

# Prince Edward Island 2014

## 1. GOVERNANCE

**Table 1.1 Prince Edward Island: Governance Structure for Early Childhood Education**

<b>Lead Ministry/Department</b>	Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
<b>Related Ministry/Department</b>	Department of Community Services and Seniors
<b>Policy Framework</b>	<i>Securing The Future For Our Children: Preschool Excellence Initiative (May 2010)</i> <sup>1</sup>
<b>Legislation</b>	<i>Child Care Facilities Act (1988, Cap. C-5)</i> <sup>2</sup>
<b>Related Legislation</b>	<i>Social Assistance Act (2003)</i> <sup>3</sup>
<b>Common ECE Supervisory Unit</b>	Division of Early Childhood Development
<b>Local Authority</b>	Child Care Facilities Board <sup>4</sup> One English and one French language school board <sup>5</sup>
<b>Public Advisory</b>	Early Years Advisory Committee (to be established)

### New developments

In 2012, a multi-year commitment for research and development from the Margaret and Wallace McCain Family Foundation (MWMFF) and increased funding for home-visiting from the PEI government has allowed children enrolled in the home-visiting program to also have a preschool experience from age 2 to 4 years. Funding has also enhanced professional development for home-visiting staff and helped to further integrate programming. MWMFF's funding supports CHANCES, the multi-services agency responsible for home visiting. Foundation support builds on the public investments the provincial government makes in the early years. The results are shared to inform future early childhood policy.

### Department Organization<sup>6</sup>

The Early Childhood Development Branch, within the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, is responsible for developing and delivering programs and curriculum in both English and French to Island children from birth to Grade 12. It includes instructional development, curriculum, early childhood, technology support, autism services, English as an Additional Language/ French as an Additional Language, and school and student health.

The Early Child Development Division provides curriculum, program development and support to Early Years Centres; supports Family Resource Centres and private regulated early childhood programs; supports Early Years Autism services; administers the direct funding program, special needs funding program, and the Best Start program; and is responsible for Healthy Child Development. This division has responsibility for the *Child Care Facilities Act*, R.S.P.E.I. 1988, CAP. C-5, including the certification of early childhood educators, and licensing and inspections of early childhood programs, and provides resources and support to the Child Care Facilities Board.

Preschool – Intensive Behavioural Intervention (IBI) is provided by the preschool autism coordinator and specialist who individualize instruction for preschoolers diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders. Diagnostic service are available through the Department of Health and Wellness with intervention services provided by DEECD.

Responsibility for kindergarten is with the English Program and French Program Divisions.

Child Care fees subsidies are administered by the Department of Community Services and Seniors under the Social Assistance Act (2003).

### Policy Framework

*Securing The Future For Our Children: Preschool Excellence Initiative (2010)* is a five-year transition program for the development of an early learning and child care system. Phase one was the introduction of Early Years Centres, regulated parent fees, wage enhancements, training, and a career ladder for staff, and sector planning and management support to programs.

### Service Design

- **Kindergarten:** Starting in September 2010, elementary schools offered full-school-day/year kindergarten for all children who turn five by December 31. Participation is mandatory.
- **Early Years Centres** provide early learning and child care experiences for a minimum of 40 children (max: 50), including infants to 4-year-olds and children with special needs (enrolment exceptions may be modified for rural areas). Early Years Centres must have a parent advisory committee, meet provincial regulations, follow the provincial curriculum, maintain legislated levels of certified staff and adhere to a province-wide parent fee and staff salary grid.

- **Child Care Centres** (excluding Early Years Centres) may be operated by commercial or non-profit agencies or individuals and must meet regulatory requirements but set their own parent fees, staff wages and curriculum.
- **School-age child care** operates outside of school hours and provides a relatively unstructured program emphasizing supervision and recreation for school-age children.
- **Family Day care homes** provide care for up to seven children including the provider's own children.
- **Unregulated caregivers** may care for up to five children, including their own.
- **Family Resource Centres** offer parent education and support groups and resources; prenatal nutrition programs; drop-in play; toy-lending; and outreach programs for smaller Island communities.
- **Best Start** is a voluntary in-home visiting program supported by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and Health PEI. The program identifies and provides services to families who face challenges. Best Start workers are able to follow the child and the family for a three-year period to provide parenting supports and to link families to early education and parent-child activities.

## Community Involvement/Oversight

The Early Years Advisory Committee will provide advice on the direction of the next phase of the PEI Preschool Excellence Initiative.

## Local Service Delivery

The Child Care Facilities Board is responsible for licensing and licence renewal of child care program and certification of Early Childhood Educators. The Board has seven members with representation from the Early Childhood Development Association, community agencies, education, government officials and the public.

The Early Childhood Development Association<sup>7</sup> maintains the online child care registry. The Child Care Registry allows parents to search and register for programs online. In addition to providing convenience to parents, the registry supports the government and sector in assessing demand.<sup>8</sup>

Kindergarten is delivered by two school boards, the English Language School Board and the La Commission scolaire de langue française, along with two private schools.

## 2. FUNDING

**Table 2.1 Prince Edward Island: Provincial Allocations for Regulated Child Care (2014–15)<sup>9</sup>**

Child care fee subsidies	\$3,237,500
Operating funds (includes wage and training grants)	\$11,513,000
<b>Total regulated child care</b>	<b>\$14,750,500</b>

## Overall Funding

**Table 2.2 Prince Edward Island: Funding Early Childhood Education/Child Care**

Kindergarten <sup>a</sup>	\$15,917,877
Licensed child care	\$14,750,500
<b>Total ECE spending</b>	<b>\$30,668,377</b>
<b>Total budget estimate 2014–2015</b>	<b>\$1,657,000,000</b>
<b>ECE as a percent of provincial budget</b>	<b>1.9%</b>

<sup>a</sup> Based on 1539 kindergarten students enrolled in publicly funded schools times per student funding \$10,343<sup>9</sup>

## 3. ACCESS

### Population

**Table 3.1 Prince Edward Island: Child Population 0–5 years (2013)**

Child population 0–5 years	8,924
0–1 years	2,889
2–4 years	4,470
5 years	1,565
Total population of Prince Edward Island	145,237
Children 0–5 years as percentage of total population	6.1%

Statistics Canada. Table 051-0001 - Estimates of population, by age group and sex for July 1, 2013 Canada, provinces and territories (accessed: August 20, 2014)

**Table 3.2 Prince Edward Island: Workforce Participation of Mothers by Age of Youngest Child (2013)**

	Number mothers in workforce	Percentage mothers in workforce
0–1 years	2,100	87.4
2–4 years	2,300	86.1
5 years	700	88.9
<b>Total mothers in workforce with child 0–5 years</b>	<b>5,100</b>	
<b>Average workforce participation of mothers with youngest child 0–5 years</b>		<b>87.5</b>

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, custom tabulation S0814\_04\_Tab1.ivt.

**Table 3.3 Prince Edward Island: ECE School Programs**

Children attending 5 year old kindergarten <sup>11</sup>	1,565
Child population	1,565
% of children attending kindergarten	100%

**Table 3.4 Prince Edward Island: Licensed Child Care Programs**

<b>Spaces by age group in centre-based programs</b>	
Infant	264
Preschool-aged	2,720
School-aged	1,264
<b>Total spaces centre-based programs</b>	<b>4,248</b>
Family child care/home and group	14
<b>Total capacity regulated child care</b>	<b>4,262</b>
<b>Facilities by type</b>	
Early Years Centres (0–4 years) English	40
Early Years Centres (0–4 years) French	5
Private child care centres	29
School-aged centres	38
Family Day homes	2
<b>Total ECE facilities</b>	<b>114</b>
Kindergarten (English language schools)	37
Kindergarten (French language schools)	6
<b>Total kindergarten</b>	<b>43</b>

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

Child Ages	Number of children <sup>a</sup>	Child care/preschool	Kindergarten enrolment <sup>b</sup>	Other ECE programs <sup>c</sup>	% children with access to ECE programming
0–1 years	2,889	264			9%
2–4 years	4,470	2091		250	52%
5 years	1,565		1,565		100%

<sup>a</sup> Statistics Canada, Table 051-0001 - Estimates of population, by age group and sex for July 1, 2013, Canada, provinces and territories (accessed: August 20, 2014); <sup>b</sup> Statistics Canada, Survey of Young Canadians, 2012. Some children attending kindergarten will also attend child care; <sup>c</sup> Actual enrolment September 30, 2013; <sup>d</sup> Includes Aboriginal Head Start, Family Centres

## Affordability

**Table 3.6 Prince Edward Island: Early Years Centres: Province-Wide Fee Schedule (2014)<sup>12</sup>**

<b>Infant</b>	\$34/day
<b>Toddler (2 years old)</b>	\$28/day
<b>Preschool (3+)</b>	\$27/day
<b>Private</b>	Set own fees

The Child Care Subsidy Program covers all or a portion of the fees for eligible families. Subsidies are determined by net income and family size. In 2014, full subsidies are available to families of four with a net annual income of \$23,200.08.<sup>13</sup>

## Inclusion

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development supports services to students with special educational needs based on the philosophy of inclusion.<sup>14</sup> The Minister's Directive on Special Education is a framework for special education services in the public school system, including kindergarten. It describes the roles and responsibilities of the department, school boards and schools in respect to the delivery of support services to students with special educational needs.<sup>15</sup>

Early Years Centres are required to accommodate children with special needs. Special Needs Grants are provided to licensed early childhood centres to support children with various special needs (medical, developmental delays, in care of province, family violence situations, severe behavioural issues, etc.) to attend early childhood centres, which may provide up to \$11.50/hour for an additional staff person based on their training and experience. The role of these grants is to lower ratios to allow for more successful inclusion into early childhood settings for children with special needs. Families may be eligible for a subsidy if they have a child with a disability regardless of parents' employment status.<sup>16</sup>

## 4. LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

**Table 4.1 Prince Edward Island: Curriculum Frameworks**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Framework Document</b>
Kindergarten	<i>The PEI Integrated Kindergarten Curriculum.</i> <sup>17</sup>
Child care	<i>PEI Early Learning Framework: Relationships, Environments, and Experiences. The Curriculum Framework of the Preschool Excellence Initiative.</i> <sup>18</sup> Required in all Early Years Centres serving children 0–4 years.

## Work Environment

**Kindergarten class size:** 1 position per 15 full-time equivalent students enrolled, a second teacher is added once a class reaches 18.<sup>19</sup>

**Child care program size:** Maximum centre size 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 Centres**

<b>Age</b>	<b>Staff: Child Ratio</b>	<b>Class Size</b>
Infant (0 – 2 years)	1:3	6
Preschool (2 – 3 years)	1:5	Not specified in legislation
Preschool (3 – 5 years)	1:10	Not specified in legislation
School age (5 – 6 years)	1:12	Not specified in legislation
7 years or older	1:15	Not specified in legislation

## Educators

**Table 4.3 Prince Edward Island: Educator Qualifications**

<b>Kindergarten Teachers</b>	<b>Early Childhood Educators</b>
Educators must obtain a Bachelor of Education with a concentration in Kindergarten by 2016. Kindergarten teachers with ECE diplomas were assisted with obtaining a specialized bachelor of education (kindergarten) from the University of Prince Edward Island allowing them to teach kindergarten to Grade 2 in the school system. New hires have up to six years to finish their degree. <sup>20</sup>	Level 2: 2 year post-secondary diploma in early childhood development Level 1: 1 year post-secondary certificate in ECE Entry level: 90 hours coursework

**Table 4.4 Prince Edward Island: Professional Recognition and Development**

	Qualified Teachers	Qualified ECE
Professional Requirement	Teacher certification, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development <sup>21</sup>	Certification, Child Care Facilities Board, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development <sup>22</sup>
Professional Development Required		Minimum 30 hours every three years to maintain certification.

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

All staff must have entry level qualifications. 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 <sup>a</sup>	Early Childhood Educators <sup>b</sup>	ECE salary as % of teacher salary
\$70,878	\$35,110	50%

<sup>a</sup><http://www.bctf.ca/uploadedfiles/public/bargainingcontracts/teachersalaryrankings2013-14brief.pdf>; <sup>b</sup><http://www.dpe-agje-ecd-elcc.ca/eng/ecd/ececc/page06.shtml>

## 5. ACCOUNTABILITY, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

**Progress Report:** The Department of Education and Early Child Development Annual Report 2012–2013 provides public reporting of investments and initiatives in early childhood.<sup>23</sup>

**Program standards:** Child care licensing.

**Population Monitoring:** In 2007, a multi-year strategy committed funding to collect and report data assessing children’s development. Children are screened using the Early Years Evaluation (EYE) as part of their orientation to kindergarten. Kindergarten teachers also use the tool for program planning. Results may be rolled up to provide a population level assessment. The most recent cross-province data collection took place in 2013.<sup>24</sup>

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