

NUNAVUT PROFILE 2017

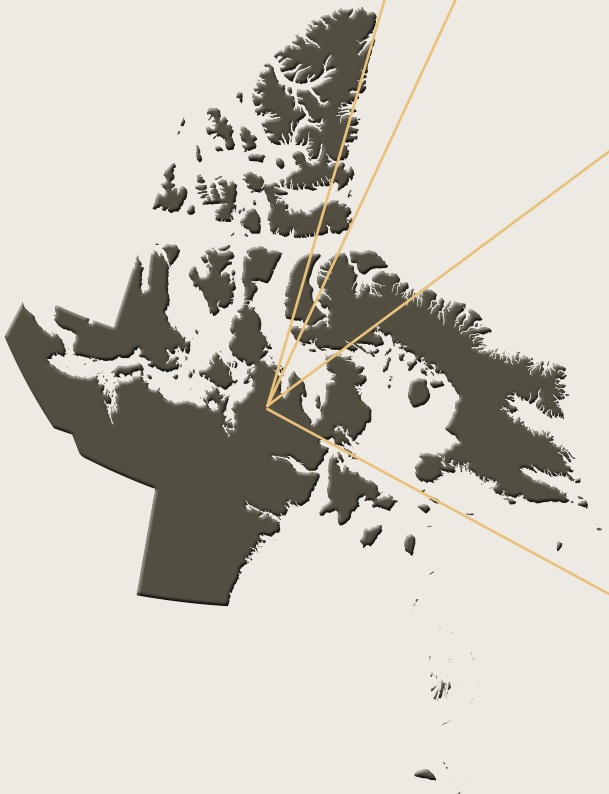


TRENDS IN ECEC

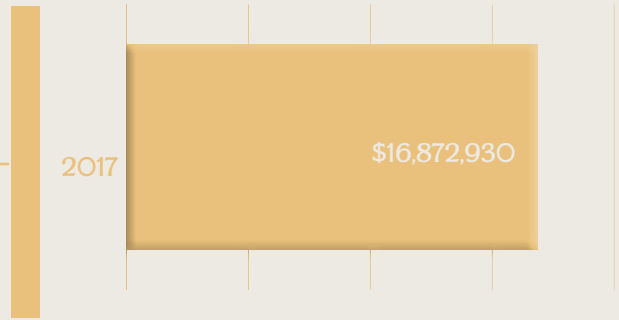
ECE REPORT BENCHMARKS

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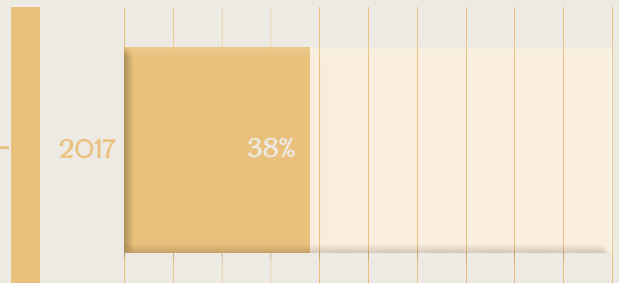
2017



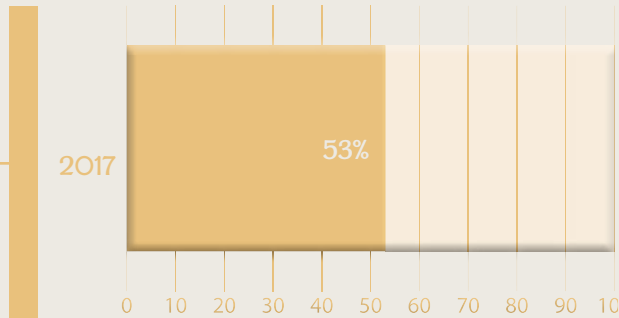
CHANGE IN ECEC SPENDING



PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN 2-4 YEARS ATTENDING ECEC



ECE SALARIES AS A PERCENTAGE OF TEACHER SALARIES



1. GOVERNANCE

Table 1.1 Nunavut Governance Structure for Early Childhood Education

Lead Ministry/Department	Department of Education
Related Ministries/Departments	Department of Family Services
Common Supervisory Unit	Early Learning and Child Care
Policy Framework	
Legislation	<i>Education Act</i> (2008) ¹ <i>Child Day Care Act</i> (R.S.N.W.T, 1988, c.C-5) ²
Related Legislation	<i>Child Day Care Standards Regulations</i> (R.R.N.W.T. 1990, c.C-3) ³ <i>Inuit Language Protection Act</i> ⁴
Local Service Delivery	Early Childhood Officers in 3 regions of Nunavut are responsible for licensing and monitoring child care programs. Regional School Operations oversee K-12 education.
Community/Sector Oversight	District Education Authority (DEA) for K-12

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

In May 2017, the federal government announced \$189 million in funding over 10 years for Nunavut for community-based programs covering four broad areas: healthy children, families and communities; healthy living; mental wellness; and home and community care. The 2017 budget also provides \$1.6 million to the Nunavut Arctic College to help fund its Social Worker and Early Childhood Education programs.

In September 2017, Nunavut signed a three-year, \$7 million bilateral agreement with the federal government as part of the Federal-Provincial/Territorial Early Learning and Child Care Agreement. The funding will be used for the development of standardized program materials to help support the delivery of consistent, high-quality instruction in early years programs. Resources will be available in all official languages and will reflect Nunavut, life in the North and the Inuit culture. These resources will also focus on approaches to program delivery that are inclusive in nature, as this is important to the department and is in keeping with the principles of *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*. Other initiatives include operations and maintenance funding to address the high cost of facilities in Nunavut and to help prevent an increase in parent fees. Educator training and professional development are another important focus.

Many of the initiatives identified by Nunavut in its agreement with the federal government are designed to address areas identified as needing attention in this report.

DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION

The Department of Education is responsible for programs and services supporting early childhood education, the K-12 school system, adult learning and educational initiatives, and literacy. The department works to incorporate Inuit societal values, language and culture into all programs and services.

The Division of Early Learning and Child Care administers start-up and annual operations funding to non-profit child care facilities and family day homes. Three regional offices administer applications and provide support and oversight to early childhood services throughout Nunavut.

Kindergarten is administered under K-12 student services. The Department of Education operates in three regions with local District Education Authorities in each community. A Commission Scolaire Francophone du Nunavut (CSFN) is based in Iqaluit. The *Official Languages Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act* provide equal status to the Inuit, French and English languages and provide parents with the right to educate their children in the official language of their choice.

The Department of Family Services administers child care fee subsidies under the Income Assistance Program. The Department of Education administers child care fee subsidies under its Young Parents Stay Learning Program (YPSL). YPSL provides fee subsidies for students who need child care and are attending high school and working toward their diploma. Post-secondary students who have not yet reached the age of 18 years and are attending a post-secondary institute in Nunavut may also be eligible.

Both programs provide parental subsidies for licensed and unlicensed care.

POLICY FRAMEWORK

N/A

SERVICE DESIGN

Education Programs

Kindergarten: All children who turn 5 years of age by December 31 are eligible to participate in an optional half-day kindergarten program delivered by schools. Programs are required to operate for no less than 485 instructional hours per year and for no more than 6 hours a day. The District Education Authorities in each community determine program hours.⁵ Compulsory education begins the year children turn 6 years of age.

Regulated Child Care

Licensed child care facilities can be administered by non-profit organizations, for-profit organizations/individuals, family day homes, municipalities and District Education Authorities (DEAs). Registered non-profit organizations in good standing with Nunavut Legal Registries are eligible for funding to operate child care programs. Licensed family day homes and facilities administered by municipalities or DEAs are also eligible for funding.

Types of child day care programs include the following:⁶

- **Day care centres** operate for more than five hours per day.
- **Preschool/Nursery school** programs are for children under 6 years of age and operate for no more than four consecutive hours a day. These include Aboriginal Head Start programs.
- **After-school care** provides care outside school hours for school-aged children up to and including those who are 11 years of age.

- **Family day homes** provide care for children in the provider’s home. A provider may care for a maximum of eight children 11 years of age and younger, including the provider’s own children.

Unregulated Child Care

An individual may care for a maximum of four children, including the caregiver’s own children, 11 years of age and younger.

LOCAL SERVICE DELIVERY

Early childhood officers with regional offices in Kitikmeot, Kivalliq and Qikiqtani inspect, license, monitor and administer funding to licensed child care facilities. They also offer support and training to the staff, boards and parents through workshops and meetings.

Regional school operations staff oversee K-12 education.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT/OVERSIGHT

A District Education Authority (DEA) is a locally-elected body of community members that works with school staff and Regional School Operations staff to serve many of the functions of a school board. DEAs are responsible for administration of schools in Nunavut. Members are elected for a three-year term.

Under the *Education Act*, DEAs must support and promote Inuit language and culture in early childhood education programs.⁷ They do this by either supporting existing non-profit early childhood facilities or operating their own early childhood programs.

2. FUNDING

Table 2.1 Nunavut Allocations for Early Learning and Child Care to March 31, 2017⁸

Child care fee subsidies (under Department of Family Services – Income Assistance)	\$502,000
Early learning and child care divisional budget	\$7,525,000
Total early learning and child care	\$8,027,000

Table 2.2 Nunavut Funding Early Childhood Education/Child Care to March 31, 2017

Kindergarten ^a	\$8,845,930
Early learning and child care	\$8,027,000
Total ECE spending	\$16,872,930
Total Nunavut budget spending estimates	\$1,881,525,000
ECE as a percentage of Nunavut budget	0.9%

a Estimate based on latest enrolment figures of 807 part-day kindergarten students⁹ times \$21,923 per pupil spending in Nunavut as reported by Statistics Canada.¹⁰

3. ACCESS

Table 3.1 Nunavut Child Population 0–5 Years (2016)

Child population 0–5 years	4,864
0–1 year	1,688
2–4 years	2,407
5 years	769
Total population of Nunavut ^a	37,082
Children 0–5 years as percentage of total population	13.1%

a Statistics Canada. Table O51-0001 - Estimates of population, by age group and sex for July 1, 2016 Canada, provinces and territories (accessed April 24, 2017).

Table 3.2 Nunavut Labour Force Participation of Mothers by Age of Youngest Child (2016)

	Number mothers in labour force by age of youngest child ^a	Labour force participation rate of mothers by age of youngest child ^b
0–1 year	600	59.5%
2–4 years	700	71.3%
5 years	200	62.5%
Total mothers in labour force with child 0–5 years	1,500	
Average labour force participation of mothers with youngest child 0–5 years		64.4%

a Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, custom tabulation O517_29 Table 1.ivt.

b Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, custom tabulation O717_O4 Table 1.ivt.

Table 3.3 Nunavut ECE school programs

Children attending 5-year-old kindergarten	807
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Enrolment as of September 30, 2015.

Table 3.4 Nunavut Licensed Child Care Programs^a

Spaces by age group	
Infants (full-time)	165
Preschool (full-time)	479
Preschool (part-time)	292

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Table 3.4 Nunavut Licensed Child Care Programs^a (continued)

Spaces by age group	
School-aged	137
Total centre-based spaces	1073
Family day home spaces	16
Total number of child care spaces	1089
Facilities by auspice	
Not-for-profit	52
For-profit	0
Facilities by type	
Full-time child care centre	28
Part-time child care centre	9
Family day home	2
After-school programs	6
Aboriginal Head Start	7
Total	52

a As of September 20, 2017.

Table 3.5 Nunavut Percentage of Children attending ECE Programs by Age Group

Child Ages	Number of children ^a	Number of child care/preschool spaces ^b	Kindergarten enrolment ^c	Other ECE programs	% children attending ECE program
0-1 year	1,688	169			10%
2-4 years	2,407	771		143	38%
5 years	769		807		100%

a As of July 1, 2016.

b As of September 20, 2017. More than one child may occupy a preschool or child care space.

c As of September 30, 2015. Kindergarten enrolment includes children who are 4 years old at the beginning of the school year.

AFFORDABILITY

Programs set their own fees.

Day care subsidies are available through the regional offices of the Department of Family Services. Employed parents or those pursuing education or employment training are eligible. Amounts are based on a needs test, taking into account family size, housing costs and program costs. Unlicensed child care options that pass the standard assessment are also eligible for subsidies.¹¹

In 2015, fewer than 100 families received a subsidy. A review was initiated.

The Young Parents Stay Learning Program is a day care subsidy program to help young parents with the cost of child care while attending high school and working toward their diploma and for those who are under the age of 18 years and attending a post-secondary institution in Nunavut.¹² In the 2016–17 school year, 63 applicants received funding under this program.

Families in Nunavut are also eligible for a child care subsidy if their child has a special need and child care is recommended by a recognized health care professional.

INCLUSION

A report commissioned in 2015 developed guidelines to support inclusive education programming.¹⁴

The Healthy Children Initiative provides community services including family resource centres, parenting workshops and prenatal nutrition. Supportive Child Services provides funding on an individual basis for children requiring intensive support or specific assistance. This may include supported child care, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, speech and language and supports to enable children to attend centre-based early childhood programs.¹⁵

4. LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Table 4.1 Nunavut Curriculum Frameworks

Program	Framework Document
Kindergarten	The kindergarten curriculum includes the following strands: communication, language, creative and artistic expression, and reflective and critical thinking. The department website provides approved curriculum guides and resources for teaching staff. ¹⁶
Regulated child care	
Cultural integration	The Student Assessment and Evaluation division is responsible for ensuring assessment tools are culturally and linguistically appropriate to Nunavut and meet the needs of Nunavut's K-12 students, parents and teachers, as well as the public. ¹⁷

WORK ENVIRONMENT

Kindergarten class size: Class sizes are not mandated.

Child care program size: There is no maximum enrolment for child care centres.

Family day care: Family day care operators may care for a maximum of eight children, 11 years of age and younger, including their own. No more than six of the eight children may be 5 years old or younger, no more than three children may be 3 years old or younger, and no more than two children may be younger than 2 years old.¹⁷

Table 4.2 Nunavut Staff/Child Ratio by Age of Child and Class Size¹⁸

Age of child	Staff: Child Ratio	Class Size
0-12 months	1:3	9
13-24 months	1:4	12
25-35 months	1:6	18
3 years	1:8	25
4 years	1:9	27
5-11 years	1:10	30

Table 4.3 Nunavut Educator Qualifications

Kindergarten Teachers¹⁹	<p>A four-year Bachelor of Education Degree that includes course work and classroom observation and teaching; or kindergarten certification requiring a two-year program in ECE, successful completion of two academic years of classroom teaching and completion of courses for one-year teacher training; or a letter of authority that must be renewed annually</p> <p>Most kindergarten teachers have a Bachelor of Education or letter of authority as a language specialist, which means they speak an Inuit language.</p>
Early Childhood Educators²⁰	<p>A two-year post-secondary accredited diploma that prepares students with the knowledge and skills to develop and deliver quality early childhood education in Nunavut</p>

Table 4.4 Nunavut Professional Recognition and Development

	Qualified Teachers	Qualified ECEs
Profession Recognition	Teachers must hold a valid Nunavut Teaching Certificate to work as an educator in Nunavut's public school system. ²¹	<i>The Child Day Care Act</i> does not require staff to have ECE qualifications.
Professional Development	Policies and a dedicated fund support the professional development of teachers to improve the quality and relevance of education for Nunavut students. ²²	Child care operators are required to provide ongoing training for staff.

Table 4.5 Nunavut Density of Qualified Staff in Child Care Centres

ECE qualifications are not required.²³

Table 4.6 Nunavut Teacher and ECE Average Annual Salaries

Teachers ^a	Early Childhood Educators ^b	ECE Salary as a % of Teacher Salary
\$87,619	\$46,779	53%

a Based on four-year degree and five years of teaching experience according to 2016 Collective Agreement.¹⁹

b 2016 FTE @ \$22.49/hour based on Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, custom tabulation O517_31 Table 1.ivt.

5. ACCOUNTABILITY, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Progress Reports: The Department of Education reports publicly on developments, including annual updates on the budgets and actual expenditures for ECE programs and the number of spaces in use according to the type of care. The latest report was released in 2017 for the 2014-2015 fiscal year and is available on the department website.²⁵

Program Standards: The department's website provides a list of approved centres.

Population Monitoring:

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