de la Famille et l’Enfance (MFE)		133,250
School-age child care	101,655	

Note: School-age child care for children aged 5-12 is the responsibility of the Ministry of Education (MEQ).

Total spaces regulated by MFE and under the aegis of MEQ 234,905

Children with special needs in regulated child care (2001)

Information not available.

Sponsorship of centred-based spaces (2001)

Non-profit (CPE)	51,570
School-board operated school-age spaces	101,655
Total non-profit spaces	153, 255
For-profit and other non-CPE (garderies)	25,701

Note: The majority of garderies are for-profit.

STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS**REGULATED CENTRES (CENTRES UNDER CPES AND GARDERIES)****Maximum facility size**

80 spaces

Maximum staff:child ratios

Age	Staff:child ratios
0-18 mos	1:5
18 mos-3 yrs	1:8
4-5 yrs	1:10
6-12 yrs	1:20

Staff qualification requirements

Effective September 1999, two-thirds of staff in CPE centres must have a college diploma or university degree in ECE. Centres operated by CPEs that have been modified to expand capacity have until the third anniversary of the expansion to comply with the new training requirements. Until that time, staff qualifications in these centres must conform to the previous regulations requiring 1/3 of staff to have the training outlined above.

In garderies (for-profit centres and non-profit centres not operated by a CPE), 1/3 of staff must have a college diploma or university degree in ECE.

Parent involvement

CPE board structure requires 2/3 of board membership to be parents.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

Ministère de la Famille et l'Enfance (MFE) issues permits (licenses) for up to a three year period. MFE inspectors may visit any licensed operation to monitor its compliance with regulations.

There is no regulatory requirement for the frequency of visits by inspectors. Inspectors are not required to have a degree, diploma, or training in early childhood education.

Québec does not issue conditional or provisional licenses. If a centre is found to be in noncompliance with legislative requirements but there is no immediate danger to the health or well-being of the children, MFE informs the centre's board (in writing) that the program is in noncompliance with a specific regulation(s) and requests rectification. A follow-up check is done by an inspector when sufficient time is deemed to have passed. Repeated instances of noncompliance which do not pose an immediate threat may result in a court hearing.

The operator may appeal the loss of license (or the refusal by MFE to renew a license) to a tribunal set up by MFE to hear the case and may be represented by a lawyer. If not satisfied with the tribunal's ruling, the operator may appeal a decision to the Commission des affaires sociales. Its decision is binding.

REGULATED FAMILY CHILD CARE

Family child care providers are supervised by a CPE.

Maximum capacity

Up to six children including the provider's children under nine years; no more than two children may be under 18 months. If the provider is assisted by another adult, they may care for nine children, including both providers' own children, with not more than four children being under 18 months.

Provider qualification requirements

Family child care worker

Staff duties include approving/recognizing people responsible for family child care, providing technical and professional support to such persons, and exercising control and supervision for such persons. Staff responsible for supervision must have at least three years of full-time experience working with children or supervising or directing people.

Family child care provider

Family child care providers must hold a first-aid certificate and complete a training program lasting at least 45 hours pertaining to child development, health, safety and diet issues, and organization and leadership in a "life environment". Many CPEs provide training for providers.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

Family child care workers are required to do on-site home visits. The CPE is responsible for ensuring that providers meet the regulations. MFE monitors records of home visits and activity reports.

FUNDING

PUBLIC FUNDING FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE (2001)

One-time funding

Development grants

- Grant for professional services incurred by the project manager in setting up a facility: \$8,000.
- Start-up grant for establishing a family child care component of a CPE: \$1,500 for the first 10 spaces, plus \$100 per additional space up to \$8,000.

Grants for purchase of a property or construction of a facility

- the lesser of 40% of the actual cost, or \$3,650 per space for the first 29 spaces, plus \$2,000 per additional space, plus \$80 per space for the family child care component.
- for a tenant child care centre wishing to purchase the building to avoid eviction from the premises, the grant is limited to the lesser of 40% of the actual costs, or \$73,000.

Grants for enlarging a facility

To help enlarge owned child care facilities to increase the maximum number of children, if it involves increasing the ground area of the building or the surface of the existing facility.

- the lesser of the actual costs, or \$2,300 per new space, plus \$80 per space for the family child care component when the administrative premises are housed in the facility.

Grants for refitting a facility

To help increase the maximum number of spaces or add administrative premises for the home child care component (this does not include increasing the ground area, or making structural changes to the building in owned or leased premises).

- the lesser of the actual costs or \$1,250 per new space, plus \$80 per space for the family child care component (\$40/space in leased facilities) when the administrative premises are housed in the facility.

Compliance grants

To help renovate a leased or owned facility to comply with the requirements of a law or a regulation other than the Act Respecting Childcare Centres and Childcare Services.

- the lesser of the actual cost or \$10,000 for the first seven spaces, plus \$275 per additional space, and \$80 per space for the family child care component (\$40/space in leased facilities) when the administrative premises are housed in the facility.

Grants to acquire the assets of a day care centre

To purchase tangible assets of:

- an owned day care centre: 40% of the certified actual costs or \$3,650 per space for the first 29 spaces, plus \$2,000 per additional space;
- a tenant day care centre: the lesser of the certified actual costs or \$34,000 for the first seven spaces, plus \$1,200 per additional space.

To purchase intangible assets of a day care centre:

- \$750 per space.

Allowance for early intervention in a disadvantaged area

A one-time allowance to establish the curriculum Jouer, c'est magique in child care facilities or family child care homes where at least 10% of the children have parents who are exempt from the parental contribution of \$5/day (low income) to adapt the program activities, for staff training and professional development, for collaboration with other social services professionals:

- up to \$10,000 per child care facility;
- up to \$20,000 per organization.

Recurring funding

MFE provides funding to CPEs through several basic and supplementary mechanisms that are calculated according to three financing parameters:

- annualized spaces on the license
- annual occupancy, and
- the annual occupancy rate.

These funds are paid to the CPEs on a monthly basis.

Child care centres basic allowance

- Expenses related to the premises
 - the lesser of the actual expenses established by MFE or an amount equal to \$36,000 for the first 30 annualized spaces, plus \$1,200 for each of the next 30 annualized spaces, and \$1,000 for each annualized space beyond 60.
- Overhead costs
 - \$1,850 for each of the first 60 annualized spaces, plus \$850 for each additional space beyond 60, for a minimum of \$51,000.
- Performance
 - with the exception of new or expanded facilities, a deduction is made from the grant if the annual occupancy rate falls below 85% in some parts of the province and 80% in others.
- Child care and educational expenses
 - \$46.15/day for children 17 months and younger;
 - \$29.95/day for children 18-59 months .

Family child care basic allowance

- Expenses related to the premises (private home)
 - the lesser of the actual expenses established by MFE or an amount equal to \$250 for each of the first 50 annualized spaces, and \$140 for each additional space.
- Overhead costs
 - \$1,450 for each of the first 50 spaces, plus \$860 for each of the next 100 spaces and \$790 for each additional space beyond 150.

- Performance
 - with the exception of new or expanded family child care services, a deduction is made from the grant if the annual occupancy rate falls below 80% in some parts of the province and 75% in others.
- Child care and educational expenses
 - a maximum of \$25.40/day for children aged 59 months and younger, and an infant supplement of \$9.00/day for children 17 months and younger.

Special needs school-age grants

From the Ministry of Education, school-age child care services receive a flat rate per child with special needs of \$1,000 for each child attending the service on a regular basis, and \$500 for each child that attends on an irregular basis.

The basic allowance for child care centres and family child care equals the allowable expenses less the parental reduced contribution (PRC).

Supplementary allowances

Allowance for exemption from payment of the contribution (EPC).

- an allowance to make up for the parental contribution exemption of parents who receive income security and are entitled to 23H hours/week of child care at no fee (or more on the recommendation of an authorized organization).

Allowance for a facility in a disadvantaged area

To help the facility meet the additional costs of enrolling children from a disadvantaged area equal to:

- 2.5% of the basic operating allowance when the proportion of EPC days is between 5% and 10%;
- 5% of the basic operating allowance when the proportion of EPC days is between 10% and 20%;
- 7.5% of the basic operating allowance when the proportion of EPC days is greater than 20%.

Allowances for places at the reduced contribution offered to school-age children (PRCS)

To support day care institutions who serve kindergarten or elementary school children who cannot receive any other child care service at their school:

- \$4.10/day for each school day;
- \$17.15/day for each pedagogical day, for a maximum of 20 days per child.

Allowances for the integration of a child with a disability

To facilitate the integration of a child with a disability aged 59 months or younger, for a maximum of nine children in a facility, providing that number does not exceed 20% of licensed spaces or one child per home child care provider:

- a lump sum of \$2,200 per child, of which \$1,800 is for equipment or improving the set-up to meet the child's needs;
- \$25/day of occupancy.

Specific allowances

- Allowance for group insurance plans and maternity leaves;
- Allowances for special projects, northern or Aboriginal communities.

PROVINCIAL ALLOCATIONS FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE (2001)

Fee subsidies not applicable

(See below for information on fee reductions through the Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale.)

One time funding

Development and investment \$25,000,000

Recurring funding

Funding to CPEs	847,254,000
Funding to day care centres (garderies)	148,084,600
Grants for special pilot projects	800,000
Financial aid	100,000
Other transfer payments	200,000
Total child care expenditure for children 0-4 yrs in MFE	\$1,021,438,600
Estimated expenditure on school-age child care (by MEQ)	70,989,051
Total expenditure on regulated child care	\$1,092,427,651

Other funding

Grants to child care organizations	\$3,000,000
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Note: In addition, \$30.9 million was spent by the Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale to provide further fee reductions to low income working parents. See apport program in recent developments, 2000.

SALARIES**Estimated mean hourly wage by job category (2001)**

Administrators	\$22.75
Educational consultants	17.04
Trained child care teachers	16.24
Untrained child care staff	13.60

Note: These figures were calculated by the authors using an MFE survey in 1999 and increasing them by 30% in accordance with the \$152 million four year wage initiative to raise salaries by 40% by 2003.

Family child care

Information not available.

ADMINISTRATION

The Ministère de la Famille et de l'Enfance is responsible for the setting of standards and regulations, administration of the legislation, administration of funding, and coordination of the child care system across the province.

Le Ministère de l'Éducation is responsible for school-age child care services. However, when a school cannot provide child care services, MFE pays for children to attend a CPE. School-age children are not eligible for a \$5/day place during the summer.

MUNICIPAL AND OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENT ROLE

Municipalities may no longer hold licenses to operate child care facilities. School boards provide school-age child care for children attending kindergarten and elementary school.

CHILD CARE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Québec uses a province-wide planning process. Les conseils régionaux de développement, with representation from municipalities, social services, and child care organizations, set priorities by region. They develop five year plans based on population and labour force statistics, funding and relative regional equity.

The Québec government has historically had a policy that strongly favours the development of child care services that are controlled by user-parents. MFE licenses (permits) new child care services as the requirements of the Act and Regulations are met.

HISTORY OF CHILD CARE AND OTHER ECEC SERVICES

1887 Montréal Day Nursery, an Anglophone child care centre, was established by charitable organizations.

1942 Québec signed the *Dominion-Provincial War Time Agreement* with the federal government. This enabled cost-sharing for child care centres attended by children whose mothers were employed in industries essential to the war effort. Six centres were established in Montréal.

1945 Government financing for child care centres ended and the wartime centres closed.

1950s Growth of for-profit child care centres.

1969 The provincial government began to license existing child care centres and financed selected child care centres located in low-income districts of Montréal.

1972 A system of tax credits for mothers using child care was established.

1974 The provincial government adopted the Bacon Plan, a policy paper on child care issues which recognized the existing network of child care centres and recommended financial aid to low income parents.

1979 An *Act Respecting Child Day Care* created l'Office des services de garde à l'enfance to coordinate and promote development of child care services. Operating grants were introduced.

1980 L'Office took on full responsibility for regulated child care services.

1983 *Regulations* for the Act were adopted.

1988 L'Office issued a policy statement on child care services which announced a five year expansion plan to double the number of licensed child care spaces by 1994. The paper also identified target programs, such as infant child care and workplace child care, and extended some grants to for-profit centres.

1989 The child care community organized a one day walkout in protest against some aspects of the 1988 policy statement.

In response, the government announced enhanced parent fee subsidies, the provision of assistance for child care training and staff development, and increased assistance to facilitate the integration of children with handicaps.

1992 A regulation was adopted which fixed the number of spaces eligible for funding on an annual basis.

Unionized child care staff took part in a one day walkout protesting poor wages.

1993 New regulations were adopted relating to parent fee subsidies.

Summer child care programs which were not regulated became eligible to receive funding from l'Office.

Concertation inter-régionale des garderies du Québec organized a province-wide demonstration. The demands were for a freeze on parent fees and \$1.5 million for wage enhancement for the non-profit sector in the short term.

1994 A new regulation concerning agencies and family child care was issued. This regulation addressed: permits, staff qualifications of the agency, qualification for the person responsible for family care, security, hygiene, heating and minimal standards.

Public consultation was held to consider solutions for financing child care. A new formula was adopted taking account of program size, expenses and occupancy rates; and grants are paid on a monthly basis.

1995 The Parti Québécois held an extensive public consultation process on the education system and included proposals to change the jurisdiction, delivery and funding of early childhood education. It considered introduction of full-day kindergarten for four and five year olds through an integrated early childhood system.

1996 A moratorium on new permits for child care services was in force for a year from April 1995. In May, the government announced that for-profit centres would no longer receive any funding in Québec. (This was later modified somewhat when the new family policy was introduced in 1997.)

The Québec government announced its intention to implement a new family policy and to develop a comprehensive early childhood policy for children from 0 to 12 years old. It contained three main components:

- an integrated child allowance for young children and newborns designed to gradually replace the existing family allowance;
- enhanced maternity and parental leave provisions through a new parental insurance plan;
- the development of early childhood education and child care services to provide universally accessible programs to foster child development, and to gradually introduce skills that children need to succeed at school.

1997 Implementation of the new early childhood care and education program began to be phased in over a four year period. In the first year of the program, kindergarten for all five year olds was extended to the full school day; the few existing half-day kindergarten programs for four year olds continued and were supplemented by a half-day out-of-school child care program at no cost to the parent. At the same time, space for four year olds in either regulated centre-based programs or family day care became available at a fee of \$5/day. This was extended to three year olds in September 1998 and continued to be extended incrementally until the year 2000, when all age groups were covered.

The Ministère de la Famille et de l'Enfance (MFE) was established and became responsible for early childhood care and education services for children aged 0-4. Child care centres and family child care agencies were replaced by centres de la petite enfance (CPEs). Over the next five years, each CPE was to develop at least two services — typically a centre component and a family child care component. Centres could also develop part-time spaces if there was a need for parents who were not in the paid labour force and who did not wish to access a full-time space. Nursery schools were not included in this new program, in part because they are not licensed in Québec, and because they are usually for-profit or run by community centres, thus not satisfying the requirements for board structure.

2000 Child care at \$5/day became available to all children aged 0-4 whether or not the parent is in the paid labour force. Individual centres could implement policies which give priority to employed parents, single parents, or some other target group. Families on social assistance and not in the workforce may access up to 23H hours/week of care at no cost. Low income working families may also qualify for an additional fee reduction by accessing the APPORT program (Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale). If eligible, they may receive an additional \$3 a day to reduce their \$5/day fee to \$2.

The required number of staff trained in early childhood education in centre-based programs was increased from one-third of staff in a centre to two-thirds. In addition, a programme éducatif would be required in all centres.

The child:staff ratios for four year olds was increased from 8:1 to 10:1 but remained at 8:1 for three year olds.

Since 1997, the Ministry began to “rent” space from existing for-profit operations with funding at a lesser rate than CPE centres. Agreements with for-profit centres would be renegotiated annually until such time as they are no longer needed.

2000 Following two days of strikes by child care workers over wages, an agreement among the government, union representatives, and representatives of child care boards of directors was struck. Through direct government funding, child care staff in non-profit centres and family child care were to be paid according to a province-wide scale based on education and experience. It was anticipated that an average wage increase

of 35-40% would be implemented over four years, with an additional \$44 million allocated in 1999-2000. A provincial task force recommended that child care staff be included in *The Pay Equity Act*.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN ECEC SERVICES

A major expansion of regulated child care is underway and demand remains high. In the five years from the implementation of the new early childhood policy in 1997 to 2001, Québec increased the number of child care spaces (for children aged 0-4) from 82,302 spaces to 139,683 as well as introducing full school-day kindergarten for all five year olds. Québec expects to expand the number of child care spaces to 200,000 by 2005-2006.

According to the Institut de la statistique du Québec, approximately 85,000 children under the age of five are on a waiting list for a child care space. Of these, 8,700 are already enrolled in a \$5/day space but wish to change. (These children may be on more than one waiting list). Parents who do not have a \$5/day space may still claim the federal Child Care Expense Deduction and the provincial tax credit.

In order to comply with increased training requirements as well as expansion, the government undertook a public education campaign to attract staff and promote training. To assist those already in the field to access additional training, the government began to provide financial support for college-level courses and funding for any necessary substitutes in the CPEs.

1998 A national study of wages, working conditions and quality, *You Bet I Care!*, found that based on a sample of full-time centres for children 0-6 years and regulated family child care – Québec scored 4.7 on the ECERS-R (preschool rooms), 3.6 on the ITERS (infant rooms), and 4.5 on the FDCRS (family child care). (See Table 25 for elaboration.)

March 2000 Twenty for-profit centres had converted to non-profit with several more in the process.

2000 MFE began funding several pilot projects in an attempt to determine how to meet some of the more non-traditional needs for child care such as evening, overnight and weekend care. Projects receive funding in addition to the CPE funding formulas and may in certain situations operate outside the regulations. Each project will undergo a comprehensive evaluation.

A \$152 million investment over four years was committed from 1999-2003 to raise wages: \$91.5 million was committed for the centre-based component of CPEs, \$32.4 million for family child care, and \$27.6 million for day care centres (garderies).

Although the Government of Québec did not sign the Early Childhood Development Agreement, Québec was allocated \$71.6 million from these funds in 2001. No information on how money was allocated is available.

KEY PROVINCIAL ECEC ORGANIZATIONS

Concertation inter-régionale des centres de la petite enfance du Québec
1854, boulevard Marie, bureau 200
St. Hubert, PQ J4T 2A9
Téléphone: 450-672-2799
Télécopieur: 450-672-9648
Website: <http://www.circpeq.com/>

Fédération des centres de la petite enfance du Québec
3950, boul. de la Chaudière, bureau 125
Sainte Foy, PQ G1X 4M8
Téléphone: 418-659-3059
Télécopieur: 418-659-7957

Website: www.fcpeq.qc.ca

Association des services de garde en milieu scolaire du Québec
13, rue Saint-Laurent est
Longueuil, PQ J4H 4B7
Téléphone: 450-646-2753
Télécopieur: 450-646-1807

Syndicats des travailleuses et travailleurs en garderie, FSSS-CSN
1600 avenue de Lorimier, #105
Montréal, PQ H2K 3W5
Téléphone: 514-522-8697

TEACHERS' ORGANIZATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS

Association québécoise des éducateurs et des éducatrices du primaire
85, rue Saint-Charles Ouest
Bureau 2201, 2e étage
Longueuil, PQ J7H 1C5
Téléphone: 450-463-4300
Télécopieur: 450-928-0387

Fédération nationale des enseignantes et des enseignants du Québec
1601, rue de Lorimier
Montréal, PQ H2K 4M5
Téléphone: 514-598-2241
Télécopieur: 514-598-2190