



OVERVIEW

Provision of early childhood education and child care in Quebec is under two ministries, the Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement Supérieur (MEES) and the Ministère de la Famille.

Quebec provides full day kindergarten (maternelle) for all five-year-olds and some part and full day kindergarten (maternelle quatre ans demi-temps and maternelle quatre ans temps-plein) for some four-year-olds under MEES.

The Ministère de la Famille is responsible for regulated child care for children aged 0-4. Regulated child care includes centres (called facilities or installations) that are either centres de la petite enfance (CPEs) or garderies. Garderies are almost always for-profit. CPEs usually operate as small non-profit networks of several centres and often include regulated home child care services as well.

Regulated family child care providers are supervised by Family Child Care Coordinating Offices (Bureaux coordonnateurs de la garde en milieu familial), most of which are part of CPEs. Quebec permits regulated family child care providers to deliver child care to a higher number of children if they are assisted by another adult.

There is no publicly delivered child care for children aged 0-4. School-age child care, which includes kindergarten-age children, is operated by school authorities under MEES. School boards are required to provide school-age child care when there is sufficient demand. The flat fee for school-age is \$8.15/day (2017) when school is in session.

At one time, Quebec did not regulate part day child care programs (jardins d'enfants) but non-grand parented jardins d'enfants (nursery schools) opened after October 25th, 2005 must now have a license (permis).

CPEs and garderies may accommodate the parents if they request part day or part time services.

Quebec has not used fee subsidies for individual eligible parents for some years. Instead, Quebec funds the majority of services operationally using a provincial formula. Any child aged 0-4 who has a space in a publicly-funded (subsidized) program may attend, paying only the provincially-determined fee regardless of parents' employment status or income. CPEs, regulated home child care and a majority of garderies are publicly funded in this way. Spaces in these programs are termed "reduced contribution spaces", or "subsidized".

When Quebec's publicly funded child care program began in 1997, all parents paid a flat fee of \$5.00/day. This later increased to \$7.00/day before being replaced by a geared-to-income fee scale in 2014. In 2017, parents paid fees per child ranging from \$7.75 per day (the basic fee applicable for an annual family income of up to \$50,920) to \$21.20 per day for families with an annual income above \$161,800).

The geared-to-income portion of the fee (above the \$7.75/day basic fee) is paid through a parental tax contribution. Thus, in addition to the basic fee, higher income parents now pay an additional geared-to-income amount at the time of tax filing; the amount is indexed annually. The additional contribution is reduced by 50% for the second child, with no additional contribution for the third and following children.

Since 2009, there are two types of for-profit centres: a) funded (“reduced contribution”) centres—publicly-funded programs for which parents pay geared-to-income fees as described above, and, b) unfunded centres for which parents receive a rebate through a tax credit that reimburses up to 90% of their child care cost, depending on their income. This tax credit reimbursement may also apply to some unregulated child care. To be eligible, the unregulated child care service provider must be registered as a corporation and provide receipts to parents.

Quebec has its own program of family-related leave and benefits distinct from that of other provinces/territories. Under the Quebec Parental Insurance Program (QPIP), parents may choose from two parental leave options¹: the Basic Plan—offering 32 weeks of parental leave at an income replacement rate at 70% of earnings (up to a maximum) for seven weeks and 25 weeks at 55%, and the Special Plan—offering 25 weeks of parental leave, paid at a rate of 75% of earnings (up to a maximum). Quebec maternity leave benefits are paid at an income replacement rate of 70% or 75% depending on the plan. As well, eligibility rules in Quebec allow wider range of new parents to access benefits compared to the rest of Canada. There is also a paid paternity leave period available to new fathers exclusively as well as provision for leave for self-employed parents.

In 2017, a report ([FR EN](#)) by the Commission sur l'éducation à la petite enfance (Institut du Nouveau Monde) carried out extensive consultations and made recommendations for Quebec child care.

¹ A third option was added to the QPIP in 2018. A parent may choose to spread parent leave out to two years (including the maternity leave 15 weeks) at no additional payment.

PROVINCIAL CONTEXT

Please note that some of the following figures are rounded, while totals are based on exact figures and may therefore not equal the sum of the rounded figures shown here.

Number of children 0-12 (2016 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0	77,300
1	86,000
2	84,900
3	81,500
4	84,500
5	89,300
6	94,900
7	95,700
8	90,500
9	90,600
10	88,500
11	80,600
12	77,400
Total	1121,500

Number of children 0-12 years (aggregated) (2016 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0-2	248,200
3-5	255,300
6-12	618,200
Total	1121,700

Number of children 0-12 years with employed mothers (2016 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0	55,800
1	63,400
2	63,900
3	56,900
4	60,900
5	66,300
6	67,600
7	65,600
8	67,300
9	64,000
10	68,100
11	69,000
12	59,900
Total	820,700

Number of children 0-12 with employed mothers (aggregated) (2016 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0-2	183,100
3-5	184,100
6-12	453,400
Total	820,700

Number of children 0-14 identifying with an Indigenous group (2016)

Age	First Nations	Métis	Inuk (Inuit)	Multiple	Other
0-4	7,185	4,130	1,750	145	245
5-9	7,715	4,045	1,605	200	240
10-14	7,300	3,615	1,455	130	255
Total	22,205	11,790	4,815	475	740

Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child (2016 rounded estimate)

Age of youngest child	Number of mothers	Participation rate (%)
0-2	183,300	79.9
3-5	127,400	81.2
6-15	331,500	86.7

Living arrangements by age of child by number of parents (2016)

Age	Living with two parents	Living with one parent	Lone mother	Lone father
0-4	384,615	57,065	47,135	9,925
5-9	367,420	96,960	73,470	23,490
10-14	305,960	106,970	79,890	27,075

Language spoken most often in home by age of child (2016)

Age	English	French	Non-official	Multiple
0-4	36,885	343,315	40,000	24,530
5-9	41,700	367,145	34,095	25,930
10-14	42,670	325,190	28,300	22,205
Total	121,255	1,035,650	102,295	72,655

Median after-tax income among families with children aged 0-5 years (2015) (\$)

Two parent families	Lone parent families	Male lone-parent families	Female lone-parent families
78,787	35,580	38,684	34,863

FAMILY-RELATED LEAVE

In 2006, the Quebec Parental Insurance Plan (QPIP) replaced the benefits previously available to Quebec parents under the federal Employment Insurance (EI) plan. In Canada outside Quebec, paid benefits are determined by the federal government; provisions for leave are determined by each province/territory. The Quebec government determines both benefits and leave provisions.

QPIP stipulates that financial benefits are paid to all eligible workers—salaried or self employed—who take maternity leave, paternity leave, parental leave, or adoption leave.

In 2017, parents could choose between two options: a longer Basic Plan (paid at an income replacement rate of 55–70%, up to a maximum) or a shorter Special Plan (paid at an income replacement rate of 75%, up to a maximum). In so choosing, they decide both the duration and their income replacement rate. The choice of plan is determined by the first parent in the family to receive benefits, and cannot be modified.

Note: In 2018, Quebec added a third, longer option to give a couple two years of leave with no additional benefits.

Both QPIP and EI are contributory programs. Income replacement rates and the maximum rate allowed under QPIP are substantially higher than those in the rest of Canada under the EI program. As well, eligibility criteria for benefits are also much less stringent than in the rest of Canada, there is a period of paid paternity leave and it is mandatory for self-employed individuals to participate and to receive leave and benefits. QPIP also differs from the rest of Canada insofar as the period of leave does not have to be uninterrupted, so long as the employer agrees.

Maternity leave

Natural (birth) mother only; cannot be shared between the two parents.

Basic Plan: 18 weeks paid benefits at the rate of 70% of wages.

Special Plan: 15 weeks paid benefits at the rate of 75% of wages.

Paternity leave

Father only; cannot be shared between the two parents.

Basic Plan: Five weeks paid benefits at the rate of 70% of wages.

Special Plan: Three weeks paid benefits at the rate of 75% of wages.

Parental benefits

The total number of weeks of parental benefits can be taken by either parent or shared. Parents may take these weeks simultaneously or consecutively.

Basic Plan: 32 weeks of paid benefits, with the first seven weeks at an income replacement rate of 70%, and the following 25 weeks at the rate of 55% of wages.

Special Plan: 25 weeks of paid benefits at the rate of 75% of wages.

Adoption leave (no maternity leave available)

Basic Plan: 37 weeks of paid benefits, with the first 12 weeks at the rate of 70%, and the following 25 weeks at the rate of 55% of wages.

Special Plan: 28 weeks of paid benefits at the rate of 75% of wages.

Family-related leave (other)

Ten days per year (unpaid).

Note: For further details about the EI federal benefit, Quebec benefit and leave provisions, and provincial/territorial provisions for job-protected leave, see the FAMILY LEAVES AND BENEFITS section of this publication. Provincial/territorial provisions are up-to-date in this document up to December 31 2017.

KINDERGARTEN

PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR KINDERGARTEN

Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement Supérieur
Direction de la formation générale des jeunes
Responsable du programme d'éducation préscolaire et des services de garde en milieu scolaire
Édifice Marie-Guyart, 17^e étage
1035, rue De La Chevrotière
Québec, QC, G1R 5A5
Telephone: (418) 644-5240 poste 2517

[Website](#)

LEGISLATION

Quebec. National Assembly. *Education Act*. R.S.Q., c.I-13.3

Quebec. National Assembly. *An Act to amend the Education Act concerning the Conceil scolaire de l'île de Montréal*. Bill 41 (2001, c. 30).

Quebec. National Assembly. *An Act to amend the Education Act*, Bill 35. (2001, c. 46).

Quebec. National Assembly. *Education Act for Cree, Inuit and Naskapi Native Persons*. R.S.Q., c. I-14.

Québec. National Assembly. *Act Respecting Private Schools*, Chapter E 9.1

KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT (2016)

Full day: Five-year-olds	89, 319
Part day kindergarten: Four-year-olds	4, 273
Full day kindergarten: Four-year-olds	2,255
Passe-Partout program: Four-year-olds	11,545

KINDERGARTEN SERVICES

Five-year-old kindergarten (maternelle)

Kindergarten for five-year-olds is delivered on a full school-day basis in English and French public and publicly funded private schools.

Kindergarten is provided for 23.5 hours/week for 36 weeks or 846 hours a year.

Part day four-year-old kindergarten (maternelle quatre ans demi-temps or pré-maternelle)

This program varies from 9.15 hours/week for 36 weeks (or 332 hours) to 11.45 hours/week for 36 weeks (or 412 hours). It may be four part days or five part days. Some programs include parent participation. In September 2013, four-year-old kindergarten was originally developed for low-income children but now serves additional populations.

Full day four-year-old kindergarten (maternelle quatre ans temps-plein or pré-maternelle)

In September 2013, the law was modified to allow full time four-year-old kindergarten for low income children in targeted neighbourhoods. The goal of this program is to provide services for children who do not have access to other publicly funded early childhood education programs.

The program contains a parent component involving 10 sessions per year.

Passe-partout

Passe-Partout is a program developed for low income four-year-olds and their parents (mostly living in rural Quebec) to support the transition from home to school. Passe-Partout is designed to provide targeted parents with the tools they need to help them enable their children to develop, grow and succeed at school.

Passe-Partout consists of a minimum of 16 sessions a year with the children, and eight with children and parents.

AGE ELIGIBILITY

Five-year-old kindergarten: Five-years-old by September 30th of the relevant school year.

Four-year-old kindergarten: Four-years-old by September 30th of the relevant school year.

COMPULSORY

Kindergarten is not compulsory. Entitlement is legislated.

HOURS

Five-year-old kindergarten (maternelle): 23.5 hours/week for 36 weeks or 846 hours/year.

Four-year-old kindergarten part day (pré-maternelle): program varies from 9.15 hours/week for 36 weeks or 329 hours/year to 11.45 hours/week for 36 weeks or 412 hours/year.

Four-year-old kindergarten full day (pré-maternelle): 23.5 hours/week for 36 weeks or 846 hours/year.

CLASS SIZE

Kindergarten class size limits are defined in the collective agreements.

Five-year-olds: Maximum 19, average 17

Four-year-olds: Maximum 17, average 14

Multi-age groups: Maximum 14 children per group

TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

Four year degree: Baccalauréat en Éducation préscolaire et enseignement au primaire.

CURRICULUM

[Maternelle curriculum FR](#) and [Éducation préscolaire 4 ans, FR](#)

[Kindergarten curriculum EN](#) and [Preschool Education Program for four-year-olds, EN](#)

SPENDING ON KINDERGARTEN

Full day kindergarten: Five-year-olds	\$411,434,316
Part day kindergarten: Four-year-olds	\$13,263,129
Full day kindergarten: Four-year-olds	\$10,028,868
Passe-Partout: Four-year-olds	\$14,030,344
K-12 per pupil spending (2014-2015)	\$11,049

REGULATED CHILD CARE

PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILD CARE

Ministère de la Famille
Direction de l'accessibilité et de la qualité des services de garde
600, rue Fullum 6e étage
Montréal Québec G1R 4Z1
Tél: 1 855 336-8568
[Website](#)

LEGISLATION

Ministère de la Famille:

Educational Childcare Act (R.S.Q., chapter S-4.1.1).
Educational Childcare Regulation chapter S-4.1.1, r. 2
Reduced contribution Regulation (R.S.Q., c. [S-4.1.1., r.1])

Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement Supérieur:

Règlement sur les services de garde en milieu scolaire.
L.R.Q., c.I-13.3., a. 454.1; 1997, c.58, a.51; 1997, c.96, a.132.

CHILD CARE SERVICES

UNREGULATED CHILD CARE

Maximum number of children permitted: Six, not including the caregiver's own children.

Jardins d'enfants (nursery schools)

Nursery schools are programs for a minimum of seven children aged two to five-years-old, on a regular basis for up to four hours/day. These may be unregulated only if they were operating before October 25th, 2005 and continue to operate to the present day. Thus, a day care permit is compulsory to operate a nursery school opened after October 25, 2005.

Haltes-garderies (stop-over centres)

There are two categories:

(1) Occasional organized child care services in a health or social institution; or in a commercial establishment such as a fair or social exhibition; or during a special event for children whose parents are on-site and can be reached if needed.

(2) Temporary child care offered by public bodies or community organizations as part of their mandate to support and assist families, or as part of a specific activity involving parents or children.

REGULATED CHILD CARE

Centre de la petite enfance (CPE) (Child care centre)

A CPE provides educational child care primarily for children 0-4-years-old. Children may be cared for in a centre-based program for periods not exceeding 48 consecutive hours.

A CPE may have up to five facilities (centres), each of which may have up to 80 children, and no more than two may be housed in one building.

CPEs must be non-profit or a cooperative whose board of directors corresponds to Section 7 of the *Educational Child Care Act*. CPE boards must have at least seven members.

Garderie (day care centre)

An organization that provides child care in a facility of no more than 80 children, where children receive care regularly for periods not exceeding 48 consecutive hours. No more than two facilities may be housed in one building.

Garderies are for-profit operations or operated by a non-profit group that does not have a majority of parents on the board of directors (e.g. church-run centres).

Most garderies are for-profit.

There are two types of garderies: a) those operationally funded to provide a reduced fee for parents (publicly-funded or subsidized) child care, and b) those not receiving government operating funds, in which case parents pay full fees and may claim a tax credit up to 90% of their costs.

Service de garde en milieu familial (home or family child care services)

Regulated home child care providers are overseen by 162 family Child Care Coordinating Offices (CCCO) (Bureaux coordinateurs de la garde en milieu familial). These are authorized by the Ministère de la Famille for a renewable period of three years. Child Care Coordinating Offices are responsible for monitoring application of the regulations and give assistance to providers. Most CCCOs are part of CPEs, although they may be free-standing non-profit organizations.

Home child care services are provided in a private residence by an individual for up to six children, who may be up to nine-years-old, including the provider's own children. No more than two children may be under 18 months.

If another adult assists the provider, nine children up to the age of nine are permitted, with no more than four children less than 18 months, including their own children.

Services de garde en milieu scolaire (school-age child care)

School boards or private schools provide these programs for children attending pré-maternelle (four-year-old kindergarten), maternelle (kindergarten) and elementary grades. They are under the jurisdiction of the MEES.

School boards are obliged to provide school-age child care when there is a demonstrated need.

Jardins d'enfants (nursery schools)

Nursery schools are programs for a minimum of seven children aged two to five-years-old on a regular basis for up to four hours/day. These may be unregulated only if they were operating before October 25, 2005 and are still continuing to operate as of today. Thus, a day care permit (licence) is compulsory to operate a nursery school opened after October 25, 2005.

CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

Quebec provides a non-compulsory curriculum framework [Accueillir la petite enfance](#) for all CPEs and garderies. It was introduced in 1997 and updated in 2007.

All CPEs and garderies must apply an educational program with activities aimed at fostering children's overall development and helping children gradually adapt to life in society and integrate into a group.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Quebec's objectives regarding children with special needs in child care programs strongly favor inclusion. However, admission for a child with special needs to a regular child care program is at the discretion of the CPE, subsidized garderie or the home child care provider.

For a child who meets the ministry definition of a "disabled" child, a one-time grant of \$2,200 and \$39.80/day/child in addition to the regular operating grant is available. In addition to the supplementary allowance allocated to child care establishments receiving children with a disability, an assistance measure (one-to-one assistance accompanying a child during activities for a maximum of three hours a day) has been put in place for the integration of children with significant special needs into child care services.

Additions to the regular operating funding to support children with disabilities (2015-2016)

<i>Type of program</i>	<i>Additional funding</i>
CPE	\$39.80
Garderie (publicly-funded)	\$38.20
Family child care (publicly-funded)	\$34.85

INDIGENOUS CHILD CARE

Quebec regulates child care in Indigenous communities on-reserve and has federally funded Aboriginal Head Start programs both on-reserve (AHSOR) and off-reserve (AHSUNC).

In 2016, there were 68 facilities (centres) and three Family Child Care Coordinating Offices in Indigenous communities on-reserve. All are non-profit organizations and receive funding from Ministère de la Famille.

There are also five urban Indigenous child care centres (six facilities) and an urban Indigenous Family Child Care Coordinating Office. The centres are located in

Montreal, Quebec, Val d'Or, Trois-Rivières and La Tuque.

The Quebec government has reached agreements with four Indigenous organizations to delegate some legal authority for child care under the law.

SPACE STATISTICS

Number of centre-based spaces for 0-4 year-olds: CPEs and garderies (2016)

Centre based spaces

Centres de la petite enfance (CPEs)	92,398
Garderies	101,313
<i>Total centre-based spaces for 0-4 year-olds</i>	<i>193,711</i>

Source: Rapport annuel de gestion 2015-2016

Number of school-age spaces (Under the aegis of Ministère de l'éducation) (2016)

330,002

Number of children in regulated family child care (March 2016)

Less than 12 months	14,159
1-2 years-old	21,672
2-4 years-olds	55,232
5- year-olds and up	3,088
<i>Total enrolled in family child care</i>	<i>94,151</i>

Total number of spaces regulated by the Ministère de la Famille under the aegis of Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement Supérieur (MEES) (2016)

617,864

Number of spaces in reduced contribution and non reduced contribution child care (2016)

Subsidized (reduced contribution or publicly funded) spaces in CPEs and garderies 0-4 years and family child care	230,058
Non-subsidized (without reduced parent contribution or publicly funded) spaces in garderies 0-4 years	55,256

Number of centre-based spaces for 0-4 year-year-olds by age: CPEs and garderies (2014)

	<i>CPEs (child care centres)</i>	<i>Publicly funded garderies</i>	<i>Non-publicly funded garderies</i>	<i>Total centre- based</i>
Less than 12 months (one year old)	4,874	1,809	2,312	8,995
1-2 years old	14,874	7,558	8,552	30,984
2-4 years old	66,063	32,858	24,255	123,176
5 years and up	2,954	1,600	2,566	7,120

Note: This is the most recent year for which data broken down by age group is available. For more up-to-date data, please use the previous tables.

Note that as the above tables may come from different sources and reflect different dates, they may not be entirely consistent.

Children with special needs in regulated child care (March 2016)

8,163

Children receiving fee subsidies

not applicable

Number of child care programs (2016)

Number of CPEs	977
Number of centres (facilities) that are part of CPEs	1,525
Number of garderies (day care centers)	1,724
With reduced contribution spaces	706
Without reduced contribution spaces	1,018
Number of school-age centres	N/A
Number of Child Care Coordinating Offices (2017)	161
Number of family child care providers	14,687

Sponsorship of regulated part and full day centre-based spaces (2016)

Centre-based spaces

Non-profit (CPEs)	92,398
Garderies (for-profit)	101,313
Garderies—reduced contribution/publicly funded (subsidized) space	46,057
Garderies—non reduced contribution spaces/without publicly funded (subsidized) spaces	55,256
School-age spaces (school-board operated, i.e. public or not-for-profit)	305,743

Source: Rapport annuel de gestion 2015-2016

Parent fees

Quebec sets province-wide parent fees for all reduced contribution (subsidized/funded) child care services.

In 2015, Quebec moved from a flat fee of \$7/day for each child in all publicly funded (reduced contribution) child care centres (CPEs), funded garderies, regulated family child care and school-aged child care in schools to a partial, geared-to-income, sliding fee scale. Fees now range from \$7.75 per day for low/middle income earners (up to \$50,920 annual family income) and up to a maximum of \$21.20 per day for higher income earners (above \$161,800 annual family income).

If a fee in addition to the basic \$7.75/day is required, it is collected from families through the tax process.

The additional contribution is now reduced by 50% for the second child and there is no additional fee/contribution for the third and following children.

Fees for school-aged programs operated by school boards are set at \$8.15/day while school is in session.

Unfunded for-profit centres (non-reduced contribution garderies) are not required to charge a provincially set parent fee. A rebate of up to 90% of these fees (a tax credit from the Quebec government) is paid to parents using these centres.

In 2016, a national survey of child care fees in Canada's largest cities included the following Quebec cities:

City	Median monthly fee/preschool-age
Gatineau	\$179
Laval	\$179
Montreal	\$164
Longueuil	\$179
Quebec City	\$179

Note: These median monthly figures include fees from centre-based child care and home child care.

STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

REGULATED CENTRES (CPES AND GARDERIES)

Maximum facility (centre) size:	80 spaces
Maximum room size:	not specified

Maximum staff/child ratios

Age	Staff:child ratios
0-17 months	1:5
18 months – four years	1:8
Four years – five years	1:10
Five years and older	1:20

Note: For a multi-age group, ratio is based on the ratio for the youngest child in the group.

Maximum group size

Age	Minimum net area (Square meters)	Maximum group size
Under 18 months	4 m ² per child	15 in each room
18 months or older	2.75 m ² per child	30 in each room except for special activities.

Centre staff (for 0-4 year-olds) qualification requirements

Centre (facility) staff qualifications: At least two child care staff members out of three (2/3) in each centre must be qualified and be present each day with the children while child care is being provided.

There is no training requirement for centre directors.

“Qualified” is defined as a child care staff member holding a college diploma in early childhood education or any other equivalent training recognized by the Minister (such as a one-year Attestation d'études collégiales combined with three years experience).

New and expanded CPEs and garderies have five years to conform to the required ratio of 2/3 staff with qualification. Until that time, they must conform to a 1/3 ratio (one in three staff is required to be qualified).

School-age child care qualification requirements

There are no educational requirements for staff working in school-age child care programs. However, a school board may require the lead staff to have an early childhood education diploma.

Parent involvement

A non-profit child care centre's board of directors must be made up of at least seven members, 2/3 of whom (a minimum of five) are parent-users of the centre. At least one board member must come from the business, institutional, social, education or community sectors and no more than two shall be staff at the centre.

A garderie's licence holder must set up an advisory committee composed of five parents and consult with the parent committee on all aspects of the care children in the centre receive, particularly with respect to implementation of the educational program, services provided and how complaints are processed.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

The Ministère de la Famille issues licences for up to a five year period. Ministère de la Famille inspectors may visit any licensed operation to monitor its compliance with regulations.

Licence holders of CPEs and garderies should receive at least one inspection visit during the period that their licence is valid, generally once every five years. Otherwise there is no specified inspection schedule.

In the six months after the issuance of a new permit, an inspection is conducted for the purpose of information and prevention. The aim of this inspection is to evaluate quality, and to request corrective measures if there are irregularities.

Inspectors are not required to have a degree, diploma, or training in early childhood education.

Quebec does not issue conditional or provisional licences. If a centre is found to be in non-compliance with legislated requirements but there is no immediate danger to the health or well-being of the children, Ministère de la Famille informs the centre's board of directors or owner in writing that the program is in non-compliance with a specific regulation(s) and requests rectification. A follow-up check is done by an inspector when sufficient time is deemed to have passed. Repeated instances of non-compliance that do not pose an immediate threat may result in administrative penalties, administrative sanctions or penal sanctions.

The operator may appeal the loss of a licence (or the refusal by the Ministère de la Famille to renew a licence) or may contest a decision to the Tribunal administratif du Québec. Its decision is binding.

REGULATED HOME CHILD CARE

Model of organization

Home child care in Quebec follows an agency model. Family child care providers are supervised according to the regulations by des bureaux coordonnateurs de la garde en milieu familial agréés (Family Child Care Coordinating Offices).

Maximum capacity

Up to six children are permitted including the provider's own children under the age of nine-years-old, while no more than two children may be under 18 months. If the provider is assisted by another adult, they may care for nine children, including both providers' own children, with not more than four children being under 18 months.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

Family Child Care Coordinating Offices (CCCO) are licensed and required to do three on-site home visits per year. The CCCO is responsible for ensuring that providers meet the regulations.

Family child care provider qualification requirements

Family child care providers must hold an early childhood first aid certificate and complete a training program of at least 45 hours pertaining to child development, health, safety and diet issues, organization and leadership in a "life environment". Many Family Child Care Coordinating Offices provide training for providers. Providers are also required to take a six hour proficiency course once a year (cours de perfectionnement).

Governance

The composition of boards of directors of organizations accredited as Family Child Care Coordinating Offices is determined by the type of organization.

FUNDING

Quebec provides funding to all CPEs, to funded garderies and to regulated family child care providers (via Family Child Care Coordinating Offices) through a formula approach.

Non-profit and subsidized (publicly funded) for-profit facilities are generally treated the same way vis-à-vis operational funding. However, the formula for non-profits is higher than for for-profits. As well, only non-profits are eligible for capital funding.

Parents who use unfunded garderies and unregulated family child care arrangements (if the unregulated child care service provider is registered as a corporation and provides receipts to parents) are eligible for a child care tax credit (reimbursement up to 90% of fees depending on parental income).

TYPES OF FUNDING

Fee subsidies

Quebec has not used individual parent fee subsidies in some years.

One-time funding

Capital funding is available to develop new CPEs.

Recurring funding

The majority of Quebec's child care services are operationally funded (with the exception of unfunded garderies). The formula for funding is based on licensed capacity and occupancy rates to determine the amount of funding which a CPE or funded garderie will receive. There are also a number of other categories of public funding available that CPEs can access such as: minor capital, professional development, staff benefits, etc.

Note that unfunded non-profit child care centres (CPEs) are not permitted and that many garderies are also publicly funded to provide reduced contribution child care for 0-4-year-olds.

Other funding

Quebec also funds parents through reimbursement (a tax credit) to cover their fees in unfunded garderies and in some unregulated child care as described in previous sections.

PROVINCIAL ALLOCATIONS FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE (2015-2016)

Fee subsidies	NA
One-time funding	
Capital expenditures	\$33,342,200
Recurring funding	
Funding to CPEs and funded garderies	\$2,217,773,700
Pension plan for employees in child care	\$83,744,900
Total child care expenditure for children 0-4 years	
	\$2,334,860,800
Expenditure on school-age child care (by MEES)	
	\$224,213,109
Total regulated child care	
	\$2,559,073,909

Note: These figures do not reflect the additional funds spent to reimburse parents using unfunded garderies and eligible unregulated child care.

Note: For additional calculations and explanation of costs and expenditures in Quebec child care, see [Fortin \(2017\) Quebec's childcare program at 20](#), available online.