



The Theory and Practice of
Gender Mainstreaming
Canadian and Comparative
Perspectives

*Il vaut mieux être mère au Québec,
mais...*

*Parental benefits and childcare services in Québec
since 1997*

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OVERVIEW

- * A short history of Québec's family policy
- * Québec's 1997 family policy
- * Parental benefits in Québec: inequality of access in the most « nordic » province
- * The progressive dismantling of Québec's network of early childhood and education centers

Québec's family policies

1. Québec's 1988 policy

- * Pronatalist policy

2. Québec's 1997 work and family policy:

- ✓ Integrated Child Allowance (ICA)
- ✓ Québec's Parental Insurance Program (QPIP)
- ✓ The *centres de la petite enfance*/early childhood centres (CPEs)



PART 1

**PARENTAL
LEAVE**

Parental benefits in Canada and Québec (2006)

	Parental benefits under EI	Basic plan (Québec)	Special plan (Québec)
Eligibility	600 hours of insurable employment	Insurable income of \$2,000	
Waiting period	Two weeks	None	
Maternity benefits	15 at 55% of income	18 at 70% of income	15 at 75% of income
Paternity benefits	None	5 at 70% of income	3 at 75% of income
Parental benefits	35 at 55% of income	32 (7 at 70% + 25 at 55% of income)	25 at 75% of income
Maximum insurable income	\$39 000/year	\$57 500/year	\$57 500/year

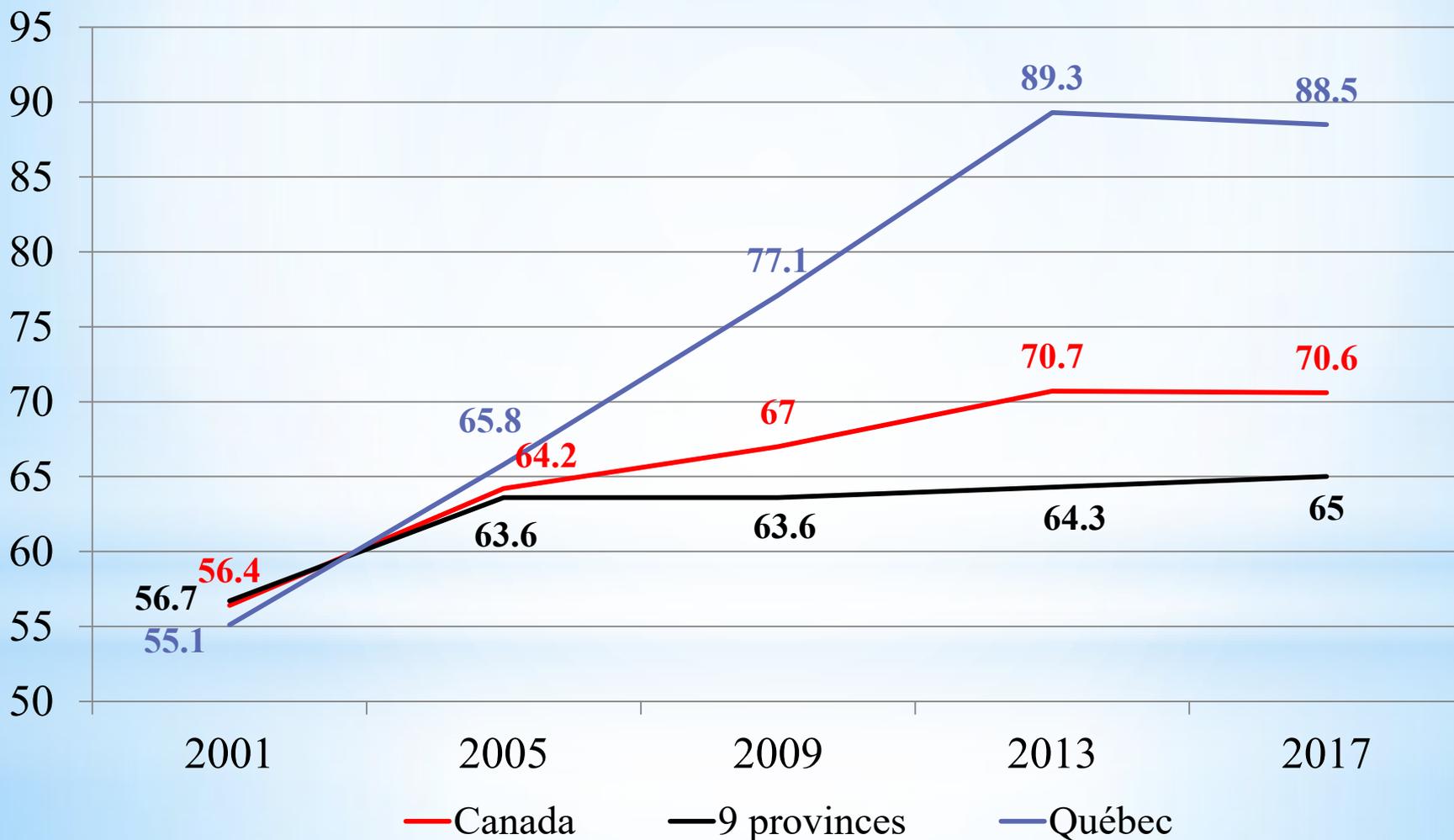
Parental benefits in Canada and Québec (2019)

	Standard parental benefits (Canada)	Extended parental benefits (Canada)	Basic plan (Québec) Longer leave paid at a lower replacement rate	Special plan (Québec) Shorter leave paid at a higher replacement rate
Eligibility	600 hours of insurable employment		Insurable income of \$2,000	
Waiting period	One week		None	
Maternity benefits	15 at 55% of income		18 at 70% of income	15 at 75% of income
Paternity benefits (since 2019)	None, but...		5 at 70% of income	3 at 75% of income
Parental benefits	35 at 55% of income	61 at 33% of income	32 (7 at 70% + 25 at 55% of income)	25 at 75% of income
Maximum insurable income	\$562/week \$53 100/year	\$337/week \$53 100\$/year	\$1 030/week \$76 500/year	\$1 103/week \$76 500/year

Key points

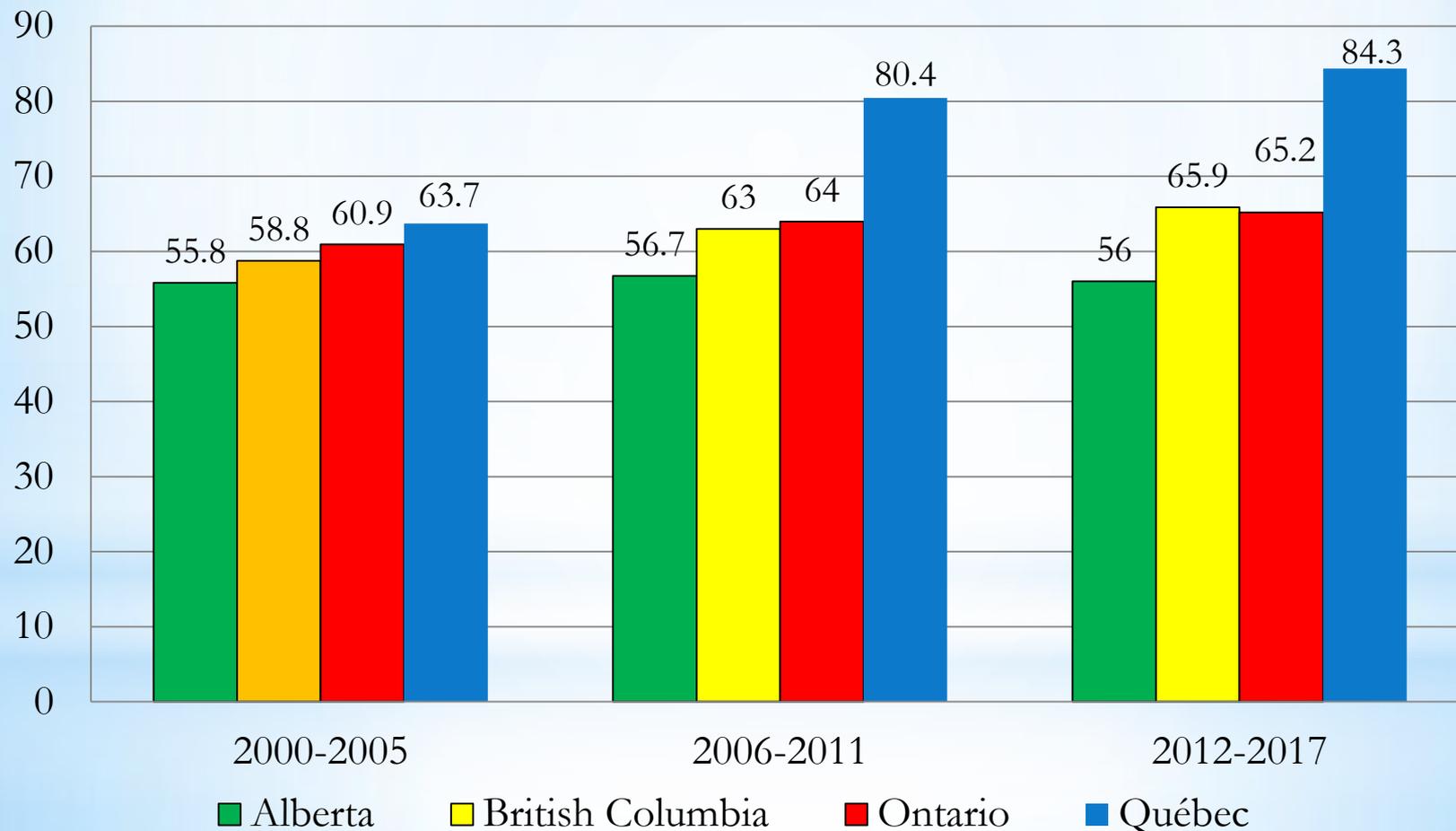
- ✓ Access to parental benefits is linked to labour market activity in Canada
- ✓ A greater proportion of mothers and fathers receive benefits in Québec than in the other provinces
- ✓ Despite great coverage, Québec does not offer universal parental benefits

Proportion of mothers who received parental benefits, Québec, Canada and nine provinces, 2001-2017



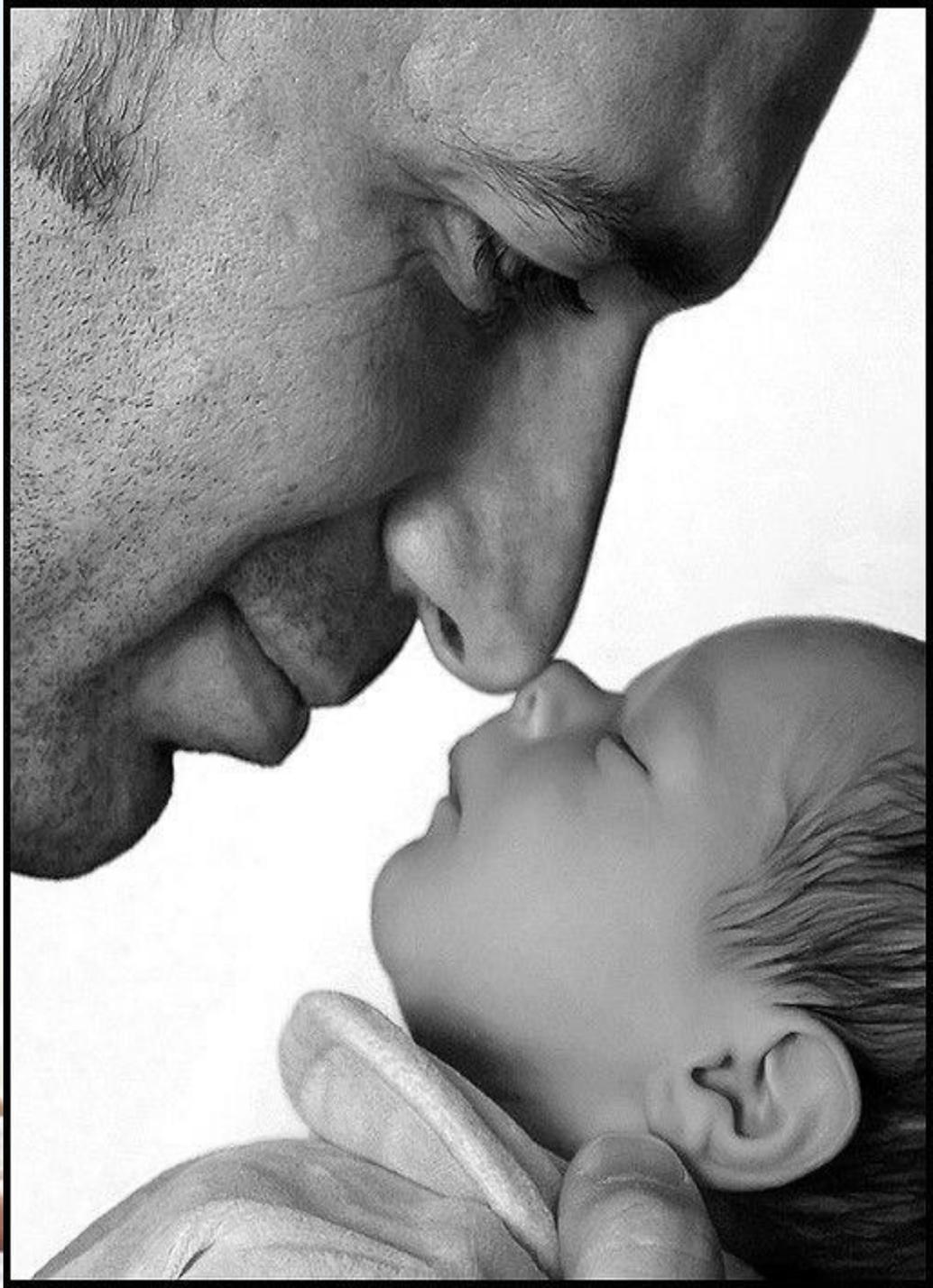
Source: Statistics Canada EICS 2000, 2004, 2007, 2010 and 2016, custom tabulation.

Proportion of mothers receiving maternity and/parental benefits in four Canadian provinces, 2000-2017

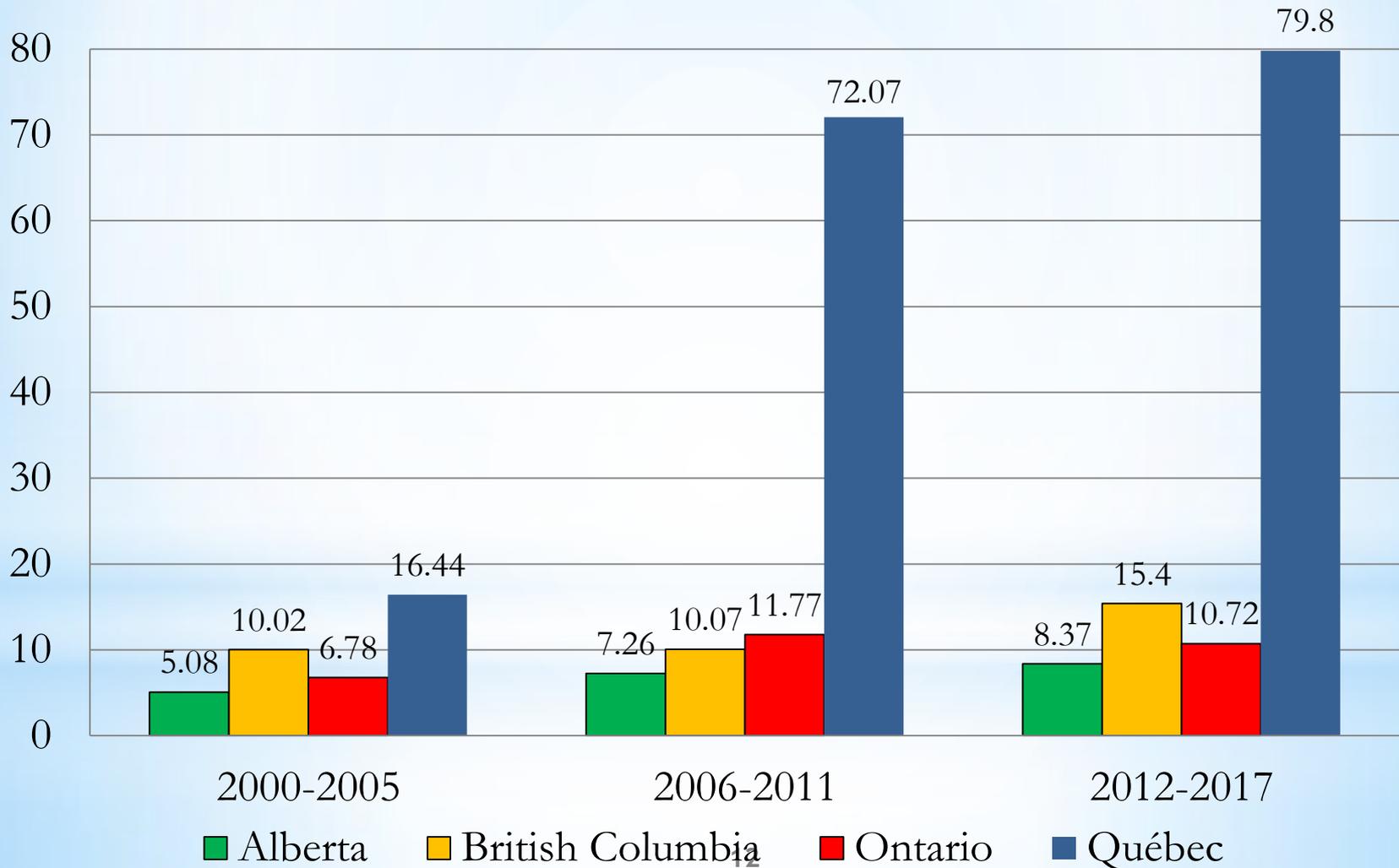


Source: Statistics Canada, EICS 2000, 2007 and 2016

What
about
fathers?



Proportion of fathers who received parental benefits, Alberta, British Columbia, Ontario and Québec, 2000-2017



Source: Statistics Canada EICS, 2000-2017

Taking a closer look

*“... what might appear at first sight to be a universal benefit can turn out, on closer inspection, to contain conditions that effectively **exclude many citizens**” (Moss and Deven, 2015)*

- * Access to benefits is easy, but...
- * Québec does not offer universal benefits and has never intended to
- * There are still patterns of inequalities among benefit recipients between:
 - Biological and adoptive parents
 - Two parent and single-parent families



PART 2

Childcare services



Childcare in Québec

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

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



2. For-profit/commercial childcare centres

- * Subsidized childcare centres : services are provided at the same cost as the CPEs
- * Nonsubsidized childcare centres



Key points about childcare

- ❖ There is an increasing proportion of childcare spaces that is provided by the CPEs between 1997 and 2003, following the implementation of Québec's work and family policy.



Key points about childcare

- ❖ Since the early 2000s, Québec's network of early childhood centers is being dismantled
 - ✓ The proportion of childcare spaces provided by the CPEs is decreasing
 - ✓ Since 2015, services are no longer offered at a flat rate cost
 - ✓ The price for a childcare space is difficult to calculate



1997-2015: childcare services are offered at a flat rate

*1997-2003: the golden age of the CPEs

- Strong bias towards non-profit childcare centers
- Services are offered at a flat rate (\$5/day/child)
- Access to childcare spaces is an important issue

*2003-2012: services are increasingly provided in commercial facilities, yet still at a flat rate

- End of the moratorium on the development of commercial spaces
- Services are provided at \$7/day/child
- Access is still problematic

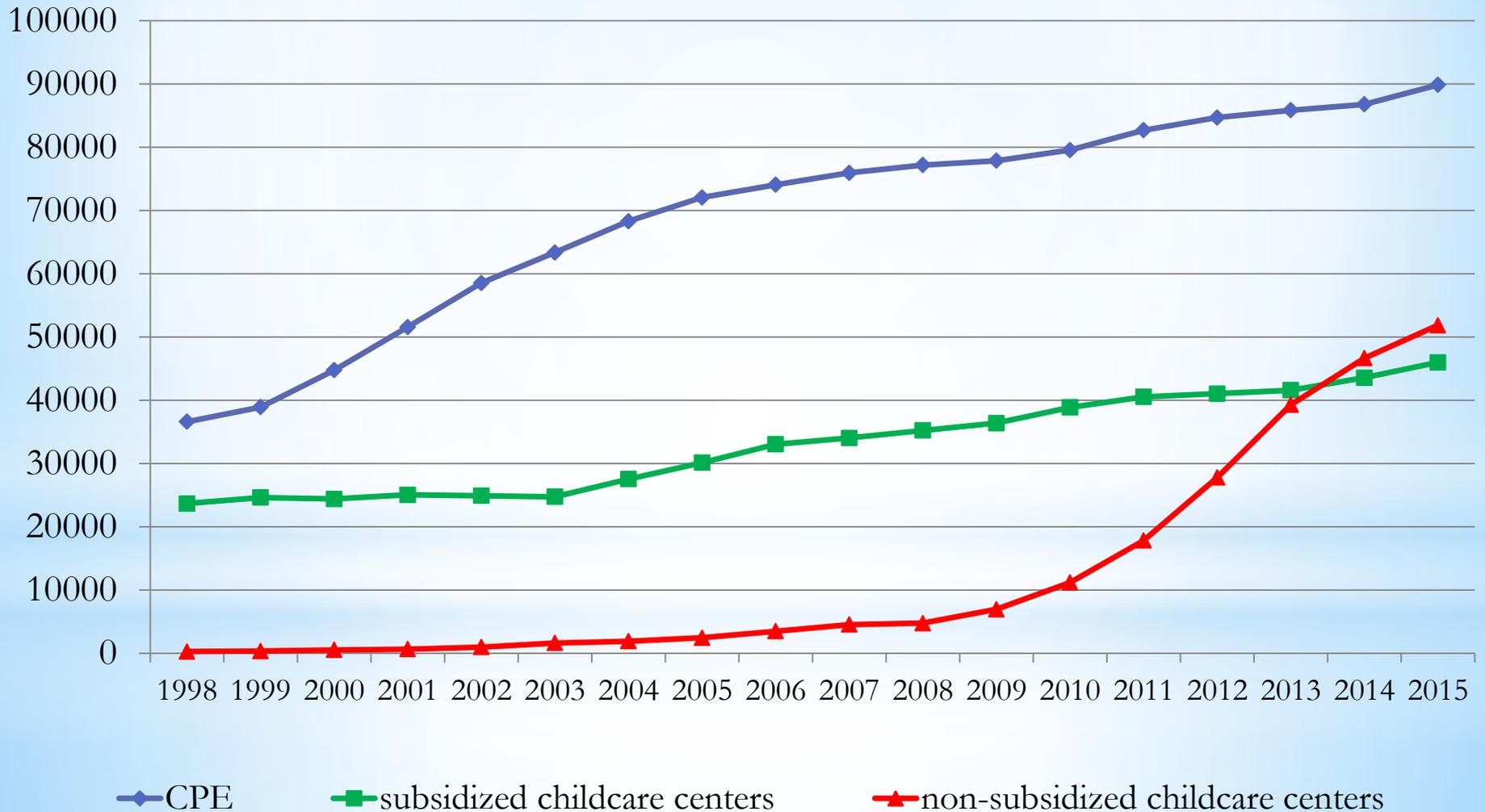
Childcare services in Québec, 1998-2003

	Proportion of spaces provided by 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	84.0	16	99.0	1.0

Childcare services in Québec, 1998-2016

	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
2003	84.0	16	99.0	1.0
2008	80.6	19.4	97.7	2.3
2013	68.7	31.3	84.8	15.2
2016	64.5	35.5	80.6	19.4

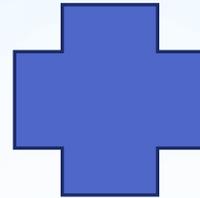
Number of spaces in different types of childcare centers, 1998-2015



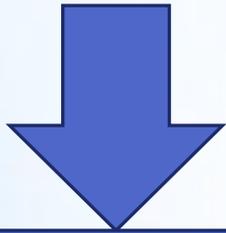
Childcare since 2015: the end of the flat-rate



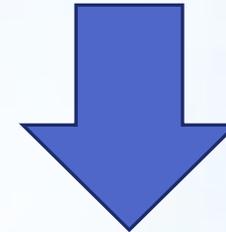
**basic contribution of
\$8.05 per day (2018)**



**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) (2018)
- 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 costs 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

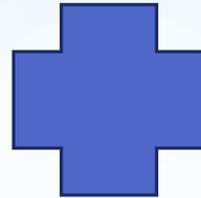
DENIS LESSARD
LA PRESSE

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,

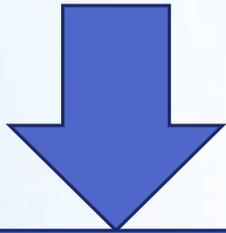


Childcare costs in 2019

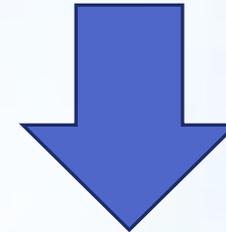
**basic contribution of
\$8.25 per day**



**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?



Thank you!



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Concordia

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