

Expansion of Regulated Child Care Spaces: Insights from Québec



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Québec's childcare network in brief

Québec's childcare network was created as part of a new family policy regime introduced in 1997.

Originally, the plan was to offer all spaces within non-profit childcare centers, the "centres de la petite enfance" (CPE) for \$5 per day.

- implementation of a five year moratorium of the creation of childcare spaces in for-profit centers (*garderies*).

From the start, the supply of childcare services has not been able to meet the demand.

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Québec's childcare network in brief

In 2003, a new Liberal government, in conjunction with the end of the moratorium and pressure to develop new spaces, led the government to open the door wide to for-profit *garderies*.

Today, though Québec is recognized as having the best family policy in Canada, it does not have a universal policy; accordingly, **childcare in Québec is NOT a right and more than 51,000 preschool children are waiting to have access to a childcare space.**



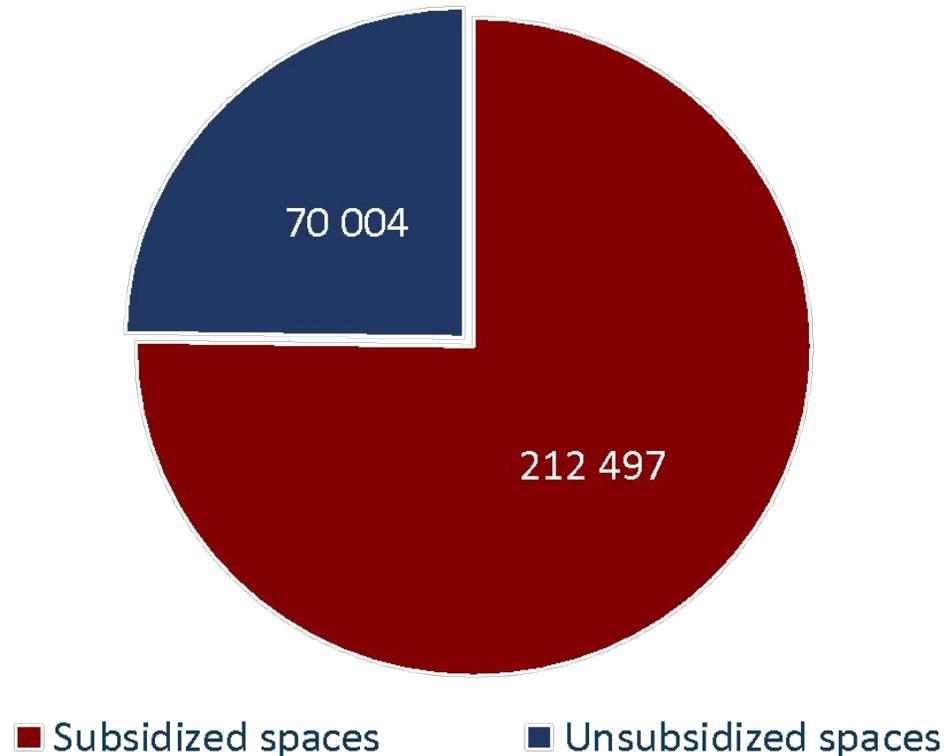


Current situation in Québec

- Three avenues of subsidized child care in Québec:
 - Subsidized and non-profit (centres de la petite enfance)
 - Subsidized and for-profit (services are provided at the same cost as in non-profit centers)
 - Unsubsidized and for-profit (parents get a portion of their fees reimbursed)
- 64% of preschool children are enrolled in regulated childcare
 - We do not know much about the remaining 36% of children who are not in a regulated childcare center.
- Access to before- and after-school programs is universal; services are provided in schools.

What is the Québec model? (1/2)

Subsidized and unsubsidized spaces in Québec's network, 2021

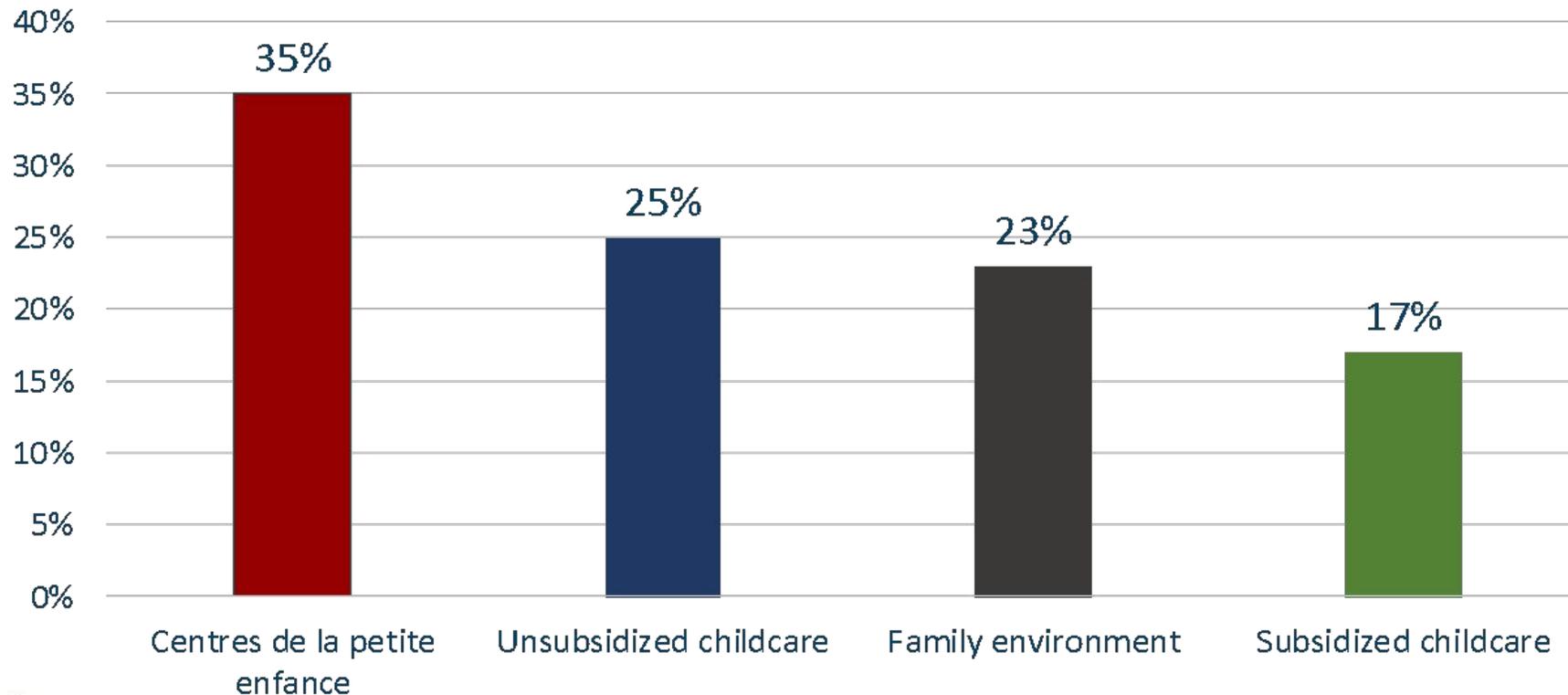


282 501 childcare spaces are available (as of July 31 2021).

75% of those childcare spaces are offered at \$8.70 per day.

What is the Québec model? (2/2)

Percentage of children in different centers, among children enrolled in preschool childcare, 2021



What's the new plan?

The *Grand chantier pour les familles* (“Major initiatives for families”) is Québec’s action plan to complete its provincial childcare network.

This plan includes 6 objectives (and 45 measures to meet these objectives), the first being to **create 37,000 additional spaces to meet the demands of families** - with 45 measures to meet these objectives.

	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
New spaces created (annual)	5,000	10,500	14,500	6,100
New spaces (total)	5,000	15,500	30,000	36,100*

* In addition, 1,000 spaces will be created in Indigenous communities

GRAND
CHANTIER
— POUR LES —
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How will these new spaces be created?

- More children in childcare centers (from 80 to 100)
- Small childcare centers for rural communities
- Adding services outside of regular hours for non-standard workers

Issues with the *Grand chantier* and the expansion of the network

- How many spaces does Québec really need? 80,000? 51,000? 37,000?
 - Québec will not meet its target for 2021-2022
- The government wants to create subsidized spaces, but does not say whether these new spaces will be provided in the CPE (non-profit) or in garderies (for-profit)
- Creating more spaces does not necessarily mean needs will be met
 - Quality childcare is more difficult to find in low-income neighborhoods in Montréal



Unanswered questions:

- What type of childcare spaces will be created?
- Where will the new childcare spaces be located?
- How will it be possible to create spaces rapidly, while maintaining the quality of care?
- How can we ensure a smooth transition between the end of parental benefits (typically 50 weeks) and entry into childcare (spaces open following the school-year calendar)?
- How can the government assist families (and more specifically mothers) in need of a childcare space, and who cannot return to work after their parental leave?



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*Thank
you!*



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merci!