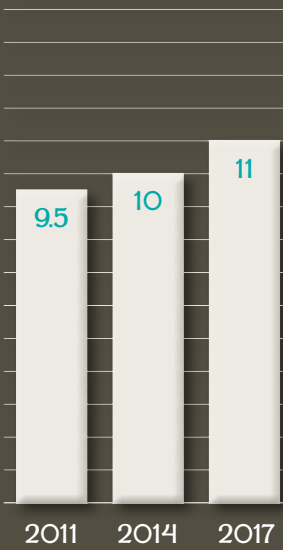


PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND PROFILE 2017

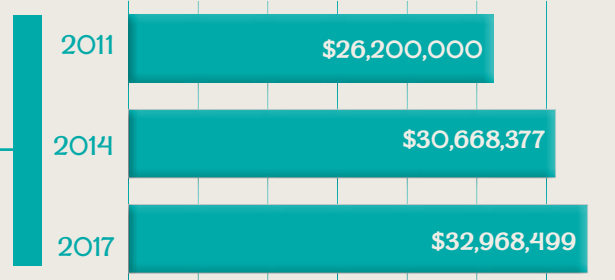


TRENDS IN ECEC FROM 2011-2017

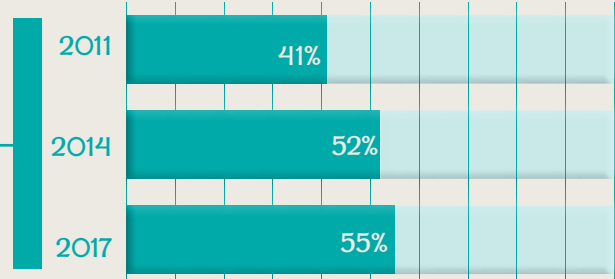
ECE REPORT BENCHMARKS



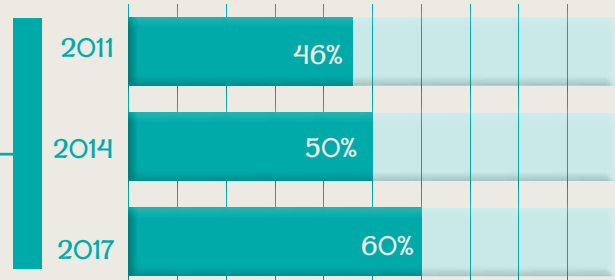
CHANGE IN ECEC SPENDING



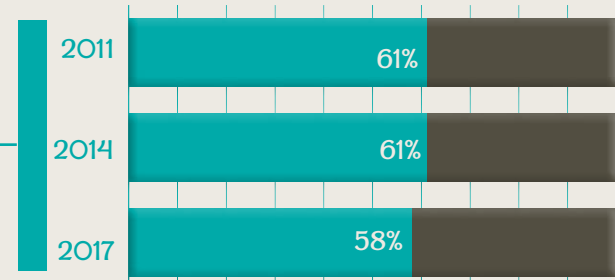
PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN 2-4 YEARS ATTENDING ECEC



ECE SALARIES AS A PERCENTAGE OF TEACHER SALARIES



PERCENTAGE OF FACILITIES (NON-PROFIT / PROFIT)



1. GOVERNANCE

Lead Ministry/Department	Department of Education, Early Learning and Culture
Related Ministry/Department	Department of Family and Human Services
Policy Framework	<i>Securing The Future For Our Children: Preschool Excellence Initiative</i> (May 2010) ¹
Common Supervisory Unit	Learning and Early Childhood Development Branch
Legislation	<i>Early Learning and Child Care Act</i> ²
Related Legislation	
Local Service Delivery	Early Learning and Child Care Board ³ 1 Public School Branch and 1 French language school board ⁴
Community/Sector Oversight	Early Years Advisory Committee

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

On August 29, 2017, the governments of Canada and Prince Edward Island reached a three-year bilateral agreement that allocates \$10.5 million to improve early learning and child care access and quality for underserved populations and vulnerable children such as infants, preschoolers, children whose parents work seasonally or non-standard hours, newcomer families and Acadian and French-speaking communities. Investments will also support professional training and resources. This announcement is part of the June 12, 2017 agreement by federal, provincial and territorial governments for an Early Learning and Child Care Framework.⁵

The *Early Learning and Child Care Act*, passed by the legislature in 2010, came into effect in January 2017. The new act includes updated health and safety requirements for child care centres, as well as stipulations on equipment to be used and curriculum to be followed. It also includes new enforcement measures that strengthen the ability of the Early Learning and Child Care Board to ensure child care centres, both licensed and unlicensed, comply with the legislation.

Phase 2 of the Preschool Excellence Initiative is in development. It includes a review and potential expansion of Early Years Centres. As a first step, staff working in Early Years Centres received a 2 percent wage increase beginning in July 2016.

PEI's Budget 2017 provides an additional \$5.4 million dedicated to the education of Island children and youth, bringing the total budget of the Department of Education, Early Learning and Culture to \$256 million, an all-time high.

DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION

The Innovation, Education, Programs/Services and Early Childhood Development Divisions, within the Department of Education, Early Learning and Culture, are accountable for the development and implementation of programs and curriculum in both English and French to children from birth to grade 12.⁶

The Early Child Development Division provides curriculum, program development and support to Early Years Centres, support for Family Resource Centres and child care centres, and support for the Early Years Autism services. The division delivers the direct funding program, special needs funding program and the Best Start program, and is responsible for healthy child development. It is also responsible for the *Early Learning and Child Care Act*, including the certification of early childhood educators and the licensing and inspections of early childhood programs, and provides resources and support to the Early Learning and Child Care Board.

Responsibility for kindergarten lies with the English and French Innovation, Education and Programs/Services Divisions.

The Early Years Autism Team provides Intensive Behavioural Intervention (IBI) and personalized instruction for preschoolers and kindergarten children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders. Diagnostic services are available through the Department of Health and Wellness with intervention services provided by the Department of Education, Early Learning and Culture.

The Department of Family and Human Services administers child care fee subsidies.

POLICY FRAMEWORK

Securing The Future For Our Children: Preschool Excellence Initiative Phase 2 is in development with the intention of reviewing standards in existing Early Years Centres, adding new centres and exploring an expanded role for Family Resource Centres.

SERVICE DESIGN

Education Programs

Kindergarten: Schools offer full-day kindergarten for all children who turn 5 years of age by December 31. Children must complete the kindergarten year before entering grade 1.

Regulated Child Care

Early Years Centres: The 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, standards for staff training; adherence to a wage and fee scale and the provincial early years curriculum; and provisions for transparent accounting for funding.

Non-designated child care centres: These privately operated centres set their own parent fees and staff wages.

Preschool centres: The centres may provide services for less than four consecutive hours per day to children who are 3 years of age or over but not yet attending school.

School-age child care: This service operates outside of school hours for children attending kindergarten to age 11 years.

Family home centre: These facilities are located in private residences and provide care for up to six children at any one time as long as staff-to-child ratios are met. This includes the children of the operator who are age 10 years and under.

Unregulated Child Care

Unlicensed daycare homes: These homes may provide care without a licence for up to two infants under 22 months; or up to four preschool children age 22 months up to school entry; or a mixed aged group of five children with no more than one infant and no more than three preschool children; or up to six school-aged children. These numbers include the caregiver's own children who are age 10 years and under.

Child/Family Services

Family Resource Centres: Seven centres located in smaller communities across the Island offer parent education, prenatal nutrition programs, drop-in play groups, toy-lending and outreach programs.

Best Start: The Department of Education, Early Learning and Culture and Health PEI supports this voluntary in-home visiting program. The program identifies and delivers services to families who face challenges. Best Start workers follow families until the child's third birthday to provide parenting supports, early education and parent-child activities.

LOCAL SERVICE DELIVERY

The Early Learning and Child Care Board is responsible for monitoring the operation of licensed centres, including licensing and licence renewal of child care programs and the certification of Early Childhood Educators. The board advises the minister on all aspects of services under the *Early Learning and Child Care Act*. It consists of nine members who represent the Early Childhood Development Association, community agencies, government officials and the public.

The Early Childhood Development Association maintains the online child care registry,⁷ 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 oversees kindergarten to grade 12 education. It is governed by a three-person board of directors appointed by the Minister of Education, Early Learning, and Culture. La Commission scolaire de langue française oversees francophone education. In addition there are three private schools in the province.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT/OVERSIGHT

The Early Years Advisory Committee provides advice on Phase 2 of the PEI Preschool Excellence Initiative.

2. FUNDING

Table 2.1 Prince Edward Island Provincial Allocations for Regulated Child Care to March 31, 2017^a

Child care fee subsidies ^a	\$2,923,000
Operating funds (includes wage and training grants)	\$11,295,500
Total regulated child care	\$14,218,500

a Budget 2017 includes an increase in fee subsidies.

Table 2.2 Prince Edward Island Funding Early Childhood Education/Child Care to March 31, 2017

Kindergarten ^a	\$18,749,999
Regulated child care	\$14,218,500
Total ECEC spending	\$32,968,499
Total provincial budget spending estimate	\$1,750,300,000
ECE as a percent of provincial budget	1.9%

a Based on September 2016 enrolment of 1,511 kindergarten students⁹ in publicly-funded schools times per student funding of \$12,409.¹⁰

3. ACCESS

Table 3.1 Prince Edward Island Child Population 0-5 Years (2016)

Child population 0-5 years	8,563
0-1 year	2,625
2-4 years	4,346
5 years	1,592
Total population of Prince Edward Island	148,649
Children 0-5 years as percentage of total population	5.8%

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 Prince Edward Island 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	1,800	70%
2-4 years	2,000	78.7%
5 years	600	85.7%
Total mothers in labour force with child 0-5 years	4,400	
Average labour force participation rate of mothers with youngest child 0-5 years		75.8%

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 Prince Edward Island ECE School Programs

Children attending 5-year-old kindergarten ^a	1,511
5-year-old child population	1,592
% of children attending kindergarten	95%

a Includes students enrolled in public English schools, private schools and with the French board. Parents have the option of delaying kindergarten entry for children who are 4 years old at the beginning of the school year.

Table 3.4 Prince Edward Island Licensed Child Care Programs to March 31, 2017^a

Spaces by age group in centre-based programs	
Infant	309
Preschool-aged	2,750
School-aged	1,795
Total spaces centre-based programs	4,854
Family child care/home and group	6
Total capacity regulated child care	4,860
Facilities by type ¹¹	
Early Years Centres (0-4 years) English	40
Early Years Centres (0-4 years) French	5
Private child care centres (English)	31

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Table 3.4 Prince Edward Island Licensed Child Care Programs to March 31, 2017^a
(continued)

Private child care centres (French)	1
School-aged centres (English)	47
School-aged centres (French)	3
Family Day homes	1
Total ECE facilities	128
Kindergarten (English language schools)	37
Kindergarten (French language schools)	6
Kindergarten (private schools)	3
Total kindergarten ¹²	46

a Department of Education, Early Learning and Culture. September 18, 2017.

Table 3.5 Prince Edward Island Percentage of Children Attending ECE Programs by Age Group

Child Ages	Number of children ^a	Child care / preschool ^b	Kindergarten enrolment ^c	Other ECE programs ^d	% children attending ECEC program
0-1 year	2,625	313			12 %
2-4 years	4,346	2,378		10	55%
5 years	1,592		1,511		95%

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).

b Actual enrolment March 2017. 0-1 year includes children under 22 months.

c Enrolment 2016. All children are entitled to attend kindergarten the year they turn 5 years old. Parents may choose to delay enrolment.

d Includes First Nation family resource program regularly attended by 47 children, of which 10 attend the Aboriginal Head Start program.

AFFORDABILITY

Table 3.6 Prince Edward Island Early Years Centre Fee Schedule (2017)^a

Infant (0-22 months)	\$34/day
Toddler (22 months-3 years)	\$28/day
Preschool (3 years-school entry)	\$27/day
School age	Set own fees
Private centres	Set own fees

a Fees for Early Years Centres are established by the government.

Fee Subsidies: The Department of Family and Human Services administers the Child Care Subsidy Program.¹³ Subsidies are determined by a needs test. Maximum daily subsidy rates match the government-established fees for Early Years Centres.

Table 3.7 Prince Edward Island Daily Subsidy Rate

Infants	\$34
2-year-olds	\$28
3 to 5-year-olds	\$27
School-aged children (full day)	\$18
Before- and after-school care	\$11

Eligibility: Full subsidies are available for families with one parent/one child with an annual income up to \$17,400 or two parent/two children families with an annual income up to \$23,200. Subsidies are capped for single parent households with incomes of \$29,440 or two parent/two child families with incomes exceeding \$55,040. Parents with medical needs or those who are working, in training, have a child with special needs and/or child protection needs are eligible for subsidies.

INCLUSION

The Department of Education, Early Learning and Culture provides support services to students with special educational needs based on the philosophy of inclusion.¹⁴ A child with special needs is defined as a person who is under the age of 12 years, has a diagnosed disability and requires additional types of care to meet developmental goals. The Minister’s Directive on Special Education is a framework for special education services in the public school system, including kindergarten.¹⁵

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 province, family violence situations, severe behavioural issues, etc.) to attend early childhood centres. Grants may provide up to \$11.71/hour for an additional staff person based on their training and experience. The purpose of the grant is to lower ratios, which enables more successful inclusion into early childhood settings. Families may be eligible for a fee subsidy if their child has a disability regardless of the parents’ employment status.¹⁶

4. LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Table 4.1 Prince Edward Island Curriculum Frameworks

Program	Framework Document
Kindergarten	<i>The PEI Integrated Kindergarten Curriculum</i> ¹⁷
Child care	<i>PEI Early Learning Framework: Relationships, Environments, and Experiences. The Curriculum Framework of the Preschool Excellence Initiative</i> ¹⁸ Required in all Early Years Centres.

WORK ENVIRONMENT

Kindergarten class size: Average class size in 2016/2017 was 14.5 children.¹⁹

Child care program size: Maximum centre size is 50 spaces per licence. 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.

Table 4.2 Prince Edward Island Group Size and Child/Staff Ratio in Licensed Child Care Centres²⁰

Age	Staff : Child Indoor Ratio	Staff : Child Outdoor Ratio	Class Size
Infant (0–22 months)	1:3	1:3	6
Preschool (22 months–3 years)	1:5	1:7	Not specified in legislation
Preschool (3–school entry)	1:10	1:15	Not specified in legislation
School age	1:15	1:22	Not specified in legislation

EDUCATORS

Table 4.3 Prince Edward Island Educator Qualifications

Kindergarten Teachers	Teachers must hold a Bachelor of Education with a concentration in Primary Education.
Early Childhood Educators	<p>Level III: two year post-secondary diploma in early childhood development</p> <p>Level II: one year post-secondary certificate in ECE</p> <p>Level I: 30 hour course in each of the following subjects: child growth and development, child guidance and early childhood pedagogy</p>

Table 4.4 Prince Edward Island Professional Requirement and Development

	Qualified Teachers	Qualified ECEs
Professional Requirement	Teacher certification, Department of Education, Early Learning and Culture ²¹	<p>All program staff in Early Years Centres must be certified by the Early Learning and Child Care Board at one of the certification levels.</p> <p>Family child care providers must have a Family Home Child Care Provider Certificate as a minimum.²²</p>

continued on next page

Table 4.4 Prince Edward Island Professional Requirement and Development (continued)

	Qualified Teachers	Qualified ECEs
Professional Development	As determined by school boards.	Minimum 45 hours every 3 years to maintain certification

Table 4.5 Prince Edward Island Density of Qualified Staff in Child Care Centres

All staff must have a minimum of entry-level qualifications in Early Years Centres. Each group must have one ECE II. Centre directors require ECE III.

Table 4.6 Prince Edward Island Teacher and ECE Average Annual Salaries

Teachers ^a	Early Childhood Educators ^b	ECE salary as % of teacher salary
\$60,105	\$35,818	60%

a Equivalent to Step 5, level CVA, Salary Scales - Effective April 1, 2016 – September 30, 2016. In *Memorandum of Agreement Between the Education Negotiating Agency the Prince Edward Island Teachers' Federation. September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2018*. Retrieved from http://www.gov.pe.ca/photos/original/lir_ednegteach.pdf

b Based on FTE @17.22/hour representing a 2% increase awarded in 2016²³ and added to the 2010 wage grid.

5. ACCOUNTABILITY, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Progress Report: The Department of Education, Early Learning and Culture *Annual Report 2014-2015* provides public reporting on investments and initiatives in early childhood education.²⁴

Program Standards: Child care programs require licensing.

Population Monitoring: Children are screened using the Early Years Evaluation - Direct Assessment (EYE-DA) as part of their orientation to kindergarten. Results are shared with parents. Kindergarten teachers use the tool for program planning. The department uses the findings to direct resources as required. Data collection takes place annually.²⁵

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