

# Early Childhood Education Report

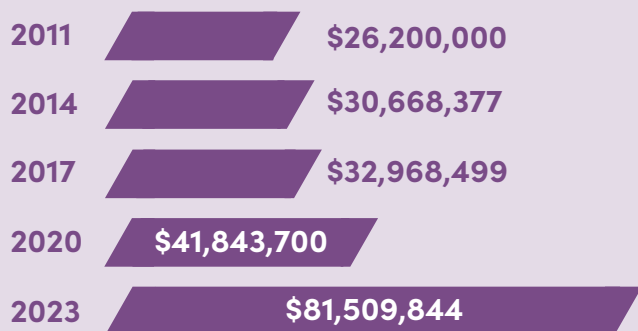


# PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

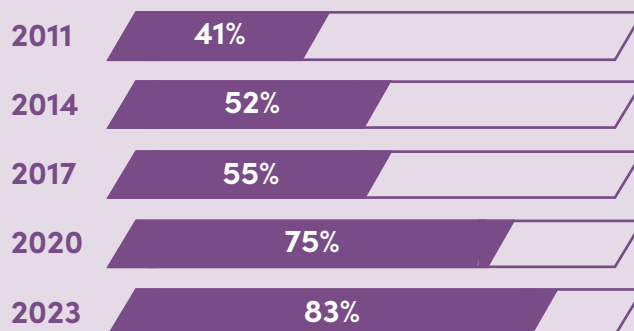
## Profile 2023



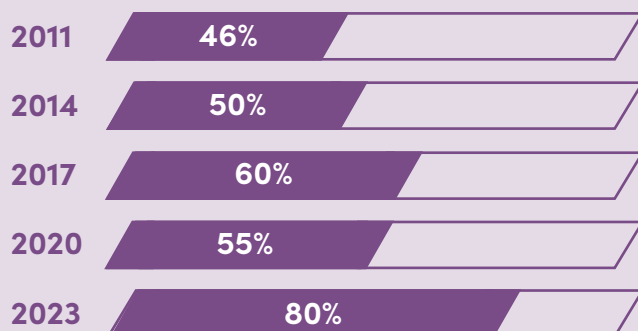
### CHANGE IN ECEC SPENDING



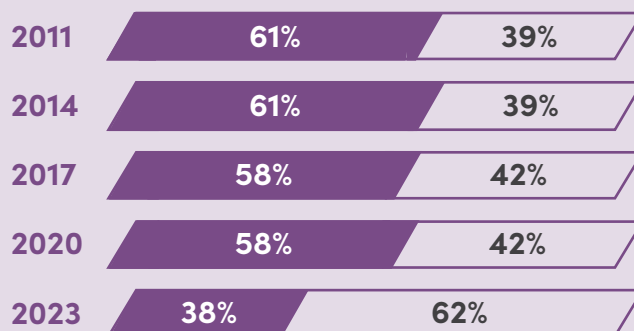
### ECEC CAPACITY TO PERCENTAGE OF 2- TO 4-YEAR-OLD CHILDREN



### ECE WAGES AS A PERCENTAGE OF TEACHER WAGES



### PERCENTAGE OF ECE FACILITIES (NON-PROFIT/PROFIT)





## Early Childhood Education Report



## ABOUT THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION REPORT BENCHMARKS

The Early Childhood Education Report (ECER) is produced by the Atkinson Centre for Society and Child Development at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education/University of Toronto and the Abilio–Childhood Knowledge Dissemination Centre, formerly the Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development, at the Université Laval and Université de Montréal. Twenty-one benchmarks are organized into five equally weighted categories, totalling a score of 15. The benchmarks evaluate governance structures, funding levels, access, quality in early learning environments, and the rigour of accountability mechanisms. Results are populated from detailed provincial and territorial profiles developed by the researchers and reviewed by provincial and territorial officials. For the federal overview, a detailed look at the benchmarks, the full methodology, and all provincial and territorial profiles, please visit [ECEReport.ca](https://ecereport.ca).

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## NEW DEVELOPMENTS

This Prince Edward Island profile captures early learning and child care initiatives to March 31, 2023. The New Developments section highlights activities occurring after this date.

The budget for the child care subsidy program transferred into the Department of Education on April 1, 2023.<sup>1</sup>

The Best Start Program<sup>2</sup> moved from the Department of Education and Early Years into the Department of Health.

At the time of this report, changes to child care regulations were proposed following seven rounds of consultations that wrapped up on July 19, 2023.<sup>3</sup>

The maximum number of spaces per licence is proposed to increase from 80 to 125, and the maximum number per group for infant rooms is proposed to increase from six to 12 children.<sup>4</sup>

Beginning January 1, 2024, child care fees across Prince Edward Island will drop to \$10-a-day for all Island children attending Designated Early Years Centres and licensed Family Home Centres.<sup>5</sup>

Beginning January 1, 2024, benefits were added for the early years sector as well as updated regulations, and three newly Designated Early Years Centres.<sup>6</sup>

### CANADA-PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND CANADA-WIDE EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE AGREEMENTS (CWELCC)

On July 27, 2021, Canada and Prince Edward Island signed a five-year CWELCC agreement.<sup>7</sup> The agreement provides \$121.3 million in federal funding over five years (2021–26) to reduce licensed child care costs for families to an average of \$10/day by the 2025–26 fiscal year and to expand access for children from birth to 6 years of age.

Effective October 1, 2023,<sup>8</sup> wage increases were implemented for early childhood educators and staff in Designated Early Years Centres. Employees of Designated Centres will also benefit from a defined contribution pension plan, with matching government funds.

In the 2021–22 fiscal year, the Governments of Canada and Prince Edward Island invested \$1,996,000 to improve affordability, decreasing fees to \$25/day in January 2022. An additional \$9,566,000 was invested to decrease fees to \$20/day in all Designated Early Years Centres as of October 2022.

A total of \$17.6 million was invested to address quality in the sector in the 2021–22 and 2022–23 fiscal years. Through CWELCC and provincial funding, a wage grid has been developed that considers post-secondary qualifications and includes incremental increases in wages for directors based on their years of experience.

Funding was also allocated<sup>9</sup> to increase the number of Designated Early Years Centres in the province.

A one-time investment of \$3.6 million was made to support the workforce in 2021–22. As part of this investment, the province invested in the *Return to ECE Profession Grant* to recruit early childhood educators back into the sector.<sup>10</sup>

On October 4, 2023, the province announced continued expansion of grants for Family Home Child Care Centres.<sup>11</sup>

As of January 1, 2024, parent fees for Designated Early Years Centres and Family Home Centres reached \$10/day with support of both federal and provincial funding.<sup>12</sup>

# GOVERNANCE

**TABLE 1.1 PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Lead Ministry/Department    | Department of Education and Early Years <sup>a</sup>  |
| Related Ministry/Department | Health PEI <sup>b</sup>   |
| ECE Supervisory Units       | Early Childhood Development <sup>c</sup><br>Public Schools Branch <sup>d</sup>  |
| Policy Framework            | <i>Moving Forward: The Early Years In PEI</i> <sup>e</sup>  |
| Legislation                 | <i>Education Act</i> (current to December 2022) <sup>f</sup><br><i>Early Learning and Child Care Act</i> (current to June 2019) <sup>g</sup>                                    |
| Related Legislation         | n/a   |
| Local Service Delivery      | Early Learning and Child Care Board <sup>h</sup><br>1 Public Schools Branch <sup>i</sup> and 1 French Language School – La Commission scolaire de langue française <sup>j</sup> |
| Community/Sector Oversight  | Minister's Advisory Council on Lifelong Learning (MAC) <sup>k</sup><br>Minister's Early Years Advisory Committee <sup>l</sup>   |

<sup>a</sup>. Government of Prince Edward Island. *Department of Education and Early Years*. Retrieved from: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/topic/education-and-early-years>

<sup>b</sup>. Government of Prince Edward Island. *Health PEI*. Health PEI is now responsible for the delivery of the *Best Start Program*. Retrieved from: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/topic/health-pe-i>

<sup>c</sup>. Government of Prince Edward Island. *Division of Early Childhood Development*. Retrieved from: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/education-and-lifelong-learning/early-childhood-development>

<sup>d</sup>. Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and Early Years. *Public Schools Branch*. Retrieved from: <https://psb.edu.pe.ca/>

<sup>e</sup>. Flanagan, K. (2018). *Moving Forward: The Early Years in PEI. Feasibility Study on the PEI Early Childhood Education and Care System*. Retrieved from: [https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/early\\_years\\_feasibility\\_study.pdf](https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/early_years_feasibility_study.pdf)

<sup>f</sup>. Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and Early Years. *Education Act*. Retrieved from: [https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/legislation/e-.02-education\\_act.pdf](https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/legislation/e-.02-education_act.pdf)

<sup>g</sup>. Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and Early Years. *Early Learning and Child Care Act*. Retrieved from: [https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/legislation/e-.01-early\\_learning\\_and\\_child\\_care\\_act.pdf](https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/legislation/e-.01-early_learning_and_child_care_act.pdf)

<sup>h</sup>. Government of Prince Edward Island. Executive Council Office. *Early Learning and Child Care Board*. Retrieved from: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/executive-council-office/early-learning-and-child-care-board>

<sup>i</sup>. Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and the Early Years. *Public Schools Branch*. Retrieved from: <https://psb.edu.pe.ca/>

<sup>j</sup>. Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and Early Years. *La Commission scolaire de langue française*. Retrieved from: <https://csf.edu.pe.ca/>

<sup>k</sup>. Government of Prince Edward Island. Executive Council Office. *Minister's Advisory Council on Lifelong Learning*. Retrieved from: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/executive-council-office/ministers-advisory-council-on-lifelong-learning>

<sup>l</sup>. Government of Prince Edward Island. News Release March 9, 2021. *Islanders asked to share views on pre-kindergarten program*. Retrieved from: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/news/islanders-asked-share-views-pre-kindergarten-program>



## DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION

The Department of Education and Early Years,<sup>13</sup> formerly the Department of Education and Lifelong Learning, develops and delivers programs and curriculum in English and French to children from birth to Grade 12. The department provides corporate services, including general and financial administration, staff certification, research, planning and evaluation, human resources, and school athletics.

The Early Years Division<sup>14</sup> oversees licensing and inspections, and provides curriculum and program development and support to Designated Early Years Centres, support for family resource centres and child care centres, and support for Early Years Autism services. In addition, the Division delivers parenting support and the universal pre-Kindergarten program. It is responsible for educator qualification and training—both international and domestic—and provides funding and administrative support to centres. It also administers child care fee subsidies. The *Best Start Program*, formally housed in the Department of Education and Early Years, has been transferred to Health PEI. The *Early Childhood Development Association of PEI* maintains a province-wide online child care registry.<sup>15</sup>

The Public Schools Branch operates PEI public schools and has been governed by an appointed Board of Director. The province has committed to reinstating an elected school board for the Public Schools Branch. The proposed new model includes eight elected trustees from across the province and three appointed members—one Mi'kmaq representative, and two appointed members-at-large. The French Language School Board continues to be elected and consists of nine elected trustees from across the province.<sup>16</sup>

## POLICY FRAMEWORK

The Governments of Canada and Prince Edward Island signed a series of agreements between 2017 and 2023. These have guided the development of access to affordable, inclusive, and quality early learning and child care services.

Policy development is also influenced by *Moving Forward: The Early Years in PEI*.<sup>17</sup> This review of early learning in Prince Edward Island led to a plan for a sustainable, high-quality, accessible early childhood system serving all Island children and their families.

## SERVICE DESIGN

### EDUCATION PROGRAMS

**KINDERGARTEN:**<sup>18</sup> Schools offer full-day Kindergarten for all children who turn 5 years of age by December 31. Attendance is mandatory.

### REGULATED CHILD CARE

**UNIVERSAL PRE-KINDERGARTEN:**<sup>19</sup> This optional play-based program is available for all 4-year-old children with no parent fee for the core program. It is offered 15 hours a week out of licensed early childhood centres. The program started in September 2022.

**DESIGNATED EARLY YEARS CENTRES:**<sup>20</sup> These centres are part of a network of programs for children from birth to school entry that meet a strict set of criteria including, but not limited to, integration of children with special needs, meeting higher quality standards including additional educational requirements for staff, use of the provincial curriculum, implementation of parent advisory committees, adherence to a wage grid, and charging standardized parent fees. All staff in these centres must be certified early childhood educators. Designated Centres may vary in auspice type.

### NON-DESIGNATED CHILD CARE CENTRES:

<sup>21</sup> These privately-operated centres set their own parent fees and staff wages but are required to have at least two certified early childhood educators. Minimum staffing requirements will increase over the next three years.<sup>22</sup>

**PRESCHOOL CENTRES:**<sup>23</sup> These centres may provide services for fewer than four consecutive hours per day to children who are 3 years of age or older but not yet attending school.

**SCHOOL-AGE CHILD CARE:**<sup>24</sup> This service operates outside of school hours for children attending Kindergarten up to 12 years of age.

**LICENSED FAMILY HOME CENTRE:**<sup>25</sup> These facilities are in private residences and provide care for up to eight children at any one time if staff-to-child ratios are met. This includes the children of the operator.

## UNREGULATED CHILD CARE

**UNLICENSED DAYCARE HOMES:**<sup>26</sup> A person may operate a home centre without a licence under the following guidelines:

- **Five children**, including those of the operator, provided that the group does not have more than two infants
- **Six children**, including those of the operator, where the group consists solely of preschool children or a combination of preschool children and school-age children
- **Seven children**, including those of the operator, where the group consists solely of school-age children

The maximum number of children allowable in an unlicensed premise is seven, regardless of the number of adults on site.

## CHILD/FAMILY SERVICES

**FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRES:**<sup>27</sup> Eight centres offer programs and resources for children and families. These include parent education and support groups, parent resources, prenatal nutrition programs, drop-in play, toy-lending libraries, and outreach for smaller communities.

**BEST START HOME VISITING PROGRAM:**<sup>28</sup> This voluntary in-home visiting program identifies and delivers services to families who face challenges. Best Start workers follow families until the child's third birthday to provide parenting support, early education, and parent-child activities. The program was previously housed in the

Department of Education and Early Years, and has now moved into Health PEI (Department of Health and Wellness).

**AUTISM SERVICES:**<sup>29</sup> Services for children and youth, including Intensive Behavioural Intervention (IBI), are offered to preschool (for 20 to 25 hours) and school-age children and youth. Early Years Autism Specialists provide services to young children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders before entering school using an integrated approach between professionals and school boards.

## LOCAL SERVICE DELIVERY

**THE EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE BOARD**<sup>30</sup> ensures the provision of child care in facilities. The functions of the board are to license child care facilities and issue certificates to qualified persons; advise on standards and minimum certification of qualifications; monitor operations of facilities to adhere to standards; and advise the ministry on regulatory issues.<sup>31</sup>

Responsibility for Kindergarten lies with the Public Schools Branch of the Department of Education and Early Years.<sup>32</sup>

**THE EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION**<sup>33</sup> maintains the online child care registry, which enables parents to search and register for licensed programs. In addition to providing convenience to parents, the registry supports the government and sector in assessing service demands.

**THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS BRANCH**<sup>34</sup> oversees Kindergarten to Grade 12 education. It is governed by a board of directors and is administered by branch-based staff. The Branch's responsibilities are outlined in Section 20(2) of the *Education Act*.<sup>35</sup> La Commission scolaire de langue française<sup>36</sup> oversees francophone education.

There are also five private schools<sup>37</sup> in the province, with two offering Kindergarten.

## COMMUNITY/SECTOR OVERSIGHT

**MINISTER'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON LIFELONG LEARNING (MAC):**<sup>38</sup> The advisory council was formed following the dissolution of the Schools District Advisory Councils (DACs) at the end of June 2022 and with the amendment of the *Education Act* that changed the governance structure of the English K–12 system from an appointed<sup>39</sup> to an elected school board with various councils.

The MAC was implemented to consult with the community on education-related topics from the early years to adult education.

**MINISTER'S EARLY YEARS ADVISORY COMMITTEE:** In 2021, the province sought the views and opinions of children, parents, early childhood educators, and education stakeholders on how to deliver the pre-Kindergarten program.<sup>40</sup>



# FUNDING

**TABLE 2.1 PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND EXPENDITURES FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE TO MARCH 31, 2023**

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| Administration <sup>a</sup>  | \$1,364,300         |
| Child care fee subsidies <sup>a</sup>                              | \$4,027,913         |
| Operating funds (includes wage and training grants) <sup>a,b</sup> | \$25,148,296        |
| Autism services <sup>c</sup>                                       | \$2,304,800         |
| Estimated federal funding through CWELCC <sup>a,d</sup>            | \$28,707,304        |
| <b>Total regulated child care<sup>b</sup></b>                      | <b>\$61,552,613</b> |

<sup>a</sup> Personal communication. Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and Early Years. July 26, 2023. Child care fee subsidy moved into the budget of the Department of Education and Early Years on April 1, 2023.

<sup>b</sup> Includes the Best Start Program that was still within the Department of Education and Early Years prior to March 31, 2023. The program has since moved into Health PEI.

<sup>c</sup> Government of Prince Edward Island. Estimates of Revenue and Expenditures 2022-2023. Retrieved from: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/estimatesbook.pdf>

<sup>d</sup> CWELCC proportion = \$1,590,000 (administration) + \$23,079,000 (operating); bilateral portion = \$192,000 (administration) + \$3,846,304 (operating).

**TABLE 2.2 PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND EXPENDITURES FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION/CHILD CARE TO MARCH 31, 2023**

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| Kindergarten <sup>a</sup>                              | \$19,957,231        |
| Regulated child care <sup>b</sup>                      | \$61,552,613        |
| <b>Total ECEC spending<sup>c</sup></b>                 | <b>\$81,509,844</b> |
| Total provincial budget spending estimate <sup>b</sup> | \$2,662,066,700     |
| <b>ECEC as a % of provincial budget</b>                | <b>3.1%</b>         |

<sup>a</sup> Personal communication. Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and Early Years. July 26, 2023. In 2022-23, the overall cost of the Public Schools Branch and CSLF combined was \$290,472,000. There were 21,410 students between the two boards, 1,471 of which were in Kindergarten.

<sup>b</sup> Government of Prince Edward Island. Estimates of Revenue and Expenditures 2022-2023. Retrieved from: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/estimatesbook.pdf>

<sup>c</sup> Funding for First Nations child care programs is provided by the federal government. Government of Canada. *First Nations Head Start—Standards Guide*. Retrieved from: [https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1582215017700/1582215088300#prince\\_edward\\_island](https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1582215017700/1582215088300#prince_edward_island)



# ACCESS

**TABLE 3.1 PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND CHILD POPULATION 0 TO <6 YEARS (2022)**

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Child population 0 to <6 years                  | 8,994   |
| 0 to <24 months                                 | 2,993   |
| 24 months to <5 years                           | 4,352   |
| 5 years   | 1,649   |
| Total population of Prince Edward Island        | 170,668 |
| Children 0 to <6 years as % of total population | 5.3%    |

Source: Statistics Canada. Table 17-10-0005-01 Population estimates on July 1, 2022, by age and sex (accessed on January 10, 2023).

**TABLE 3.2 PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION OF MOTHERS BY AGE OF YOUNGEST CHILD (2022)**

|   | Number of mothers in labour force by age of youngest child | Labour force participation rate of mothers by age of youngest child |
|---|--|---|
| 0 to <24 months   | 1,700  | 73.9%   |
| 24 months to <5 years   | 2,900  | 79.3%   |
| 5 years   | 500  | 83.3%   |
| Total mothers in labour force with child 0 to <6 years                          | 5,100  |   |
| Average labour force participation of mothers with youngest child 0 to <6 years |  | 77.6%   |

Source: 0620\_13 Table 3—Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimates of mothers by age of youngest child, Canada, provinces, territories, annual average, 2016 to 2022 (persons x 1,000).

**TABLE 3.3 PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ECE SCHOOL PROGRAMS (2022–23)**

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Children attending 5-year-old Kindergarten <sup>a</sup> | 1,471 |
| 5-year-old child population <sup>b</sup>                | 1,649 |
| % of children attending Kindergarten                    | 89%   |

<sup>a</sup> Government of Prince Edward Island. *School Enrolment, K-12, 2022-2023*. Does not include private school enrolment (N=23). Retrieved from: [https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/ell\\_k-12\\_enrolment\\_22-23.pdf](https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/ell_k-12_enrolment_22-23.pdf)

<sup>b</sup> Statistics Canada. Table 17-10-0005-01 Population estimates on July 1, 2022, by age and sex (accessed on January 10, 2023).

**TABLE 3.4 PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND REGULATED CHILD CARE TO MARCH 31, 2023**

**Spaces by age group in centre-based programs<sup>a,b</sup>**

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Infant (0 to 22 months)                    | 498          |
| Preschool-age (22 months to <5 years)      | 3,775        |
| School-age (5 to <12 years)                | 2,359        |
| <b>Total spaces centre-based programs</b>  | <b>6,632</b> |
| Family child care/home and group           | 84           |
| <b>Total capacity regulated child care</b> | <b>6,716</b> |

**Facilities by type<sup>a</sup>**

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Designated Early Years Centres (6 French, 66 English) | 72 |
| Private child care centres                            | 9  |
| School-age centres (English)                          | 55 |
| School-age centres (French)                           | 5  |
| Family day homes <sup>c</sup>                         | 11 |

**Facilities by auspice**

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| <b>Non-profit<sup>d</sup></b>                        | <b>62</b>  |
| Early childhood centres                              | 3          |
| Designated Early Years Centres                       | 26         |
| Family Home Centres                                  | 1          |
| Preschool centres                                    | 6          |
| School-age child centres                             | 26         |
| <b>For-profit</b>                                    | <b>101</b> |
| Early childhood centres                              | 6          |
| Designated Early Years Centres                       | 47         |
| Family Home Centres                                  | 10         |
| Preschool centres                                    | 5          |
| School-age child centres                             | 33         |
| Kindergarten (English language schools) <sup>e</sup> | 37         |
| Kindergarten (French language schools) <sup>e</sup>  | 6          |
| Kindergarten (private schools)                       | 2          |
| <b>Total Kindergarten</b>                            | <b>45</b>  |

<sup>a</sup> Personal Communication. Department of Education and Early Years. July 26, 2023.

<sup>b</sup> The Prince Edward Island government does not license First Nations child care programs. Government of Canada. *First Nations Head Start – Standards Guide*. Retrieved from: [https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1582215017700/1582215088300#prince\\_edward\\_island](https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1582215017700/1582215088300#prince_edward_island)

<sup>c</sup> A 12<sup>th</sup> family day home has been licensed since March 31, 2023, with several in the process of licensing.

<sup>d</sup> Of the 101 for-profit centres, 58 are early years programs. Of the 58 early years programs, 47 (81%) are Designated Early Years Centres that must meet a strict set of criteria including, but not limited to, integration of children with special needs, meeting higher quality standards including additional educational requirements for staff, use of the provincial curriculum, implementation of parent advisory committees, adherence to a wage grid, and charging standardized parent fees. All staff in these centres must be certified early childhood educators.

<sup>e</sup> Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and Early Years. *Public Schools*. Retrieved from: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/education-and-early-years/public-schools>

**TABLE 3.5 PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ECE CAPACITY TO PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN BY AGE GROUP TO MARCH 31, 2023**

| Child Ages            | Number of Children <sup>a</sup> | Licensed Child Care/Preschool <sup>b</sup> | School-based Kindergarten Enrolment | Other ECE Programs <sup>f</sup> | Capacity to % of Children |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 0 to <24 months       | 2,993                           | 697 <sup>c</sup>                           |                                     |                                 | 23%                       |
| 24 months to <5 years | 4,352                           | 2,434 <sup>d</sup>                         | 1,142 <sup>d</sup>                  | 50                              | <b>83%</b>                |
| 5 years               | 1,649                           |  | 1,471 <sup>e</sup>                  |                                 | 89%                       |

<sup>a</sup> Statistics Canada. Table 17-10-0005-01 Population estimates on July 1, 2022, by age and sex (accessed on January 10, 2023).  
<sup>b</sup> Child care age groupings collected by the province do not match the age groupings in the report.  
<sup>c</sup> Of the 498 infant spaces from Table 3.4, calculations were made to account for the two months unmatched age groups (498 + 199). Please see Methodology for calculation details.  
<sup>d</sup> Of the 3,775 preschool spaces from Table 3.4, calculations were made to account for the two months unmatched age groups (3,775 - 199). To avoid double counting, an additional 1,142 (number of children that participated in pre-K) was subtracted and appears under school-based Kindergarten enrolment. Please see Methodology for calculation details. Personal communication. Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and Early Years. August 24, 2023. Number of children that attended free pre-K 2022-23. This program is 15 hours per week.  
<sup>e</sup> Government of Prince Edward Island. *School Enrolment, K-12, 2022-2023*. Does not include private school enrolment. Retrieved from: [https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/ell\\_k-12\\_enrolment\\_22-23.pdf](https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/ell_k-12_enrolment_22-23.pdf)  
<sup>f</sup> Estimate based on PEI's 2 AHS centres (Lennox Island Daycare and Wekatesk). See Methodology for detailed calculation. The government of Prince Edward Island does not license First Nations child care programs. Funding for First Nations child care is provided by the federal government.

Funding was allocated<sup>41</sup> to increase the number of Designated Early Years Centres in the province. Seven early childhood centres received an official Early Years Centre designation from the province in 2021,<sup>42</sup> with an additional 11 in 2022,<sup>43</sup> providing more affordable child care options and public oversight.

Starting in 2017, licensed early childhood centres (including Family Home Centres) were invited to apply for an *Alternate Hours Demonstration Site Funding Grant* to support two streams of activity

to support access: 1) extend licensed hours of operation to any times between 5:00 am–9:00 pm, Sunday to Saturday weekly; and 2) create additional Early Years Center designated spaces to support seasonal employment. The grant funding could be used to offset operational costs incurred by participating centers, including wages. As of May 2023, there were a total of 10 active *Alternate Hours* demonstration sites in the province. The program is currently under evaluation to further meet the needs of families.<sup>44</sup>

## AFFORDABILITY

**TABLE 3.6 PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND EARLY YEARS CENTRE FEE SCHEDULE (2023)**

| Designated Early Years Centres <sup>a,b</sup>       |              |
|---|--------------|
| Infant (0 to 22 months)                             | \$20/day     |
| Toddler (22 months to 3 years)                      | \$20/day     |
| Preschool (3 years to school entry)                 | \$20/day     |
| School age <sup>b</sup>                             | Set own fees |
| Private centres <sup>b</sup>                        | Set own fees |
| Non-Designated Early Childhood Centres <sup>c</sup> |              |
| Set own fees  |              |
| Licensed Family Home Centre <sup>b,c</sup>          |              |
| Infants   | \$20/day     |
| 22 months to 3 years                                | \$20/day     |
| 3 to 4 years  | \$20/day     |

<sup>a</sup> Government of Prince Edward Island. News Release December 16, 2022. *Prince Edward Island reaches \$20-a-day child care*. Retrieved from: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/news/prince-edward-island-reaches-20-a-day-child-care>

<sup>b</sup> Moved to \$10/day as of January 1, 2024.

<sup>c</sup> Personal Communication. Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and Early Years. July 26, 2023. Eligible for parent fee reduction.

**TABLE 3.7 PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND DAILY SUBSIDY RATE TO MARCH 31, 2023**

| Child Care Centres (Full-Day Programs)              | Per Diem Rates |
|---|----------------|
| Infants (birth to 2 years)                          | \$34           |
| 2-year-olds   | \$28           |
| 3- to 4-year-olds                                   | \$27           |
| School-age child care (up to age 12 years)          |                |
| Full-day rate (storm days, PD days, holidays, etc.) | \$30           |
| Before- and after-school care                       | \$15           |

Source: Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Social Development and Seniors. *Child Care Subsidy Program Policies*. Retrieved from: [https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/1.3\\_rates\\_final.pdf](https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/1.3_rates_final.pdf)

In the 2021–22 fiscal year, the Government of Prince Edward Island invested \$1,996,000 to improve affordability by decreasing fees to \$25/day in January 2022. An additional \$9,566,000 was invested to decrease fees to \$20/day in all Designated Early Years Centres as of October 2022.<sup>45</sup>

**FEE SUBSIDIES:**<sup>46</sup> The *Child Care Subsidy Program* assists with the cost of child care for children up to and including 12 years of age. Subsidies are determined by a needs test and are available for those who are working, attending school, or at home. Maximum daily subsidy rates match the government-established fees for Designated Early Years Centres. The program, previously administered by the Department of Social Development and Seniors, is now housed in the Department of Education and Early Years.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Full subsidies are available for families with one parent/one child with an annual income up to \$17,440.08 or two parent/two child families with an annual income up to \$23,200.08. Subsidies are capped for single parent households with an income exceeding \$41,806.50 and two parent/two child families with an income exceeding \$59,122.50.<sup>47</sup> Parents who demonstrate a need for child care are also eligible.<sup>48</sup> This includes but is not limited to the following situations: parents participating in job search activities, employment, training, or education; parents with medical needs; children with special needs; children in need of protection; children in the *Alternative Care Program*; and children in the *Enhanced Early Learning Childcare Program*.<sup>49</sup>

In January 2022, the province offered the *School Age Child Care Centre Allowance Grant* to families of school-age children and the *School Age Child Care Centre Grant* to centres opening for full-day child care during in-class school closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic until January 17, 2022. For families with children aged 5 to 12 years who required child care during the closures, \$125 per child per week was provided directly.<sup>50</sup>

Licensed family home centres can receive financial support to reduce parent fees. Families are also eligible to apply for fee subsidies.<sup>51</sup>

## INCLUSION

Through the Department of Education and Early Years, The *Special Needs Grant*<sup>52</sup> supports the inclusion of children with special needs in a licensed early learning and child care setting by providing funding for additional staff. A child with special needs is defined as a person who is under the age of 12 years and requires additional types of care to meet developmental goals.

Designated Early Years Centres are required to accommodate children with special needs. *Special Needs Grants* are provided to support children with various special needs (e.g., medical, developmental delays, in care of the province, family violence situations, severe behavioural issues, etc.) to attend early childhood centres.<sup>53</sup>

The *Minister's Directive on Special Education* is a framework for special education services in the public school system, including Kindergarten.<sup>54</sup>



# LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

TABLE 4.1 PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND CURRICULUM FRAMEWORKS

| Program      | Framework Document   |
|--------------|--|
| Kindergarten | <i>The PEI Integrated Kindergarten Curriculum<sup>a</sup></i><br><i>Maternelle d'immersion française: Programme d'études<sup>b</sup></i> |
| Child care   | <i>PEI Early Learning Framework – Relationships, Environments, Experiences<sup>c,d</sup></i>   |

<sup>a</sup> Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and Early Years. *Kindergarten Integrated Curriculum*. 2008. Retrieved from: [https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/eelc\\_kindergarten.pdf](https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/eelc_kindergarten.pdf)

<sup>b</sup> Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and Early Years. *Maternelle d'immersion française: Programme d'études*. Retrieved from: [https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/eelc\\_kindergarten\\_fi\\_0.pdf](https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/eelc_kindergarten_fi_0.pdf)

<sup>c</sup> Required in all Designated Early Years Centres and all publicly funded pre-Kindergarten programs. Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and Early Years. *PEI Early Learning Framework—Relationships, Environments, Experiences*. Retrieved from: [https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/eecd\\_eyfrwrk\\_full.pdf](https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/eecd_eyfrwrk_full.pdf)

<sup>d</sup> Child care curriculum is aligned with the PEI Integrated Kindergarten Curriculum, and is currently under revision and will be released in the first quarter of 2024.



## WORK ENVIRONMENT

**TABLE 4.2 PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND GROUP SIZE AND STAFF/CHILD RATIO IN REGULATED CHILD CARE CENTRES<sup>a</sup>**

| Age                                    | Staff:Child Indoor Ratio | Staff:Child Outdoor Ratio | Maximum Group Size           |
|--|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Infant<br>(0 to 22 months)             | 1:3                      | 1:3                       | 6 <sup>b</sup>               |
| Preschool<br>(22 months to 3 years)    | 1:5                      | 1:7                       | Not specified in legislation |
| Preschool<br>(3 years to school entry) | 1:10                     | 1:15                      | Not specified in legislation |
| School age                             | 1:15                     | 1:22                      | Not specified in legislation |

**REGULATED FAMILY HOME CHILD CARE CENTRES<sup>c</sup>**

| Age                                    | Staff:Child Indoor Ratio | Staff:Child Outdoor Ratio | Ratio Maximum <sup>d</sup> |
|--|--------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Infant<br>(0 to 22 months)             | 1:3                      | 1:3                       | 8                          |
| Preschool<br>(22 months to 3 years)    | 1:5                      | 1:7                       | 8                          |
| Preschool<br>(3 years to school entry) | 1:10                     | 1:15                      | 8                          |
| School age                             | 1:15                     | 1:22                      | 8                          |

<sup>a</sup>. Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and Early Years. *Early Learning and Child Care Act Regulations*. Retrieved from: [https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/legislation/e.01g-early\\_learning\\_and\\_child\\_care\\_act\\_regulations.pdf](https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/legislation/e.01g-early_learning_and_child_care_act_regulations.pdf)

<sup>b</sup>. The maximum group size for infants in a licensed centre may exceed six infants for a period not exceeding 25 per cent of the time that the infants receive services in the centre daily, provided that the group includes preschool or school-age children. Proposed amendments to the *Early Learning and Child Care Act Regulations* have been made to increase infant maximum group size from 6 to 12. The Early Years Division hosted consultations with the early learning and child care sector during summer and fall of 2023. It is anticipated that the proposed amendments will be approved and will come into effect in late 2023.

<sup>c</sup>. Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and Early Years. *Family Home Centre*. Retrieved from: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/education-and-lifelong-learning/family-home-centre-frequently-asked-questions>

<sup>d</sup>. A provider can care for up to eight children, aged infant to school-age, at any one time with the above ratios. As long as there are no more than eight children for a home, a licensed family home centre may have two caregivers to meet ratio numbers. To determine ratio maximums, see: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/education-and-lifelong-learning/family-home-centre-frequently-asked-questions>



**KINDERGARTEN CLASS SIZE:** Kindergarten classrooms are capped at 18.<sup>55</sup>

**CHILD CARE PROGRAM SIZE:**<sup>56</sup> The maximum number of children at one time is 80 spaces per licence. Designated Early Years Centres must have a minimum of 40 spaces, including space for infants and children with special needs. Allowances are made for smaller centres in rural areas. Proposed amendments to the *Early Learning and Child Care Act Regulations* have been made to increase the maximum licence capacity from 80 to 125. The Early Years Division

hosted consultations with the early learning and child care sector during the summer and fall of 2023. It is anticipated that the proposed amendments will be approved and come into effect in late 2023.<sup>57</sup>

**LICENSED FAMILY HOME CENTRE:**<sup>58</sup> Providers are eligible to apply for grant funding. Operators are required to complete, at a minimum, a 30-hour *Family Home Child Care Provider Certificate* course. Upon completion of the course, operators may apply for certification.

## EDUCATORS

**TABLE 4.3 PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND EDUCATOR QUALIFICATIONS**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Kindergarten Teachers <sup>a</sup>       | Teachers must hold a Bachelor of Education or an academic credential the Registrar deems to be equivalent. School boards require either education or experience within the early years.  |
| Early Childhood Educators <sup>b,c</sup> | <p><b>Early Childhood Educator (ECE) Level III:</b> Two-year post-secondary diploma program or a degree program in early childhood care and education.</p> <p><b>Early Childhood Educator (ECE) Level II:</b> One-year post-secondary certificate program in early childhood care and education.</p> <p><b>Early Childhood Educator (ECE) Level I:</b> 30-hour course, approved by the Board in each of the following subject areas: child growth and development, child guidance, early childhood pedagogy.</p> |

<sup>a</sup> Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and Early Years. *Education Act Teacher Certification and Standards Regulations*. Retrieved from: [https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/legislation/e.02-11doc-teacher\\_certification\\_and\\_standards\\_regulations.pdf](https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/legislation/e.02-11doc-teacher_certification_and_standards_regulations.pdf)

<sup>b</sup> Government of Prince Edward Island. *Early Learning and Child Care Act Regulations*. Retrieved from: [https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/legislation/e.01g-early\\_learning\\_and\\_child\\_care\\_act\\_regulations.pdf](https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/legislation/e.01g-early_learning_and_child_care_act_regulations.pdf)

<sup>c</sup> The Early Years Division is proposing amendments to the *Early Learning and Child Care Act Regulations* that will streamline early childhood educator certification titles. The Early Years Division hosted consultations with the early learning and child care sector during summer and fall of 2023. It is anticipated that the proposed amendments will be approved and come into effect in late 2023. Personal Communication. Department of Education and Early Years. November 2, 2023.

**TABLE 4.4 PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION AND DEVELOPMENT**

|                          | Teachers   | Early Childhood Educators   |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| Professional Recognition | Teacher certification, Department of Education and Early Years. <sup>a</sup> | All program staff in Designated Early Years Centres must be certified by the Early Learning and Child Care Board at one of the certification levels. <sup>b</sup><br><br>Providers of licensed Family Home Centres are required to complete, at a minimum, a 30-hour Family Home Child Care Provider certificate course. Upon completion of the course, operators may apply for certification. <sup>c</sup> |
| Professional Development | As determined by school boards.  | Minimum 45 hours every 3 years to maintain certification. <sup>d</sup>  |

<sup>a</sup> Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and Early Years. *Prince Edward Island Teacher's Certification Application*. Retrieved from: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/education-and-lifelong-learning/prince-edward-island-teachers-certificate-application>

<sup>b</sup> Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and Early Years. *Apply for Early Childhood Educator Certification*. Retrieved from: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/service/apply-for-early-childhood-educator-certification>

<sup>c</sup> Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and Early Years. *Family Home Centre – Frequently Asked Questions*. Retrieved from: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/education-and-lifelong-learning/family-home-centre-frequently-asked-questions>

<sup>d</sup> Government of Prince Edward Island. *Early Learning and Child Care Act Regulations*. Retrieved from: [https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/legislation/e.01g-early\\_learning\\_and\\_child\\_care\\_act\\_regulations.pdf](https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/legislation/e.01g-early_learning_and_child_care_act_regulations.pdf)

**TABLE 4.5 PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND DENSITY OF QUALIFIED STAFF IN CHILD CARE CENTRES**

Legislation requires all staff to have a minimum of entry-level qualification in Designated Early Years Centres. Designated funding provided to Early Years Centres (EYC) is higher for Level II and III staff and as such EYCs are incentivized to hire Level II and III staff.

Source: Government of Prince Edward Island. *Early Learning and Child Care Act Regulations*. Retrieved from: [https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/legislation/e.01g-early\\_learning\\_and\\_child\\_care\\_act\\_regulations.pdf](https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/legislation/e.01g-early_learning_and_child_care_act_regulations.pdf)

**TABLE 4.6 PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ECE ANNUAL WAGE AS A PERCENTAGE OF TEACHER WAGE (2023)**

| Teachers <sup>a</sup> | Early Childhood Educators <sup>b</sup> | ECE Wage as a Percentage of Teacher Wage |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| \$79,821              | \$64,085                               | <b>80%</b>                               |

<sup>a</sup> Personal communication. PEI Teachers' Federation. May 18, 2023. Certification Level 5, Step 5.

<sup>b</sup> Government of Prince Edward Island. *Early Years Centre Wage Grid*. Effective October 1, 2022, \$30.81/hour for ECE Level III. For detailed salary calculation see Methodology. Retrieved from: [https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/eyc\\_wage\\_grid.pdf](https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/eyc_wage_grid.pdf)

A one-time investment of approximately \$3.6 million in 2021–22<sup>59</sup> was allocated to the province under the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement to support the early childhood workforce. *The Return to Early Childhood Education (ECE) Grant*<sup>60</sup> is intended to support the return of qualified educators who work with preschool children (age birth to school entry) in licensed early learning and child care centres. A one-time amount of \$5,000 is paid directly to applicants when the application is approved. Applicants must have worked outside the licensed child care sector for at least 24 consecutive months, be certified as a Level III ECE, and provide a letter of employment verifying start date and a minimum two-year contract.

Effective October 1, 2023,<sup>61</sup> wage increases were implemented for early childhood educators and staff in Designated Early Years Centres, including a defined contribution pension plan with matching government funds. The new defined contribution pension plan is being developed, implemented, and managed through the Early Childhood Development Association of PEI. At the time of this report, the pension plan was not yet implemented.

Prince Edward Island’s ECE wage grid<sup>62</sup> considers post-secondary qualifications and incremental increases in wages for directors based on their years of experience. The wage grid also includes cooks who work in Designated Early Years Centres.

**TABLE 4.7 PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND HOURLY WAGE GRID**

| Position      | Education Completed                 | Experience After Certification |         |         |         |                 |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|-----------------|
|               |                                     | 1 year or less                 | 2 years | 3 years | 4 years | 5 years or more |
| Director      | Post-diploma/degree                 | \$35.10                        | \$35.83 | \$36.58 | \$37.13 | \$38.12         |
| ECE III       | 2-year diploma                      | \$28.86                        | \$29.33 | \$29.80 | \$30.29 | \$30.81         |
| ECE II        | 1 year certificate                  | \$21.55                        | \$21.97 | \$22.41 | \$22.85 | \$23.28         |
| ECE I         | 3 x 30-hour early childhood courses | \$17.23                        | \$17.61 | \$17.99 | \$18.39 | \$18.80         |
| Cook          | n/a                                 | \$15.75                        |         |         |         |                 |
| Uncertified   | n/a                                 | Minimum wage                   |         |         |         |                 |
| Support Staff | n/a                                 | Minimum wage                   |         |         |         |                 |

Source: Government of Prince Edward Island. Hourly Wage Grid: Effective October 1, 2023. Retrieved from: [https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/eyc\\_wage\\_grid.pdf](https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/eyc_wage_grid.pdf)

A one-time retention grant to recognize years of service was also provided in 2021–22, offered in two installments. In 2022–23, the grant was offered again with a one-time payment. Applications were received until March 2, 2023.<sup>63</sup>

To support recruitment, an estimated 400 educators will be eligible for grants to support further studies toward an ECE credential.<sup>64</sup> Sixty grants are being allocated for low income, Indigenous, Black, and other racialized communities, newcomers to Canada, official language minorities, and underserved populations working in the sector.<sup>65</sup>

Training opportunities are available through the *Accelerated Early Childhood Education Program*<sup>66</sup> to upgrade education qualification to an ECE certificate or diploma. The *Early Childhood Development Associations' Skills PEI Steps to Success Program* also provides six months of training and workplace experience to become a level one early childhood educator.<sup>67</sup>

Licensed family home centres can receive financial support to reduce parent fees, fund wages and professional development opportunities, and purchase materials, equipment, or supplies. Current unlicensed home child care providers can also receive funding to help cover costs associated with seeking licensing from the province.<sup>68</sup>



## ACCOUNTABILITY

**PROGRESS REPORTS:** The most recent report, *The Department of Education and Lifelong Learning Annual Report 2021–2022*,<sup>69</sup> provides public reporting on investments and initiatives in early childhood education.

**PROGRAM STANDARDS:** Child care programs must meet facility licensing requirements. Facility standards are not available for Kindergarten.

**POPULATION MONITORING:** Children are screened using the Early Years Evaluation—Direct Assessment (EYE-DA)<sup>70</sup> as part of their orientation to Kindergarten. The province also uses the Early Development Index,<sup>71</sup> and data was collected in 2019 and 2023. Results were not yet publicly available at the time of this report.



## ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup>Personal Communication. Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and Early Years. July 26, 2023.

<sup>2</sup>Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and Early Years. *Best Start Program*. Retrieved from: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/health-pei/best-start-program>

<sup>3</sup>Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and Early Years. News Release. July 5, 2023. *Feedback wanted on changes to Early Learning and Child Care Act Regulation*. Retrieved from: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/news/feedback-wanted-on-changes-to-early-learning-and-child-care-act-regulations>

<sup>4</sup>Personal Communication. Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and Early Years. July 26, 2023.

<sup>5</sup>Government of Prince Edward Island. News Release. January 10, 2024. *Newly designated early years centres and updated regulations*. Retrieved from: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/news/newly-designated-early-years-centres-and-updated-regulations>

<sup>6</sup>Government of Prince Edward Island. News Release. December 15, 2023. Retrieved from: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/news/10-a-day-child-care-starting-january-1>

<sup>7</sup>Government of Canada. *Canada–Prince Edward Island Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement 2021 to 2026*. Retrieved from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/early-learning-child-care-agreement/agreements-provinces-territories/prince-edward-island-canada-wide-2021.html>

<sup>8</sup>Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and Early Years. News Release. August 21, 2023. *Creating more child care spaces and making investments to support early childhood educators*. Retrieved from: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/news/creating-more-child-care-spaces-and-making-investments-to-support-early-childhood-educators>

<sup>9</sup>Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and Early Years. News Release June 11, 2021. *Early Childhood Centres can apply for designation*. Retrieved from: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/news/early-childhood-centres-can-apply-for-designation>

<sup>10</sup>Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and Early Years. New Release. February 18, 2022. *Workforce investments continue in early years sector*. Retrieved from: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/news/workforce-investments-continue-in-early-years-sector>

<sup>11</sup>Government of Prince Edward Island. News Release November 8, 2022. *Support for licensed home child care centres in Prince Edward Island*. Retrieved from: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/news/support-for-licensed-home-child-care-centres-in-prince-edward-island>

<sup>12</sup>Personal Communication. Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and Early Years. November 10, 2023.

<sup>13</sup>Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and Early Years. *Education and Early Years*. Retrieved from: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/topic/education-and-early-years>

<sup>14</sup>Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and Early Years. *Early Childhood Development*. <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/topic/early-childhood-development>

<sup>15</sup>Early Childhood Development Association of PEI. *Child Care Registry*. Retrieved from: <https://www.ecdaofpei.ca/registry.php>

<sup>16</sup>Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and Early Years. *Public Schools Branch*. Retrieved from: <https://psb.edu.pe.ca/>

<sup>17</sup>Flanagan, K. (2018). *Feasibility Study on the PEI Early Childhood Education and Care System*. Prepared for Department of Education, Early Learning and Culture Prince Edward Island. Retrieved from: [https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/early\\_years\\_feasibility\\_study.pdf](https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/early_years_feasibility_study.pdf)

<sup>18</sup>Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and Early Years. *Kindergarten to Grade 12*. Retrieved from: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/topic/kindergarten-to-grade-12>

<sup>19</sup>Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and Early Years. *The Universal pre-Kindergarten Program*. Retrieved from: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/education-and-lifelong-learning/the-universal-pre-kindergarten-program>

- <sup>20</sup> Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and Early Years. *Early Learning and Childcare Investments*. Retrieved from: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/education-and-lifelong-learning/early-learning-and-childcare-investments>
- <sup>21</sup> Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and Early Years. *Early Learning and Childcare Investments*. Retrieved from: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/education-and-lifelong-learning/early-learning-and-childcare-investments>
- <sup>22</sup> Personal Communication. Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and Early Years. July 26, 2023.
- <sup>23</sup> Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and Early Years. *Early Learning and Child Care Act Regulations*. Retrieved from: [https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/legislation/e.01g-early\\_learning\\_and\\_child\\_care\\_act\\_regulations.pdf#page=4](https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/legislation/e.01g-early_learning_and_child_care_act_regulations.pdf#page=4)
- <sup>24</sup> Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and Early Years. *Early Learning and Child Care Act*. Retrieved from: [https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/legislation/e-.01-early\\_learning\\_and\\_child\\_care\\_act.pdf](https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/legislation/e-.01-early_learning_and_child_care_act.pdf)
- <sup>25</sup> Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and Early Years. *Family Home Centre— Frequently Asked Questions*. Retrieved from: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/education-and-lifelong-learning/family-home-centre-frequently-asked-questions>
- <sup>26</sup> Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and Early Years. *Family Home Centre— Frequently Asked Questions*. Retrieved from: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/education-and-lifelong-learning/family-home-centre-frequently-asked-questions>
- <sup>27</sup> Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and Early Years. *Family Resource Centres*. Retrieved from: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/education-and-lifelong-learning/family-resource-centres>
- <sup>28</sup> Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and Early Years. *Best Start Program*. Retrieved from: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/health-pei/best-start-program>
- <sup>29</sup> Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and Early Years. *Autism Services for Children and Youth*. <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/education-and-lifelong-learning/autism-services-for-children-and-youth>
- <sup>30</sup> Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and Early Years. *Early Learning and Child Care Board*. Retrieved from: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/executive-council-office/early-learning-and-child-care-board>
- <sup>31</sup> Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and Early Years. *Early Learning and Child Care Board*. Retrieved from: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/executive-council-office/early-learning-and-child-care-board>
- <sup>32</sup> Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and Early Years. *Kindergarten to Grade 12*. Retrieved from: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/topic/kindergarten-to-grade-12>
- <sup>33</sup> Early Childhood Development Association of PEI. Retrieved from: <https://www.ecdaofpei.ca/>
- <sup>34</sup> Public Schools Branch. Retrieved from: <https://psb.edu.pe.ca/about-us>
- <sup>35</sup> Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education and Early Years. *Education Act*. Retrieved from: [https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/legislation/e-.02-education\\_act.pdf](https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/legislation/e-.02-education_act.pdf)
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