

## Pan-Canadian Child Care Facts Did you know?

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Access to quality child care programs promote healthy child development and enable parents to work, study and participate in communities. In 1984, the Royal Commission on Equality in Employment pointed out that “child care is the ramp that provides equal access to the workforce of mothers”.

**A record number of parents are now employed.** Canada has gone from having the lowest proportion of working women among major industrialized countries to a record high participation rate of 71%.  
*Statistics Canada 2004*

- 83% of married couples with children have two or more earners and the percentage of female lone-parent families with at least one earner has soared to 82%.  
*Vanier Institute for the Family, 2003*

**Access to quality licensed child care is not a reality for most children in Canada.**

- There are only enough licensed and regulated child care spaces for approximately 1 in 10 of Canada's young children.  
*Childcare Resource and Research Unit, 2001.*

**High quality child care is associated with results that all parents want to see for their children –** capacity to get along with peers, learning early skills in math and reading, and cooperation with adults.  
*Survey of child development research by the US National Research Council and the Institute of Medicine.*

**The research about quality child care is positive in terms of future benefits for all.**

- Future productivity of children who receive quality early educational experiences results in \$2 in benefits for every public \$1 spent on child care.  
*The Benefits and Costs of Good Child care, Cleveland and Krashinsky, 1998, Canada.*
- Long term cost benefit analysis of high quality child care, High/Scope Perry Preschool Project, indicates a savings of more than 7 times the investment for ‘at risk’ children in areas of social responsibility, crime reduction, scholastic and socioeconomic success.  
*Michigan, U.S. 22 year longitudinal study, HighScope Educational Research Foundation.*

**Canada currently compares poorly when it comes to publicly funded child care.** Canada has fallen farther behind many countries in the provision of child care e.g., in Canada, only 5% of three-year-olds participate in preschool, compared with nearly 100% in France, Belgium, Italy, Iceland and New Zealand.

**The Canadian public supports public spending on quality child care.**

- 94% of Canadians believe that child care is important to allow parents to participate in the workforce.
- 89% agree that quality child care is essential to the prosperity of Canada.
- 90% think Canada should have a nationally coordinated child care plan that ensures that all children have access to quality child care regardless of family income, disability, race or where they live.  
*A national study of public attitudes, Millward Brown Goldfarb, November/December, 2002.*

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Parent Voices is a project of the Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada  
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