

congress 2019

OF THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES



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*From Universal “Cost” to Universal
“Access” to Childcare Services:
the Quiet Dismantling of Québec’s 1997
Work and Family Policy*

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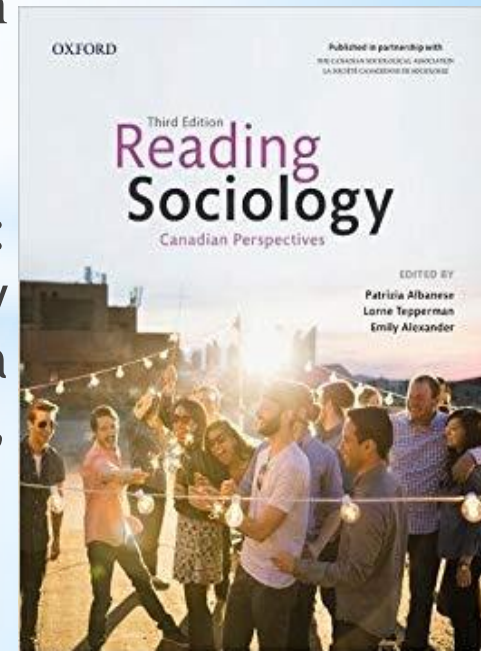
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Overview

- * Mathieu, Sophie. 2019. « La transformation de l'offre de services de garde au Québec: une brèche dans la collectivisation du travail de reproduction sociale? », *Canadian Review of Sociology/Revue canadienne de sociologie*, 204-223.
- * Mathieu, Sophie. 2019. « Quel est le prix d'une place en service de garde subventionné ? », *Le Devoir*, 5 avril.
- * Mathieu, Sophie. 2017. "The "Quiet" Deconstruction: The Progressive Dismantling of Québec's Early Childhood Education and Care System", in Patrizia Albanese and Lorne Tepperman (eds) *Reading Sociology, Toronto: Oxford*, 175-180.



Québec's 1997 family policy

Three key programs:

1. Integrated Child Allowance (ICA)

2. Québec's Parental Insurance Program (QPIP)

* *Care, Work, Equality, Intersectionality Reimagining Parental Leave, Child Care, and Workplace Policies for Canadian Families*, LSK 201, 10:30

3. The *centres de la petite enfance*/early childhood centres (CPEs)



Main research questions

- * Is it possible to identify different « childcare regimes » in Québec since 1997?
- * Why and how has the provision of childcare services change since the late 1990s/early 2000s?

Method



- * Analysis of three government documents, written at key moments in the history of childcare services in Québec
 1. *Livre Blanc Nouvelles dispositions de la politique familiales: les enfants au cœur de nos choix* (1997)
 2. *Scénarios de développement et de financement pour assurer la pérennité, l'accessibilité et la qualité des services de garde* (2003)
 3. *Rapport de la Commission de révision permanente des programmes* (2014)

- * Data from the Ministère de la famille on the use of different types of childcare centers

* Childcare in Québec

1. CPEs (centres de la petite enfance/early childhood centres)

- * Introduced following Québec's 1997 family policy
- * Non-profit
- * In facilities (up to 80 children) and in family environments

2. For-profit/commercial childcare centres

- * Subsidized childcare centres
- * Nonsubsidized childcare centres



Period	Government in place	Type of universalism	Care provider/type of childcare regime
1997-2003	Parti Québécois (Lucien Bouchard)	Universalism based on the idea of flat-rate costs	The state, with the CPEs
2003-2012	Parti Libéral (Jean Charest)	Transitionnal universalism: from « costs » to « access »	The market, with commercial childcare centres
2015-2018	Parti Libéral (Philippe Couillard)	Universalism based on the idea of « access »	The market, with commercial childcare centres The family?

* 1997-2003: flat rate cost for childcare services offered in CPEs

* *Nouvelles dispositions de la politique familiale: les enfants au cœur de nos choix.*

* No mention of the principle of universalism with regards to the CPEs

* Type of universalism:

* Universalism based on the idea of flat rate (\$5/day)

* Access to childcare spaces is an important issue

* Childcare services are offered in CPE

* Strong bias toward nonprofit childcare centres

* Moratorium on the creation of new for-profit childcare centres

Childcare services in Québec, 1998-2003

	Proportion of CPEs among all childcare spaces	Proportion of for-profit childcare centres	Proportion of subsidized spaces (in CPEs and in private childcare centres)	Proportion of non-subsidized spaces
1998	70.9	29.1	99.7	0.3
1999	74.2	25.8	99.6	0.4
2000	78.2	21.8	99.5	0.5
2001	80.7	19.3	99.5	0.5
2002	82.3	17.7	99.3	0.7
2003				

* 2003-2012 childcare services offered at a universal cost, in for-profit centres

* *Scénarios de développement et de financement pour assurer la pérennité, l'accessibilité et la qualité des services de garde (2003)*

* Type of universalism:

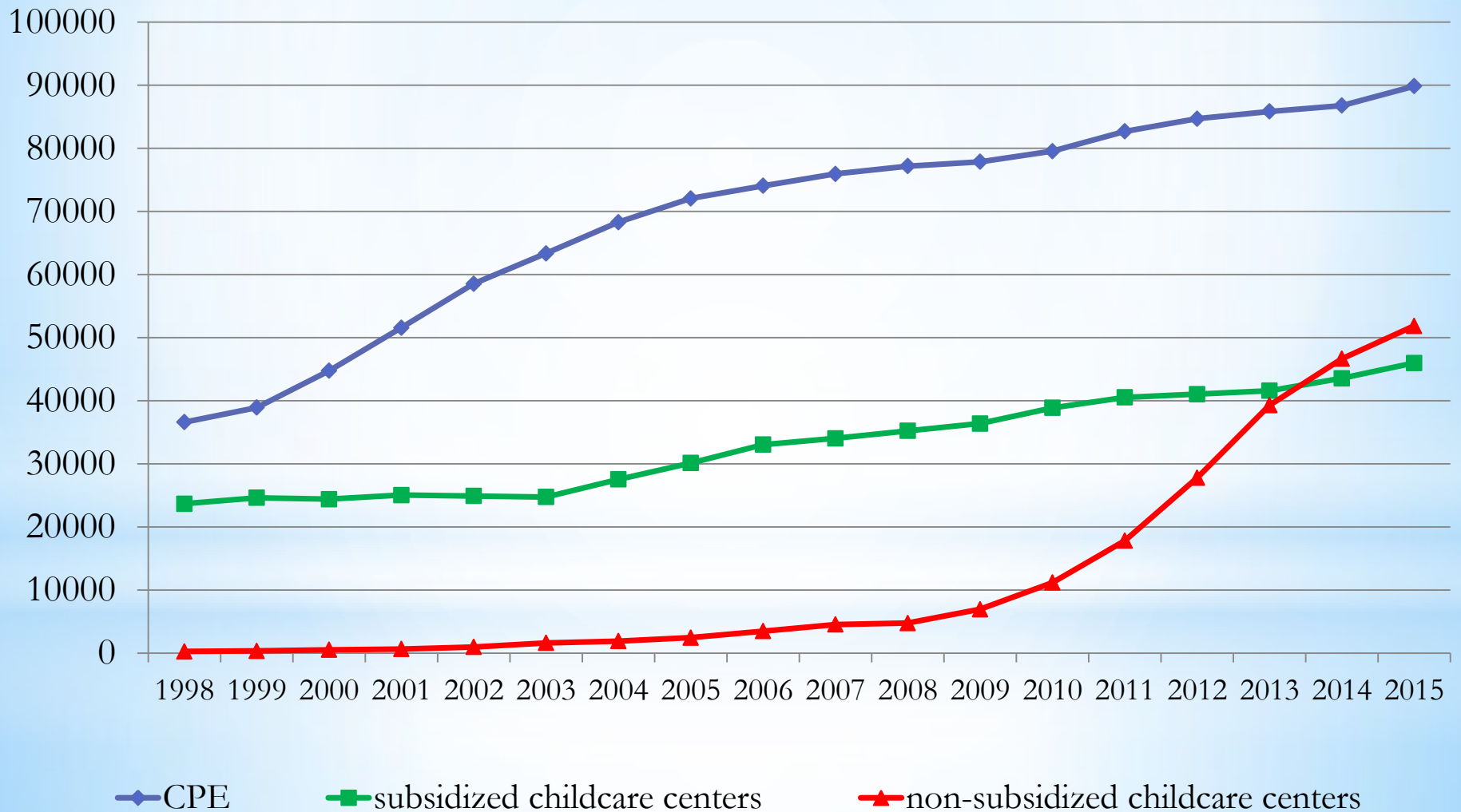
* Universalism based on the idea of a flat rate (\$7/day)

* Again, access to childcare spaces is problematic

* Increasing proportion of commercial childcare centres

	Proportion of CPEs among all childcare spaces	Proportion of for-profit childcare centres	Proportion of subsidized spaces (in CPEs and in private childcare centres)	Proportion of non-subsidized spaces
2003	84.0	16	99.0	1.0
2004	83.6	16.4	98.9	1.1
2005	83.0	17	98.7	1.3
2006	81.7	18.3	98.3	1.7
2007	81.0	19	97.8	2.2
2008	80.6	19.4	97.7	2.3
2009	79.6	20.4	96.7	3.3
2010	77.4	22.6	94.9	5.1
2011	74.9	25.1	92.3	7.7
2012	71.9	28.1	88.7	11.3
2013	68.7	31.3	84.8	15.2
2014	66.4	33.6	82.6	17.4
2015	65	35	81.4	18.6

Number of spaces in different types of childcare centers



* Childcare services in Québec between 2015 and 2018

* *Rapport de la Commission de révision permanente des programmes*

* The end of universality?

* A 2-stage contribution:

- ✓ Basic contribution (\$8.25 /day in 2019)
- ✓ An additional contribution modulated according to family income (for parents with a family income over \$52,220 in 2018)

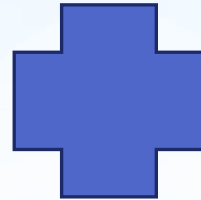
* Each child does not cost the same!

- ✓ The additional contribution is reduced by 50% for the second child
- ✓ Not additional contribution for the third and subsequent children

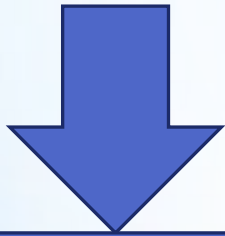
* ...but more families seem to have access to childcare centres

Childcare costs in 2018

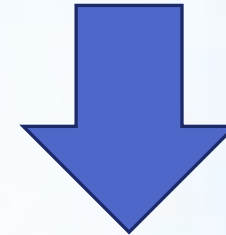
**basic contribution of
\$8.05 per day**



**additional contribution
calculated on the basis of
the family income**



- Paid at the childcare center
- The basic contribution is the same for each child



- Paid at the end of the fiscal year
- Income related (only for households with a family income above \$52 220)
- Costs up to \$13.20 (for families with an income above \$166,320) for the first child
- The additional contribution is reduced by 50% for the 2nd child and is abolished for the 3rd and subsequent children

How much does childcare cost in Québec?

IONS PROVINCIALES / LEURS 100 PREMIERS JOURS ✓



PHOTO EDOUARD PLANTÉ-FRÉCHETTE, LA PRESSE

EXCLUSIF
CPE : LEGAULT PROMET UN RETOUR AU TARIF UNIQUE

TOMMY CHOUINARD
LA PRESSE

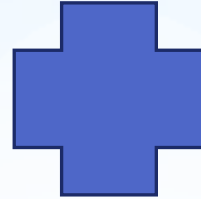
DENIS LESSARD
LA PRESSE

François Legault s'engage à rétablir un tarif unique pour les centres de la petite enfance (CPE) et les autres garderies subventionnées. Au bout de quatre ans,

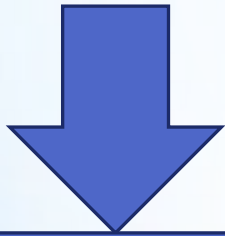


Childcare costs in 2019

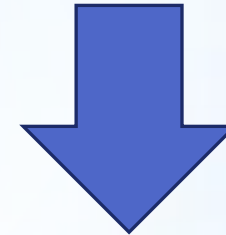
**basic contribution of
\$8.25 per day**



**additional contribution
calculated on the basis of
the family income**



- Paid at the childcare center
- The basic contribution is the same for each child



- Paid at the end of the fiscal year
- Income related: only for households with a family income above \$78,320 (instead of \$52,220)
- Is being gradually reduced every year until 2022 when it will be abolished

Why should we care about childcare in Québec?

- * Nobody knows how much childcare costs!
- * There is no political will to go back to the essence of the 1997 policy
- * Waiting lists have shrunk in CPEs
 - * Private childcare are now competing with CPEs
 - * Where did the children go?
 - * Less children of pre-school age?
 - * More children in for-profit centres?
 - * More children kept at home? By whom??

Merci!
Thank you!

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