

Expansion of Regulated Child Care Spaces: Insights from Québec



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Québec's childcare network in brief

Québec's childcare network was created as part of the 1997 family policy.

Originally, the plan was to offer all spaces within non-profit childcare centers, the "centres de la petite enfance" (CPE) for \$5 per day.

- implementation of a five year moratorium of the creation of childcare spaces in for-profit centers (*garderies*).

From the start, the supply of childcare services has never been able to meet the demand, since low-cost childcare was implemented in 1997.

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Québec's childcare network in brief

In 2003, a new Liberal government, in conjuncture with the end of the moratorium and pressure to develop new spaces led the government to open the door wide to for-profit *garderies*.

Today, though Québec is recognized to have the best family policy in Canada, it does not have a universal policy; accordingly, **childcare in Québec is NOT a right and more than 51,000 preschool children are waiting to have access to a childcare space.**



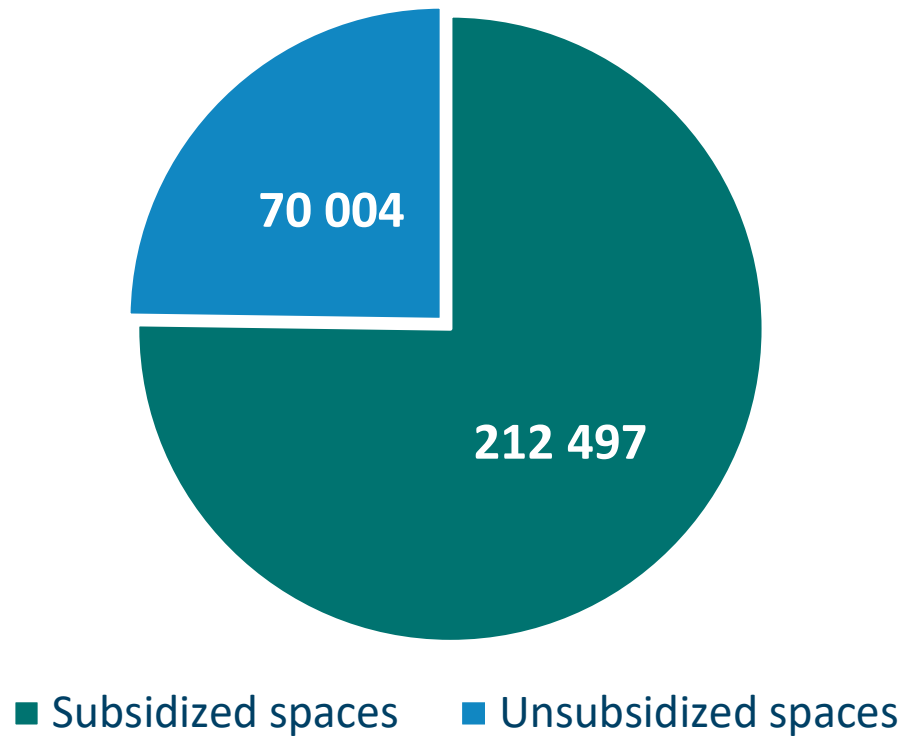


Current situation in Québec

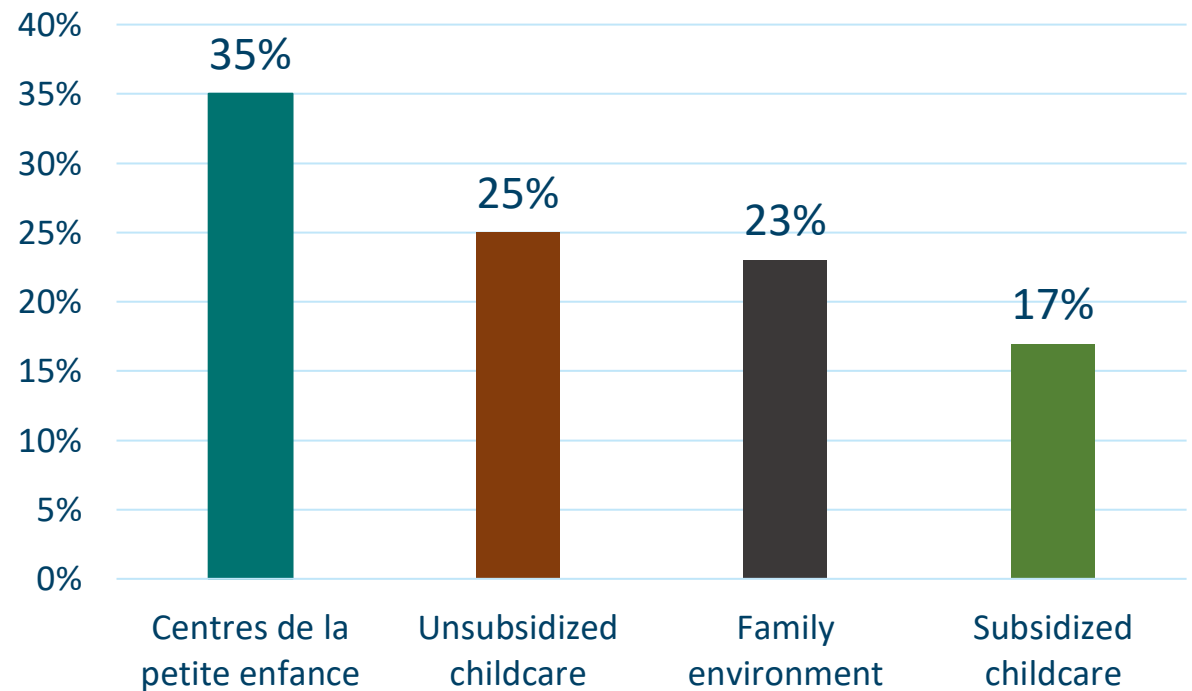
- Three avenues of subsidized child care in Québec:
 - Subsidized and non-profit (centres de la petite enfance)
 - Subsidized and for-profit (services are provided at the same costs as in non-profit centers)
 - Unsubsidized and for-profit (parents get a portion of their fees reimbursed)
- 64% of preschool children are enrolled in regulated childcare
 - We do not know much about the remaining 36% of children who are not in a regulated childcare center.
- Access to before- and after-school programs is universal; services are provided in schools.

What is the Québec model?

Subsidized and unsubsidized spaces in Québec's network, 2021



Percentage of children in different centers, among children enrolled in preschool childcare, 2021



What's the new plan?

The *Grand chantier pour les familles* (“Major initiatives for families”) is Québec’s action plan to complete its provincial childcare network.

This plan includes 6 objectives - the first being to **create 37,000 more spaces to meet the demands of families** - with 45 measures to meet these objectives.

	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
New spaces created (annual)	5,000	10,500	14,500	6,100
New spaces (total)	5,000	15,500	30,000	36,100*

* In addition, 1,000 spaces will be created in Indigenous communities

GRAND
CHANTIER
— POUR LES —
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DES SERVICES DE GARDE
ÉDUCATIFS À L'ENFANCE

Votre
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Québec



How will these new spaces be created?

- More children in childcare centers (from 80 to 100)
- Small childcare centers for rural communities
- Adding services outside of regular hours for non-standard workers

Issues with the *Grand chantier* and the expansion of the network

- How many spaces does Québec really need?
80,000? 51,000? 37,000?
 - Québec will not meet its target for 2021-2022
- The government wants to create subsidized spaces, but does not say whether these new spaces will be provided in the CPE (non-profit) or in garderies (for-profit)
- Creating more spaces doesn't necessarily mean needs are being met
 - Quality childcare is more difficult to find in low-income neighborhoods in Montréal



Unanswered questions:

- What type of childcare spaces will be created?
- Where will the new childcare spaces be located?
- How can we ensure a smooth transition between the end of parental benefits (typically 50 weeks) and the entry into childcare (spaces open following the school-year calendar)?
- How will it be possible to create spaces rapidly, while maintaining the quality of care?



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*Thank
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