

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROFILE NOVEMBER 2011

GOVERNANCE

Prince Edward Island: Governance structure early childhood education	
Lead ministry/ department	Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
Common supervisory unit	No
Related departments	Department of Community Services, Seniors and Labour
Policy framework	<i>Securing The Future For Our Children: Preschool Excellence Initiative</i> (May 2010) www.gov.pe.ca/photos/original/edu_ExcellentIniti.pdf
Legislation	<i>Early Learning and Child Care Act</i> in development to replace the <i>Child Care Facilities Act</i> (1988 amended 2010)
Related legislation	<i>Child Care Facilities Act</i> and Regulations (1988) http://www.gov.pe.ca/law/regulations/pdf/C&05G.pdf <i>Social Assistance Act</i> (2003)
Public oversight/ advisory	Children's Secretariat Early Years Steering Committee Child Care Facilities Board
Local service delivery	Early Childhood Development Association in partnership with the Department of Education and Early Child Development Bridges Resource Team

Department organization

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development is responsible for the development and delivery of programs and curriculum in both English and French to children from birth to the end of Grade 12. It has two branches. The Learning and Early Childhood Development Branch has divisions in Programs and Curriculum; and Child and Student Services. The English and French Program divisions will administer full day kindergarten starting in the fall of 2011.

The Early Child Development section is responsible for child care services, providing curriculum, development and related support to Early Years Centers, Infant Homes, Family Resource Centers and regulated private early childhood programs. The section administers direct funding and special needs funding to the early childhood services, Best Start (a home visiting program), and is responsible for Healthy Child Development. Responsibility for kindergarten is now in the program section of the Department.

The Early Child Development section is responsible for the *Child Care Facilities Act* and Regulations, as well as the new act and regulations in development. The section provides direction and advice for policy and programs that promote healthy child initiatives including the certification of early childhood educators, licensing and inspections of early childhood programs and it provides resources and support to the PEI Child Care Facilities Board, and the Children's Secretariat.

Child Care fees subsidies are administered by the Department of Community Services, Seniors and Labour. The *Social Assistance Act* (2003) outlines child care subsidy funding and eligibility and is administered by the Department of Community Services, Seniors and Labour.

Policy framework for early childhood education integration

Securing the Future for Our Children: Preschool Excellence Initiative reorganized existing licensed child care programs into a more, publicly-managed network of Early Years Centres and Infant Homes. The transition program into Early Years Centres and Infant Homes includes regulated parent fees; wage enhancements, training, and a career ladder for staff; and, sector planning and professional development and management support to programs. The Sector Adjustment Measures Program offered operators in over-served areas an option to buy out their license and converted available space in schools for Early Years Centres. Bridging Funding supports existing centres to transition to Early Years Centres. Early Years Centres are required to cap fee increases; meet the criteria of the Early Years Centres, and provide financial information required to assess their need for funding

www.gov.pe.ca/photos/original/edu_ExcellIniti.pdf

At the same time, government committed to the implementation of full time compulsory kindergarten. A transition team was put into place to implement the *Report of the Public Kindergarten Commissioner: For a Better Future*. http://www.gov.pe.ca/photos/original/edu_KinderRepor.pdf

The Kindergarten Transition Team published a progress report titled *Lessons Learned* after transitioning kindergarten from the community to the school system. The team included representatives of the department, school boards, the early childhood sector and partner groups.

Service design

In September 2010, elementary schools offered full-school- day/year kindergarten for all children who turn five by December 31. Participation is mandatory.

Early childhood services:

Early Years Centres provide early learning and child care experiences for a minimum of 40 children, including infants to four-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 level of certified staff and adhere to a province-wide parent fee and wage grid.

Private Child Care centre can be operated by commercial or non-profit agents and individuals must meet regulatory requirements but set their own parent fees, staff wages and curriculum. Public funding for private programs is under review.

Child care centres for school-aged children operate outside of school hours.

Public oversight/advisory

The PEI Children's Secretariat is a 19-member multi-sector advisory group comprised of 12 community and seven government representatives assigned to improve outcomes for children to age eight.

An advisory committee composed of government and sector representatives has been established to make recommendations and monitor the implementation of the *Early Years Report, Early Learning in PEI: An Investment in the Island's Future*.

The Child Care Facilities Board is responsible for overseeing licensing and license renewal of child care/early childhood programs according to the *Child Care Facilities Act*. The Board also advises the Minister on regulatory issues in the sector. It is also responsible for staff certification. The Board has seven members with representation from the Early Childhood Development Association, community agencies, education, government official and the public.

Local service delivery

The Early Childhood Development Association (ECDA) in collaboration with the Department assists with human resource planning and legal and financial advice. The ECDA also promotes collaboration among operators to jointly establish new Early Years Centres and helps with policy development and professional development.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and the ECDA work collaboratively through the staff of the Bridges Program to support curriculum development, program delivery and parent engagement. Staff of the Bridges Resource Team:

- support supervisors, administrators and owners of early childhood development centres to enhance learning environments and provide training and mentoring;
- encourage increased quality in early learning programs;
- enhance the level of integration of children with special needs; and
- encourage a community of learning within the early childhood sector.

FUNDING

Prince Edward Island: Funding early childhood education/child care 2011-2012	
Kindergarten ¹	11,000,000
Other publicly funded ECE program	n/a
Licensed child care ²	15,200,000
Total ECE spending	26,200,000
Budget 2011-2012 estimate ³	1,531,000,000
ECE as % of provincial budget	1.71%
1. Prince Edward Island Budget 2011. http://www.gov.pe.ca/budget	
2. Prince Edward Island Estimates 2011. http://www.gov.pe.ca/budget	
3. Prince Edward Island Budget 2011 http://www.gov.pe.ca/2011/address.pdf	

The April 2011 budget provided for 36 Early Years Centres in the first phase plus an additional eight centres in the second phase. In phase 3, funding will be provided for a total of 48 centres. Infant spaces have increased by 72 percent and will expand to meet need.

ACCESS

Prince Edward Island: Child population 0-5 years¹	
Child population 0-5 years	8,367
Total population	142,266
Children 0-5 years as percentage of total population	5.9%
1. Statistics Canada. Estimates of population, by age group and sex for July 1, Canada, provinces and territories, annual 2010. CANSIM Table 051-0001.	

Prince Edward Island: Kindergarten 2010	
Children attending 5 year old kindergarten ¹	1,416
Child population 5-years-old ²	1,436
% of 5-year-old population attending kindergarten	99%
1. Kindergarten enrolment, 2010. http://www.gov.pe.ca/photos/original/eecd_2010enrol.pdf	
2. Statistics Canada. Estimates of population, by age group and sex for July 1, Canada, provinces and territories, annual 2010. CANSIM Table 051-0001.	

Prince Edward Island: Early childhood education 2–to 4-year-olds enrollment 2008-2009¹	
Children whose parents work or study	1,500
Children whose parent not working	250
Total children attending ECE program	1,750
Child population 2 – 4 years	4,300
% of 2-4 year old population attending an ECE program	41%
1. Data adapted from Statistics Canada. National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth. Cycle 8, 2008-2009. Special tabulation. NLSCY interview asks parents to identify primary child care arrangement apart from public schooling. An estimated 20% of the 2- to 4-year-old children who have a parent who does not work or study is assumed to attend a preschool program.	

Licensed child care spaces March 2010	
Centre-based child care	
• Infant (0 - 2 years)	210
• Preschool (2 – 4 years)	2,397
• Kindergarten (5 years)	1,574
• School age (6-12 years)	875
Family child care	28
Total licensed capacity	5,084

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. The Early Childhood Development Association administers the registry.
<https://earlychildhooddevelopment.ca/ecregistry/>

Prince Edward Island: Mothers in labour force by age of youngest child 2010¹		
Age of youngest child	Number of mothers	% of mothers
Children ages 0 to 2	27,000	77.1
Children ages 3 to 5	20,000	87.0
Total mothers in labour force with youngest child less than 6 years	48,000	81.4
Number of mothers <i>not</i> in labour force with youngest child less than 6 years	11,000	18.6
Total mothers with child less than age 6	59,000	100
1. Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey, Labour force estimates of women with children by age of youngest child for Canada and the provinces. 2010 annual averages		

Inclusion

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development provides services to students with special educational needs based on the philosophy of inclusion. 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.

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.

Six Francophone early childhood centres are located across the province to provide early learning and child care opportunities for Francophone children and families.

Early childhood centres are required to accommodate children with special needs.

Affordability

Early Years Centres: Province-wide fee schedule

- Infant \$32/day
- Toddler \$26/day
- Preschool \$25/day

Private child care programs set their own fees.

Child Care Subsidy Program: covers all or a portion of the fees for eligible families. In 2010, the per diem rates increased by 10 percent and income thresholds were raised by \$2,000.

Income thresholds	April 2010
One parent one child	\$17,400 - \$29,440
Two parents two children	\$21,200 - \$53,040

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Prince Edward Island: Curriculum	
The PEI Integrated Kindergarten Curriculum	Delivered in kindergarten classrooms in the public school system. www.gov.pe.ca/photos/original/k_doc.pdf
Early (0-4) Learning Framework/Curriculum	Based on a social pedagogical approach and for use in Early Years Centres and Infant homes, is in development.

Kindergarten class size: Minimum 9. Maximum 24 with two teachers. A second teacher is added once a class reaches 18.

Child care program size: Maximum centre size 50 spaces per license.

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.

Prince Edward Island: Group size and staff child ratio in licensed child care centres including early years centres		
Age	Staff: child ratio	Maximum group size
Infant (0 – 2 years)	1:3	6
Preschool (2 – 3 years)	1:5	
Preschool (3 – 5 years)	1:10	
School age (5 – 6 years)	1:12	

Educators

Prince Edward Island: Educator Qualifications	
Kindergarten teachers	Full-school/ year Kindergarten is taught by early childhood educators with experience teaching the kindergarten program. Educators must obtain Bachelor of Education with a concentration in Kindergarten by 2016
Early childhood educators	ECE diploma required for a 90-hour entry level Certification Program is minimum requirement Early Years Centres and Infant Homes. In 2012, a one-year certificate program is to be offered. Special training is also available to Centre directors. The goal is to provide career-laddering opportunities for ECE staff from entry level through to post-secondary degree requirements.

The Bachelor of Education with a concentration in Kindergarten (B.Ed.(K)) is a degree program offered in English and French includes 20 three-hour credit courses in early years education tailored for current early childhood educators as they transition to the public school system in PEI. The program is offered on a part-time basis using a blended method of course delivery and provides the opportunity for students to focus their studies in Kindergarten and Early Years (grades K-2) and to link their classroom practice with current theories and evidence-based practice.

Prince Edward Island: Teacher and Early childhood educator average annual salaries		
Teachers 2008/09 ¹	Early childhood educator 2010 ²	ECE % of Teacher
\$67,950	\$31,200	46%
1. Brockington, R. (2010) <i>Summary Public School Indicators for Canada, the Provinces and Territories, 2002/2003 to 2008/2009</i> ;		
2. \$15.00/hour [ECE diploma, level 1] x 40 hours x 52 weeks		

In September 2010, a 5-year wage grid was introduced. Staff in the Early Years Centres are now paid according to the number of years experience with 3 percent annual increments for the first five years. The Year 5 scale will not increase further until the scale is revised. Directors will receive \$21/hour with no increments until the post-diploma program is established and then completed.

Five-year Wage Grid for Early Years Centres			
Position	Average hourly pay pre-September 2010	New scale Year 1	New scale Year 5
Director (level 3) - post diploma	\$15.00	\$21.00	\$23.64
Certified (level 2) - 2 year program	\$12.00	\$15.00	\$16.88
Certified (level 1) - 1 year certificate (new)	\$10.00	\$13.50	\$15.17
Certified Entry - (new)	\$10.00	\$12.00	\$13.50
Special needs assistant	\$10.21	\$11.71	TBD

Prince Edward Island: Professional requirements for educators		
	Recognition requirement	Professional learning requirement
Kindergarten teachers	Teacher certification, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development http://www.gov.pe.ca/eecd/index.php3?number=1027691	
Early childhood educators	Certification, Child Care Facilities Board, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development	Minimum 30 hours every three years to maintain certification.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Progress Report: The Department of Education and Early Child Development Annual Report 2009-2010 provides public reporting of investments and initiatives in early childhood. This is consistent with the requirements of the agreements.

Program Evaluation: The department is working with researchers at Holland College and the University of PEI Centre of Education Research to develop a framework for research and evaluation on early childhood development in the province. An evaluation of the first year of transition to Early Years Centres establishes baseline data, including quality evaluations of infant and preschool programs, using the Toronto Operating Criteria. The next phase will assess the impact of the Preschool Excellence Initiative on children, families, early childhood educators, and communities. New quality evaluations are under review.

In previous years, the Bridges Program has conducted program evaluations in licensed centres using the Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale and incorporated the centre's own self-evaluation into the process. The Bridges Program team is working with the provincial evaluation to establish a new quality evaluation process.

Assessing Children: In 2007, a multi-year strategy committed funding to collect and report data assessing children's development. In 2010, all children were invited to participate in the Early Years Evaluation (EYE) as part of their orientation to kindergarten.

Population Monitoring: The Early Development Instrument (EDI) was completed in kindergarten programs across PEI in 2008 and reported as part of the pan-Canadian EDI initiative <http://www.childdevelopmentmonitoring.net/population-measures>. It is a population assessment of children's collective development in kindergarten that provides detailed information at the community/ neighbourhood and provincial level.